

**Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director**

Final version of the Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme, which aims to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme with an update on key developments within the period 1 April to 31 July 2018.

**QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the**  
**COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES**  
**April - July 2018**

ADVANCE

## INTRODUCTION

This report aims to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme with an update on key developments in the period 1 April to 31 July 2018.

The UN Environment Programme Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021 is the first to sit squarely in the era following the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The 2018-2021 strategy thus permits us to focus our fullest energy – starting in 2018 – on helping our Member States achieve the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In total, 26 of the 244 Sustainable Development Goal indicators are under the responsibility of UN Environment Programme to track and provide feedback on to our Member States. Our own efforts to support the implementation of Agenda 2030, through the umbrella of the Medium-Term Strategy, is done through our Programme of Work.

Through it, we also speak about the way we are implementing the decisions of the Environment Assembly.

The report is organized into three sections.

- The first section highlights some significant global and regional developments.
- The second section provides programmatic updates, including challenges and opportunities.
- The third section presents the current financial and human resource situation and highlights developments in other important management areas.

## **SECTION 1: SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5 JUNE 2018**

The World Environment Day, organized annually by UN Environment Programme is established under UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/2994(XXVII). The [2018 World Environment Day](#) global celebrations, whose launch was hosted by India – hit new heights in 2018 under the theme “Beat Plastic Pollution”, contributing directly to the Clean Seas campaign and the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality Programme’s Expected Accomplishments (a) and (b).

- Amongst [unparalleled, ambitious commitments from countries and private sector companies](#), India led the way with a pledge to ban single-use plastics in the country by 2022.
- Citizens, NGOs and businesses organized [4,000 registered events in over 100 countries across the world](#).
- The social media campaign, boosted by the participation of over 100 celebrities, reached more than 100 million people. More than 76 million people viewed and/or participated in the social media tag challenge “Tag, you’re it!”, coined as the next ice bucket challenge. Read more at: [The Tide has Turned](#).

The host country India provided US\$900,000 in 2018 including for visual identity and campaign activities in all UN languages, social and traditional media coverage, website support, outreach and partnerships. India made a bold commitment to end single use plastic in the country by 2022 and showcased its environmental leadership with various States, nodal agencies and private sector pledging to take action on single use plastic. The week-long celebration witnessed high-level engagement with Prime Minister Mr. Modi and Mr. Erik Solheim addressing the main plenary session on World Environment Day, besides, four days of intensive environment knowledge sessions, exhibitions showcasing solutions and innovations, and participation on India’s greatest spiritual leaders – urging citizens to give up single use plastic. Other important events held included: Mumbai (Beach Clean-ups, pilot project on Plastic Milk Sachets, E-vehicles), Hyderabad (Infosys Pledges, Telangana State Government and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation), Agra (Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution, Clean Yamuna Programme on the river-front near the Taj) and Kochi initiatives. Furthermore, Indian corporations also pledged their support to reduce usage of single use plastic and work towards sustainable practices. All National Parks, Reserves and Bird Sanctuaries also declared ‘plastic free zones’. India also pledged its support to the [Clean Seas Campaign](#).

At the UN Headquarters in New York, several activities were organized including:

- The Green Fair where more than 1500 people visited the 31 vendors who showcased sustainable alternatives to plastic;
- A UNICEF exhibit advocating the reduction of plastic water bottles at meetings and by individuals; and
- A “Plastic Not Fantastic” sculpture mounted by the Norwegian Mission to the UN and the Norwegian Consulate General.
- A World Environment Day briefing was also organized with the Indian Permanent Mission, President of the Economic and Social Council and Deputy President of the General Assembly in which more than 80 member States participated. The briefing was followed by a dialogue where several member States shared how they are tackling plastic pollution in their countries.
- UN Environment Programme New York office also worked with the Permanent Missions of Sweden and Costa Rica on an initiative to get all Permanent Missions in New York to reduce single-use plastic and other types of plastic in their premises. More than 10 missions – Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Iraq, Norway, Palau, Panama, Sri Lanka, Slovenia and Sweden – are participating in the initiative.

In Nairobi, several activities were organised:

- Over 400 UN staff from UN entities all over the compound, Ambassadors, Embassy staff and their families joined the 2018 World Environment Day Celebrations at the UN Gigiri complex.
- Participants learned about beating plastic pollution and waste management by challenging each other in a recycling competition and visiting the compound's waste sorting facility.
- A little taste of India, host of the global launch, was brought to these celebrations, showcasing the country's rich cultural and culinary traditions with delicious vegetarian dishes and dance performances enjoyed by all.
- Over 150 people, a mix of UN employees, embassy staff, university students and Nairobi County employees, cleaned-up the City Park in Parklands in the afternoon of 5 June 2018.

### KEY EVENTS (NEW YORK/UN HEADQUARTERS)

#### **High-Level Political Forum, 9-18 July 2018**

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the theme, "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", reviewed progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals focusing on Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17. The Forum adopted a Ministerial Declaration by a vote of 164 in favour to 2 against, with no abstentions.

The President of the United Nations Environment Assembly was given a special speaking-slot to present the messages of the Third Environment Assembly to the Forum. The Forum, through the Ministerial Declaration, welcomed the main outcomes of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly.

During a UN Environment Programme side-event entitled "There is no Planet B: Let's Protect this One", the partnership between UN Environment Programme and Google was launched.

#### **Presentation of the Report of the UN Environment Assembly to the UN Economic and Social Council, 18 April 2018**

The substantive consideration of the [report](#) will take place in the context of the deliberations of the Second Committee of the General Assembly during its 73<sup>rd</sup> Session later this year.

#### **Towards a Global Pact for the Environment, 10 May 2018**

After more than four months of informal consultations, on 10 May the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution [72/277](#), a procedural resolution through a vote on the Global Pact for the Environment. 143 countries voted for the resolution, five countries voted against and seven abstained. The General Assembly adopted a phased approach, based on a technical and evidence-based report to be submitted by the Secretary General to the General Assembly.

UN Environment Programme is working on the production of technical and evidence-based report and, in coordination with the Co-Chairs, the organisation of the 3-day organizational meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-Ended Working Group in New York.

#### **UN Security Council debate on climate change, 11 July 2018**

[The Security Council convened a debate on 11 July 2018 on understanding and addressing climate change-related security risk](#), chaired by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

#### **Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, 5-6 June 2018**

This [Forum](#) organized by UN Environment Programme provided a networking and deliberation platform to identify opportunities for Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation, including technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals, gaps analysis, and networking among diverse stakeholders.

### **Global Compact for Safety, Orderly and Regular Migration, 13 July 2018**

More than 190 countries agreed on the [Final Draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), covering all dimensions of international migration. The final draft is the result of an open, transparent and inclusive preparatory process and six rounds of intergovernmental negotiations.

The Global Compact comprises 23 objectives, implementation, as well as follow-up and review. Within Objective 2, Member States recognised the relevance of addressing natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, including a range of actions considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices.

### **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

#### ***First Meeting of the Household Waste Partnership Working Group***

The partnership on household wastes established under the Basel Convention in 2017 held its first meeting on 14-17 May 2018 in Port Louis, Mauritius. The partnership, which is composed of governments, IGOs, private sector/businesses and NGOs, aims at promoting the environmentally sound management of household waste through technical assistance, sharing of practices and experience, development of guidance documents and implementation tools. More on the partnership [here](#).

#### ***Global workshop on developing, revising and updating national implementation plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention***

The addition of chemicals to Annexes A, B or C of the Stockholm Convention triggers the need for most Parties to review and update their national implementation plans (NIPs). A global workshop on NIP updating was conducted on 19-21 June 2018 in Sao Paulo, Brazil to assist twelve country Parties to address newly listed POPs, through inventorying, identifying and monitoring products and articles containing these POPs, and selecting best available techniques and best environmental practices for the management of new POPs and identifying and promoting alternatives among others.

#### ***Meeting of the intersessional working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention***

The intersessional working group held its first meeting in Riga, Latvia from 04 June to 06 June 2018. Working under mandate from the Conference of the Parties (COP), the working group identified recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention and further steps for consideration by the COP at its ninth meeting in the areas of the process of listing chemicals in Annex III of the Convention; information exchange; capacity-building and technical assistance including development of guidance and awareness raising; and other processes. The meeting outcomes are [here](#).

## **UN REFORM**

### **Repositioning of the United Nations development system**

The [UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the repositioning of the UN Development System](#), to align it with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN Secretary-General, in consultation with the UN Development System entities, has been requested to present an implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to the UN General Assembly before the end of the 72nd session.

The funding arrangements for the new Resident Coordinator system are set out in a “hybrid solution” negotiated through the intergovernmental consultation process. UN Member States would provide the Resident Coordinator system with up to US\$255 million annually, beginning in January 2019, through three sources: a 1% coordination levy on strictly earmarked, third-party, non-core contributions to UN development-related activities, to be paid at source; doubling the current UN Development Group cost-sharing arrangement among UN development system entities; and

voluntary, predictable, multi-year contributions to a dedicated Trust Fund to support the inception period.

The [Secretary-General has informed Member States](#) that he is setting up a transition team under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General. The team will work for 18 to 24 months to initiate, manage and oversee the implementation of all provisions of the General Assembly Resolution. The transition team will rely heavily on substantive inputs from UN development system entities, including through dedicated working groups and overall steering by the UN Sustainable Development Group. The UN Environment Programme continues to assess the implications of these reforms and to provide inputs through the various working groups.

The Secretary-General stressed that the UN General Assembly's guidance must be translated within the governing bodies of agencies, funds, programmes, specialized and non-resident entities, and coherently pursued across the entire UN.

### **Review of the Economic and Social Council**

Member States reached agreement on the review of the Economic and Social Council. A draft resolution will now be adopted by the General Assembly.

The draft Resolution notes that:

- The General Assembly will adopt one main theme for the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum;
- The Economic and Social Council should seek to promote the “active participation” of major groups, NGOs, the private sector, youth and other relevant stakeholders and regional organizations in its activities;
- The outcome of the High-Level Political Forum and the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council will continue to be a negotiated Ministerial Declaration;
- It reaffirms the role of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and looks forward to an update from the UN Secretary-General on aligning the Department with the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
- Arrangements contained in the resolution, including its annex, will be reviewed at the General Assembly's 74th session and at subsequent review cycles in conjunction with the review process of the High-Level Political Forum. The modalities of the High-Level Political Forum are also expected to be reviewed during the 74th session of the General Assembly.

## **AFRICA**

### **International Conference on Charcoal, Mogadishu, Somalia**

UN Environment Programme in collaboration with UNDP, FAO and the Government of Somalia, organised a two-day [International Conference on Charcoal on 7-8 May 2018 in Mogadishu, Somalia](#). The conference sought to “*Build Partnerships to Curb Unsustainable Charcoal Production Use and Trade in Somalia*”. In its recommendations, the conference called for enforceable policies and legal frameworks at national and regional level, reduction of demand for charcoal in importing countries, and provision of livelihood and energy alternatives to halt the charcoal trade. UN Environment Programme is currently developing policies and legal frameworks for reducing charcoal production, trade and use in Somalia and in neighbouring countries.

### **Africa Waste Management Outlook launched**

The [Africa Waste Management Outlook](#) was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018, during the ‘Sustainability Week’ in Pretoria, South Africa. The regional outlook built on the process and outcomes of the [Global Waste Management Outlook](#) as well as other relevant key products and outcomes, taking into account the specific regional context and priorities. It provides insight into regional waste management trends and challenges, and assesses current policy and regulatory frameworks. The Africa Waste Management Outlook provides an analysis of the state of waste management in Africa, its impact on the continent and proposes solutions for improved waste management.

### **African Clean Cities Platform holds its first annual meeting**

UN Environment Programme supported the holding of the *First Annual Meeting* of the [African Clean Cities Platform \(ACCP\)](#) in June 2018 in Rabat, Morocco. This platform was jointly established in 2017 in Maputo by the [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#), UN Environment, UN-Habitat and 24 African countries. The Platform aims at *supporting African countries and cities to find their own measures and solutions for appropriate waste management and the achievement of SDGs.*” This meeting provided an opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing, promotion of SDGs monitoring and data collection, examination of Public Private Partnership, and investment promotion for African Clean Cities.

### **Environmental protection in Algeria**

- The Executive Director visited Algeria on 9 April 2018 to learn more about Algeria’ efforts in protecting the environment, using transformative solutions such as renewable energies; reaffirm the UN Environment Programme’s readiness to support ongoing national efforts to bring renewable energy to the communities in rural regions and; provide a platform to Algeria to share their experience to neighbouring countries.
- Algerian authorities committed to support the Executive Director in the implementation of the UN reforms, to ensure efficiency and real impact on people’s lives. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UN Environment Programme and the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy of Algeria. It will pave the way for UN Environment Programme’s support to the government to address the country’s two main environmental challenges: i) waste management, ii) access to renewable energy for rural communities.

### **Collaboration with Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone and Ghana**

- From 8 to 15 June, the Executive Director visited five countries in West Africa (Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone and Ghana):
  - The visit to Nigeria reaffirmed UN Environment Programme’s readiness to support the Government of Nigeria in launching concrete clean up actions in Ogoniland. Concrete clean up actions are expected to start by September/October 2018. Private Sector representatives expressed their willingness to support the Government in its efforts to ban the single use plastics.
  - In Benin, the Executive Director held discussions with the government on the way forward for dismantling old oil platforms in Seme sea.
  - In Togo, Sierra Leone, and Ghana, the Executive Director engaged with national officials the main environmental challenges they are facing and offered UN environment Programme’s support to address them. Throughout these visits, the Executive Director used these opportunities to encourage the private sector to play a key role in supporting the government to ban single use plastics. He also called all the ministers of environment to join UN Environment Programme’s Clean Seas campaign.
  - In Togo, the Executive Director promised to support the Government efforts to protect their cities against coastal erosion and scale up their waste management and renewable energy facilities.
  - In Sierra Leone, the Executive Director agreed to provide technical support to revisit their environmental legal framework and accompany the Government efforts to ban single use plastics.
  - In Ghana, the Executive Director agreed with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Environment on collaboration on Sustainable Development Goals, solar energy, waste management, the ban of the single use plastics and clean mobility.

## **ASIA PACIFIC**

### **High-level ASEAN-UN Secretariat to Secretariat Meeting**

UN Environment Programme led the UN system at the annual high-level [ASEAN-UN](#) Secretariat to Secretariat meeting in April 2018 to report on progress on Environment and Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020. It was agreed that the UN would develop two multi-year flagship programmes to support ASEAN - on environment and health (led by UN Environment Programme) and on

sustainable cities (led by [UNESCAP](#)). UN Environment Programme and ASEAN Secretariat have also agreed to collaborate on marine litter, climate change resilience, and sustainable production and consumption.

### **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Development Fund Partnership Conclave 2018**

UN Environment Programme presented at the 2018 [Conclave](#), in July in New Delhi, opportunities on environment and climate change in South Asia under the infrastructure window, including air pollution monitoring network, waste management and climate resilient infrastructure. Member States requested the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation](#) Development Fund to establish an environment window, and found it useful to access resources to build the environmental and renewable energy infrastructure.

### **Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)**

The **Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)**, at its Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting on 25-26 April 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, adopted its Strategic Directions 2018-2022. These strategic directions address three themes: (a) addressing land-based marine pollution with a focus on nutrients, sediment, wastewater and marine litter; (b) marine and coastal planning and management, with a focus on ecosystem-based management approaches, including Marine Protected Areas and Maritime Spatial Planning; and (c) regional governance; towards achievement of relevant SDGs and Aichi Targets.

Our collaboration and activities on COBSEA contribute to three sub-programmes, Healthy and productive Ecosystems as well as Environmental Governance, and Chemicals, Wastes and Air Quality. Specific activities were:

- To implement the UNEA resolutions on ‘Marine litter and microplastics’, in partnership with the COBSEA Secretariat, a **draft Regional Review of Marine Litter in East Asian Sea** was prepared and presented to this April COBSEA meeting.
- A joint UN Environment Programme-COBSEA project entitled ‘**Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South East Asia**’ was approved in July 2018, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The project has a total budget of USD 6.4 million and will run over 4.5 years, starting with an inception phase in 2018. The project will, inter alia, support countries implement the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

### **Scaled up support on Sustainable Investment for the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Asia and the Pacific Office has scaled up support on sustainable investment for [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in response to increased demand from Member States. Programmes to mobilize sustainable investments for the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, more specifically, by aligning budgets, finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives to accelerate SDG implementation, have been developed in Myanmar (funded), Laos (funded), Bangladesh (funded), Nepal (funded) under [Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals programme](#) and with ASEAN (not yet funded).

### **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway ([UNEA Resolution 2/4](#))**

UN Environment Programme has been collaborating with Pacific Member States:

- Partnering with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation to strengthen their sustainable tourism programme;
- Under the international environmental reporting platforms such as UNEP-Live and Indicator Reporting Information System under multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals, a four-year 4 million USD project, funded by the Global Environment Facility, started to establish environmental databases in all 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States; and
- Under the extended support of [SWITCH Asia](#) on sustainable consumption and production, assisted Fiji with their National Satellite Accounts on tourism and mining.

### Strategic Partnership with China

During the bilateral meeting between the Executive Director and Minister Li Ganjie at the end of June 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment Programme and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment was renewed, directing future cooperation till 2022 and now focusing *inter alia* on the International Coalition for Green Development on Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre.

The mission of the Executive Director to China, 17-20 April 2018, covered the following:

- At the Boao Forum in China's Hainan Province, where world leaders gathered and debated over Asia's role in inclusive development, openness and innovation, President Xi confirmed China's active role towards a "community of shared future for mankind and a peaceful, safe, prosperous and beautiful world".
- At Tech Giants and Smart City in Beijing, meeting with the Chinese ride-hailing services provider Didi Chuxing. Didi is the latest Chinese technology firm that is gearing up to become a major player in smart city products and services, and they are interested in partnering with UN Environment Programme. According to research firm Frost & Sullivan, "smart city" has a global market that is forecasted to be worth US\$1.6 trillion by 2020.
- The Executive Director paid a visit to Zhejiang province, where the "River Chiefs" model to cure water pollution was first introduced just about 10 years ago. While shutting down the crystal factories and cleaning the polluted waterways, innovative technology in waste management played a key role in a transition to eco-tourism. Summarizing why the model worked, Vice Governor of the province gave three tips: 1) highest level of political will and the guiding philosophy of "Green is Gold" that was proposed by the then Party Chief of Zhejiang – Xi Jinping; 2) awareness, public participation and profound ownership when it comes to water quality and 3) technology and innovation.
- The national Young Champion of the Earth scheme was launched in China, building upon the successful Young Champions of the Earth. China's Weibo, one of the biggest social media tech company has joined UN Environment Programme in this endeavor. Fully funded by Weibo, the programme will potentially attract tens of millions of young people and a few winners will be selected to kick off their environmental projects with seed funding from Weibo.

During his mission on 4 July 2018, the Executive Director together with Minister of Environment and Ecology Mr. Li Ganjie for a field trip to Saihanba Forestation Farm in Northern Hebei Province, the 2017 Champions of the Earth in the category of "Inspirations and Actions". In Saihanba, the Executive Director and Minister Li signed the MoU 2018-2022 that will guide the next five years' strategic directions: South-South Cooperation, talents exchange including JPO programme, Trust Fund, Greening the Belt and the potential of China hosting UN Environment Programme's international events.

### Mission to Viet Nam and Cambodia, 25-27 June 2018

- In Viet Nam, the Executive director joined the **Sixth Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly and launch of the GEF 7 Electric Mobility Programme**. During his visit, the Executive Director also had several **bilateral meetings** with Ms. Rosina Bierbaum (Chair of Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility), Mr. Tran Hong Ha (Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Vietnam), Ms. Alben Reshitaj (Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo), Mr. Sunny Verghese (CEO of Olam), and Ms. Judy Garber (Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Oceans, Environment and Science at US Department of State).
- In Cambodia, the Executive Director had bilateral meetings with H.E. Phay Bunchhoeun (Secretary of State), H.E. Say Samal (Minister of Environment), Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and private sectors and some other key figures in the country. The meetings focused on strengthening UN Environment Programme-Cambodia partnership in the delivery of the services and future collaboration on environmental area in particular (i) environmental protection, (ii) biodiversity conservation and (iii) sustainable development

### EUROPE

Senior Officials Group Technical Meeting, Environmental Management Group, 8 May 2018

The technical segment of the Senior Officials of the [Environment Management Group](#) met to take stock of ongoing UN inter-agency collaboration on the environment and to prepare the upcoming [24th Meeting of the Senior Officials](#) (24 September 2018), that will set the agenda for UN system collaboration on the environment for the coming year. Opportunities for enhanced collaboration were identified in the areas of sand and dust storms, greening the Belt and Road Initiative and marine littering.

### **Mission of the Executive Director to United Kingdom, 2-4 June 2018**

In London, the Executive Director attended the **United Nations Chief Executives Board** and a meeting organized by the Deputy Secretary-General on the **development reform**. On the latter, he highlighted the need for UN Environment Programme to integrate with the Resident Coordinators and asked for a template to be prepared on priority locations. The Chief Executives Board also discussed the fourth industrial revolution and UN strategy on innovation.

### **Mission of the Executive Director to Brussels, 20-22 June 2018**

The Executive Director participated in the **EU-UN Environment Programme High Level Meeting** discussing the **roadmap on UN Environment Assembly 4**, biodiversity, and environment, climate and security. He also had **bilateral meetings** with Mr. Didier Reynders (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium), Mr. Frans Timmermans (European Commission First Vice President), and civil society event on topic ‘preparing the path to UNEA-4’. The Executive Director also participated in the **Euractiv Workshop on Circular Economy**, linking the EU and global agenda, and **High-Level Event on ‘Climate, Security and Peace: The time for action’**.

### **Collaboration with Germany, Russia and The Netherlands**

During the mission of the Executive Director to these four countries on 21-25 May 2018, the following took place:

- Interest in continued cooperation and support were expressed from the new ministers/state secretary in charge of environmental policy in Germany, Russia and The Netherlands.
- Clear convergence in the bilateral meeting with the German Federal Minister of Environment, Nature, Conservation and Nuclear Safety on the following areas; biodiversity (intention of Germany to have joint declaration with China on biodiversity on the occasion of next high level between Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister China), sustainable production and consumption and bringing environment issues closer to the citizens, linkages between Climate Change, Environment and Security and greening of the Belt and Road Initiative.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Dutch Development Bank (FMO).

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **Electric mobility**

UN Environment Programme has developed a practical guide for the development of National Electric Mobility Strategies. Based on this guideline, UN Environment Programme is currently assisting the governments of Colombia, Argentina, and Panama in the formulation of their own strategies. Furthermore, MOVE (UN Environment Programme’s platform on electric mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean) is contributing to the development of a sustainable mobility community of practice in Latin America and the Caribbean, financed by [Euroclima+](#), together with regional partners such as the [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) and [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\)](#).

### **“Best Action for the Environment of the Year” Award, 23 July, Montevideo**

UN Environment Programme was awarded the “Best Action for the Environment of the Year” award by the International Automobile Federation Americas Committee of the [Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile](#), as a result of the work to promote sustainable and electric mobility in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

## **Ecosystem-based adaptation**

UN Environment Programme is supporting the implementation of the "Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Andes" agreed by the seven countries crossed by the Andes mountain range (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) in the context of the [Andean Mountain Initiative \(AMI\)](#). This work includes an assessment of climate finance access avenues to develop an ecosystem-based adaptation finance initiative for Andean countries.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Council of Ministers: Environmental Sustainability, 10-11 July, Montserrat**

UN Environment Programme participated in this meeting where issues of major environmental and economic significance to the Caribbean, such as the infestation of Sargassum seaweed on beaches, waste management (including disaster waste and plastics), renewable energy and electric mobility, sustainable procurement and the impacts of climate change were identified as opportunities for UN Environment Programme to work with regional and international partners.

### **Climate Risk Transparency**

On May 15, the Brazilian insurance sector has made an unprecedented commitment by signing The Rio declaration on climate risk transparency. The declaration was convened by Principles of Sustainable Insurance from the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative, the Brazilian Confederation of Insurance, and the Brazilian Superintendence of Private Insurance.

### **New regulations in Colombia**

A number of regulations have been adopted with direct environmental implications. UN Environment Programme/UN REDD contributed to the development of the Integrated Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management, and complementary guidelines.

## **WEST ASIA**

### **30<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 25-28 June 2018, Beirut**

The ministerial session resulted in a declaration, which is expected to set and renew commitments towards achieving sustainable development goals in the Arab region.

## **SECTION 2: PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE**

During the quarter, UN Environment Programme delivered on all seven Sub-Programmes:

1. Climate change,
2. Resilience to disasters and conflicts,
3. Healthy and productive ecosystems,
4. Environmental governance,
5. Chemicals, waste and air quality,
6. Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production and,
7. Environment under review.

- We present below key programmatic activity highlights in relation to the Expected Accomplishments of the **Programme of Work 2018-2019**, as well as progress on strategic partnerships or engagement. We also highlight key opportunities and challenges as well as some key risks.
- **Campaigns** which are a critical part of our advocacy and delivery work are also reflected.
- The implementation of **Environment Assembly resolutions** is also addressed.
- Significant contributions from the **Special Initiatives** are also highlighted as they pertain to the Sub-programmes or cross-cutting areas.
- A section on **cross-cutting areas** summarizes these contributions and provides information on gender and safeguards.

- An update on **partnerships** with the private sector gives insight into the main outcomes foreseen.

Note: in the sections below, the subheadings in blue correspond to the Expected Accomplishments of the Programme of Work 2018-2019.

## 1. CLIMATE CHANGE

**Objective: Countries increasingly make the transition to low-emission economic development, and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change.**

### *Key Programmatic Activities*

#### **Adaptation<sup>1</sup>**

UN Environment Programme is supporting the development of the proposed **Global Commission on Adaptation**. The launch of the Commission is planned for September or October 2018. The Commission is expected to present its report to the 2019 UN Climate Summit. The secretariat for the Commission will be provided by the World Resources Institute and the Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Change Adaptation.

**An Ecosystem-based Adaptation** training workshop took place in Tirana, Albania (26 – 28 June) for the project entitled “Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)”. The training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of Government, NGOs and University students to design, plan and implement EbA projects.

Under the **National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP)** funded by GEF, UN Environment Programme supported 13 Pacific Islands, the Pacific Territory Tokelau and Haiti, and empowered 39 governmental experts with skills and tools for appraising and prioritising adaptation interventions in the context of effective medium- to long-term planning for adaptation to climate change.

UN Environment Programme has engaged technical experts in the International Rice Research Institute and Vermont Law School to help deliver tools to the Myanmar government officials (especially the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation) that will help them **mainstream climate change into national sectoral planning and processes for the rice sector**, notably through i) climate resilient rice production; and ii) evaluating how climate risks may impact large scale investments due for environmental impact assessment.

As a request of Government of Myanmar, UN Environment Programme has initiated a new partnership with the **Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium for Climate Change (LUCCC)** as a suitable partner to help catalyse the integration of climate change into university curricula and help come up with a roadmap that will allow an enthusiastic academic institution to help to obtain and share knowledge with other LUCCC members to keep advancing with climate change agenda in universities.

#### **Mitigation<sup>2</sup>**

**Climate and Clean Air Coalition:** The 2nd Global Methane Forum took place in April 2018 in Toronto. It brought cutting edge technology, policy and finance leaders together to share new results and practices to scale up methane action in oil and gas sector, municipal solid waste and waste water, for bio-digesters and in the agriculture sector. The Coalition partners also held its six-monthly Working Group meeting. Partners allocated an additional \$6 million dollars from the Trust Fund for the Coalition.

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<sup>1</sup> Also linked to UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 (SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b)

<sup>2</sup> Also linked to UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 (SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.17.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1):

The Coalition’s Scientific Advisory Panel released its Science Update and provided a background paper on black carbon, both served as inputs to the IPCC Expert Meeting on Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCF).

The Latin America and Caribbean regional assessment on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants was launched. A Ministerial roundtable discussion on climate change took place in Singapore at the Asia-Pacific Climate Week (10 – 13 July 2018). Ministers shared experiences on how to step up ambition and actions in their countries on short-lived climate pollutants to harvest multiple benefits.

**Sustainable Development Goal 7:** Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) was the focus of a special review presented at the July 2018 UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Energy and Climate Branch has contributed to a two-year long effort headed by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs through a multi-stakeholder technical advisory committee to present policy briefs and recommendations for Member States’ attention.

### REDD+<sup>3</sup>

- Training on land-use planning and REDD+ was delivered to 20 forest officers in Liberia from 23 April - 4 May.
- South African and Indonesian firefighters brought together in a South-South exchange of experience on fire detection, prevention and community firefighting approaches specifically tackling peatland fires from 4-6 May in Central Kalimantan.
- South-South knowledge exchange on REDD+ safeguards and Safeguards Information Systems for the Africa Region was held on 12-13 June in Ghana.
- The Global Peatlands Initiative and the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative projects presented at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum 2018 (June).
- The UN-REDD team supported the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs to develop ‘Integrated Fire Management Clusters’. The new fire management approach covers 15 million hectares. South-South Knowledge Exchange Program for Peat Fires Prevention took place from 15 to 21 April 2018 in Indonesia.
- A 2-years ‘Landscape Project’ has been endorsed by the Dutch government with initial funding of Euro 600,000. It will be implemented in collaboration with UNOPS and will contribute to UN-REDD/UNEP activities supporting livelihood and natural capital and knowledge to accelerate peat restoration in Indonesia.
- UN Environment Programme helped the Government of Andhra Pradesh/India to launch a new programme for shifting 6 million small-holder farmers towards natural farming by 2024, as further elaborated under the update for the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems subprogramme.
- A three-day workshop was held to finalize the Environmental and Social framework of the Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture Fund (UN Environment Programme and Rabobank partnership) in early June in Geneva.
- FMO (the Dutch development bank) signed an MOU with UN Environment Programme on 22 May, thereby joining the “Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture” (FPSA) partnership, in addition to Rabobank.
- Kick-off of the database development for the Safeguards Information System - Phase 1, with an inception and consultation workshop held on 17 May in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Continuous support to the development of the 1st Summary of Information on REDD+ safeguards and to the pilot Provincial Master Planning in Lam Dong province. (SDG 13, 15)

**Gender and Climate Change:** For the first time, UN Environment Programme embarked on an initiative fully dedicated to gender equality and climate change, led by the Asia and the Pacific office, in partnership with UN Women. The project “Strengthening human rights and gender equality through climate change action and disaster risk reduction (EmPower)” will look at the key drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities related to climate change. The Swedish International

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<sup>3</sup> Also linked to [UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 \(SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1, 17.17.1\)](#):

Development Cooperation Agency is funding the project covering Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam. The initiative contributes to UN Environment Programme of Work on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, through renewable energy and to build resilient and transformative livelihoods for women.

**Main opportunities/challenges and response measures:**

- GEF 7 reduction in climate change allocation is likely to have an impact on available resources to deliver the subprogramme. We have a robust pipeline under the Green Climate Fund which may partly compensate for this projected decline in GEF climate funds.
- We are still seeking long-term funding for both Adaptation and Emission Gap Reports. A donor consultation meeting has been organized.
- The Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2019 provides an opportunity for countries, private sector and civil society to highlight progress and increased ambition. UN Environment Programme is keen to support country efforts to engage with the Summit.
- The recruitment of a dedicated campaign manager for a climate change communication campaign is ongoing, further to which the campaign will start.
- Mobilizing and scaling-up climate action and investments remains a key focus area and more resources are needed to create the enabling conditions for results based payments

## 2. RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

**Objective: Countries increasingly prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.**

### *Key Programmatic Activities*

The Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts Programme works to help countries prevent and reduce the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.<sup>4</sup> It does so across three pillars. The first is to encourage best practice environmental management in ways that reduce the risks and impacts of natural hazards, industrial accidents and armed conflict. The second is to support countries and international partners to understand and address urgent environmental priorities in the event of a natural disaster, industrial accident or armed conflict. The third is to assist countries in a process of post-crisis recovery to (re)instate appropriate environmental policies and institutions.

### **Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks**

UN Environment programme carried out risk reduction activities in ten countries.<sup>5</sup> For example, in May 2018, as part of UN Environment Programme -Oil for Development Partnership, staff and experts organized a well-attended National Training Course on Oil and Gas Exploration and Production and Promoting Sound Environmental Management for Kenyan government officials. An Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment of the Iraqi Environment Ministry's ability to oversee the performance of the oil and gas sector was also carried out by UN Environment Programme in June 2018. Between April and May UN Environment implemented the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) process in Nigeria to strengthen the existing local capacities for preparedness, prevention and response to emergencies, create a foundation of common knowledge on cross-regional best practices and lessons learned that could also be duplicated at State level.

### **Crisis-affected countries adopt key environmental and natural resource governance policies and sustainable practices as a contribution to recovery and development**

<sup>4</sup> The programme is relevant to the achievement of all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as external shocks such as natural disasters, industrial accidents and especially armed conflict have proven to be extremely powerful 'brakes' on development. However, the organization in particular aims to deliver on SDGs 1 (poverty), 11 (cities), 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace).

<sup>5</sup> Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Mozambique, Thailand and Uganda

UN Environment programme provided crisis response assistance in ten countries.<sup>6</sup> For example, teams were dispatched to Colombia twice in close succession. The first, in April, assessed a major oil spill that affected the Santander Department. The team supported the Government with neutral and independent advice on response, remediation and recovery. In May and June, the Joint Environment Unit deployed another team to address dam stability concerns at the Hidroituango dam. The team advised the Government on real-time dam operations, thus facilitating the decision-making process in an emergency, and provided longer-term recommendations on risk mitigation. In Iraq, we are advising UNDP's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization on designing and implementing a Cash-for-Work debris recycling project in the destroyed Old City of western Mosul. With a strong emphasis on maximizing job opportunities, the recycling approach advocated by UN Environment programme is helping transform the rubble problem in Iraq's war-damaged cities into an opportunity.

Meanwhile, UN Environment Programme's **REACT project** continues to provide both systemic assistance to UN Department for Field Support (DFS) in New York, and hands-on assistance to missions on energy, water and waste. Field visits have taken place for capacity building on landfill management, waste management plan development, and hazardous material treatment advice and verification. The team has also been assisting missions to compile environmental performance information and risk assessment data across some 400 peacekeeping sites – for the first time giving DFS an overview of a comprehensive set of environmental information.

### **Crisis-affected countries adopt key environmental and natural resource governance policies and sustainable practices as a contribution to recovery and development**

The third pillar of work is around recovery, and here UN Environment Programme provided technical assistance to seven countries as part of long-term efforts to promote post-crisis recovery.<sup>7</sup> For example, on World Environment Day, 5 June, UN Environment Programme in collaboration with the Government launched South Sudan's first ever 'State of Environment and Outlook Report'. The guest of honour of the event was Taban Deng Gai, first Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan. In May, we co-organized, with UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Government of Somalia, an International Conference on Charcoal which generated significant momentum on addressing unsustainable charcoal use.

At the same time, the team continues to work to deliver two relevant resolutions from UNEA 2 and 3 – on **protecting the environment in areas affected by armed conflict** (UNEA2/15) and on **conflict pollution** (UNEA3/6). In support of the former, UN Environment Programme provided extensive inputs to the UNESCO-coordinated publication "[Long Walk of Peace: Towards a Culture of Prevention](#)" which was launched on 24 May 2018. The publication analyses peace as the first pillar of the United Nation's work and as one of the main objectives of UNESCO.

### **Main opportunities/challenges and response measures:**

As ever, this area of work generates many challenges, in terms of ensuring staff safety, managing forward planning, and improving response times. However, it also offers opportunities to instil environmentally sustainable management in countries at a critical moment when development trajectories can be influenced to support peace and resilience.

Strategic partnerships continue to be particularly important for UN Environment Programme. The reporting period saw on-going efforts to deepen and expand those partnerships. One example is a partnership with the Department of Political Affairs to provide technical assistance to their efforts to support the conflict mediation and resolution work of the African Union.

## **3. HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS**

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<sup>6</sup> Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Turkey and Vanuatu.

<sup>7</sup> Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

**Objective: Marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are increasingly managed through an integrated approach that enables them to maintain and restore biodiversity, ecosystems' long-term functioning and supply of ecosystem goods and services.**

### *Key Programmatic Activities*

The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels.

#### **Ecosystem health and wildlife**

- The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) secretariat in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group and CITES secretariat prepared a report on the status of great apes and the relative impact of illegal trade and other pressures. The report was submitted for consideration to the CITES Standing Committee. This report addresses distribution and abundance trends related to all great ape species and sub-species, as well as threats to their conservation, for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- The [UN Biodiversity Lab](#), a new spatial data platform on biodiversity developed by UN Environment Programme / MapX in collaboration with UNDP, was launched in early July on the margins of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada. The product will assist CBD Parties to prepare actionable maps and analytics for their 6<sup>th</sup> National Reports to the Convention.

#### **Natural Capital Accounting**

UN Environment Programme jointly with UN Statistical Division is supporting five partner countries (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) to implement Experimental Ecosystem Accounts from the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA-EEA). During this reporting period, China, South Africa and Mexico have defined the pilot accounts they will be developing in their provinces. Responding to country demand, the Natural Capital component of the Inclusive Wealth Index in India was developed and launched at World Environment Day in 2018.

#### **Improving biodiversity information for national reporting**

In collaboration with UNDP, UNECE, UNESCAP, the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, organized an international workshop on Environmental Information Systems and Environmental Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) on 11-14 June 2018 to improve biodiversity information. Over 80 experts met to improve biodiversity information systems for reporting on the implementation of the SDGs, including the development of a national framework of SDG indicators supported by ready availability of data, and the 6th national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) due for submission at the end of 2018.

#### **Global Peatlands Initiative:**

- The successful session, "High carbon stock ecosystems: Incorporating mangroves and peatlands in national and jurisdictional REDD+ strategies" was facilitated at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum on 28 June. Panellists included the Ministers of Environment from the Republic of Congo and Norway and discussion highlighted how such ecosystems, with fundamentally important social, ecological and climate mitigating functions, can be best reflected and considered in REDD+ strategies;
- The Indonesian best practice paper "Managing peatlands to cope with climate change: Indonesia's experience," drafted with UN-REDD support, has been translated into French as preparation for an upcoming high-level south-south exchange planned in Indonesia with Ministers of Environment from Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Peru.

#### **Interfaith Rainforest Initiative:**

- A dedicated session on the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative was held at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum on June 28, titled “*The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative: an opportunity to preach beyond the choir*”. The session raised awareness of the initiative among an audience of forest experts from a wide range of sectors and encouraged their engagement in and support for the initiative. UN Environment Programme joined a panel with representatives from different faith and Indigenous communities;
- The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative was invited by Vatican to the international conference of the anniversary of Laudato Si, in June, to highlight in an address, the Initiative’s aim of ‘*Acting Together to Save our Common Home*’. Consultation with stakeholders and partners from multiple sectors (interfaith, indigenous, spiritual civil society, and government leaders) resulted in valuable insights and lessons to be incorporated into project planning.

### **Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)-Barcelona Convention**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> European Regional Seas Coordination Meeting (Vrachati, Greece, 4-5 July 2018) focused on the progress achieved and the possible synergies in the implementation of the regional/action plans on marine litter. The meeting also addressed the effect on the implementation of regional/action plans of the EU Plastic Strategy, and the proposed directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. Finally, participants proposed a follow-up to the 2017 G7 Workshop on Marine Litter. The meeting was attended by the Secretariats of the European Regional Seas, Governments (France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and Turkey), the European Commission, and Plastics Europe AISBL;
- The second regional meeting on the development of indicators to report on the progress of the implementation of Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (2015-2020) and National Action Plans to address Pollution from land-based Activities was held in Athens, Greece, on 17-18 April 2018. The Meeting was organized by UN Environment Programme /Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), its Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre and the MED POL Programme, in collaboration with the European Environment Agency. The meeting reviewed and agreed on a set of proposed indicators and their methodological specifications, grouped under three sectors: waste water; solid waste with relevance to marine litter, and; industrial emissions.

Two projects funded by the Global Environment Facility are being implemented in all 14 Pacific Island Countries to support the management of invasive species and to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

### **Polymakers in the public and private sectors test the inclusion of the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making.**

#### **TEEB AgriFood**

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity coordinated the development of the Scientific and Economic Foundations Report for TEEB for Agriculture and Food. The report addresses the core theoretical issues and controversies underpinning the evaluation of the nexus between the agri-food sector, biodiversity and ecosystem services and externalities including human health impacts from agriculture on a global scale. It was launched at World Environment day 2018 in New Delhi, it presents a framework for evaluation and describes how it can be applied. This framework is being applied in four countries (Colombia, Kenya, Tanzania and Thailand) in a German International Climate Initiative (IKI) funded project. All IKI countries have held their stakeholder consultation and scoping workshops to define the policy relevance and study scope. This report: a) Discusses the role of the evaluation framework in contributing to a new more holistic, multi-dimensional, systems-thinking paradigm and b) Explores the potential impact for decision-makers in policy, business and farming, and in contributing to the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Zero Budget Natural Farming**

The Land-Use Finance team helped the Government of Andhra Pradesh/India to launch a new programme for shifting 6 million small-holder farmers towards natural farming by the year 2024. The ‘Zero Budget Natural Farming’ methodology aims to increase profits for small-holder farmers and phase out all synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. Project partners are UN Environment Programme, BNP Paribas, World Agroforestry Centre, WWF and others.

### **Forest protection and Sustainable Agriculture**

The Dutch development bank (FMO) signed an MOU with UN Environment Programme on 22 May, thereby joining the “**Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture**” (FPSA) partnership in addition to Rabobank. FMO will provide its expertise on blended finance, its network with clients in Africa, Asia and Latin America and it may decide to provide junior and/or senior debt for the fund or specific transactions. IDH (the Sustainable Trade Initiative) will join as a partner as well.

### **Main opportunities and challenges**

#### **Partnerships**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UN Environment Programme and Google. It will help monitor and track the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, including changes to water-related ecosystems such as lakes and rivers.

**The System of Environmental Economic Accounting – Experimental Ecosystem Accounts (SEEA EEA):** the national natural capital accounting is a new approach to institutionalize sustainability that has not been fully adopted by any countries until now. Natural capital accounting is necessarily intersectoral and technically sophisticated, requiring development of new partnerships and new skills amongst partners. These three elements – lack of precedent, need for intersectoral integration, and required technical capacity in ecological accounting are fundamental challenges for SEEA-EEA in all countries – we are treading into new territory!

**Availability of resources** for implementation of key UN Environment Assembly resolutions remains an issue.

**Resource mobilization** for the Sub-Programme, including diversification of the donor base and better alignment with the GEF portfolio, is a key priority since funding for some key initiatives from the core donors Norway and Sweden has been significantly reduced. The Sub-Programme has been designed with the assumption that a large GEF portfolio will be developed to complement it. Therefore, a well-coordinated strategic approach in planning for the GEF 7 portfolio development (the GEF -7 cycle started in July 2018) is highly desirable.

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

<b>Objective: Policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development.</b>
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**The international community increasingly converges on common and integrated approaches to achieve environmental objectives and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### **Interagency collaboration**

The Environment Management Group continued to advance interagency collaboration on key environmental issues as provided earlier in Section I. The leadership role of the United Nations on environmental sustainability continues to be strengthened through the collective efforts of UN entities under the UN Environment Programme-led initiatives for greening the United Nations (the Sustainable United Nations and the Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance (REACT) facility). The Environment Management Group plays a key role in this, for instance through a multi-agency peer review of environmental sustainability of a UNHCR refugee camp in Kenya. Useful

information on efforts undertaken by agencies individually or in partnership is available at the [Greening the Blue initiative website](#).

### **Contributions to Agenda 2030**

As a contribution to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, an Experts Group Meeting on Promoting Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development was organized jointly by the UN Office for Sustainable Development and the UN Environment Programme, on 19 and 20 July 2018 in New York, right after the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The meeting was attended by representatives of Member States, the UN system and civil society and focused on different aspects of “integrated approaches” to sustainable development. Policy coherence and multilateral environmental agreements were examined in-depth as important pathways to promoting integrated approaches to the SDGs, which are indivisible and closely interlinked. Despite the shared understanding of the importance of integrating the various dimensions of sustainable development, putting it into practice remained challenging primarily because of governance gaps that provided weak institutional framework and capacities for action. Conclusions from the workshop also focused on useful institutional options to implement the Agenda, the need for stronger awareness and general public ownership in addition to political leadership and public support, among many others.

UN Environment Programme also developed issue briefs<sup>8</sup> for the 2018 High Level Political Forum (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15). The issue briefs provide facts and figures, highlights the environmental dimension of the various goals and provide key messages for policy makers.

### **International instruments**

United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/19 on requested UN Environment Programme, in close collaboration with member states nominated focal points, to prepare (i) an assessment of the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and (ii) proposals for the work by the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020. The resolution also requires UN Environment Programme to provide an opportunity for comment on the aforementioned assessment and proposals by relevant actors who are undertaking the implementation of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, including major groups and relevant stakeholders.

The Evaluation Office of UN Environment Programme is undertaking an open and all-inclusive process to prepare a final assessment of the Montevideo Programme IV. In this process, Governments, United Nations bodies, other relevant intergovernmental bodies and organizations, secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, expert institutions, academia and civil society have been invited to participate to a survey on the implementation of the Programme, which also provides an opportunity to share views on important and emerging issues in the field of environmental law. The final assessment of the Programme will be the basis for discussing proposals for the work by UN Environment Programme on environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020. The final assessment and the proposals will be presented at the UN Environment Assembly in March 2019. A part of the above-mentioned consultative process, UN Environment Programme has held in the reporting period several regional consultations for Montevideo national focal points to share and exchange information on latest developments, trends, and good practices in the development and enforcement of environmental law in their respective countries.

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<sup>8</sup> Direct links to the documents:

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25761/SDG6\\_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25761/SDG6_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y);  
[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25762/SDG7\\_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25762/SDG7_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y);  
[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25763/SDG11\\_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25763/SDG11_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y);  
[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25764/SDG12\\_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25764/SDG12_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y);  
[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25765/SDG15\\_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25765/SDG15_Brief.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y).

## Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

### Environmental law related capacities

We have continued to support selected countries in the development of national legislation on environmental issues, and in strengthening the implementation of existing legal frameworks, including through the dissemination of supporting knowledge resources. These include for example the use of resources developed since the beginning of the year, such as a Legislators guide on environmental law-making and oversight targeting parliamentarians in their legislative and oversight functions in the area of environmental protection to ensure that the SDGs and other post-2015 commitments are achieved by 2030 and beyond, and a Global Review of Legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment which provides an overview of the current status of national legislation and institutional arrangements of relevance to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEAs) across the globe, as well as emerging issues and trends.

UN Environment Programme has also undertaken activities to strengthen **adjudication and prosecutorial capacities**, through country-targeted and region-wide activities, in partnership with the relevant countries and other organizations. Examples include:

- A workshop on environmental adjudication held in Thimphu in Bhutan from 19-20 July 2018 with the Asian Development bank;
- The strengthening of capacities in environmental adjudication for 300 judges across China's 976 environmental court divisions, and building capacities in environmental prosecution for 150 prosecutors, an effort organized by the Supreme People's Court of China in partnership with Client Earth and UN Environment Programme.
- In the same region, the Wuhan University Environmental Law Clinic was launched in Wuhan, China, on 18-19 May 2018. The Clinic was officially established in March 2018 and its focus is on training and supporting law students and other stakeholders in the practice and theory of public interest environmental litigation.

UN Environment programme and the **Africa Prosecutors Association** agreed, at a series of meetings earlier this year, to strengthen the Association's working group on environmental crime by developing and **integrating environmental crime education in prosecutor trainings** in Africa. The jointly designed approach includes the creation of training manuals and curricula on environmental crime prosecution, the formulation and roll-out of standard operating procedures **on environmental crime prosecution**, and the development and strengthening of the Africa Prosecutors Association Working Group on environmental crime. The training programme is expected to greatly enhance the capacity of African police and prosecutors to handle environmental crimes rapidly and competently, by improving the cooperation between the police and prosecutorial authorities as well as the quality of the investigation and prosecution. The action plan for developing and implementing the capacity-building programme on environmental crime prosecution will initially focus on a limited number of pilot countries.

These are only highlights of initiatives taking place in various regions to strengthen capacities to translate environmental law into action.

### Environmental rights

UN Environment Programme continues its partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant special rapporteurs for strengthening the positive synergies of **environment and human rights regimes**. Ahead of World Environment Day on 5 June, UN Environment Programme issued a joint statement with the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment urging the United Nations to recognise the human right to a healthy environment. On a similar theme, the UN World Tourism Organization and UN Environment Programme joined forces to empower media as environment and wildlife defenders. Journalists representing

international media outlets participated in a workshop organized in Nairobi (Kenya) by UN Environment Programme on biodiversity, environmental defenders, environmental right and sustainable tourism in cooperation, as part of the Environmental Rights Initiative recently launched by UN Environment Programme and is aligned with the UNWTO/Chimelong Initiative on Wildlife and Sustainable Tourism. Both programmes consider journalists as key partners in this global cause.

At the first formal meeting between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the UN at the ASEAN Secretariat in May in Jakarta, the AICHR Commissioners expressed support to collaborate with UN Environment Programme to advance work on a possible ASEAN instrument on environmental impact assessment (EIA) incorporating a right-based approach. The AICHR Commissioners noted the value in a regional approach as an important mechanism to harmonize and improve environmental safeguards in ASEAN and to build institutional capacity on EIA (SDG 16).

### **Environmental Defenders**

Over the last six months, UN Environment Programme has been supporting a **joint photo-journalism series** initiated by the Guardian and Global Witness to document the images and stories of nine environmental rights defenders from across the world. This was undertaken within the ambit of the [Environmental Rights Initiative](#), and as part of the implementation of our [Environmental Defenders Policy](#).

### **Environmental crime**

In May 2018, the Green Customs Initiative, a partnership led by UN Environment Programme published a new [Green Customs Guide on Multilateral Environmental Agreements for Customs Officers](#). This guide provides an overview of the multilateral environmental agreements, their requirements related to trade in environmentally sensitive substances and commodities, and the role of customs officers and border control officers in facilitating legal trade and preventing illegal trade.

### **Strengthening capacities for implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

We continued our efforts, through various initiatives, to strengthen capacities to implement multilateral environmental agreements, to support national capacities for the integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to promote better synergies in the implementation of various agreements.

Our support to MEAs progress continues through our multi-partner programme on **capacity building in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries** for the implementation of agreements in the areas of biodiversity, chemicals and waste. In this past quarter, the programme delivered on capacity building by supporting national efforts on better environmental data and governance in Tonga and Nauru, integrating biodiversity into national planning in Benin and Sudan, promoting the participatory process in the Caribbean as the region gears for its first ever Regional Biodiversity Strategy, among other ongoing efforts of the programme.

Another UN Environment Programme-led initiative that contributes to the implementation of Agreements on wildlife is the **African Elephant Fund**. The African Elephant Fund, a collaboration between thirty-eight African elephant range States, donor States, UN Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), continues to work with the range states to mitigate serious threats facing the African elephant. As a follow-up to the 10th African Elephant Fund Steering Committee meeting held in Kasane, Botswana on 1-3 March 2018, the Secretariat is coordinating the implementation of 17 new projects for a total amount of about 1.3 million US\$ in 13 African Countries that are aimed at protecting the African elephant population and restoring their habitats. Highlights of achievements from projects under current implementation, and still ongoing, include:

- trained over 300 enforcement personnel in Ethiopia and Ghana in the conduct of anti-poaching missions and the identification, collecting and handling of wildlife products.
- conducted Aerial surveys in Kenya and Namibia to determine elephant population and advise on elephant conservation management strategies.

- Built a 12-km solar-powered electric fence in Malawi to reduce human-elephant conflict and enhance protection of elephants;
- Mitigated human-elephant conflict and increased household income in the United Republic of Tanzania by installing 200 top beehives to serve as bee fence bordering Challa and Ngoyoni villages.

UN Environment Programme also continues to work with countries to strengthen the implementation of the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** and the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing** through GEF projects. Workshops were for instance organized in various countries during and prior to the reporting period, with the objective to create a common understanding among stakeholders of the format for the Biosafety Clearing House records, and to enhance national competencies to use it. An example is a workshop organized with the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) in March 2018.

This was followed by similar efforts in Latin America. UN Environment Programme organized a training in April 2018, in Uruguay, to increase and sustain the participation of officials in Latin America in the **Biosafety Clearing House** established under Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which involved several countries in the region (Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Uruguay). The training allowed the countries to further refine their capacity-building needs for the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), to develop national and regional strategies based on gaps and needs identified at national and regional levels, to develop a Latin America BCH Roadmap and to enhance knowledge of the participants about the Cartagena Protocol and the Biosafety Clearing House, and its implications for each country, particularly with regards to **Living Modified Organisms**.

The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 has seen countries intensifying their activities to develop **domestic access and benefit-sharing (ABS) systems**. UN Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), supports several countries in stepping up their implementation. One highlight is the support provided to the Democratic Republic of Congo to strengthen the national legal and regulatory frameworks that enable access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also including a workshop held in May 2018.

#### **Main opportunities and challenges**

The highlights described contribute to several UNEA Resolutions focusing on various governance related topics such as the Rio Principle 10 (UNEA 1 and 2); Illegal trade in wildlife (UNEA 1 and 2); Regional Ministerial Fora (UNEA 2); Multilateral Environmental Agreements (UNEA 2), the Montevideo Programme (UNEA 2), the Agenda 2030 and High Level Political Forum (UNEA 2 and 3) and Pollution and Biodiversity (UNEA 3).

A key recurring challenge is the need to address multiple country needs with a limited and rather unpredictable financial basis. A time-specific challenge is the completion of the review and planning for a new phase of an environmental law programme pursuant to UNEA Resolution 2/19 with the limited financial and human resources available. Further developments such as the UNGA Resolution on a Global Pact for the Environment pose a further challenge in terms of resource availability.

## **5. CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY**

<b>Objective: Sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air quality contribute to a healthier environment and better health for all.</b>
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UN Environment Programme organized a multi-stakeholder brainstorming workshop on 13-14 June 2018 in Paris to provide an opportunity for stakeholder engagement in shaping the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Environment Assembly's Implementation Plan "*Towards a Pollution-Free Planet*". About fifty participants from Member States, UN Agencies, Multilateral Environmental Agreements,

development and finance institutions and think tanks participated to discuss and prioritize solutions to step-up action to prevent and address pollution. High-impact solutions were identified with their corresponding roadmap as well as key elements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Environment Assembly's Implementation Plan. This workshop is part of a broader stakeholder consultation process which runs until December 2018, following which the Implementation Plan will be finalized and submitted to Member States at the 4th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

### **Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

On 25-27 April 2018, the regional expert workshop on the **Global Chemical Outlook II and sustainable chemistry innovations** was held in Bangkok by the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Center (ISC3) and UN Environment Programme with entrepreneurs, policy makers, representatives from civil society and academics across Asia. The workshop explored regional perspectives on chemical management and innovation as well as identified megatrends and downstream industry sectors trends which create potential risks for chemicals management and opportunities for sustainable chemistry innovation in the region. As result of this consultation and regional participation in a global workshop that followed in June 2018 in Bonn, Germany, as well as technical contribution from the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China (BCRC-SCRC China), at Tsinghua University, China, and National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, national chemicals management in countries such as Japan, China, Philippines, Vietnam and New Zealand, have been covered in depth.

In cooperation with Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, two meetings were organised in Beijing, China:

- A **Joint South Asia/South East Asia/ West Asia Thematic Meeting** back-to-back with the Ozone2Climate Technology Roundtable was organized on 8-11 April 2018.
- The **Twinning Workshop on Energy-Efficient and Climate-Friendly Refrigeration and Air Conditioning: Asia** was organized on 10-11 April 2018.

A **Border Dialogue for HCFC Trade Coordination & Cooperation** between Ozone, Customs and Enforcement Officers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal, was conducted during 9-10 May 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

A **Risk Profiling Workshop for Customs Officers and National Ozone Officers** of India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka was conducted during 20-22 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Policies and legal and institutional strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements**

In line with the 2nd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on “Sound management of chemicals and waste”, the *International Environmental Technology Centre* launched the Africa Waste Management Outlook on World Environment Day. In addition, the Centre released the report “**Single-use Plastics: A roadmap for Sustainability**”, which assembled experiences and assessments of the various measures and regulations to beat plastic. This analysis, developed in cooperation with the Indian Government and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, presents case studies from more than 60 countries<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/new-report-offers-global-outlook-efforts-beat-plastic-pollution>

For World Environment Day 2018, the Centre also collaborated with Japan's Nippon TV to raise **awareness on plastic pollution**. A public event and a talk show were organized to prompt kids and their parents to reduce their consumption of single-use plastics.

From 29 to 31 May, the First meeting of the Open-Ended Ad-Hoc Experts Group, established in response to UNEA Resolution 3/7 on **marine litter and micro-plastics**, was held with support from the Government of Norway. The meeting documents and reports are available online<sup>10</sup> and preparations are underway for the second meeting.

UN Environment Programme through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), has provided support to the Tanzanian government to develop guidelines and standards for **decentralized wastewater management systems**. This activity is implemented together with the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (a member of the Global Wastewater Association) and UN-Habitat. The finalized guidelines were developed as a result of multi-stakeholder and expert consultations, and will be formally submitted to the government soon.

In early July, the **Sanitation and Wastewater Story Map**<sup>11</sup> developed under the ongoing "Wastewater Management and Sanitation Provision in Africa Project," which is a partnership between UN Environment Programme, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and GRID-Arendal, won first place in the Infrastructure, Planning and Government category of the "Storytelling with Maps" contest run by Environmental Systems Research Institute. This Story Map illustrates challenges associated with the inadequate infrastructure for sanitation provision and wastewater management in Africa at a time when volumes are increasing due to population growth, and expansion in industry and agriculture.

A case study on **nutrient management valuation** in Rondonópolis municipality in the upper Pantanal Region of South America has been concluded. With the support of the Global Environment Facility, the methodology for assessment of nutrient inputs and losses and qualification of costs and benefits under agricultural systems will be replicated in other countries that have challenges with sustainable nutrient management.

As custodian agency, UN Environment Programme continues to work with partners in developing **methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1** to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. UN Environment Programme engages on this with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, academia and the global Earth observation community.

On 16 July 2018, Sweden and UN Environment Programme signed an agreement to initiate the project **Reducing Marine Litter** by addressing the management of plastic in the value chain in South East Asia (2018-2023). It is in line with the Swedish strategy for regional development cooperation with a focus on environment and human rights, and in line with the Swedish engagement in and commitment to SDG 14 and UN Environment Programme's commitment to fight plastic pollution. The project addresses the problem regionally and, in Malaysia and Thailand, it will cooperate with both governments and private sector to reduce plastic leakage into natural environment through partnership.

A new e-Learning [Video Series](#) on national and local-level waste management strategies in Myanmar has been released recently by The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in collaboration with UN Environment Programme. The Series utilizes our 2015 Guidelines for National Waste Management as base.

**National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional**

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<sup>10</sup> <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/adhoc-oeeq>

<sup>11</sup> <https://gridarendal.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=caf411c40c3442b782406de631bddb2f>

## capacity built for improved air quality assessments done by countries with UN Environment Programme support

UN Environment Programme's science work to address **sand and dust storms** responds to General Assembly resolution 72/225 as well as to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution, contributing to the Goals on No Hunger (Sustainable Development Goal 2), Good Health (Sustainable Development Goal 3) and Life on Land (Sustainable Development Goal 15). The Executive Director Erik Solheim made an intervention at the High Level Political Forum on July 16<sup>th</sup> in New York. The UN Environment Programme coordinated the development of the Secretary General's report on *Sand and Dust Storms* for the General Assembly in September 2018, in close collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, among others. The Sand and Dust Storm launch event resulted in the announcement of an international joint project "Ecosystem restoration in desert areas with focus on technology and private sector", and stakeholders from Central Asia, Mongolia and China reconfirmed their commitment to implementing the project.

With funding from Government of Sweden and Norway, new **training modules on urban air quality management for emerging economies** are being developed. These will help increase capacity of cities for air quality monitoring, integrated air quality and health assessment, and financing for air quality action. (SDG 11, UNEA 1-7, UNEA 3-8).

In collaboration with World Health Organisation South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), informed health authorities of 11 countries<sup>12</sup> about **air quality monitoring** and efforts on **integrated policy on air quality and health** at the WHO's South-East Asia Regional Meeting on Air Quality and Health, 18-20 June in Bangkok, Thailand (SDG 3 and 7, MOU between UN Environment Programme and WHO).

Consultation on a new phase of the **Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership** (April 2019-March 2024) has begun officially in July 2018. Some 16 governments and 20 non-governmental entities (including enterprises) are active partners of APCAP in improving air quality in the region (UNEA 1-7, UNEA 3-8).

On 17th April 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India released the draft **National Clean Air Programme** (NCAP) which outlines a comprehensive plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and to strengthen air quality monitoring and dissemination of information to the public (SDG 3, UNEA 1-7, UNEA 3-8).

### Main opportunities and challenges

The development of a **sand and dust storm project** provides opportunities for strengthening inter-agency partnerships and conduct successful fund-raising. Secure funding allocation by the organization will be essential if we want to ensure continued delivery on the resolutions that were adopted during the 2nd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the General Assembly.

With new **resolutions on marine litter, water and soil pollution and environment and health**, the 3rd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly has provided ample opportunity to move the pollution agenda forward under the sub-programme. For example, the work of the **Open-Ended Ad-Hoc working group on marine litter** pursuant to the resolution will be prominent in the facilitation role of the Secretariat over the coming months.

The **Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities** will be reviewed in an upcoming Intergovernmental meeting in Bali in October to

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<sup>12</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste

November 2018 under the aegis of the Government of Indonesia. This meeting will help determine the strategic path for the Programme into the mid-term from both governance and programmatic viewpoints.

## 6. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

*Objective: Countries transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, increasingly decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and environmental impacts while improving human well-being.*

### International Resource Panel

The 22<sup>nd</sup> bi-annual meeting of the International Resource Panel, alongside a one-day national policy dialogue, were organised in Shenzhen, China, in June 2018.

The International Resource Panel organised several capacity building and dissemination events at the July 2018 New York High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. These included a learning and training workshop on systems-thinking and policy planning for Sustainable Consumption and Production, a joint event with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the One Planet Network to help participating Member States and stakeholders better understand the transformative nature of Sustainable Development Goal 12; and a side event co-organised to raise awareness about the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 12.

The Panel is developing the first of a recurrent series of a flagship publications entitled “**Global Resource Outlook**” that will be made available in preparation to the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEP/EA.2/Res.8 paragraph 13, and UNEP/EA.3/Res.4 paragraph 37). Together with the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Environmental Outlook, it will form the scientific backbone of the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Argentina, holder of the Group of 20 Presidency, has requested the Panel to provide inputs into this year’s Group 20 discussions on resource efficiency. As part of this process, the Panel presented a short paper at the **Group of 20 Dialogue on Resource Efficiency**, held in Iguazu, Brazil, on 27 August 2018. The paper examines the imperative of, and economic opportunities for, increased resource efficiency, as well as the trends on natural resource use and climate and their interlinkages, with focus on G20 countries. Argentina has expressed interest and support in requesting a full assessment from the International Resource Panel at the December 2018 G20 Summit.

### *Impact on the private sector*

As part of the formal strategic partnership between the International Resource Panel and the World Economic Forum in early 2018, the two parties are developing a joint “white paper” which will be published as an official document for the annual gathering of the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2019. This short dissemination piece focuses on the importance of ‘science-based targets’ for sustainable resource management.

### **10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns/One Planet Network**

In July 2018, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development reviewed progress of **Goal 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production**, presenting the opportunity for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes to position the One Planet network as an implementation mechanism for Goal 12 and launch new initiatives, including the new strategy ‘**One Plan for One Planet**’. A short video on the One Planet network at the High Level Political Forum can be found [here](#), and a full report on One Planet network at the Forum can be found [here](#).

The “One Plan for One Planet” 2018-2022 strategy was launched at the July 2018 New York High Level Political Forum. Its main role will be: (i) serving as the core implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12 on “ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns”, (ii) Identifying, scaling-up and replicating successful policies, practices and initiatives which promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns; and (iii) Measuring and highlighting the economic, social and environmental benefits from this shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns. The strategy can be found [here](#).

Another highlight during the High Level Political Forum was the launch of the Global Fund for Sustainable Development Goal 12: **The One Planet Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for Sustainable Development Goal 12** represents a collaboration between the UN Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN World Tourism Organization, UN-Habitat and the UN Office for Project Services, supported by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. This fund is managed as a pooled financing mechanism and will provide coordinated system-wide delivery for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12. Pooled funds will enable a strategic use of financial resources in line with the One Plan for One Planet strategy, a coordinated UN system-wide delivery, and a scaled-up action for Sustainable Development Goal 12 implementation. More information available [here](#).

### ***Consumer information***

Between April and July 2018, five workshops (France, China, Sri Lanka, Peru and Chile) were organized to promote the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information, which contribute to the implementation of the third session of the UN Environment Assembly Environment and Health Resolution and respond to the Ministerial Declaration.

### ***Partnership for Action on Green Economy***

Between April and July, five new countries joined the partnership including Argentina, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, and Kazakhstan, bringing the total number of countries benefiting from capacity building support from the Partnership to 65, and receiving multi-year green economy policy assistance to 18.

The Partnership brought together the convening power of the Governments of Finland, Germany, Norway, South Africa, Sweden as well as UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the UN Industrial Development Programme, the UN Institute for Training and Research, and the United Nations Children's Fund to inform the 16 July 2018 High level Political Forum global policy debate ‘*Transforming Our Economies & Lifestyles: Greener and Fairer for Future Generations*’. The webpage of the event provides details on [list of speakers](#), [photos](#), [press information](#), and recorded [livestream](#).

### ***Sustainable Consumption and production***

The largest Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme in Asia, the EU funded SWITCH-Asia Programme will formally launch its second phase in September, whereby nineteen countries will benefit from over 100 million Euros in funding. The programme will launch with a week-long series of events under the banner “Transforming Asia Pacific: Innovative Solutions, Circular Economy and Low Carbon Lifestyles” which will bring business and policy leaders to discuss innovative solutions in policy, finance, technology, business models and behavioural insights (SDG 12).

For the first time, leading eCommerce players have joined forces with UN Environment Programme on the fight against single use plastic products in two ways – ensuring availability of alternatives, and not making disposable plastic available on default. In June, Lazada, under Alibaba Group launched 6 #BeatPlasticPollution country collections in South East Asian countries featuring alternatives to single use plastic in food storage, beverages, female hygiene, and cleaning products. The campaign reached over 50 million people, and led to over 6 million consumers in South East Asia viewing the collection, and at least 3 million purchases of alternatives to single use plastic, with

reusable straws emerging as a popular item. The campaign achieved a ‘conversion rate’ (ratio of consumers looking to buying) of 50%, far higher than the industry standard of 2%. The main food delivery service in South East Asia also joined the #BeatPlasticPollution campaign, launching their first ‘opt in’ feature to give consumers the choice of including plastic cutlery in their order. This nudging campaign was broadly welcomed by media outlets in Thailand and the Philippines (SDG12).

Twelve start-ups supported by UN Environment Programme are proving the business case for low carbon, low waste consumption in Asia and the Pacific under the Asia Pacific Low Carbon Lifestyles Challenge. Over the period of April to November 2018, the start-ups are and will develop a suite of innovative solutions for Sustainable Consumption and Production, including: circular economy business models (upcycling textiles in the Philippines, using waste cooking oil for biodiesel in China), blockchain (smart grids linking solar energy to eVehicle charging stations), Artificial Intelligence (route optimisation and ride share in Pakistan), eMobility (electric motors for tuk-tuk drivers), Internet of Things (smart energy meters in Bhutan) and biomimicry (air cooling using design inspired by beehives in India). An entrepreneur in the Samoa launched the first start-up in the Pacific producing reusable and affordable cotton female hygiene products and contributing to discussions about gender, selling out in her first months. Four videos have been developed to promote the start-ups in cooperation with film makers from Deutschlandwelle (SDG12.1, 12.8).

The Government of Republic of Korea has supported Thailand and Vietnam to develop action plans for sustainable public procurement to reduce negative environmental impacts of public sector spending. In June, a draft plan for sustainable procurement of buildings was developed (SDG 12.7).

India established its Task Force on sustainable public procurement guidelines for Indian Railways, the world’s largest employer, with support from UN Environment Programme in April 2018 (SDG 12.7). Taking note of the potential economic and environment gains attained within India by adopting sustainable technologies, it was felt that more economic and environmental gains could be unlocked through development of a sustainable public procurement policy framework in India. Accordingly, the Government of India has notified constitution of a Task Force on Sustainable Procurement with mandate to develop a Sustainable Procurement Action plan for India. The Task Force consists of representatives from various ministries and institutions who can consult with academia, industries and their association, multilateral agencies etc. while making recommendations. The full-fledged implementation of sustainable procurement policy has potential to change the landscape of manufacturing and raise the profile of public sectors in the eyes of stakeholders in India. With, public procurement making up approximately 30% of gross domestic product of India, the move would help India’s low-carbon economic growth and achieve the Paris Climate Change commitments and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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## 7. ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

*Objective: Governments and other stakeholders are empowered with quality assessments and open access to data and information to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development.*

### Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals and other environmental goals<sup>13</sup>

- In April, UN Environment Programme presented **statistical methodologies for two indicators under SDG 6** ‘Clean Water and Sanitation’ at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The indicators relate to the water quality of water bodies and monitoring the change in extent of water related ecosystems over time.

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<sup>13</sup> UNEP/EA.3/L.7, SDG 6

- The **statistical methodologies** were developed and have been piloted in countries in close consultation with UN-Water, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA), The European Union Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Google.
- UN Environment Programme reported the data for those indicators to the **Secretary General's SDG Global Database and the 2018 Progress Report on SDGs**.

#### **Global and Regional Capacity Building<sup>14</sup>**

Provision of environmental data and information systems for evidence-based decision making ultimately contributes to the implementation of all UN Environment Assembly resolutions focused on the Rio conventions and the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The **Cross-Cutting Capacity Development portfolio (CCCD)**, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), aim at building/strengthening national capacities for the implementation, mainstreaming, reporting and monitoring of multilateral environmental agreements (particularly the Rio Conventions).

The implementation of newly approved projects started in Benin, Botswana and Mauritania:

- A joint implementation planning workshop for Benin, Botswana and Mauritania was held in Mauritania (17 – 19 April 2018) organised in partnership with the respective ministries of Environment.
- In the Republic of South Sudan, a national stakeholder consultation workshop was held in Juba, 21-25 May 2018.

The cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) portfolio was **not retained** as part of the direct financing programs/windows for the Global Environment Facility seventh replenishment cycle (2018 -2022) despite much lobbying by the UN Environment Programme. In the future, countries requesting development support for CCCD type projects should design multi-focal area projects funded from their GEF-STAR allocations.

#### **Global Environment Outlook (GEO)<sup>15</sup>**

- The 25 chapters of the main report of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) are currently undergoing peer review by Member States. Once government comments have been addressed, the report will be finalized and published as an embargoed copy during the week of 5 December 2018. Our Science and Communication Divisions are working together to ensure a high impact from the report during the fourth UN Environment Assembly.
- The main findings of two reports – GEO-6 and the global assessment from the International Resource Panel - are planned to be key inputs to the **discussion paper** for the fourth UN Environment Assembly.
- In parallel, the Global Environment Outlook team is collaborating with the Sustainable Development Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to make significant contributions to, as well as integrate the findings of the sixth Global Environment Outlook into, the **quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report**, which will be presented to the High-level Political Forum in September 2019.

#### ***The main opportunities and challenges and response measures for GEO-6 are:***

- The main negotiation meeting for the Summary for Policy Makers, planned for Jan. 22-25, 2019, remains unfunded. Partial funding is expected from the European Union.
- Funding levels for the completion of the sixth Global Environment Outlook remain below needs, with a 2.4M US\$ funding gap. This is a major risk for the organization, as the GEO is our major flagship product to be presented at UNEA-4.
- Providing sufficient core resources to the GEO process is a top priority for the organization, and this was clearly reiterated by member states in the recent presentation on GEO on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

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<sup>14</sup> UNEA-2 Res 2/5; 3/8

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/EA.3/L2

### Thematic Assessments<sup>16</sup>

The Global Environment Outlook team is bringing together the co-chairs of **5 major global assessments** being delivered in 2019. A face-to-face meeting, to produce a narrative on the coherence and complementarity of these assessments, is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Paris, France.

- An assessment on the **Alternatives to Plastics to Reduce Marine Plastic Litter** was launched on 5 June 2018 (World Environment Day), responding to the UN Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter (including micro-plastics).
- UN Environment Programme has been closely working with the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) to advance the **World Oceans Assessment** and the organization's support to the Regular Process for **Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment**.
- UN Environment Programme (Science and Ecosystems Divisions) has positioned itself as a major player in providing **science for informed policy and decision making** in the fields of coastal and marine issues, including marine litter.
- The **2018 edition of the Frontiers report** assesses issues of climate geo-engineering and melting Arctic permafrost, two issues which contribute to UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/6, and is being developed by a **gender-balanced team of authors**. This report also needs secure and stable funding.
- The Science Division contributes not only to the Environment under Review sub-programme, but also to other sub-programmes such as the Climate Change or Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality sub-programmes. On the latter, the Division provides science for policy on **sand and dust storms**. Secured funding for this subject is limited and affects full delivery on the related resolutions that were adopted during the second session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-2/21) and the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Current funding has been applied to provide a **brief** for the High Level Political Forum session on sand and dust storms on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and a Secretary General Report for the General Assembly in September 2018.

### Climate Change Adaptation<sup>17</sup>

- A new Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment Programme and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in Nairobi, is supporting implementation of the **PROVIA-The World Adaptation Science Programme**.
- An ongoing partnership with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is being further strengthened, particularly in the field of **climate adaptation science**.

### Climate Change Mitigation<sup>18</sup>

- The **Emissions Gap Report 2018** will be developed in close collaboration with the UN Environment – Danish Technical University Partnership (UDP). The structure and content of the 2018 edition was discussed during a Steering Committee meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark during the second quarter of 2018.

### *Main opportunities and challenges and response measures*

- No country has formally offered to host the 2020 Adaptation Futures Conference.
- The Secretariat of PROVIA-The World Adaptation Science Programme has benefited from the start of a full-time Junior Professional Officer from China.
- A PROVIA-The World Adaptation Science Programme was revamped with a new Steering Committee and new Technical Advisory Group that met in June 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa, during the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference which the Programme co-hosted.

Under the partnership project with European Commission on “**Strengthening National Capacity in Environment Data Sharing and Reporting**”, five countries<sup>19</sup> completed national assessment on

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<sup>16</sup> UNEA 2/6, SDG 14

<sup>17</sup> UNEA Res 2/6; SDG 13

<sup>18</sup> UNEA Res 2/6

<sup>19</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mongolia and Nepal

their status of environmental data availability and environmental data systems management and reporting on state of environment, Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateral Environmental Agreements. National review reports assessed each country's environmental statistical data management, sharing and reporting systems in terms of strengths, weaknesses and gaps (including collection, monitoring, reporting and sharing) and future plans at the national level.

## **CAMPAIGNS**

### **Champions and Young Champions of the Earth**

- The Champions and Young Champions of the Earth Awards are delivered under goal 2 of the Communication Division's Corporate Project as part of the Organization's strategic activities to raise awareness on UN Environment's work and on key environmental issues. Covestro is funding the Young Champions of the Earth programme; discussions with Weibo for funding for the Champions of the Earth programme are in the final stages.
- Following a global nomination, voting and selection process, all 2018 Champions and Young Champions of the Earth Laureates have been selected. They will be announced at the Award Ceremony on 26 September 2018 in New York.

### **CleanSeas**

- The CleanSeas campaign contributes to the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality Programme's Expected Accomplishment (a) and (b), and helps the organization deliver on UN Environment Assembly Resolutions 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7.
- On World Environment Day, nine countries joined the UN Environment Programme's #CleanSeas campaign with new commitments to address plastic waste, bringing the total to 53 countries. Almost 100,000 people have [taken a pledge on the CleanSeas website](#).
- UN Environment Programme in collaboration with Kurzgesagt launched a [9-minute animated film on plastic pollution](#), which received almost 1 million views on YouTube within 24 hours, and over two million views in to date.

### **BreatheLife**

- The BreatheLife Campaign – run jointly with the World Health Organization and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition – contributes to the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality Programme's Expected Accomplishment (c), and helps the organization deliver on UNEA Resolution 1/7 5(b).
- To date, four national, twelve sub-national and twelve city governments have signed on to BreatheLife and set goals for clean air to benefit 230 million people by 2030. In May, 55,000 people participated in the BreatheLife Challenge – implemented in partnership with fitness App Pacer – walking the distance of a marathon for clean air. Brazilian race car driver Lucas di Grassi announced his support for UN Environment Programme's work to reduce air pollution as a UN Environment Programme Clean Air Advocate.

### **WildforLife**

- The WildforLife campaign helps the organization deliver on UNEA Resolutions 1/3 10(b) and 2/14 5(b) and contributes to the Healthy and Productive Ecosystem Programme's Expected Accomplishment (a); and the Environmental Governance Programme's Expected Accomplishment (b). In April, the *Communication Handbook to Combat Wildlife Crime* was tested in Malawi during a workshop with key stakeholders. In June, a WildforLife exhibition showing world famous celebrities was launched in the Safari Park Dvůr Králové, Czech Republic.

### **Opportunities and Challenges**

Opportunities include increasing regional support and delivery continue to underpin our campaigns with solid calls to action, content strategy and tactics, as well as using the established brand of our Organization and its various campaigns to reach new audiences and improve impact.

Challenges encompass monitoring of implementation of commitments by private sector or countries, and lack of underpinning science to strengthen campaigns' call to action.

## **CROSS CUTTING AREAS / SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

### **1. FAITH AND ENVIRONMENT**

The activities on faith and environment are delivering against the Environmental Governance subprogramme. During the period 1 April to 31 July 2018, the Faith for Earth Initiative has achieved the following:

- On 25-27 April, UN Environment Programme organized a global Roundtable meeting on Faith-Consistent Investment and Finance, back-to-back with the Global Responsible Investment Summit. A partnership agreement was signed with the Responsible Finance and Investment Foundation (RFI) by which CEOs and Investment Managers of major Faith-based funds have taken part at the roundtable such as: Islamic Development Bank, World Council of Churches, the Church of England, EnergyInvest, GreenFaith and many others. The roundtable resulted in linking Responsible financing to Impact financing by faith-based investment bodies and discussed faith-consistent investment criteria that integrate environmental stewardship and care for the creation.
- In support to the global campaign on faith-based sustainable living (Living the Change), by GreenFaith, the Faith for Earth Initiative has developed guidelines for faith organizations and faith leaders on practical steps to ensure faith-consistent sustainable living.
- The Faith For Earth Initiative has supported faith organizations across the world in organizing activities to celebrate the World Environment Day and conduct Cleanup campaigns in slum areas, most notably in Nairobi-Kenya. Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2pT9g0OO\\_U&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2pT9g0OO_U&feature=youtu.be)
- The Initiative has published a knowledge product in UN Environment Programme Foresight linking Environmental conservation to Faith and cultural values. Link [http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25452/Foresight\\_008\\_201805.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25452/Foresight_008_201805.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)
- The Faith for Earth Initiative has created a network with more than 500 Faith-Based Organizations and is sharing knowledge and resources for interfaith collaboration. An advocacy campaign has been launched with a unique hashtag [#Faith4Earth](#)
- The Faith For Earth Initiative has contributed to the international conference on the theme, 'Saving our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth,' that was organized by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, which took place from 5-6 July 2018 in Vatican City. The initiative built on cooperation with other divisions and units contributed to the discussions on Climate Change, Green Economy, Faith leaders empowerment and the role of youth.
- On 28 July, the Faith for Earth Initiative organized a consultation meeting in Geneva with the Alliance on Religion and conservation to form a global Alliance on Faith-Consistent Investment (FaithInvest).
- A challenge for this initiative is the momentum it is creating and the expectations it is building. Dedicated resources and capacity must be provided to enable it to deliver on its objectives and mobilize donor support and resources.

### **2. GREENING THE BELT AND ROAD INITIAIVE**

UN Environment Programme's work on Greening the Belt and Road Initiative – including through the green finance work – delivers against the implementation of the Resource Efficiency subprogramme and contributes to UN Environment Assembly Resolutions 2/5, 2/8. This project supports South-South cooperation as mandated under the Bali Strategic Framework for Technology-support and Capacity Building.

Thematic partnerships under the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and

Roads were identified and many of them directly contribute to the Sub-Programmes on Climate Change and on Healthy and Productive Ecosystems.

*Key activities and deliverables during this reporting period include:*

- June 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> working meeting for Coalition planning was held with China’s Ministry of Ecology and Environment; Coalition foundation documents were circulated for stakeholder review, by UN Environment Programme and China Ministry of Ecology and Environment.
- Partnerships between countries, international organizations, academia, private sectors and Belt and Road Initiative have been established and strengthened.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with Elion Foundation was renewed and a total of US\$600,000 were mobilised, of which US\$282,000 were allocated to support work on greening of the Belt and Road Initiative. Elion Foundation has experience in carrying out large-scale ecological restoration activities using the construction of sand-protecting barriers, afforestation, aerial shrub seeding and the closure of land for natural regeneration: achievements and lessons learnt will be shared to guide the development of a road map for Belt and Road partner countries.

### 3. ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC

The engagement in the Arctic is cross-cutting within all sub-programmes of the Programme of Work, but more closely to Environmental Governance, Environment under Review and Climate Change.

Key deliverables for the reporting period include:

- Progress mostly on the political engagement front. In May 2018 during the visit of the Executive Director in Moscow, Viacheslav Fetisov was appointed as UN Environment Programme Patron for the Polar Regions. At the same time, the new awareness project “[Last Game at the North Pole](#)”, a symbolic international ice hockey game spearheaded by Viacheslav Fetisov, was announced for April 2019. Practical preparations for this logistically and organisationally ambitious project are underway, and detailed information can be found on a dedicated webpage <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/last-game>
- UN Environment Programme’s Arctic strategy and concrete steps were presented and discussed in a dedicated session during the UN Environment Programme - Nordic Consultations on 11 April 2018 in Geneva. The engagement was warmly welcomed as timely and relevant by all Nordic countries, highlighting the UN Environment Programme’s strengths on global / Arctic policy relationship, communication of Arctic matters and cooperation on marine issues. Similarly, positive discussions were held with the new government members in the Russian Federation (including through Executive Director’s visit in Moscow).
- The scope of the flagship UN Environment Programme report relating to the Arctic – the Vital Arctic Graphics – has been finalised and production started in cooperation with GRID-Arendal, centre collaborating with UN Environment Programme. The product will be finalised, following wide consultation with, and inputs from, Arctic stakeholders, in October 2018 and presented to the Arctic Environment Ministers’ Meeting. The graphics is organised along the three themes of the meeting – pollution, biodiversity and climate change and it will serve as a reference document for years to come. A series of inputs is under preparation also for the Arctic Biodiversity Congress, happening in October 2018 back to back with the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting (led by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre).

So far, the only resources used for the work on this special initiative were an allocation of US\$ 21,400, covering travel for a range of Arctic meetings and operations.

This special initiative started with the minimal capacity, although it is broadly supported by the Arctic region countries. The challenge is to build a programme of cooperation and complementary value of UN Environment Programme in both Arctic and Antarctic governance. It is a complex

process requiring continuity and dedicated focus. In addition, more effort is needed to revert the perception of Arctic environmental issues to be exclusive for the countries from the developed North: “what happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic”, and global nature of Arctic environmental change, and global influence on the Arctic environment are at the core of UN Environment Programme’s engagement.

#### 4. EXTRACTIVES

##### **Biodiversity indicators for extractives companies**

UN Environment Programme and the UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) are continuing their work relating to the development of biodiversity indicators for extractives companies. Having developed a proposed methodology that was discussed during the 2018 Proteus Annual Members’ Meeting and received positive feedback, the next step of the project will involve refinement of the methodology and pilot testing with a select group of companies.

##### **Mainstreaming biodiversity into the energy, mining, infrastructure and manufacturing and processing sectors (under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD))**

- An international expert meeting took place in Cairo on the 20-22 June, followed by formal negotiations at the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) in Montreal between the 9 and 14th July 2018 where several side events were also convened on the topic
- UNEP-WCMC is currently delivering a project for the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on mainstreaming biodiversity into the energy, mining, and infrastructure industries. In parallel, UNEP-WCMC has been working with extractives industry associations and individual companies to secure their engagement in the process that will set new targets and develop a framework for biodiversity after 2020.
- UNEP-WCMC and UN Environment Programme have been supporting the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity through engaging a range of experts and stakeholders, including industry, in these discussions, preparing background materials and organizing and participating in meetings and side events. The executive summary from the expert meeting and the draft recommendations coming out of SBI-2 are available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-02> .
- Following on the successful [first set of recommended life cycle impact indicators](#) by the Life Cycle Initiative, a second Pellston Workshop was held in Valencia, Spain in late June 2018 to further provide “Global Guidance for Life Cycle Impact Assessment Indicators and Methods”, through its Volume 2. The workshop aimed to and reached consensus on recommended environmental indicators and characterisation factors for Life Cycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) in the areas of human toxicity, ecotoxicity, acidification and eutrophication, soil quality and related ecosystem services, mineral resources, as well as crosscutting issues. The workshop built on an extensive two years’ preparation work.

#### 5. GENDER AND SAFEGUARDS

##### **Expert Group Meeting to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**

On 5 and 6 June 2018, UN Environment Programme alongside UN Women and UN-Habitat, co-organized an Expert Group Meeting on “Building sustainable and resilient societies through the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The meeting took place as a contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at its July 2018 session. In addition to the UN entities, the meeting also provided an opportunity for civil society organizations, academics, Member States and other stakeholders to discuss good practices, implementation challenges and lessons learned in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on interlinkages between SDG 5 (Gender) and the SDG’s under

review during the 2018 HLPF consisting: SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 11 (cities and human settlements), SDG 12 (consumption and production) and SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems).

### **Progress on Gender-Responsiveness in Projects**

Projects continue to make progress towards meeting minimum gender requirements as rated using the gender marker. For the period 1 April to 31 July 2018, out of 24 projects reviewed, 17% of projects have been marked with a code 2a meaning that they meet all the four gender criteria; whilst 75% have been marked with a code 1 meaning that the projects have partially mainstreamed gender and thus likely to contribute to gender equality albeit in a limited way. Despite improved gender-responsiveness within projects, majority did not meet code 2a requirements as they did not include gender within their budget.

### **Gender and Climate Change**

As elaborated under the programmatic update for climate change, UN Environment Programme, in partnership with UN Women, has embarked on its first fully dedicated project to gender equality and climate change action.

From 4 to 13 April 2018, UN Environment Programme in collaboration with the [Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa \(RES4Africa\)](#) and other partners conducted a Micro-Grid Training for the [Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs](#) and youth from the East African Community in Nairobi, Kenya. The training aimed at developing their technical and business skills with a view to enhancing access to energy in rural communities and local enterprises, job creation and income generation.

[Closing the gender gap in agriculture and promoting climate smart practices](#) is smart economics and could lift as many as 238,000 people out of poverty in Malawi, 80,000 people in Tanzania and 119,000 people in Uganda every year. The UNDP-UN Environment Poverty Environment Initiative in partnership with UN Women held a policy dialogue on the cost of gender gap in agricultural productivity at the [Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Summit in Nairobi from 14-16 May 2018](#). The dialogue addressed how to overcome barriers faced by women in the agriculture sector and identified solutions for women farmers.

### **Social and Environmental Safeguards**

UN Environment Programme chaired a session and presented a paper at the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) in Durban, South Africa, on UN system-wide efforts on safeguards. IAIA is one of the leading annual international gathering of impact assessment practitioners. The session included perspectives of UN Environment Programme, UNDP, IFAD, FAO and UNOPS. It was the product of 10 months of team work among participating agencies. The session aimed to increase the visibility of UN agencies' effort on impact assessment to the relevant donors, governments, International Financing Institutions and other related professionals around the world. This collaboration will be also reported to the Senior Management Officers(SOM) meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG) in September 2018;

During this second quarter, UN Environment Programme Safeguards Advisor visited Terekeka and Juba in South Sudan, and Vientiane and Luang Prabang in Laos to interact with relevant government officials and key local stakeholders. These visits are to support UN Environment Programme project proposals through **awareness raising on safeguard concerns**, identifying and assessing safeguard risks by interacting with those who may be most affected by the proposed projects, gathering information and observing the project contexts, which are critical in avoiding or minimizing harms and upholding the high standards established in the Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Framework of the UN Environment Programme.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT**

### **New partners**

During the second quarter of this year, twenty-four partners have been approved through the Partners Portal. Partnerships with 7 other major partnerships are in the pipeline.

### **Major partners**

The planned deliverables under the Memoranda of Understanding of the partnerships with Google Inc., X four-10, Runtastic GmbH and Russian Fairs Limited Liability Company are:

- Google Inc. – As indicated in the section on Sub-programme 3, “Healthy and productive ecosystems”, the partnership to monitor and track the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, including changes to water-related ecosystems such as lakes and rivers.
- X four-10 – This partnership will contribute to the sub-programmes on Ecosystems Management and Resource Efficiency. X-four 10 is currently building the advanced research and expedition vessel (REV) aiming to solve major ocean challenges, and planning to build the World Ocean Headquarters in Norway (Fornebu), with the goal of bringing together leading global ocean knowledge, innovation and research communities and serving as platforms for learning, knowledge sharing, to improve understanding and to develop concrete ocean solutions for the benefit of future generations.
- Runtastic GmbH – a subsidiary of Adidas will be a key partner in the upcoming UN Environment Programme "Run Wild" campaign (part of upcoming new mountain species and climate change programme) that will be linked with the "Wild for Life" campaign, Runtastic is already actively involved in similar campaigns ("Run for the Oceans" in cooperation with Adidas and Parley). Runtastic will support mostly digital outreach for our planned campaign. Runtastic will be instrumental reaching out to a big community (about few million users) that will enable UN Environment Programme to transfer key environmental messages regarding loss of species and habitats in specific case.
- Russian Fairs Limited Liability Company – this partnership will contribute to the Resource Efficiency subprogramme, as well as the implementation of SDG 12: ‘Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns’, using the grounds of the “industrial and agricultural fairs” in 85 regions of Russia.

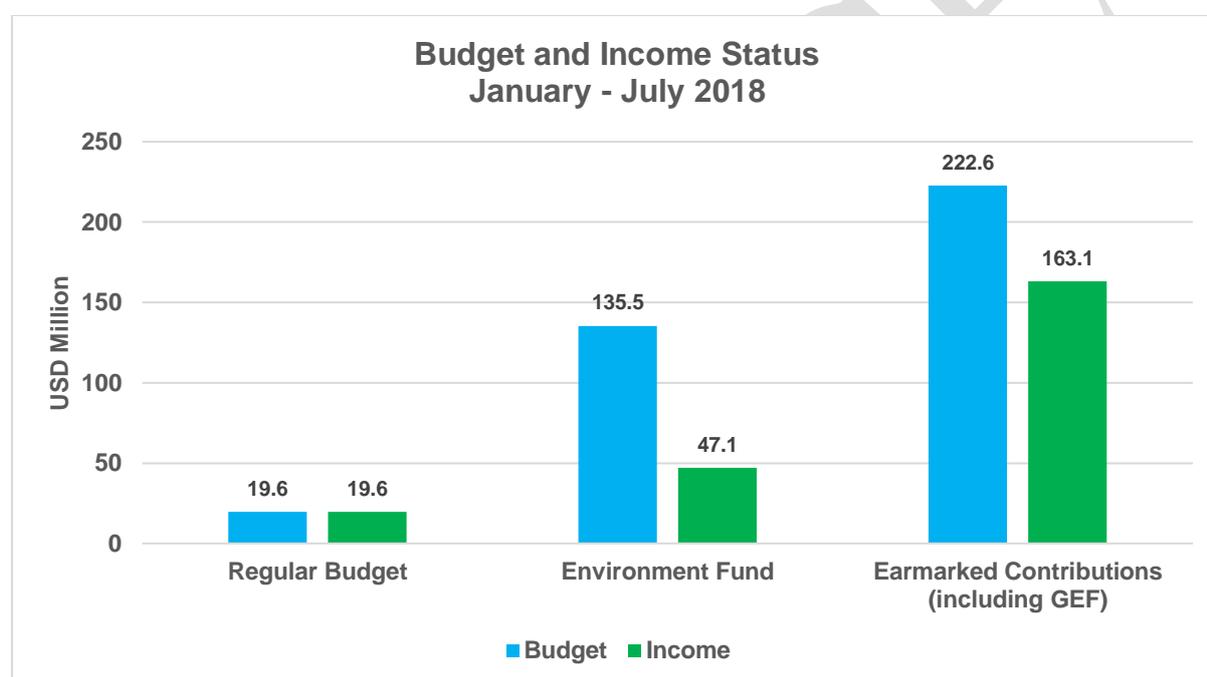
The partnership will also be focusing on: (i) sustainable lifestyle patterns; (ii) introducing products life cycle analysis; (iii) production of organic agriculture products; (iv) production of environmentally friendly industrial products; (v) production of local national environmentally friendly folk arts and handicrafts; (vi) facilitate distribution of ecological products at the markets of other countries; (vii) diminish food loss and waste, (viii) promote the “Think.Eat.Save” campaign; and (ix) promote ecological design and construction, using bioclimatic housing design, environmentally friendly materials and high energy efficiency.

## SECTION 3: RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This section of the report focuses on financial and human resources. It also highlights important management issues. It provides an update on evaluation work highlighting lessons for future work.

### 1. Financial Resources

UN Environment Programme’s overall budget target for the year 2018 is USD 377.7 million. This amount comprises the Regular Budget, Environment Fund and Earmarked Contributions. Core funding is composed of the Regular Budget and Environment Fund and is received on an annual basis. It enables the organisation to deliver its core mandate including lead development of science-policy solutions, advocate and raise awareness and build capacity of the member states to address emerging environmental issues. Earmarked income comprises trust funds including large partnership funds (e.g. European Commission, Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility) and direct project/programme support. It includes multi-year funding, which means income received and recorded in 2018 but meant for spending over several years<sup>20</sup>. Earmarked funding amplifies the delivery of the Programme of Work in more countries.



The Environment Fund has so far received 35% of its approved annual budget for 2018 from 56 Member States, which is 29% of the total number of Member States. We thank all contributors especially the biggest contributors to the Environment Fund so far (table below), as well as those who contributed equal to and above the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions which are Barbados, Denmark\*, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland\*, Jordan, Kenya\*, Kyrgyzstan\*, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Madagascar\*, Monaco, Norway, Slovenia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia\* and Zimbabwe\*.

#### Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund, January – July 2018

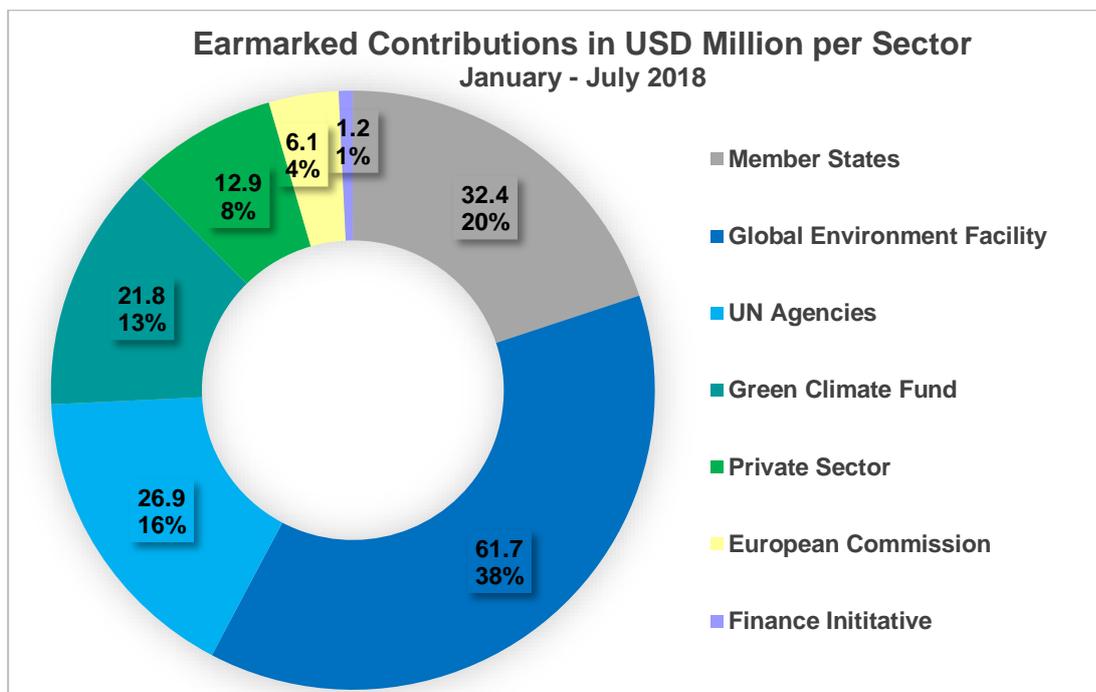
Country	Contributions in USD Million
Germany	8.9
France	7.6
Sweden	5.1
Belgium	4.6
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.3
Norway	3.0
Canada	2.4

<sup>20</sup> As per the UN Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Umoja does not enable breakdown of this income into annual figures.

Finland	1.7
Switzerland*	1.7
Denmark*	1.6

\*Pledges that have not yet been paid

A significant part of the income received by the organisation is earmarked for specific projects. Whilst this funding is much appreciated, it has a tendency of skewing the balanced and efficient delivery of the full programme of work, as decided by all 193 Member States. Earmarked Contributions for current and future years received by 31 July 2018 amount to 73% of the annual target budget.



**Top 10 Contributors (Member States) to Earmarked Funding, January – July 2018**

Country	Contributions in USD Million
Japan	7.7
China	6.4
Norway	5.9
Germany	2.4
Switzerland	1.8
Canada	1.5
France	1.5
Sweden	1.5
Belgium	1.4
India	0.9

## 2. Status of Allocations and Expenditures as at 31 July 2018

Corporate Budgets - Allotments as at 31 July 2018					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
<b>A</b>	Policy Making Organs	1,668,371	-	47,000	1,715,371
<b>B.1</b>	Executive Direction & Management	4,416,550		3,590,800	8,007,350
	<b>Subtotal A + B</b>	<b>6,084,921</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,637,800</b>	<b>9,722,721</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Programme of Work</b>				
1.	Climate change	8,116,052	617,956	1,839,300	10,573,307
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	5,213,354	357,918	1,296,500	6,867,772
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	10,152,860	1,399,859	2,170,700	13,723,419
4.	Environmental governance	8,705,603	344,021	3,818,500	12,868,125
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	8,380,974	1,187,889	1,499,900	11,068,763
6.	Resource efficiency	10,101,984	1,162,509	1,659,300	12,923,793
7.	Environment under review	7,181,066	362,765	2,710,400	10,254,231
	<b>Subtotal C</b>	<b>57,851,893</b>	<b>5,432,918</b>	<b>14,994,600</b>	<b>78,279,411</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Fund Programme Reserve</b>	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000
	<b>Subtotal C + D</b>	<b>59,851,893</b>	<b>5,432,918</b>	<b>14,994,600</b>	<b>80,279,411</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Programme Management and Others</b>				
	Programme Support (Corporate Service Division/SPPD)	4,393,786	11,485,082	936,400	16,815,268
	<b>Subtotal E</b>	<b>4,393,786</b>	<b>11,485,082</b>	<b>936,400</b>	<b>16,815,268</b>
	<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>70,330,600</b>	<b>16,918,000</b>	<b>19,568,800</b>	<b>106,817,400</b>

Corporate Budgets - Expenditures as at 31 July 2018					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
<b>A</b>	Policy Making Organs	529,865	-	1,993	531,859
<b>B. 1</b>	Executive Direction & Management	2,284,579	-	1,688,573	3,973,152
<b>B. 2</b>	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	439,736	-
	<b>Subtotal A + B</b>	<b>2,814,444</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,130,303</b>	<b>4,505,011</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Programme of Work</b>				
1.	Climate change	4,311,108	273,207	1,239,557	5,823,872
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	2,249,482	218,917	650,717	3,119,116
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	4,919,462	356,570	1,215,950	6,491,982
4.	Environmental governance	4,272,352	106,329	2,314,912	6,693,593
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	3,788,105	497,351	898,773	5,184,229
6.	Resource efficiency	5,708,891	572,119	967,730	7,248,740
7.	Environment under review	2,976,813	135,431	1,707,492	4,819,736
	<b>Subtotal C</b>	<b>28,226,213</b>	<b>2,159,925</b>	<b>8,995,130</b>	<b>39,381,268</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Fund Programme Reserve</b>	29,499	-	-	29,499
	<b>Subtotal C + D</b>	<b>28,255,712</b>	<b>2,159,925</b>	<b>8,995,130</b>	<b>39,410,767</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Programme Management and Other</b>				
	Programme Support (Corporate Service Division)	2,115,797	4,939,231	426,906	7,481,935
	UNON/UNIG Bills	-	-	-	-
	After Service Health Insurance Provision	-	-	-	-
	<b>Subtotal E</b>	<b>2,115,797</b>	<b>4,939,231</b>	<b>426,906</b>	<b>7,481,935</b>
	<b>Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>33,185,953</b>	<b>7,099,156</b>	<b>11,552,339</b>	<b>51,397,712</b>

### 3. Resource Mobilisation

As per UN Environment Assembly decision 2/20, the new resource mobilisation strategy was presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 14 June 2018. Member States welcomed the strategy and emphasised that its successful implementation would require joint efforts and shared responsibility by the secretariat and the Member States. As part of the rich exchange of

views, Member States also highlighted the importance of clearly defined comparative advantage and core funding for the organisation. Regarding funding sources, the secretariat was encouraged to reach out more to the governments, exercise caution in entering partnerships to ensure value for money and explore innovative funding sources. In terms of tools to support fundraising, the relevance of the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISIC) to support the Environment Fund was recognised but there was a call for alternative tools to enable softer earmarking. Based on the discussion, the secretariat will develop an implementation plan for the strategy and continue consultations with the Member States on its delivery.

## 4. Human Resources Overview

### General Overview

- As at 31 July, United Nations Environment Programme had a total staff component of 1,190, comprising 713 Professional and 476 General Service personnel. The complete staff numbers include the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Secretariats. There is a total of 193 staff at the P5 and above level, and the breakdown is as follows:

Total staff at P5 and above levels as of 31 March					
Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	2	6	56	129*

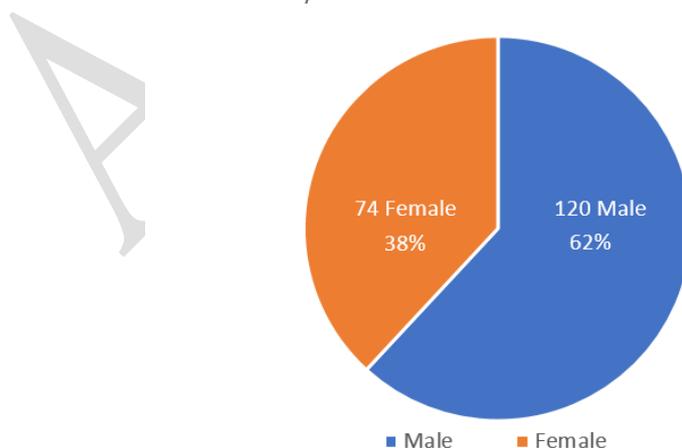
\*Includes 4 P4 staff on SPA P5 posts

### 2. Gender parity

- In line with the Secretary General’s UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy and UN Environment Programme Gender Parity Implementation Plan, effort is being made towards meeting the gender parity targets set by the Office of Human Resource Management in New York.
- As the following chart and table demonstrates, efforts need to be sustained to gender parity at UN Environment Programme. This is currently being addressed through the implementation of the UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy launched in February.

### Gender Parity Breakdown by Job Level:

Gender Parity Breakdown for P5 and Above as at March 31, 2018



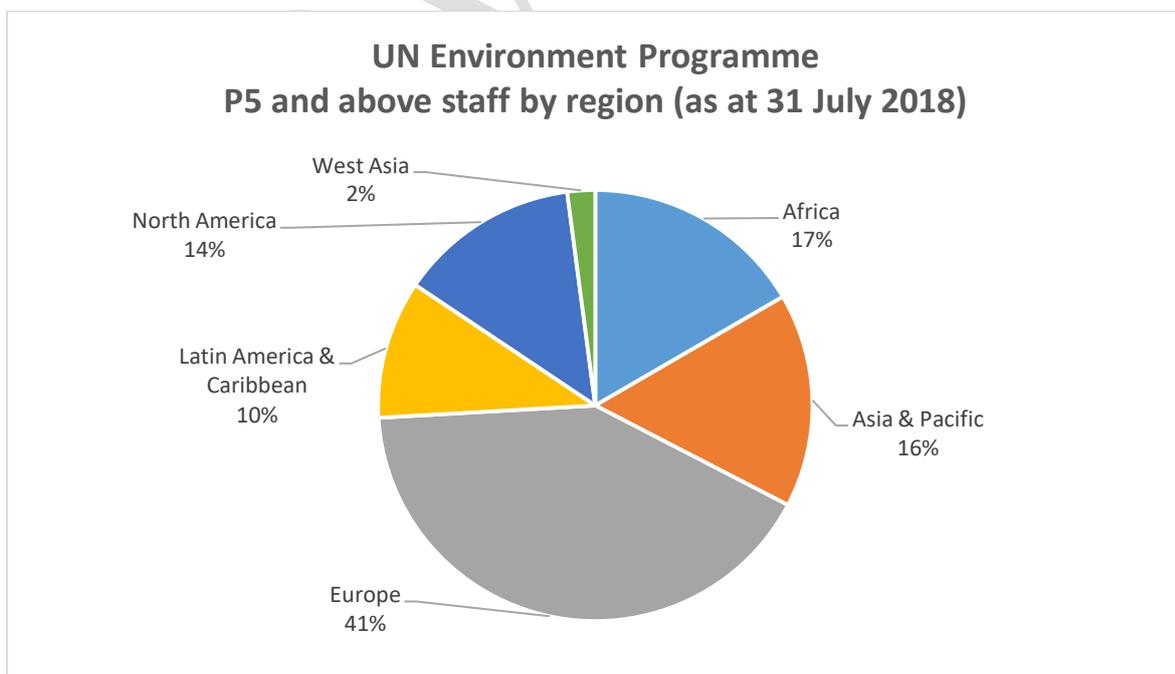
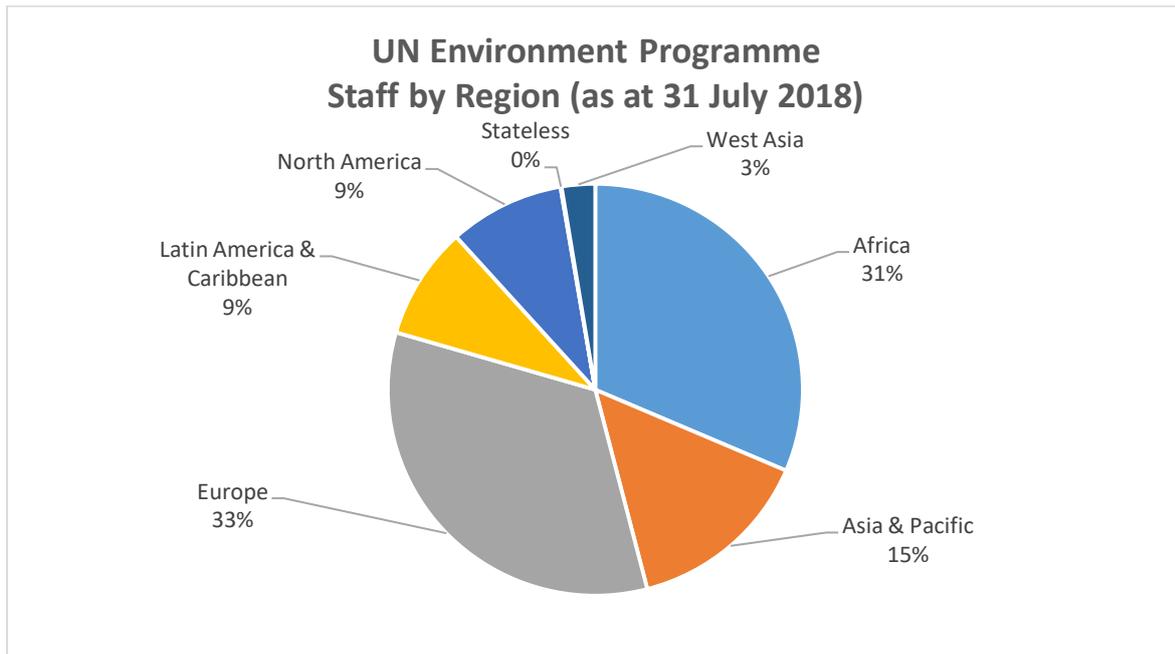
**Gender Breakdown of P5 and above level staff as at March 31, 2018**

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
Male	1	1	2	37	78*
Female	0	1	3	18	49*

\*Includes 1 P-4 male sitting on P5 SPA positions

\*Includes 3 P-4 female staff sitting on P5 SPA positions.

**3. Geographic Distribution – including an analysis of the P5 and Above Level Staff**



- The above charts depict geographical representation among the staff of the UN Environment Programme.

- Regarding staff at the P5 and above levels, Europe has the largest number of staff occupying senior P5 and Above positions at UN Environment Programme. There are 80 European senior members who make up 41% of the P5 and above staff population. Africa and Asia are second with 31 senior staff members, at 17% and 16% respectively. North America has 26 staff (14%) followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (20 staff) with 10% and West Asia who have four senior members representing 2% of UN Environment Programme senior staff.

### **Key Human Resources risks and issues:**

- Aside from gender parity reform, there will need to be consistent application of talent management and workforce planning to ensure a balance in the types of appointments made including promotions, initial appointments, reassignments and temporary assignments.
- It will be necessary to ensure that the vitality and quality of talent is managed proactively to preserve and enhance UN Environment Programme's human capital for the organization's future growth.
- In addition, further in-depth study will be required to scrutinize the current spread of vacancies at all levels to ensure that they support a healthy, well-balanced talent pipeline that can adequately feed the near and long-term needs of the organization in the context of the Secretary General's management and gender reforms.

## **5. Audits**

Audits of the UN Environment Programme for the reporting period - April to July 2018 - comprise:

### **A. Ongoing audits:**

- a. Contract Management at UNON, UN Environment Programme and UN Habitat
- b. Audit of the official travel at UN Environment Programme

### **B. Implementation of recommendations of completed audits:**

- a. Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
- b. Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Regions and its Protocol. (Abidjan Convention).

### **C. Completed audits**

The audit of the financial statements for the year 2017 has been concluded by the United Nations Board of Auditors (UNBOA) and the final report issued in July 2018. The audit included a general review of the financial systems, internal controls and a test examination of the accounting records and other supporting evidence that the board considered necessary to form an opinion on the financial statements. The Board issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements of UN Environment Programme for the year ended 31 December 2017. The full report of the Board of Auditors is expected to be posted on the website of the UN Board of Auditors soon.

### **D. Planned audits for 2018 per OIOS work plan:**

- a. Climate change sub-programme
- b. Mediterranean Action Plan
- c. Management of trust funds
- d. Afghanistan Project Office

## **6. EVALUATIONS**

The Global Environment Facility **Annual Performance Report for 2017** (published June 2018), presented by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office, shows that UN Environment Programme is leading the GEF Partnership Agencies in the quality of its terminal evaluations (91% of terminal evaluations rated in the Satisfactory range based on a sample of 160 evaluations). Other agencies include UNDP, World Bank and UNIDO. As the same evaluation approach is applied to GEF and non-GEF funded projects, this finding can be generalised to the work of the UN Environment Programme Evaluation Office. The full report available at:

<http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/apr-2017.pdf>

The UN Environment Programme **Evaluation Synthesis Report 2016-2017** findings were presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 14<sup>th</sup> June by the Director of the Evaluation Office.

The report on the Subprogramme Evaluation for **Resource Efficiency** is currently being finalised. Preparations for the Evaluation for **Environment Under Review** Sub-programme were made for its anticipated launch in October, 2018.

During the period April – July 2018, inclusive:

- **Fifteen** project evaluations were completed.
- **Thirty** project evaluations are currently ongoing.
- The recruitment of the fourth professional post in the Evaluation Office (P4 level) is at an advanced stage.

### **Key Learning Points:**

#### **Mid-Term Evaluation of the UN Environment Programme Project Global and Regional Integrated Environmental Assessments (GEO-6)**

There is a concern about what some consider to be the “proliferation” of global assessments, with the result being possible duplication. The UN Environment Programme Science Policy Forum should convene a high-level meeting of global assessment secretariats to discuss reforms of the global assessment system.

There is a general agreement that the GEO-6 process has been unnecessarily cumbersome and under-resourced. If embarking on a new GEO process, UN Environment Programme should undertake a thorough “scoping” of ideas, open to stakeholders, as to how the overall process should be structured.

One of the most significant issues facing potential future GEO processes is the provision of secure resourcing. UN Environment Programme should ensure, through internal resource allocation, that a potential future GEO process is adequately funded and staffed.

#### **Terminal Evaluation of the UN Environment Programme GEF Projects - Capacity Building for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in India, Phase II and Implementation of National Biosafety Framework for Turkey**

Human Rights and Gender Equality mainstreaming is compulsory to UN programming. Yet the value of embracing Human Rights and Gender Equality in biosafety remains normative and theoretical, as long as the biosafety projects do not foster specific aims and do not earmark budget for the purpose.