



Distr.: General
19 September 2019

English only



United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

Sixth meeting

Nairobi, 7-11 October 2019

Conference Room 1

Programme Performance review for January 2018 – June 2019

This note provides background information for consideration of agenda item 3 of the 6th Annual Subcommittee, entitled “Programme performance review 2018-2019, including relevant UN Environment Assembly Resolutions”.

Under this agenda item, the Subcommittee will initially consider an overview of the organization’s programme performance for the 18-month period from January 2018 to June 2019, including recent developments within the executive direction of the Programme, following the appointment of the Executive Director.

The Committee will also consider an overview on management performance, including on budget and financial aspects, as well as possible gaps in funding and resource mobilization for 2018-2019. Following the overview, the Committee will review UNEP’s programme performance for the seven subprogrammes during the 18-month period, in the context of the results targeted in the Programme of Work 2018 – 2019.

Under this agenda item, the Committee will also consider:

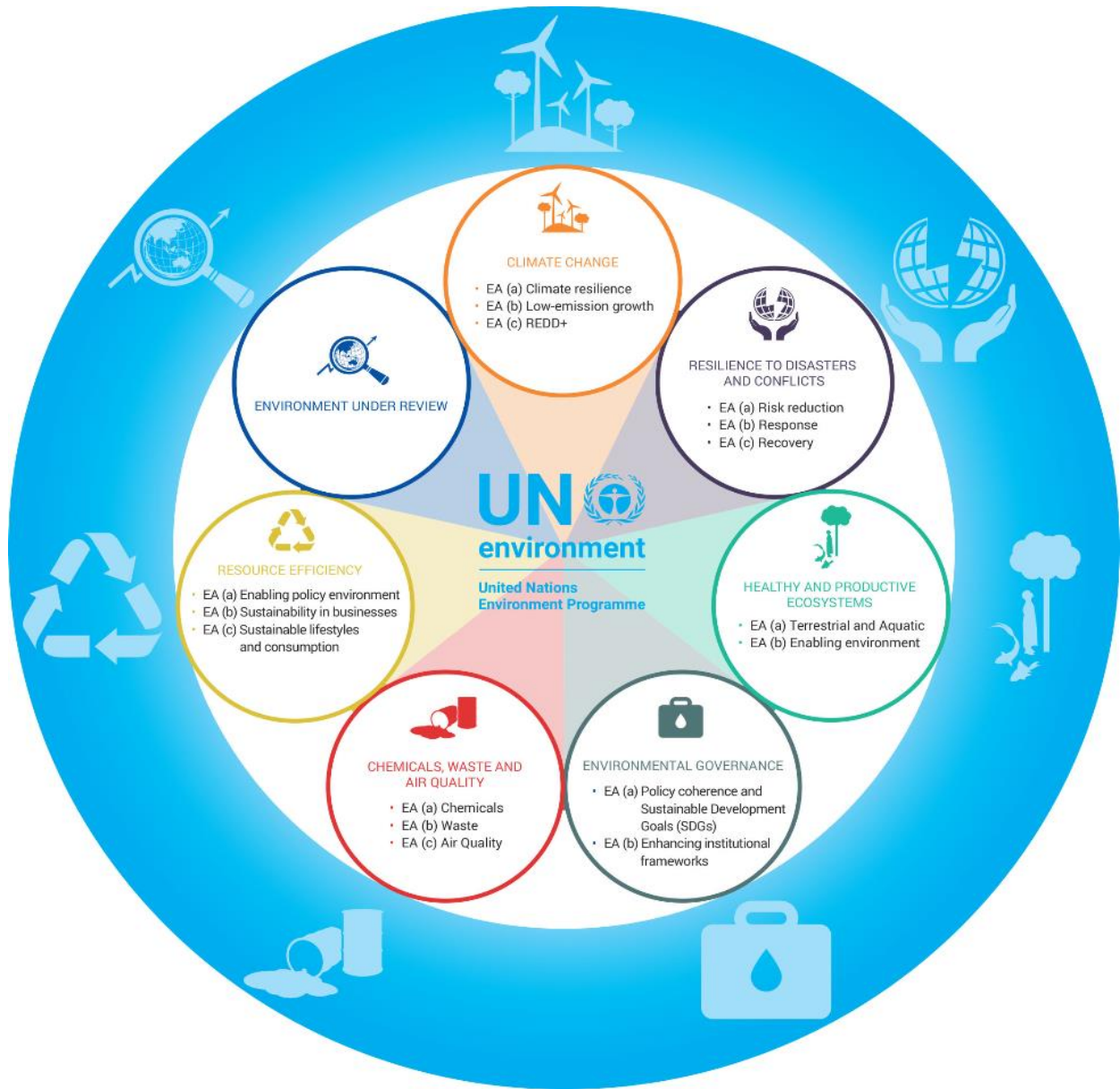
- An update on the UN Development Reform as it pertains to the UN Environment Programme, as mandated in UN Environment Assembly Decision 4/1 entitled “Programme of work and budget for 2020–2021”, on the basis of document UNEP/CPR/SC2019/4.
- A draft Private Sector Engagement Strategy, prepared in response to paragraph 26 of UN Environment Assembly Decision 4/1 entitled “Programme of work and budget for 2020–2021”, and paragraph 90 of the adopted programme of work and budget, on the basis of document UNEP/CPR/SC2019/5.



PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE REVIEW

January 2018 to June 2019

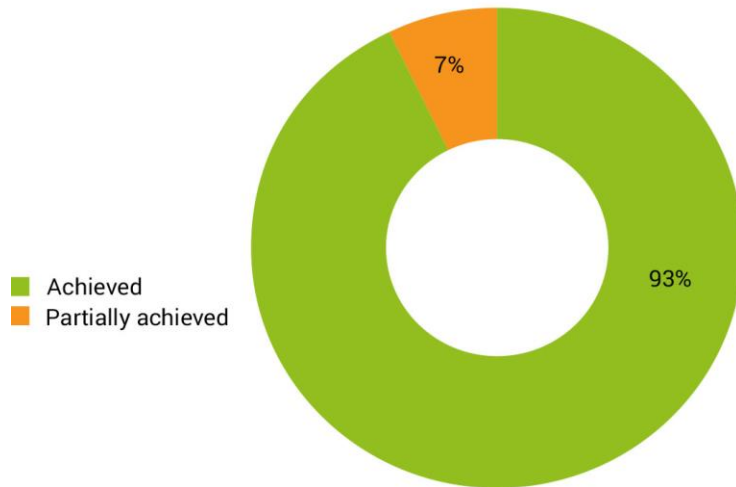
UN Environment Programme results framework



OVERALL PERFORMANCE METRICS

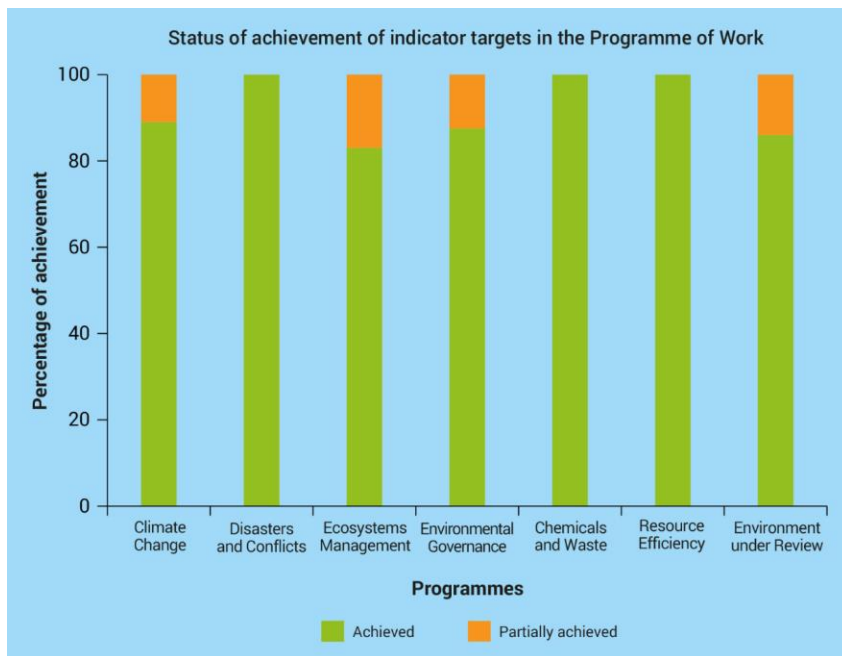
UNEP has fully achieved 93% and partially achieved 7% of the June 2019 indicator targets of the Programme of Work 2018 - 2019.

Performance overview



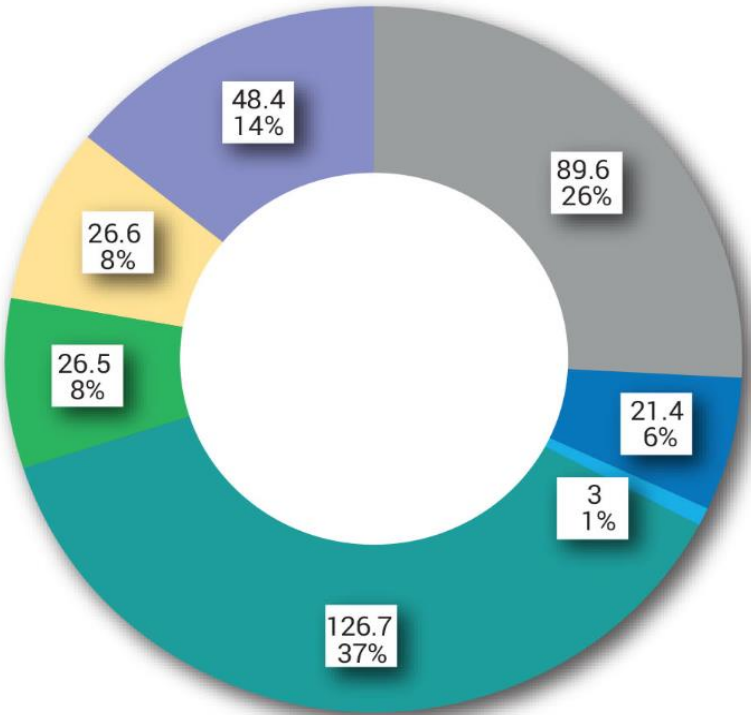
93% of the June 2019 indicator targets were fully achieved or exceeded.

2019 Programme Performance Summary Table



Most planned subprogramme results have been achieved.

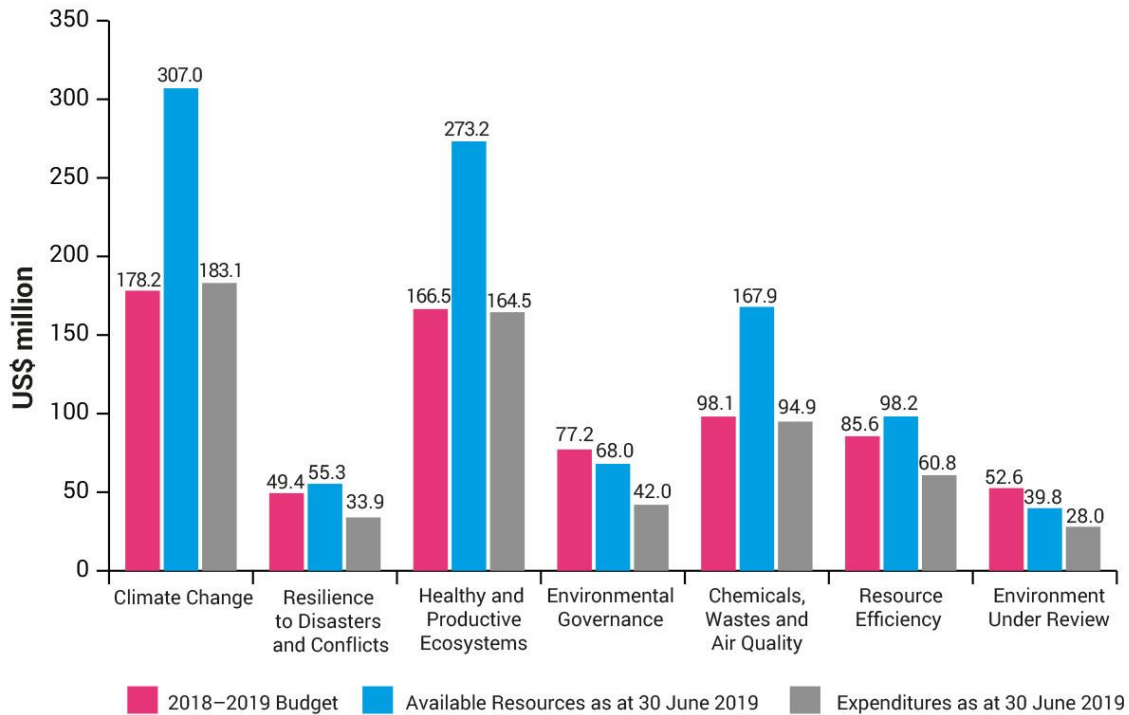
UNEP Income by Fund Type (in US\$ million)



Earmarked funding constituted most of UN Environment Programme's income.

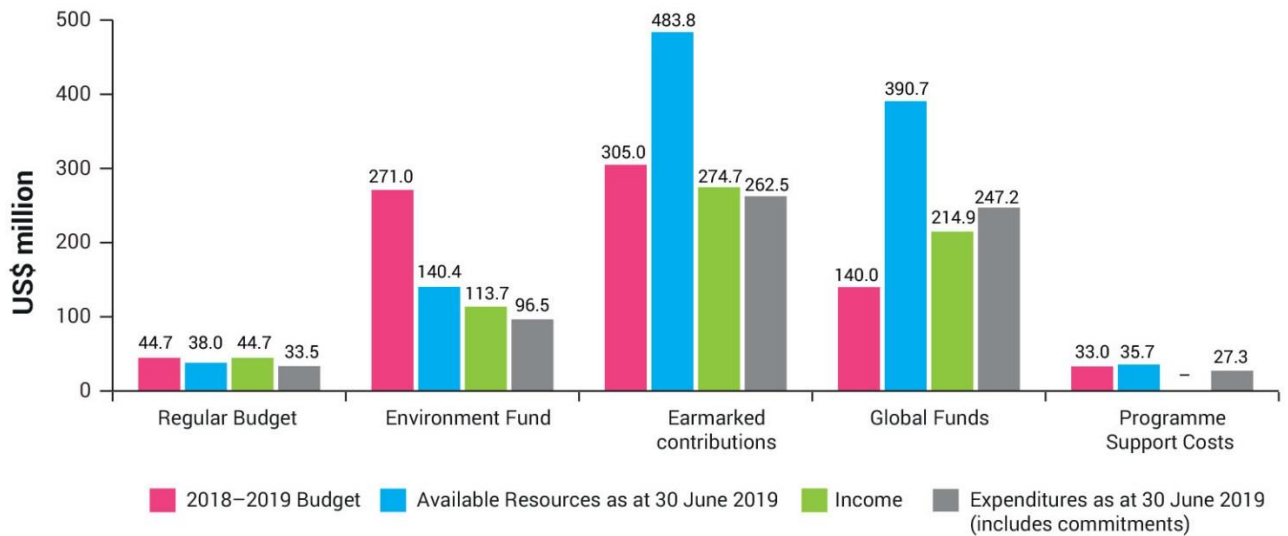
- Member States
- Finance Initiative
- Green Climate Fund
- UN Agencies
- European Commission
- Global Environment Facility
- Private Sector

Financial status by Subprogrammes



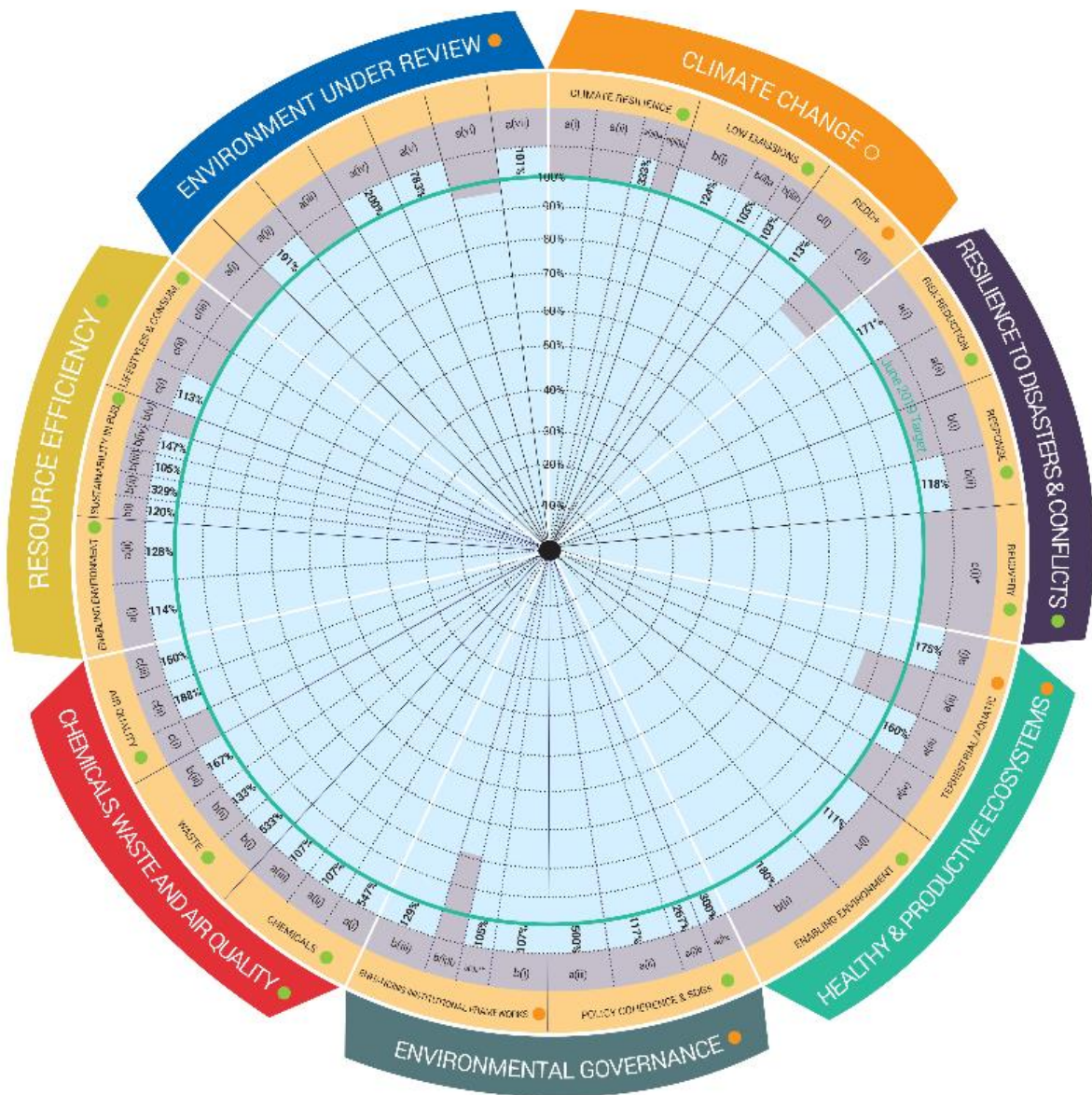
Most of the subprogrammes received more funding than their projected budgets as a result of higher levels of earmarked funding.

2018-2019 financial status by source of funds



Earmarked funding was higher than projected while the Environment Fund was lower.

Status of achievement of expected accomplishments in the Programme of Work (June 2019)



● Achieved (≥100%) ● Partially achieved (60%–99%) ● Not achieved (below 60%)

* This indicator is determined by a Country Capacity Framework that has six dimensions of measuring country level capacity for environmental governance. Country project teams and national partners assess the level of environmental governance at the end of each year, hence the June 2019 percentage progress is the same as what was attained in December 2018.

** No of UNDAFS planned for the POW 2018-2019 = 40

January 2018–June 2019 in numbers

Total planned budget US\$ million	Total actual income* US\$ million	Total expenditures US\$ million
794	648	667**
271 Environment fund	114 Environment Fund	97 Environment fund
445*** Extrabudgetary resources	490*** Extrabudgetary resources	510 Extrabudgetary resources
45 Regular budget	45 Regular budget	34 Regular budget
33 Programme support	–	27 Programme support

* Includes programme support

** Expenditures exceeded income as a result of balances brought forward from the past biennium that were to be spent in 2019

*** Includes future years

Overview of SDGs targeted by UN Environment Programme subprogrammes



CLIMATE CHANGE



RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS



HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

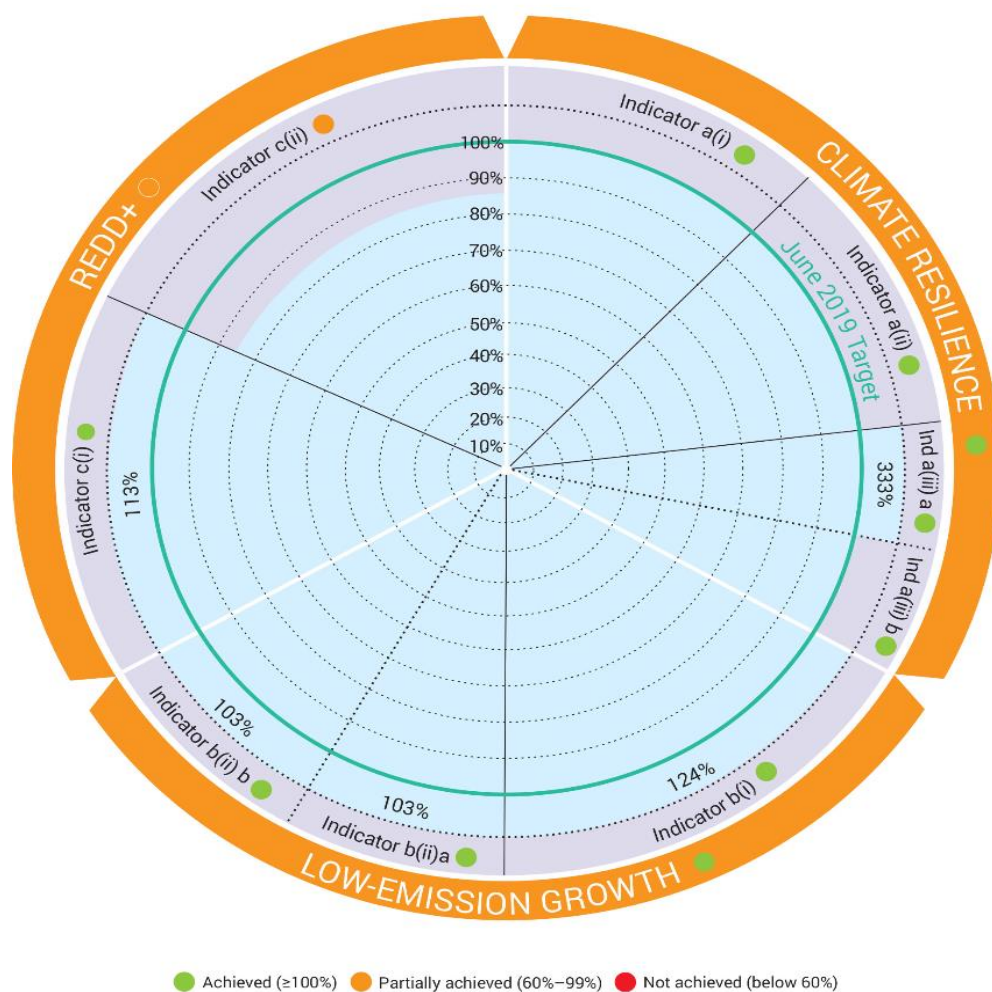


CLIMATE CHANGE

Our work on climate change focuses on three areas:

- **Climate resilience:** supporting countries in using ecosystem-based and other approaches to adapt and build resilience to climate change.
- **Low-emission growth:** supporting countries to adopt energy efficiency measures, access clean energy finance and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants by transitioning to low-carbon solutions.
- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+):** enabling countries to capitalize on investment opportunities that reduce greenhouse emissions from deforestation and forest degradation with adequate social and environmental safeguards.

By June 2019, the Climate Change subprogramme had met eight out of its nine indicator targets, and delivered satisfactorily on the remaining one.



INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- a(i)** Increase in the number of countries supported by UNEP with institutional arrangements in place to coordinate national adaptation plans.
- a(ii)** Increase in the number of countries that have technical capacity to integrate ecosystem-based management into national adaptation plans.
- a(iii)** Increase in the number of countries that are ready to access or that have accessed climate change adaptation finance to implement adaptation plans.

LOW-EMISSION GROWTH

- b(i)** Increase in the number of countries supported by UNEP that make progress in adopting and/or implementing low greenhouse gas emission development plans, strategies and/or policies.
- b(ii)** Increase in climate finance invested by countries or institutions for clean energy, energy efficiency and/or amount of decarbonized assets, measured in terms of:
 - **b(ii)a** dollar amount invested by countries or institutions for clean energy, energy efficiency and;
 - **b(ii)b** dollar amount of decarbonized assets.

REDD+

- c(i)** Increase in the number of countries that have secured finance, including performance-based finance, for the implementation of REDD-plus policies and measures.
- c(ii)** Increase in the number of countries that demonstrate quantifiable social and environmental (non-carbon) benefits generated through the implementation of policies and measures.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Expected Accomplishment A: Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans which integrate ecosystem-based adaptation.

The 2015 Paris Agreement established the global goal of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. This approach is intended to underpin sustainable development and ensure an adequate adaptation response which can keep the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

According to the Adaptation Gap Report 2018, adaptation is increasingly being addressed through laws and policies. But more needs to be done to enable effective and efficient adaptation. It is in this context that UNEP continues to support countries to acquire technical and institutional capacity as well as access climate-adaptation finance.

By the end of June 2019, UNEP supported five countries to create institutional arrangements¹ and five countries to establish technical capacity² to integrate ecosystems-based management into national plans. UNEP also supported 10 countries³ to obtain direct access to financial mechanisms for readiness support. On this basis, **we have fully met the June 2019 targets set out in the programme of work for adaptation.**

LOW-EMISSION GROWTH

Expected Accomplishment B: Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies

The UNEP *Emissions Gap Report 2018*⁴ highlights that despite progress being made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the mitigation ambition is still far from sufficient to limit global warming to the targets of the Paris Agreement. In addition, the IPCC report⁵ showed that global warming of 2°C compared to 1.5°C presents a significant increase in the severity of climate change.

UNEP's work to support low-emission growth focuses on increasing the use of renewables and improving energy efficiency. We do this mainly by providing guidance on policy, technology and access to finance. By June 2019, UNEP had supported 31 countries⁶ to adopt or implement their low-emissions strategies, plans and policies. We thus exceed the target of 25 countries. In terms of UNEP's support for facilitating investments in clean energy and energy efficiency, we influenced investments of US\$ 51 million, hence slightly exceeding our target for June 2019 of US\$ 50 million. Our target for supporting decarbonization of assets under management achieved progress of 103%, which is equivalent to US \$51.35 billion of assets that are managed under a low-carbon mandate. Overall, we have fully met the June 2019 targets set out in the programme of work for mitigation.

¹ Benin, Comoros, Kenya, Myanmar and Tanzania.

² Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Madagascar and Tanzania.

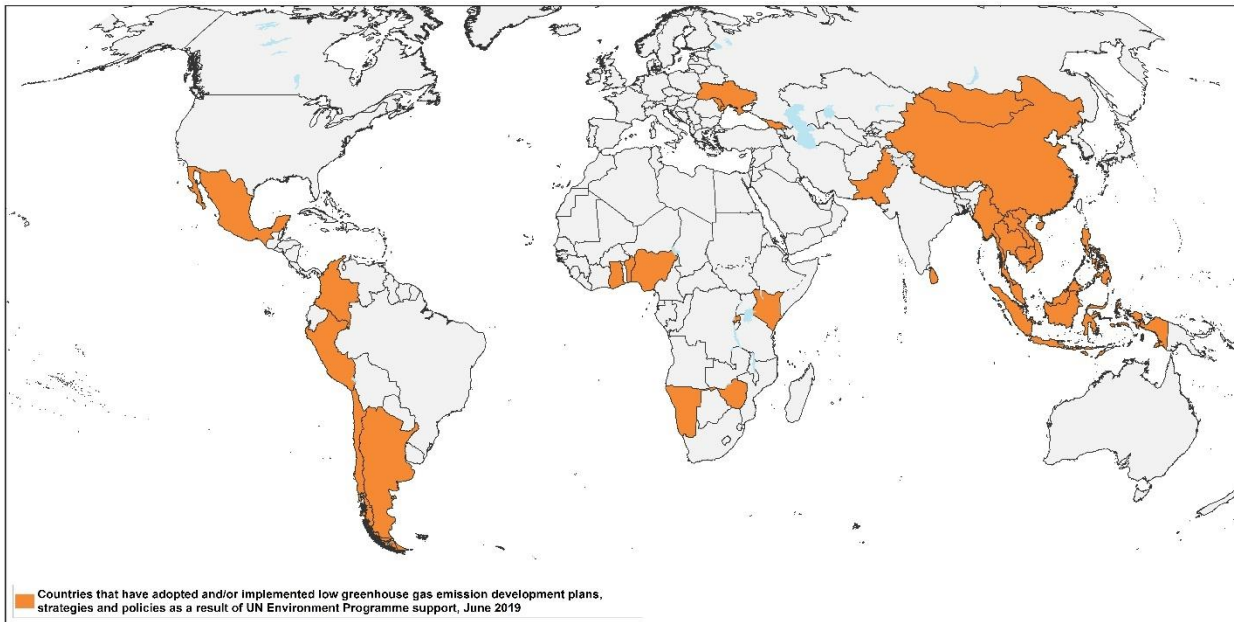
³ Brazil, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mongolia, Niger, South Sudan and Swaziland.

⁴ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26895/EGR2018_FullReport_EN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁵ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/Pr_SRCCL.pdf

⁶ Argentina, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao P.D.R, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Progress towards low greenhouse gas emissions



REDD+

Expected Accomplishment C: Countries increasingly adopt and implement forest-friendly policies and measures that deliver quantifiable emissions reductions, as well as social and environmental benefits

The Paris Climate Agreement recognizes the central role of forests in achieving the goal of keeping temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius.

According to the *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land*,⁷ agriculture, forestry and other types of land use account for 23% of human greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, natural land processes absorb carbon dioxide equivalent to almost one-third of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels and industry.

The UN-REDD Programme is jointly implemented by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and UNDP. The Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in the implementation of REDD+ activities agreed under the UNFCCC. UNEP has focused on the application of safeguards to REDD+, private participation and financing, and communications and knowledge management.

UN-REDD Programme: Achievements by June 2019

UN-REDD has supported **13 countries** (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Honduras, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia) to develop their country approach to safeguards, including their safeguards information system and summaries of information on safeguards, which will allow demonstration of social and environmental benefits.

⁷ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/Pr_SRCCL.pdf

Zambia is moving forward with the Safeguards Information System (SIS) platform design and a consensus has been reached to harmonize the Cancun Safeguards with the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) from the World Bank's Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project to feed the national SIS platform.

By June 2019, 18 countries⁸ secured performance-based finance for the implementation of REDD+, thus surpassing the target of 15 countries by end of June 2019. In addition, a total of 17 countries⁹ that had adopted and implemented forest-friendly policies and measures, were demonstrating progress in achieving non-carbon benefits. For example, in Nigeria as a result of Community Based REDD+ initiatives, communities were able to develop a community forest management plan with by-laws, start to regenerate degraded forest sites, improve livelihoods for their women by improving the value chain for cocoa, and address the major driver of forest loss.

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

There is now greater opportunity to engage with the private sector and come up with innovative models that will enhance financing for the dissemination of low-carbon technologies that can tackle climate change and promote clean energy.

According to the *Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction 2018 Global Status report*,¹⁰ there is an emerging challenge related to cooling buildings. Improved incomes in developing countries, linked with higher average temperatures, has resulted in a sharp rise in energy demand for cooling systems and air-conditioners. This will oblige us to raise the bar in energy-efficient, green buildings and far better practice in construction.

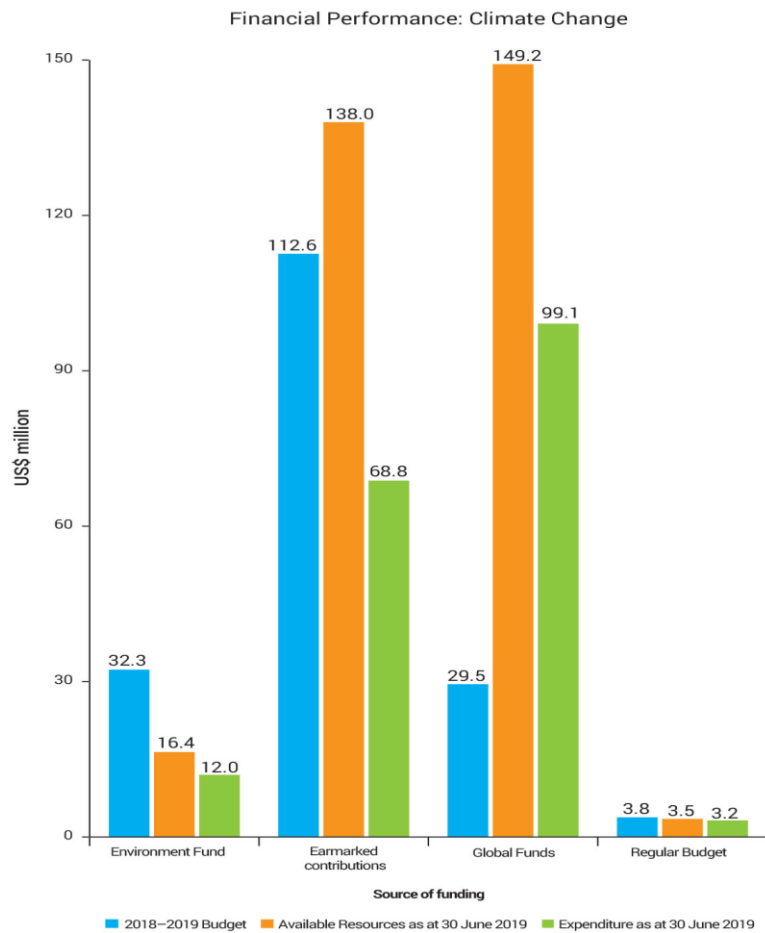
UNEP is the lead agency supporting the Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) work stream of the Secretary-Generals' Climate Action Summit. The NBS coalition received over 150 proposals to bring to the Summit. The Summit presents an opportunity to increase ambition and to secure finance for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and climate action. For example, in the lead-up to the Summit, the United Arab Emirates committed to a new two-gigawatt solar project in Al Dhafra, which will eclipse the record-breaking one-gigawatt Noor Abu Dhabi plant already in operation.

⁸ Benin, Brazil, Commonwealth of Dominica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda.

⁹ Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

¹⁰ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27140/Global_Status_2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



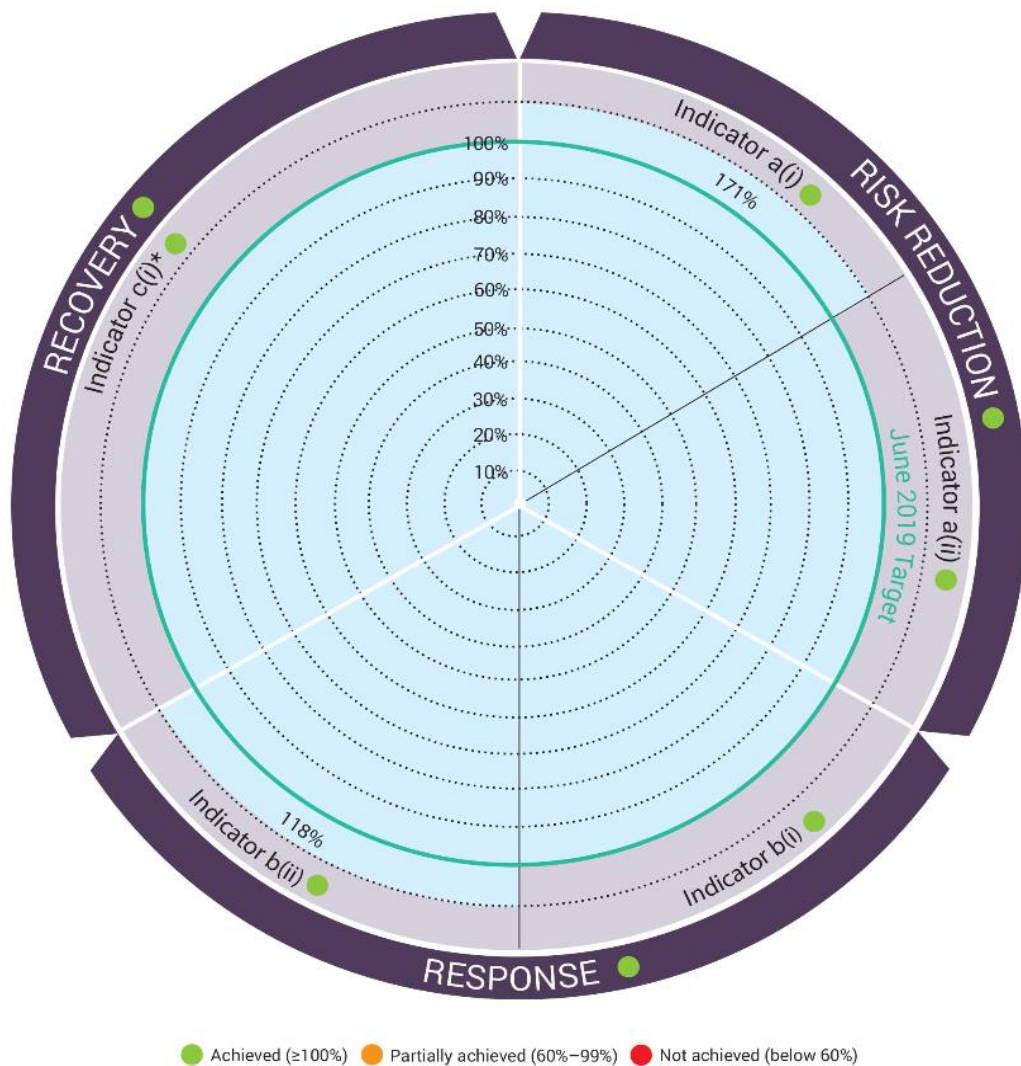
- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2018-2019 of US\$ 32.3 million, only US\$ 16.4 million was received. This was part of an overall trend where UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- For this reason, trust funds and earmarked contributions have been used, to some extent, to compensate for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 138 million (against a planned budget of US\$ 112.6 million). However, some of this amount represents multiyear contributions, only part of which can be counted against 2018-2019.
- Overall expenditure, therefore, stands at US\$ 183.1 million, which is 103 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 178.2 million.

RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

Our work on disasters and conflicts focuses on three areas:

- **Risk Reduction:** We encourage best-practice environmental management in ways that reduce the risks and impacts of natural hazards, industrial accidents and armed conflict.
- **Response:** We support countries and international partners to understand and address urgent environmental priorities in the event of a natural disaster, industrial accident or armed conflict.
- **Recovery:** We assist countries in a process of post-crisis recovery to put in place appropriate environmental policies and institutions.

By June 2019, the Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts subprogramme had met or exceeded all its five indicator targets.



* This indicator is determined by a Country Capacity Framework that has six dimensions of measuring country-level capacity for environmental governance. Country project teams and national partners assess the level of environmental governance at the end of each year, hence the June 2019 percentage progress is the same as what was attained in December 2018.

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

RISK REDUCTION

- a(i)** Increase in the proportion of countries in which environmental issues are addressed in national disaster risk reduction strategies.
- a(ii)** Increase in the number of international partners' policies on risk reduction that integrate best practices in sustainable natural resource management advocated by UNEP.

RESPONSE

- b(i)** Percentage of country requests for emergency response met by UNEP.
- b(ii)** Percentage of post-crisis recovery plans by Governments or international partners that integrate UNEP assessment recommendations.

RECOVERY

- (c)** Percentage of countries emerging from crisis progress along the country capacity framework with UNEP support.

RISK REDUCTION

Expected Accomplishment A: Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks.

During 2018-2019, UNEP supported 17 countries¹¹ to reduce the risks of natural disasters, industrial accidents and conflicts with conflict and disaster risk assessments, guidance on policy and best practices, training and capacity-building, and preparedness on environmental emergencies that could have serious environmental and economic impacts.

We are working with Sudan to build resilience in communities and institutions and have assisted with flood and drought management in Burkina Faso, Thailand and Uganda. We delivered country-level environmental governance support in South Sudan, including the country's first-ever State of the Environment report, a key pillar of post-conflict environmental recovery and sound environmental governance.

In Iraq, we have pioneered work on conflict debris management and recycling. This began in the northern city of Mosul and is now being expanded to other war-damaged parts of the country. In addition to our support to Nigeria to manage the clean-up of oil pollution in Ogoniland, we have also worked with the oil sector in several emerging producer states¹² to build capacity on environmentally safe production methods and in the handling of chemicals and waste.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Expected Accomplishment B: Emergency response and post-crisis recovery plans integrate environmental considerations to increase the sustainability of recovery.

Expected Accomplishment C: Crisis-affected countries adopt key environmental and natural resource governance policies and sustainable practices as a contribution to recovery and development.

During 2018-2019, we helped 14 countries¹³ to respond to – and 7 countries¹⁴ to recover from – a variety of natural disasters, industrial accidents and armed conflicts. This included rapid response, medium-term recovery work and longer-term support as measured by our country capacity indicator, currently applied in Afghanistan, Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan.

Through our Joint Environment Unit, a partnership with OCHA, we were able to respond to requests for support in Papua New Guinea following a major earthquake in February 2018 to mitigate the risks of soil and water contamination and assess other environmental risks. We

¹¹ Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda.

¹² Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.

¹³ Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Turkey and Vanuatu.

¹⁴ Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

also responded to an oil spill in Colombia in March 2018, a dam incident in Colombia in May 2018 and flooding in Nigeria in August 2018. In October 2018, UNEP also took part in a post disaster needs assessment in the southern Indian state of Kerala, ensuring environment and ecosystem-based approaches were high on the flood recovery agenda.

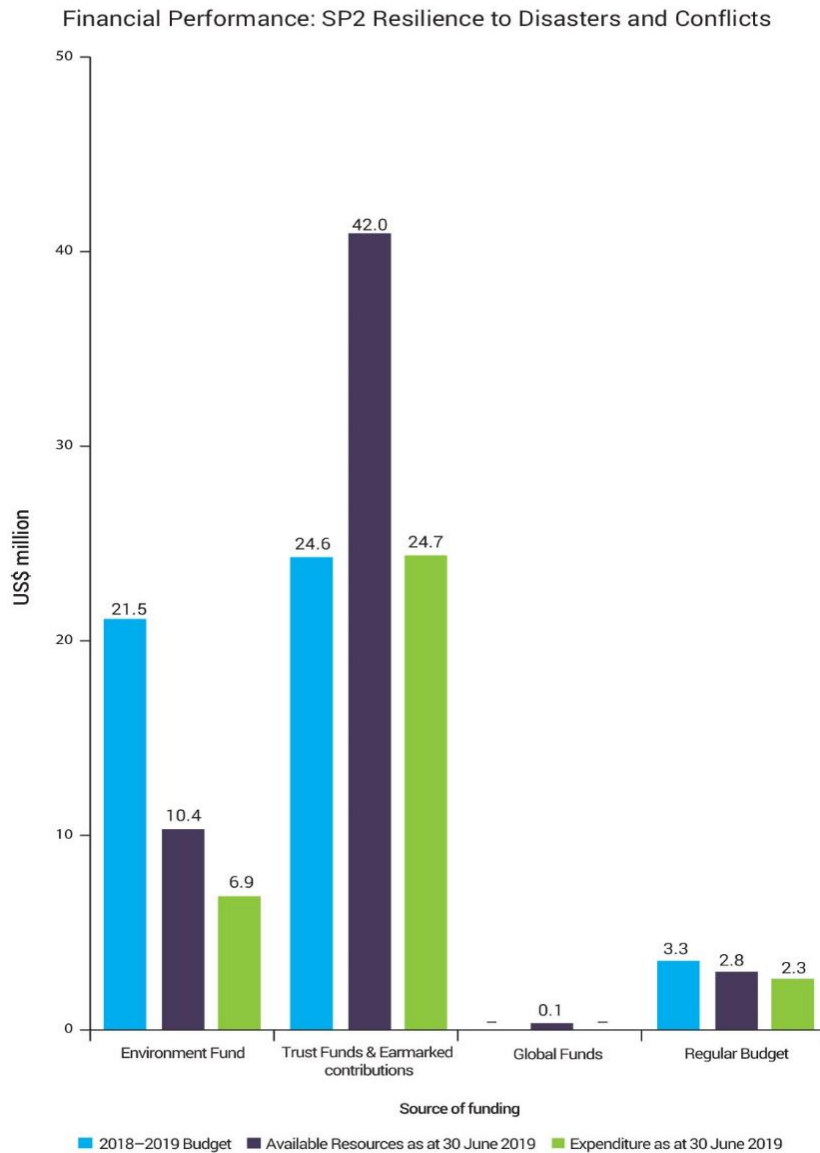
In 2019, UNEP assisted the Solomon Islands following the grounding of the bauxite bulk carrier *MV Solomon Trader* at Lavagu Bay, Rennell Island, in severe weather. In the Solomon Islands, an oil leak occurred near East Rennell, which is a UNESCO natural World Heritage site. Our response included the development of an environmental assessment plan, the identification of rehabilitation and mitigation measures, and recommendations for capacity-building in the event of future incidents. UNEP also assisted the response of the Government of Mozambique to Cyclone Idai in March 2019 and during Cyclone Kenneth, by providing technical advice on dam-related water resources management and flood risk management.

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

A recent audit by OIOS of UNEP's Afghanistan Project Office has prompted an internal evaluation of our longer-term operations in conflict, post-conflict and post-disaster contexts. This will cover existing business models and delivery mechanisms as well as the structures that deliver on them. As a result of the audit, we are proactively undertaking peer review missions. The first of these will take place shortly and cover UNEP's Haiti Project Office.

With the ongoing recruitment of a senior environmental affairs advisor to join the UN's integrated office in Somalia, UNEP is exploring the advantages of increased presence within UN Country Teams in order to seek a higher level of programmatic and policy influence, particularly in the context of the UN Development System reform process.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



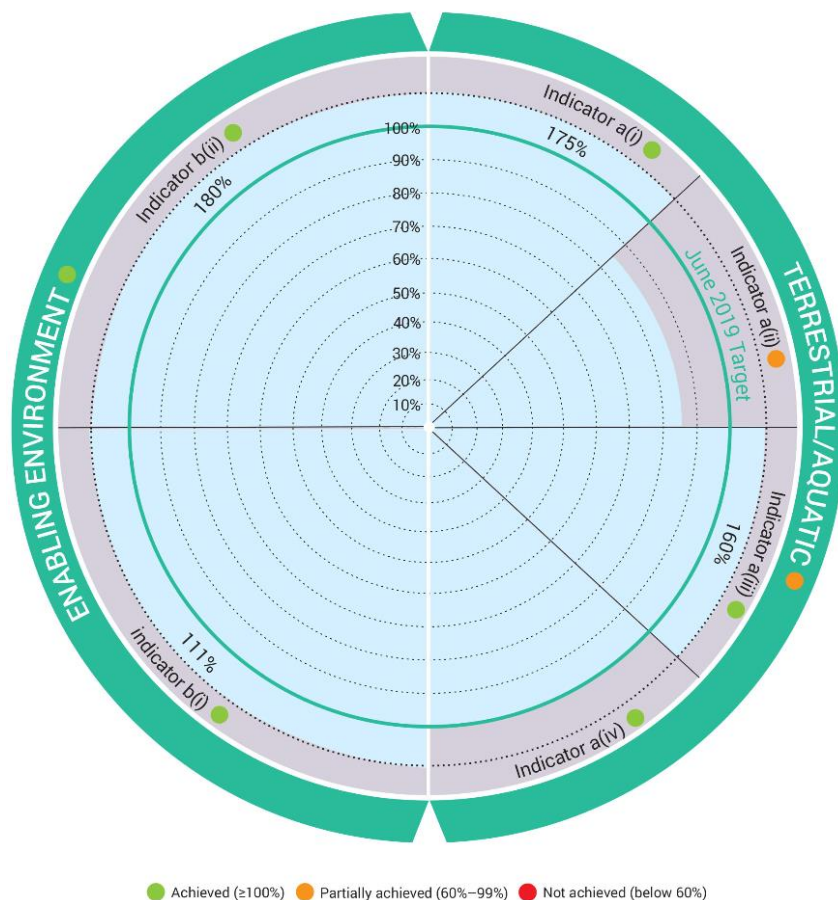
- US\$ 24.6 million was received for the Environment Fund budget compared with a projected US\$ 21.5 million for 2018-2019 (to date).
- Overall the subprogramme received US\$ 42 million, compared with a projected budget of US\$ 10.4 million, from the trust fund and earmarked contributions, although this amount also includes multi-year contributions.
- Overall expenditure for 2018-2019 (to date) is US\$ 33.9 million, which represents 69 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 49.4 million.

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

Our work on healthy and productive ecosystems focuses on achieving results in the following two areas:

- **Terrestrial and aquatic:** Institutionalization of ecosystems in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks - helping countries to institutionalize the health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.
- **Enabling environment:** Inclusion of ecosystems in economic decision-making - assisting policymakers in the public and private sectors.

By June 2019, the Healthy and Productive Ecosystems subprogramme had met or exceeded five of its six indicator targets and partially met one.



INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC

- a(i)** Increase in the number of countries and transboundary collaboration frameworks that have made progress to monitor and maintain the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.
- a(ii)** Increase in the number of countries and transboundary collaboration frameworks that demonstrate enhanced knowledge of the value and role of ecosystem services.
- a(iii)** Increase in the number of countries and groups of countries that improve their cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks for marine and terrestrial ecosystem management.
- a(iv)** Increase in the number of education institutions that integrate the ecosystem approach in education frameworks.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- b(i)** Increase in the number of public sector institutions that test the incorporation of the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems in economic decision-making.
- b(ii)** Increase in the number of private sector entities that adjust their business models to reduce their ecosystem-related risks and/or negative impacts on marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The number of indicators has significantly decreased as compared with the Programme of Work 2016–2017. In the Programme of Work 2018–2019, the indicators were reduced to six in order to better reflect the results and achievements of the expected accomplishments. Expected accomplishment A now has four indicators, whereas expected accomplishment B has two indicators.

The programme increased its focus on long-term change processes by:

- Embedding ecological considerations in financial decision-making by public and private sector entities.
- Aiming to influencing knowledge and behaviour among future professionals through capacity-building activities.

UNEP continues to promote knowledge on biodiversity, economics of ecosystems and the role of ecosystems as key enablers in cross-sectoral ecosystem management for human well-being. This builds on a rapidly expanding global knowledge base on the role and functioning of ecosystems.

TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC

Expected Accomplishment A: 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.

By June 2019, 15 countries¹⁵ and seven transboundary collaboration frameworks¹⁶ had made progress in monitoring and maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems. For examples, with UNEP support, the Strategic Planning Framework for the Conservation and Management of Elephants in the Kavango-Zambezi Conservation Area adopted by Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT), developed by UNEP Northwest Pacific Regional Seas Programme, was endorsed by marine scientists from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation as an effective tool for protecting the region from eutrophication that threatens marine and human health and can severely harm fisheries and tourism.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) has developed a comprehensive evaluation framework for food systems that helps decision-makers to compare different policies and the market to value food more accurately¹⁷. In addition, 24 countries¹⁸ had demonstrated enhanced knowledge of the value and role of ecosystem services.

A total of 10 countries¹⁹ and six transboundary collaboration frameworks²⁰ improved the institutional set-up for cross-sector collaboration on marine and terrestrial ecosystem management. For example, UNEP assisted the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia in capacity building for peatlands management and south-south exchange through facilitating the set-up of the International Tropical Peatlands Center in Indonesia.

Ten education institutions and learning platforms²¹ supported by UNEP integrated the ecosystem approach into their educational frameworks. In 2018, UNEP launched a Massive

¹⁵ Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.

¹⁶ Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) – Strategic Directions (2018–2022); COBSEA – East Asian Seas Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter; Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network; Strategic Planning Framework for the Conservation and Management of Elephants in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area; Northwest Pacific Action Plan Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT); Northwest Pacific Action Plan Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023; Pacific Regional Action – Plan Marine Litter 2018-2025.

¹⁷ TEEBAgriFood was awarded the prestigious ‘2018 Future Policy Vision Award’, co-sponsored by FAO, the World Future Council and IFOAM Organics International

¹⁸ Australia, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France (New Caledonia), Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Morocco, Mauritius, Mexico, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. These countries contribute to the UNEA resolution on Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

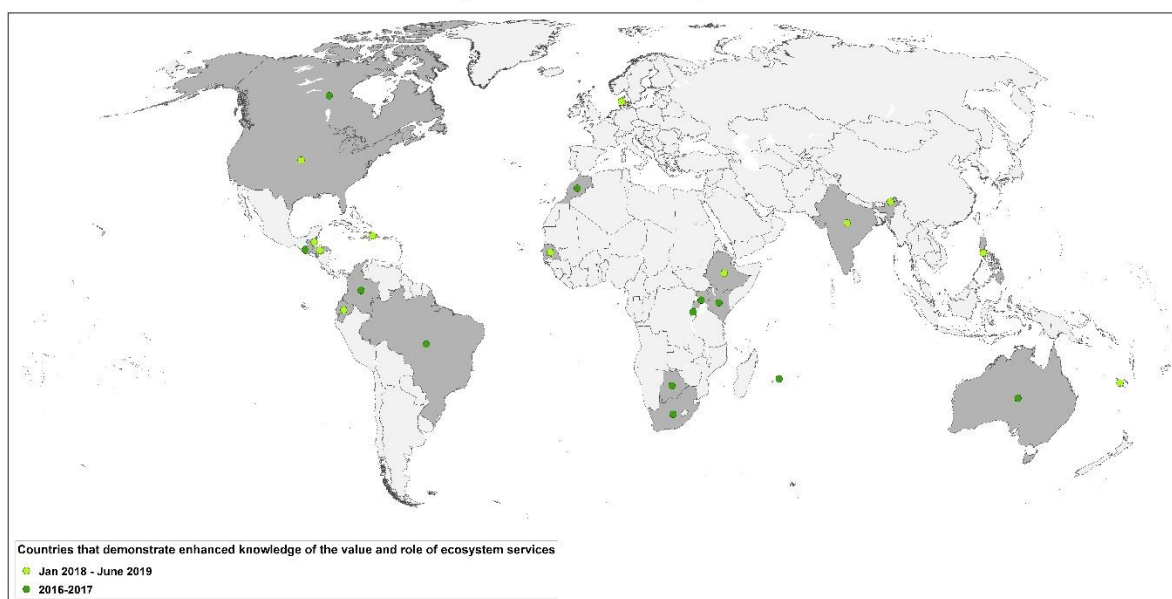
¹⁹ China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, India, Indonesia, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

²⁰ Cameroon-Nigeria great apes transboundary collaboration framework, and the following UNEA-4 resolutions counted as one collaboration framework each: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands; Sustainable coral reefs management; Sustainable management for global health of mangroves; Marine plastic litter and microplastics; Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. These workstreams also contribute to the UNEA-2 resolution on Oceans and seas.

²¹ Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; Concordia University; Institutions of Higher Education and Training (Swaziland); Landscape Academy; Open University of the Netherlands; University of Bergen; University of Liberia; University of Ruhuna (Sri Lanka), REDD+ Academy and SDG Academy. This contributed to UNEA-2 resolution on Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training.

Open Online Course on Marine Litter Course (English and Spanish versions),²² and the Landscape Academy,²³ in collaboration with Wageningen University in the Netherlands and the Global Landscape Forum. In 2019, as part of the UNEP-GEF supported portfolio, a Biosafety/Biotechnology Curriculum was developed and mainstreamed into the Graduate Program of the University of Liberia, where a course started at the Department of Biological Sciences. A certificate/diploma distance-learning course on “Integrated agrobiodiversity management” was launched at the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

Enhanced knowledge of the value and role of ecosystem services



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Expected Accomplishment B: Policymakers in the public and private sectors test the inclusion of the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making.

The work focused on a substantial shift of private financial flows towards improved ecosystems management. By June 2019, 10 public sector institutions²⁴ had tested incorporating the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems into economic decision-making at the national level. For example, Uganda has launched a forest account system. Kenya is starting to manage mangroves using carbon credits in coastal villages, supported by UNEP and the International Coral Reef Initiative.

²² <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/e-learning/marine-litter>

²³ <https://academy.globallandscapesforum.org>

²⁴ National Bureau of Statistics of China; National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI); Statistics South Africa; South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI); Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa; Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda; Ministry of Environment of Ecuador; Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE); Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; Kenya Forest Service.

A total of 51 financial institutions²⁵ had adjusted their business models to reduce their ecosystem-related risks and/or negative impacts on marine ecosystems while considering ecosystems/natural capital in decision-making and terrestrial ecosystems.

The world's first comprehensive tool linking environmental change with its economic consequences has been launched by the [Natural Capital Finance Alliance](#) (NCFA). This web-based tool, called [ENCORE](#) (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure), will help global banks, investors and insurance firms assess the risks that environmental degradation, such as the pollution of oceans or destruction of forests, causes for financial institutions. The ENCORE tool is managed by the NCFA, a collaboration between the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and Global Canopy, in partnership with the [UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#).

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The subprogramme had an opportunity to engage more with the private sector to produce innovative solutions and invest in nature-based solutions.

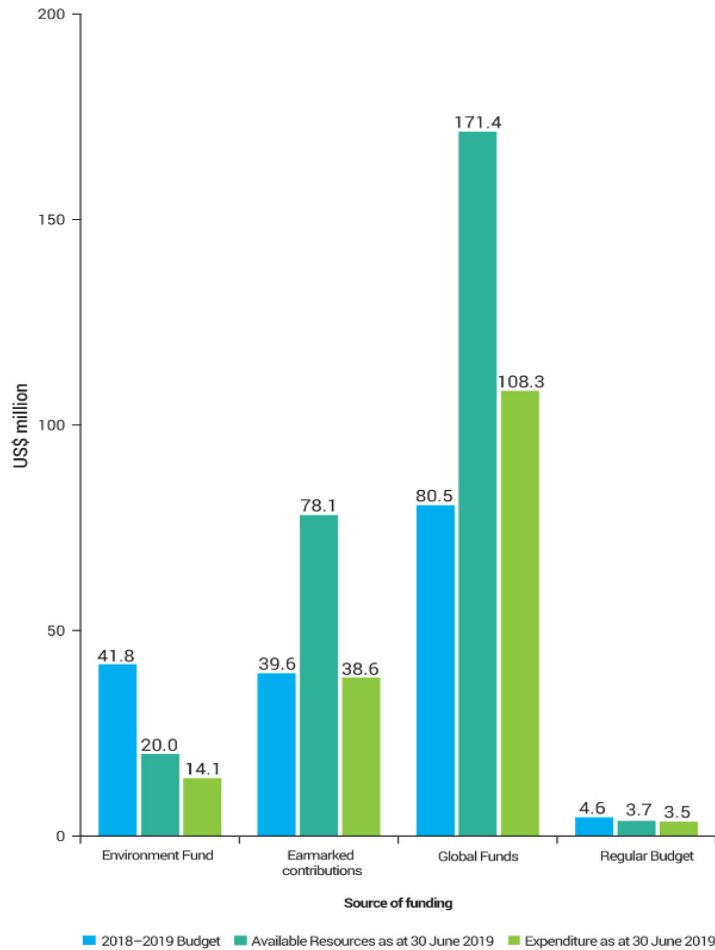
Key risks for the subprogramme's work are the technical complexity of cross-sector approaches and the long time-frame for ecosystem change, which often occurs at a slower pace than economic and political decision-making processes.

There is a need for political systems and markets to sufficiently value and acknowledge the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems sustainability. At the same time, both existing and new sustainable practices must be applied to produce goods and services that meet the needs of indigenous populations and local communities. Such citizens are particularly dependent on the proper functioning of local and regional ecosystems. In many countries across the planet, the marine and coastal sector is often not very 'visible' in development policies.

²⁵ ACTIAM, Addenda Capital, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ), AGR13 Fund, Althelia Ecosphere, Aviva, Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), Banorte, Barclays, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA), Bentall Kennedy, Bradesco, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), Citigroup, Citibanamex, Citibanamex Pension Fund (Afore Banamex), City Developments Limited, Caixa Económica Federal, Desjardins Group, DNB, DNB Asset Management, European Investment Bank (EIB), FirstRand Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited (ICBC), Itaú Unibanco, Investa Property Group, Kommunal Landspensjonskasse (KLP), La Française Group, LaSalle Investment Management, Link Real Estate Investment Trust (Link REIT), Manulife Asset Management, M&G Real Estate, National Australia Bank (NAB), Nedbank, Nordea Investment Management, Norges Bank Investment Management, BNP Paribas, Piraeus Bank, Rabobank, Rockefeller Asset Management, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Santander, Six Senses Laamu, Société Générale, Standard Chartered, Storebrand Asset Management, TD Asset Management, TD Bank Group, Trust Funds for Rural Development (FIRA), UniCredit, Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS).

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Performance: Healthy and Productive Ecosystems



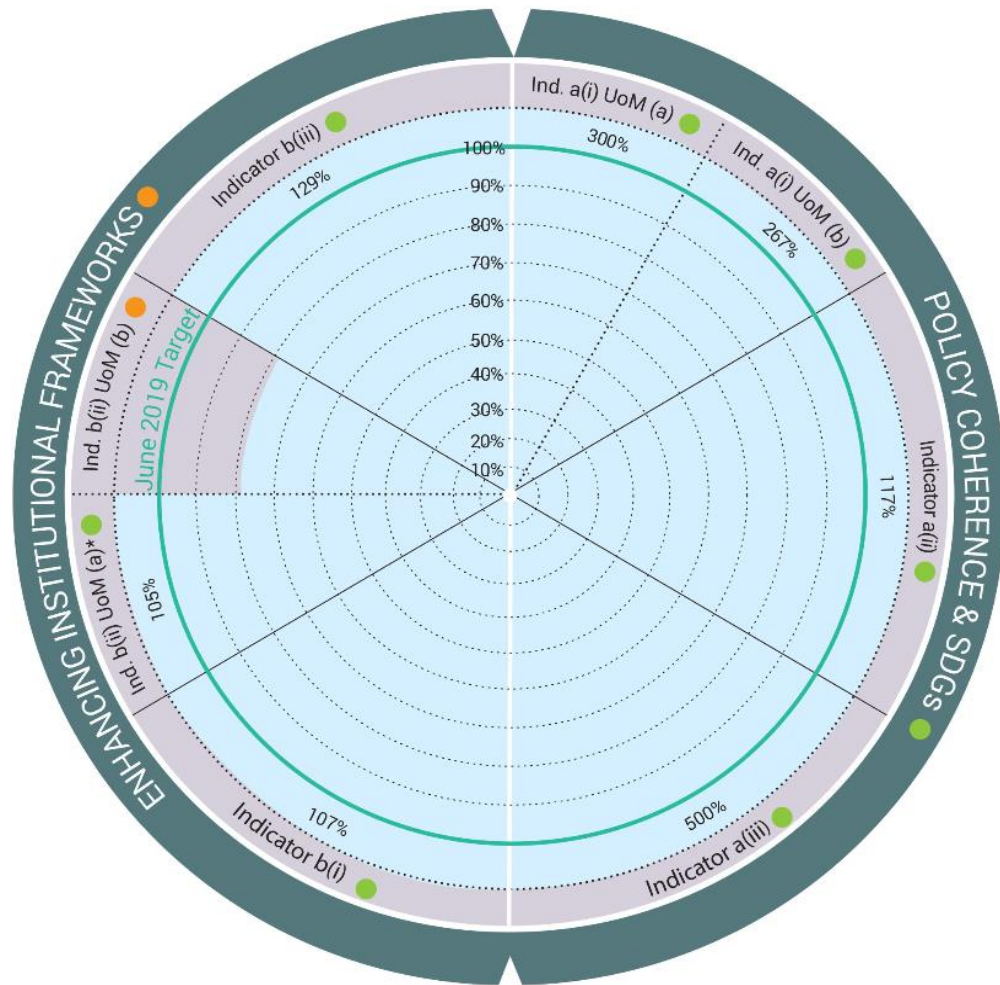
- Only US\$ 20 million of the projected US\$ 41.8 million Environment Fund budget for 2018-2019 was received. This was part of an overall trend where UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Earmarked contributions have been used, to some extent, to compensate for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 78.1 million of earmarked contributions (compared with a planned budget of US\$ 39.6 million). However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2018-2019.
- By June 2019, overall subprogramme expenditure stood at US\$ 164.5 million, which is nearly 99 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 166.5 million for the biennium.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Our work on environmental governance involves supporting the achievement of internationally agreed environmental goals, and the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda, focusing on the following two areas:

- **Policy coherence & SDGs:** helping countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, international forums work together to achieve environmental objectives.
- **Enhancing legal frameworks:** supporting national efforts to develop stronger legal frameworks and implementation capacities, the embedding of environmental objectives in sustainable development planning, policymaking and budgeting, and the development of partnerships to foster wide participation.

By June 2019, the Environmental Governance subprogramme had met or exceeded seven of its eight indicator targets, and partially met one.



● Achieved (≥100%)
 ● Partially achieved (60%–99%)
 ● Not achieved (below 60%)
 Ind: Indicator UoM: Unit of measure

* No of UNDAFS planned for the POW 2018-2019 = 40

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

POLICY COHERENCE & SDGs

- a(i)** Increase in the number of United Nations entities, international organizations and forums integrating environmental policy issues or approaches emerging from UNEP policy advice into policy documents, strategies or plans on sustainable development.
- a(ii)** Increase in the uptake of approaches for the coherent implementation of multiple multilateral environmental agreements or other multilateral institutional mechanisms as a result of UNEP support.
- a(iii)** Increase in concerted policy action taken by countries on environmental issues of international concern.

ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

- b(i)** Increase in the number of countries that have enhanced institutional capacity and legal frameworks to fully implement the multilateral environmental agreements and for the achievement of internationally agreed environmental goals including the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- b(ii)** Increase in the integration of the environment in sustainable development planning, including as part of achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- b(iii)** Number of partnerships between UNEP and major groups and stakeholders' representatives to promote the achievement of internationally agreed environmental goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

POLICY COHERENCE & SDGs

Expected Accomplishment A: The international community increasingly converges on common and integrated approaches to achieve environmental objectives and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Human Rights Council continued its cooperation with UNEP through the adoption of a resolution on environmental defenders,²⁶ while the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) adopted a ministerial declaration²⁷ welcoming the main outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Four ministerial environment forums were held in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Asia Pacific and West Asia,²⁸ resulting in outcomes that contributed to UNEA-4 and the 2019 HLPF.

The United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) and the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) continued their work on system-wide coordination, resulting in:

- continued discussions on the e-waste coalition²⁹
- Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN system 2020-2030³⁰
- harmonized United Nations-wide sustainable procurement indicators³¹
- World Trade Organization sustainable procurement policy³²
- Initial Environmental Guidelines for United Nations Common Premises

At the national level, six countries and territories adopted approaches to coherently implement multiple agreements or frameworks and took steps to integrate approaches to do likewise for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). These were: Burkina Faso, Cook Islands, Lao People's Democratic Republic,³³ Marshall Islands,³⁴ Myanmar and Solomon Islands. At the international level, concerted policy action continues with the implementation of the Escazú Agreement and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 72/277 towards a Global Pact for the environment, and enhanced cooperation between biodiversity MEAs.³⁵ Furthermore, UNEA-4 resulted in two resolutions^{36,37} on concerted action on environmental issues.

²⁶ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G19/071/97/PDF/G1907197.pdf?OpenElement>

²⁷ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLS/2018/1&Lang=E

²⁸ https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/4.6_note_on_regional_preparatory_meetings_for_the_fourth_session_of_the_un_environment_assembly.pdf

²⁹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-report-time-seize-opportunity-tackle-challenge-e-waste>

³⁰ <https://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB.2019.3%20-%20HLCM37%20Session%20Report.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.ungm.org/Areas/Public/pph/ch04s05.html>

³² https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/annexe_e.pdf

³³ Myanmar and Lao PDR mainstreamed gender and SDG alignment into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan.

³⁴ Pacific island countries developed State of the Environment reports, national environmental strategies and unified environmental portals.

³⁵ Decisions XIII/24 and XIV/30 and Ramsar Convention resolution XIII/7

³⁶ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.20 on Montevideo Programme V, available at

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28483/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

³⁷ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.17 on the promotion of gender equality and human rights empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance, available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28481/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Expected Accomplishment B: Institutional capacities and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

A total of 14 countries strengthened their legal and institutional measures to improve the implementation of international environmental goals, as outlined in the table below:

Country	Environmental legislation	Implementation capacities
Bhutan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Central African Republic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Eritrea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Equatorial Guinea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gambia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ghana		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kenya		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mozambique		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pakistan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sierra Leone		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senegal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Solomon Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Africa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tunisia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

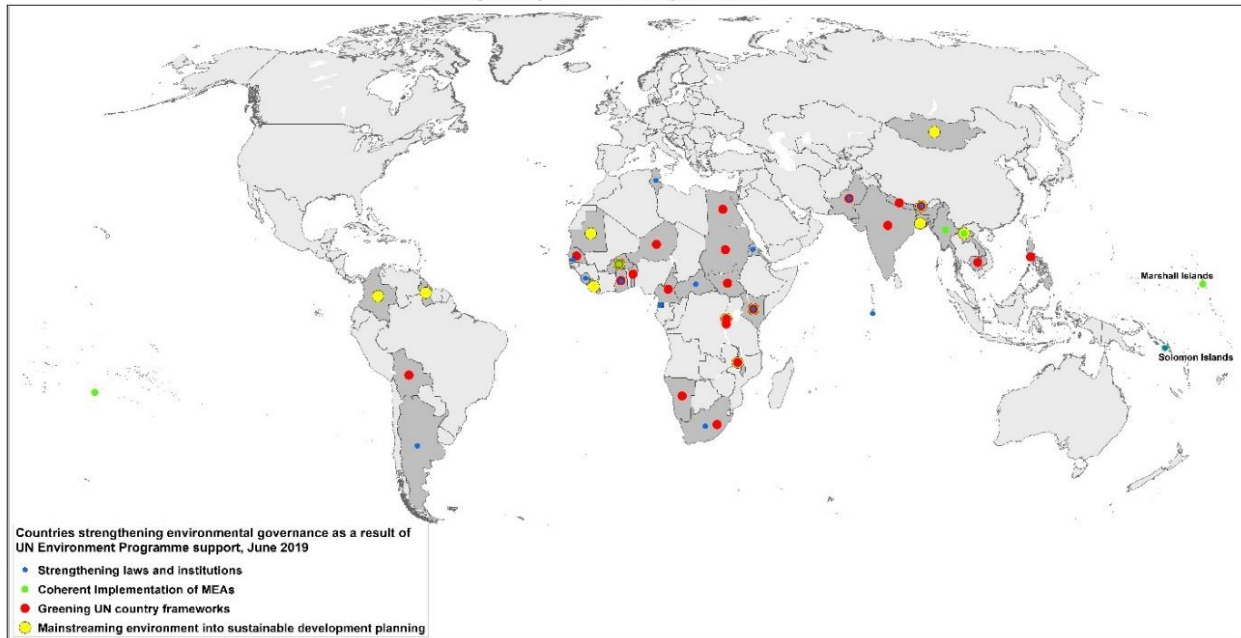
Our work on mainstreaming environmental issues into United Nations country planning resulted in their integration in 22 countries³⁸ through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process, while 11 countries³⁹ mainstreamed pro-poor, pro-environment objectives into national development planning.

UNEP continues to engage with Major Groups and Stakeholders and signed seven Memorandums of Understanding on various cooperation themes.

³⁸ UNDAFs for Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan and Sudan.

³⁹ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mongolia and Rwanda. These result from the joint UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative project that ended in 2018.

Strengthening environmental governance



OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

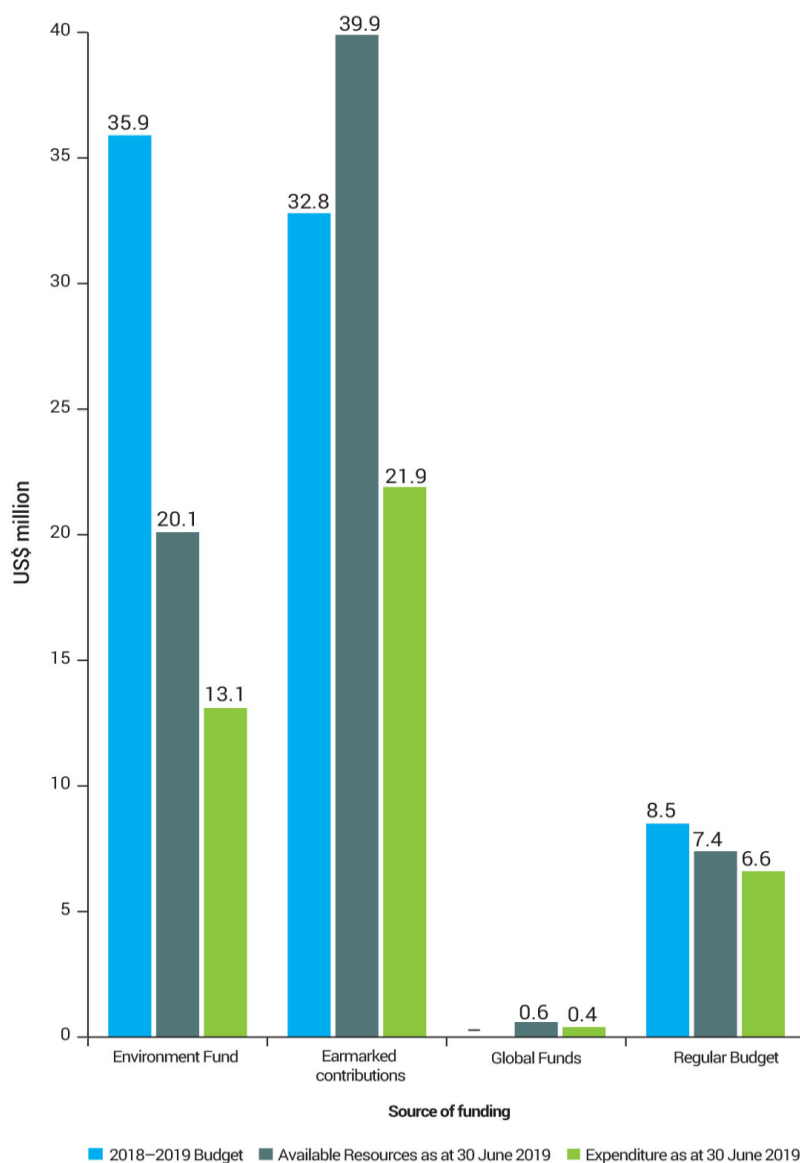
A key challenge is being able to expand the resource base to increase our reach, including on strengthening national legislation, while balancing the need to address multiple country needs with a limited and rather unpredictable financial basis.

UNEP's modest field presence limits its ability to engage robustly in the key country-level planning processes where environmental issues are introduced into the frameworks for collaboration. These engagement-heavy processes are the Common Country Assessments and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (also called "Cooperation Frameworks", formerly UNDAFs). Increased tracking of these processes at country level to permit remote inputs or short-term missions (or a combination of both) will seek to address this current limitation. In addition, the Secretary-General's UN Development System reform process also presents opportunities for the subprogramme to:

- Increase coherence for system-wide mandates, core programming principles and collective results in the context of 2030 Agenda through the development of joint umbrella projects and the consideration of regional country programmes.
- Strengthen our relationship with Regional Commissions and other regional institutions through intensive collaboration, stronger engagement with the regional coordinators and increased support to the Regional Sustainable Development Forums.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Performance: Environmental Governance



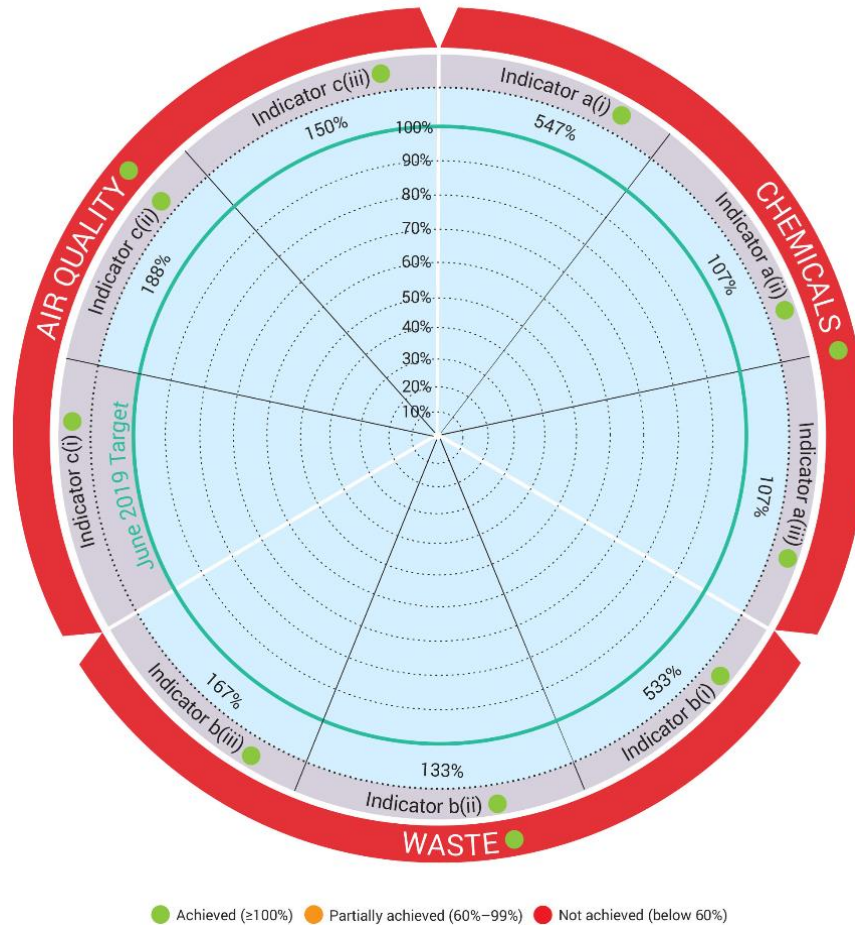
- Out of the projected US\$ 35.9 million Environment Fund budget for 2018-2019, only US\$ 20.1 million was received. This was part of an overall trend where UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Trust funds and earmarked contributions have been used, to some extent, to compensate for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 39.9 million (against a projected budget of \$32.8 million). However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2018-2019.
- Overall expenditure, therefore, stands at US\$ 42 million, which is 54 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 77.2 million.

CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

Our work on chemicals, waste and air quality focuses on three areas:

- **Chemicals:** assisting countries and other stakeholders implement sound chemicals management and the related multilateral environmental agreements.
- **Waste:** assisting countries and other stakeholders to prevent waste and implement sound waste management.
- **Air quality:** helping countries to develop strategies and policies to reduce air pollution.

By June 2019, the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality subprogramme had fully met or exceeded all nine of its indicator targets.



INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT CHEMICALS

- a(i)** Increase in the number of countries that have used United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance, and where possible are applying a multisectoral approach, in developing or implementing legislation, policies or action plans that promote sound chemicals management and implementation of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
- a(ii)** Increase in the number of private companies/industries that have developed or implemented a strategy or specific actions on sound chemicals management using United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance.
- a(iii)** Increase in the number of civil society organizations that have undertaken action on improving chemicals management using United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance.

WASTE

- b(i)** Increase in the number of countries that have used United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance in implementing waste prevention and sound management policies and good practices, in accordance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, SAICM and other relevant international agreements.
- b(ii)** Increase in the number of private companies/industries that have used United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance in implementing policies and good practices for waste prevention and sound waste management.
- b(iii)** Increase in the number of civil society organizations that have taken action to enhance waste prevention and improve waste management using United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance.

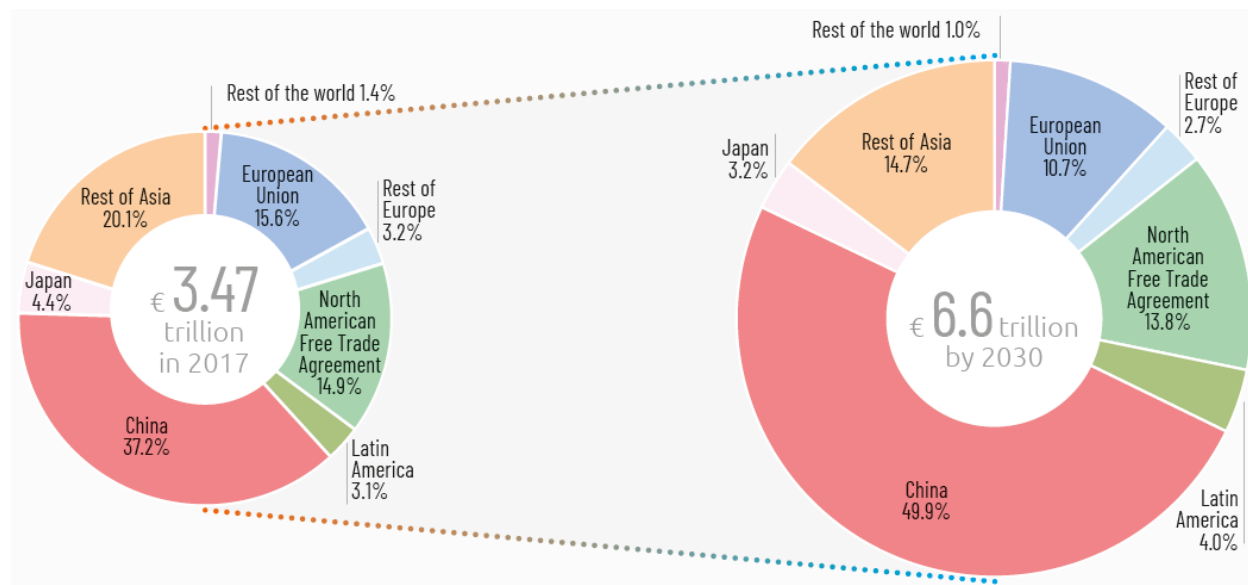
AIR QUALITY

- c(i)** Increase in the number of countries that have developed national emission inventories and air quality assessments with publicly accessible monitoring data and information electronically available.
- c(ii)** Increase in the number of countries that have adopted policies, standards and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for improved air quality with United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance.
- c(iii)** Increase in the number of countries that have raised awareness on the importance of air quality and have made air quality monitoring data and other information publicly available and easily understandable with United Nations Environment Programme analysis or guidance.

CHEMICALS

Expected Accomplishment A: 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).

The size of the global chemical industry exceeds US\$ 5 trillion and is projected to double by 2030 according to the latest Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO-II). In order to avoid harmful exposure of people and the environment to hazardous chemicals, UNEP is working with countries, industries and civil society to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.



Global chemical sales (excluding pharmaceuticals) are projected to nearly double from EUR 3.47 trillion in 2017 to EUR 6.6 trillion by 2030. Source: Global Chemicals Outlook II, 2019.

The indicators show that important progress has been made with countries adopting legislation, policies or action plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Since the beginning of 2018, 25 more countries ratified, accessed or accepted the Minamata Convention on Mercury⁴⁰, 51 the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol⁴¹ and 36 countries have updated their National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention.⁴²

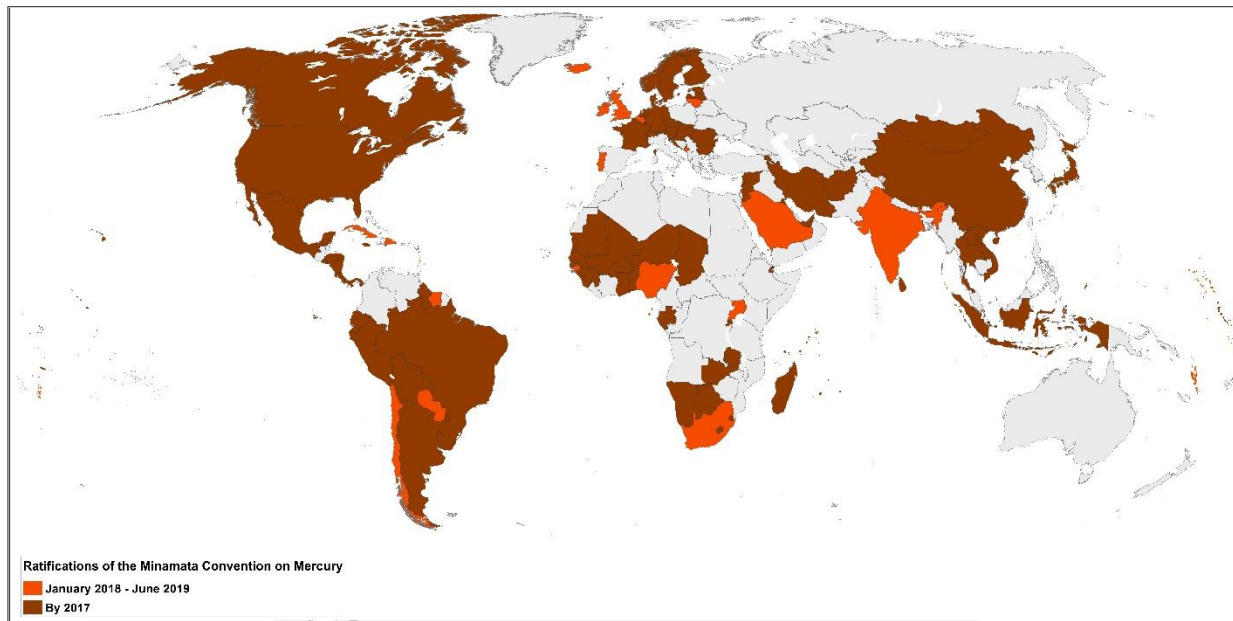
⁴⁰ Ratification: Belgium, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guinea Bissau, Iceland, India, Lithuania, Montenegro, Nigeria, Paraguay, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Accession: Ireland, Marshall Islands, State of Palestine, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, St. Lucia, Tuvalu, Vanuatu; Acceptance: Chile, Portugal, Suriname, Tonga.

⁴¹ Ratification: Albania, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Estonia, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Ireland, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Panama, Poland, Samoa, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tonga, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu; . Accession: Andorra, Armenia, Czech Republic, Gabon, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Togo; Acceptance: Denmark, European Union, France, Hungary, Japan, Portugal.

⁴² Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Jordan, Kiribati, Liberia, Lithuania, Malta, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Nevertheless, GCO-II warns that the global goal of minimizing adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020. More ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is therefore urgently required.

Ratifications of the Minamata Convention on Mercury



WASTE

Expected Accomplishment B: Policies and legal and institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

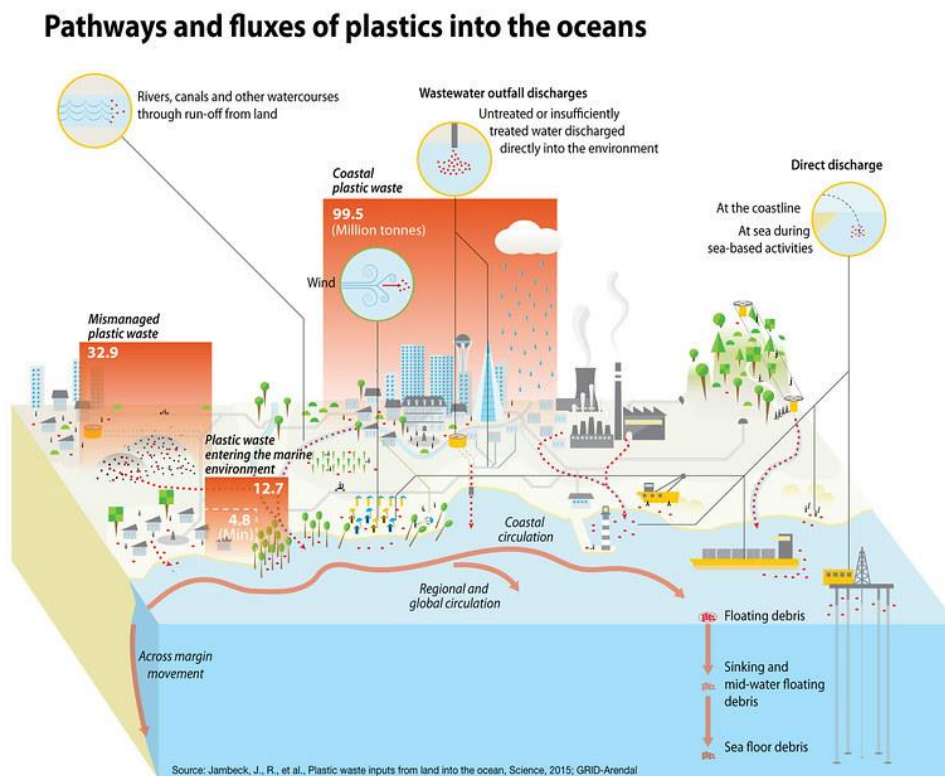
We work with governments, businesses and industries, and civil society organizations to help them develop waste management strategies based on the waste hierarchy: prioritizing waste avoidance, prevention, segregation for reuse and recycling, treatment and disposal. A total of 16 more governments⁴³ have addressed priority waste issues using tools and methodologies provided by UNEP.

On marine litter, UNEP continues to strongly advocate – including through the World Environment Day 2018 and the Clean Seas campaign – for action at all levels to stop plastic and other forms of waste from entering the marine environment via various pathways (see figure below). Over the reporting period about fifteen more countries have joined the Clean Seas campaign and the report *Single-use plastics: a road map for sustainability*⁴⁴ launched at World Environment Day became the most-downloaded UNEP report in 2018. The regional marine

⁴³ Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cambodia, Dominica Republic, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

⁴⁴ <http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/25496>

litter action plan for the South Asian Seas Region was also launched during the World Environment Day celebrations in India. An additional three regions⁴⁵ adopted similar plans in this reporting period.



Credit: Maphoto/Riccardo Pravettoni 2018 (<http://www.grida.no/resources/6921>)

Increasingly, countries are passing laws and regulations that limit the manufacture, import, sale, use and disposal of selected single-use plastics and microplastics that have contributed to the rapid increase in marine litter. The UNEP publication *Legal limits on single-use plastics and microplastics: a global review of national laws and regulations*⁴⁶, released at the end of 2018, provides a baseline of action taken by countries to manage single use plastics, with a focus on bags and other types of single use plastic products as well microbeads. Work with the science community and civil society, for example through the *Beat the Microbead* app,⁴⁷ has also helped to raise awareness of microplastic that is intentionally added to cosmetics and personal care products and to influence consumer behaviour and actions taken regarding this issue. A key activity under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter is the Massive Open Online Course for marine litter which attracted in 2019 over 10,000 registered participants. The course enhances the capacity of students through action-oriented learning on how they can apply successful and inspiring activities to combat marine pollution.

⁴⁵ East Asian Seas, Pacific, and the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

⁴⁶ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27113/plastics_limits.pdf

⁴⁷ <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/>

In 2018, two meetings took place of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group that was established by Resolution 3/7⁴⁸, and whose mandate was extended until UNEA-5 by a fourth resolution on marine litter and microplastics adopted by UNEA-4⁴⁹. In May 2019, governments of 187 countries agreed to control the movement of plastic waste between national borders and set up a new partnership on plastic waste under the Basel Convention.

AIR QUALITY

Expected Accomplishment C: National emissions sources identified, policies, legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of air pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air quality, and air quality assessments done by countries with UNEP support.

UNEP has provided technical and advisory support to governments at different levels to help them develop robust and comprehensive air-quality monitoring and clean-air policies and promote alternatives and low-carbon transport solutions, such as electric vehicles, walking and cycling.

In pursuit of the aims of UNEA1/7 and UNEA3/8 resolutions on air quality, UNEP supported nine more countries⁵⁰ in monitoring and assessments, and 15⁵¹ in policy and technology support on air quality management. Awareness-raising – with World Environment Day 2019 celebrations hosted by China focusing on air pollution - and the BreatheLife campaign encouraging participation by cities, further action was stepped up around the globe.

In partnership with the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), UNEP launched a comprehensive scientific assessment of air pollution in the region in 2018.⁵² This assessment outlines 25 clean air measures that could achieve safe air quality levels for one billion people by 2030, with numerous benefits for public health, economic development and the climate.

The findings were presented at the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health in Geneva, which was held from 30 October to 1 November 2018 in Geneva.

In May 2018, UNEP, in collaboration with CCAC, announced a partnership campaign with the International Association of Athletics to raise global awareness about air pollution. As part of this 5-year partnership, IAAF launched in January 2019 its first air quality monitor in the

⁴⁸ Resolution UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 on Marine litter and microplastics, available at <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1800210.english.pdf>

⁴⁹ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.6 on Marine plastic litter and microplastics at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28471/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

⁵⁰ Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Nigeria

⁵¹ Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine, Zambia

⁵² <https://ccacoalition.org/en/resources/air-pollution-asia-and-pacific-science-based-solutions-summary-full-report>

Southern Hemisphere, at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre in Australia, as part of a pilot programme to measure air quality at stadiums around the world.

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

UNEA-4's recognition of the "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" implementation plan, as the vehicle for promptly implementing the objectives of the UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration, relevant resolutions and voluntary commitments to address pollution,⁵³ provides an excellent opportunity for synergy in moving forward on the pollution agenda. Furthermore, almost all work on air quality has now been brought under one programme that has strong links to work on the environment and health. Although funding remains a challenge in some areas, workplans and staffing are now in place to step-up the activities and engage with other United Nations organizations, partners and stakeholders to implement the plans.

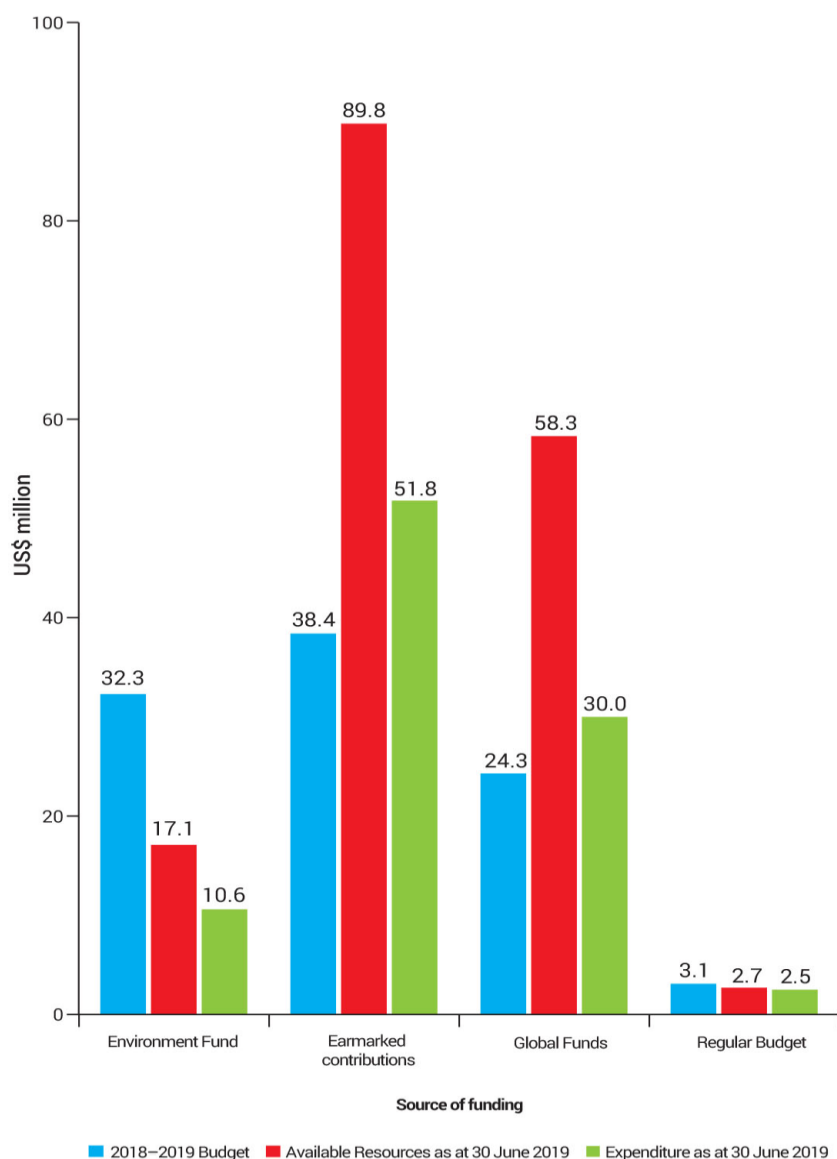
Recent UNEA resolutions have strengthened UNEP's mandate to work together with other stakeholders towards sound chemicals and waste management, including on specific topics such as nitrogen use and single-use plastic products. They also cover cross-cutting issues such as strengthening the science-policy interface and providing technical assistance. The process of reforming the UN development system and the cross-cutting focus on the capacity gaps to address pollution provide additional opportunities to bring new resolutions and requests into a coherent framework and to develop a set of tools and services to support countries in their efforts to achieve related Sustainable Development Goals.

In Uruguay, governments and other stakeholders came together in April 2019, under the SAICM process to discuss how global governance could look beyond 2020. To provide political leadership and impetus to the process, Sweden and Uruguay launched the Alliance for High Ambition on Chemicals and Waste in July 2018. As 2020 is rapidly approaching, more high-level support and visibility is needed to build momentum to develop and agree on a strong framework for sound chemicals and waste management beyond 2020 at the Fifth International Conference for Chemicals Management. Synergies with related policy agendas and processes, such as the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, should be explored further.

⁵³ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.21 on Implementation Plan "Towards a Pollution-free Planet", available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28484/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Performance: Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality



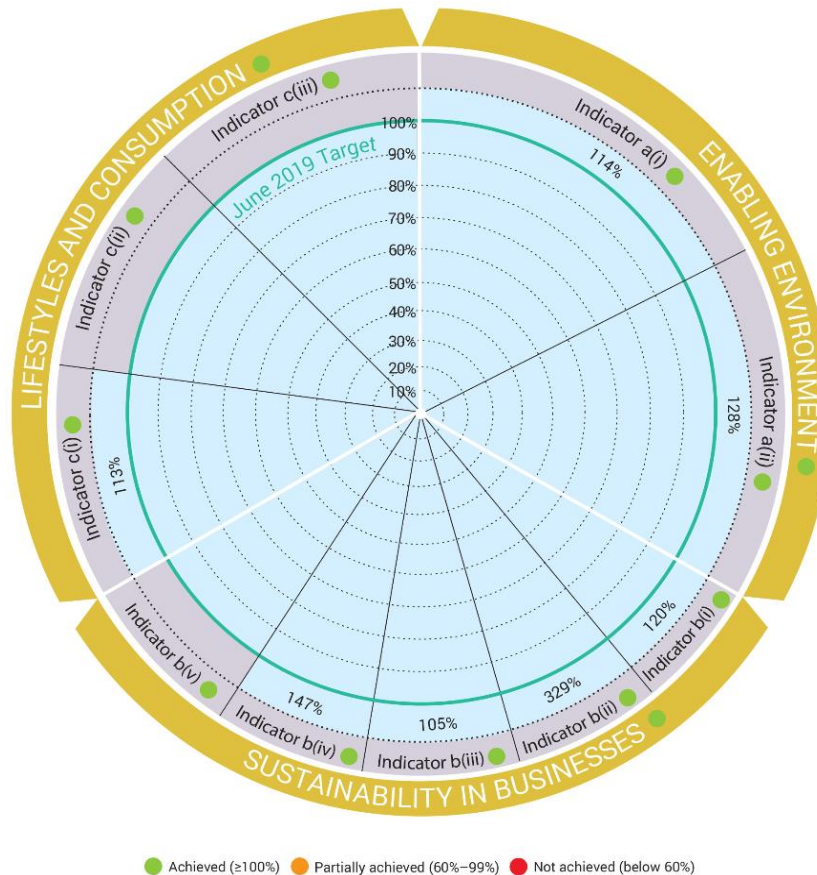
- Only US\$ 17.1 million of the projected US\$ 32.3 million Environment Fund budget for 2018-2019 was received. This was part of an overall trend whereby UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Earmarked contributions have been used, to some extent, to compensate for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 89.8 million (compared with a planned budget of US\$ 38.4 million). However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2018-2019.
- Overall expenditure, therefore, stands at US\$ 94.9 million, which is nearly 97 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 98.1 million.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Our work on resource efficiency focuses on three areas:

- **Enabling policy environment:** collaborating with countries to make the transition to inclusive green economies and adopt sustainable consumption and production action plans.
- **Sustainability in businesses:** working with governments, businesses and other stakeholders to make global supply chains more sustainable.
- **Sustainable lifestyles and consumption:** empowering countries, businesses, civil society and individuals to live and consume responsibly and sustainably.

By June 2019, the Resource Efficiency subprogramme had met or exceeded all 10 of its indicator targets.



INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Under this subprogramme, the number of indicators has significantly increased as compared with the Programme of Work 2016-2017. It has doubled to 10 indicators for the 2018-2019 period. This was done to better reflect the results and achievements in various sectors. Expected accomplishment A remains with 2 indicators, expected accomplishment B now has 5 indicators (an increase from 2 indicators) and expected accomplishment C now has 3 indicators (an increase from 2 indicators). The focus of all indicators has shifted from adoption to the actual implementation of policies, action plans, raising the ambition of the subprogramme significantly.

ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

- a(i)** Increase in the number of countries⁵⁴ transitioning to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including through implementing inclusive green economy, sustainable consumption and production, and sustainable trade policies.⁵⁵
- a(ii)** Increase in the number of local governments and cities that measure their resource profiles and report on the sustainable management of resources on the basis of global frameworks.

SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESS

- b(i)** Increase in the number of public and private stakeholders that base their decision-making on lifecycle approaches.
- b(ii)** Increase in the number of public and private finance stakeholders that adopt sustainable finance principles, processes and frameworks.
- b(iii)** Increase in the number of countries and businesses that implement sustainable tourism policies.
- b(iv)** Increase in the number of companies that report sustainable management practices they have adopted.
- b(v)** Increase in the number of countries and private sector stakeholders that implement sustainable consumption and production policies in the building and construction sector.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES AND CONSUMPTION

- c(i)** Increase in the number of countries⁵⁶ implementing sustainable public procurement policies.⁵⁷
- c(ii)** Increase in the number of countries⁵⁸ that implement campaigns, awareness-raising, advocacy and educational initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyles, consumption and production, including gender equality.
- c(iii)** Increase in the number of countries that measure food waste at national level using the Food Loss and Waste Protocol.

⁵⁴ This also includes a country's participation in international, regional, as well as subnational policies, laws, strategies, action plans and frameworks.

⁵⁵ Policies include frameworks, laws, strategies and action plans.

⁵⁶ Including subnational governments and public enterprises.

⁵⁷ Including strategies and action plans.

⁵⁸ Including subnational governments, public institutions and enterprises.

ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Expected Accomplishment A: Science-based approaches that support the transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels.

UNEP supports countries and regions in their transition to an inclusive green economy and their adoption of sustainable consumption and production action plans at the national and subnational levels. Inclusive green economies are defined as low-carbon, resource-efficient, circular and socially inclusive economies that create decent jobs and enhance human well-being. Country assessments, planning and implementation tools and knowledge platforms enable policymakers and businesses to actively pursue inclusive green economy pathways. The focus of our work has shifted during the second biennium of the 4-year Medium-Term Strategy from adoption of policies and actions plans to their actual implementation. This has raised the ambition of the subprogramme significantly. Our focus is on both the implementation of policy and the application of tools and methodologies.

From 2018 to June 2019, UNEP continued to support countries in transitioning to sustainable development through multiple pathways, with a focus on the development and implementation of policies that drive an inclusive green economy, sustainable consumption and production, and sustainable trade.⁵⁹ By June 2019, 3 additional countries⁶⁰ had started implementing policies for a green economy, bringing the total to 26 countries. UNEP also continued to support local governments to measure their resource profiles and report on the sustainable management of resources. In addition, 10 more cities have started doing so based on global frameworks.⁶¹

SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESSES

Expected Accomplishment B: Public, private and financial sectors increasingly adopt and implement sustainable management frameworks and practices.

UNEP supports Governments, businesses and other stakeholders to adopt sustainable production and management practices in global supply chains in the following sectors: building and construction, food and agriculture, finance and tourism. UNEP also works with small- and medium-sized enterprises across several manufacturing sectors.

⁵⁹ In support to UNEA resolution 2/8 on Sustainable Consumption and Production, available at http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/11184/K1607179_UNEPEA2_RES8E.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁶⁰ Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Republic of Moldova.

⁶¹ Accra (Ghana); Auckland (New Zealand); Battambang (Cambodia); Buenos Aires (Argentina); Kópavogur and Mosfellsbaer (Iceland); Lalitpur, Thane and Rajkot (India); Mahdia (Tunisia).

By June 2019, as a result of UNEP efforts, an additional three companies⁶² had applied life-cycle approaches to further develop their business practices. A total of eight financial institutions,⁶³ one insurance company,⁶⁴ 10 countries⁶⁵ and one European supervisory authority⁶⁶ had adopted and begun implementing sustainable finance principles and practices. 28 tourism businesses⁶⁷ and eight countries⁶⁸ had started implementing sustainable tourism policies and practices, while 14 businesses⁶⁹ had improved their sustainability reporting with UNEP support.

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES AND CONSUMPTION

Expected Accomplishment C: Public and private sectors increasingly aware of and support the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns

UNEP aims to empower countries, businesses, civil society and individuals to live and consume responsibly and sustainably by creating an enabling environment that fosters sustainable consumption choices and lifestyles. Progress is being made on this front, as demonstrated by the number of public and private sector institutions that are putting in place policies and measures that are conducive to more sustainable consumption patterns.

Supporting sustainable public procurement is also a way to stimulate demand for, and supply of, sustainable products.

By June 2019, four countries⁷⁰ and one city⁷¹ had started implementing sustainable public procurement policies by awarding green tenders, conducting capacity-building workshops to train government officials and the public on how to use sustainable public procurement tools, and promoting eco-labelling products and services.

⁶² Santa Rita Coffee Estate; Las Palmas S.A. palm oil producer; Instituto Hondureño del Café (Honduran Coffee Institute, IHCAFE) Coffee Export Board.

⁶³ Absa Group Limited (South Africa); AMERRA Capital Management (United States of America); Arion Bank (Iceland); Bankia (Spain); Blue Oceans Capital (Australia); CDG Capital (Morocco); National Bank of Canada (Canada); Nomura Holdings (Japan)

⁶⁴ American Hellenic Hull Insurance Company (Greece).

⁶⁵ Bank of Italy, Bank of Canada, Bank of Greece, Bank of Thailand, Central Bank of Hungary, Central Bank of Ireland, Bank of Denmark, Finanstilsynet (financial supervisory authority (FSA) of Norway), Superintendencia Financiera de Colombia (FSA of Colombia), Swiss National Bank and Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA).

⁶⁶ European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

⁶⁷ Iberostar Bavaro (Dominican Republic); SM Hotels and Conventions Corporation (Philippines); Kezar Innovations (Philippines); Constance Belle Mare Plage (Mauritius); Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel (Mauritius); Hennessy Park Hotel (Mauritius); West Sand Holidays Tourist Residence (Mauritius); Sun Resorts & Hotels (Mauritius); Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort (Mauritius); Ladera Resort (Saint Lucia); Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association; Lonely Planet; TUI; The Long Run UK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); WRAP UK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Betterfly Tourism (France); Utopia Consulting (Namibia); Roteiros de Charme Hotel Association (Brazil); Brazilian Tour Operators (Brazil); Singita Serengeti (South Africa); Federation of Tourism Companies of Chile (Chile); National Academy for Tourism and Hospitality (NATH, India); Futouris (Germany); Pacific Asia Travel Association (Thailand); Dutch Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (Netherlands); Hotel NH Noordwijk Conference Centre, Leeuwenhorst (Netherlands); Mercure Convention Centre Ancol, Jakarta (Indonesia); Glenuig Inn (Scotland).

⁶⁸ Bahamas, Botswana, Portugal, Kenya, Cabo Verde, Australia, Poland, Palau island.

⁶⁹ Natura Cosméticos (Chile); Viñedos Esmiliana S.A. (Chile); Santa Rita (Chile); Health Business (HB) Group (Chile); Empresas Torre (Chile); Unilever (Chile); Coca-Cola Andina (Chile); Cervecería Guayacán SpA (Chile); Ecoterra (Chile); IANSAGRO (Chile); Comercial Gourmalia SpA (Chile); Viña Las Araucarias (Chile); AbuKaldi Café (Chile); CARNES NATURALES SpA (Chile)

⁷⁰ Finland, India, Lithuania and Netherlands.

⁷¹ Amaravati (India).

A total of 13 countries and government institutions⁷² have actively participated in awareness-raising, advocacy and educational initiatives demonstrating the benefits of sustainable lifestyles, consumption and production.

Finally, six countries⁷³ have initiated assessments of food loss and waste across the value chain using the Food Loss & Waste Protocol.⁷⁴

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The focus of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), “Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production”, was a welcome opportunity to showcase the centrality of sustainable consumption and production as well as resource efficiency for achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its climate targets.

However, an ever-increasing mandate – expressed through the adopted resolutions⁷⁵ – is placing an already stretched budget under additional pressure. Unfortunately, the centrality and importance of this subprogramme in the context of the achievement of Agenda 2030 and especially SDG 12, has not yet translated into our ability to mobilize funds at scale. This will be required to fully deliver on the mandate to scale-up replicable interventions in order to make a measurable impact on, for example, material consumption at the global scale.

Diversification of funding sources is under way and efforts to connect the sustainable consumption and production/circular economy portfolio to other thematic priorities have begun. Resources mobilized to advance work on tourism value chains have been relying on climate-targeted funds. Likewise, activities aimed at promoting circularity in specific value chains are financially supported through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) allocation on chemicals and waste.

Going forward, the subprogramme will focus on further integration and working across initiatives and other subprogrammes. The work on a circular economy has gained some momentum in the past two years, and additional capacity and funding will be required to deliver on relevant UNEA-4 resolutions. Working on circularity along the plastics value chain,

⁷² Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Finland, India, Kyrgyzstan, Linköping (Sweden), Mauritius, Mombasa (Kenya), Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

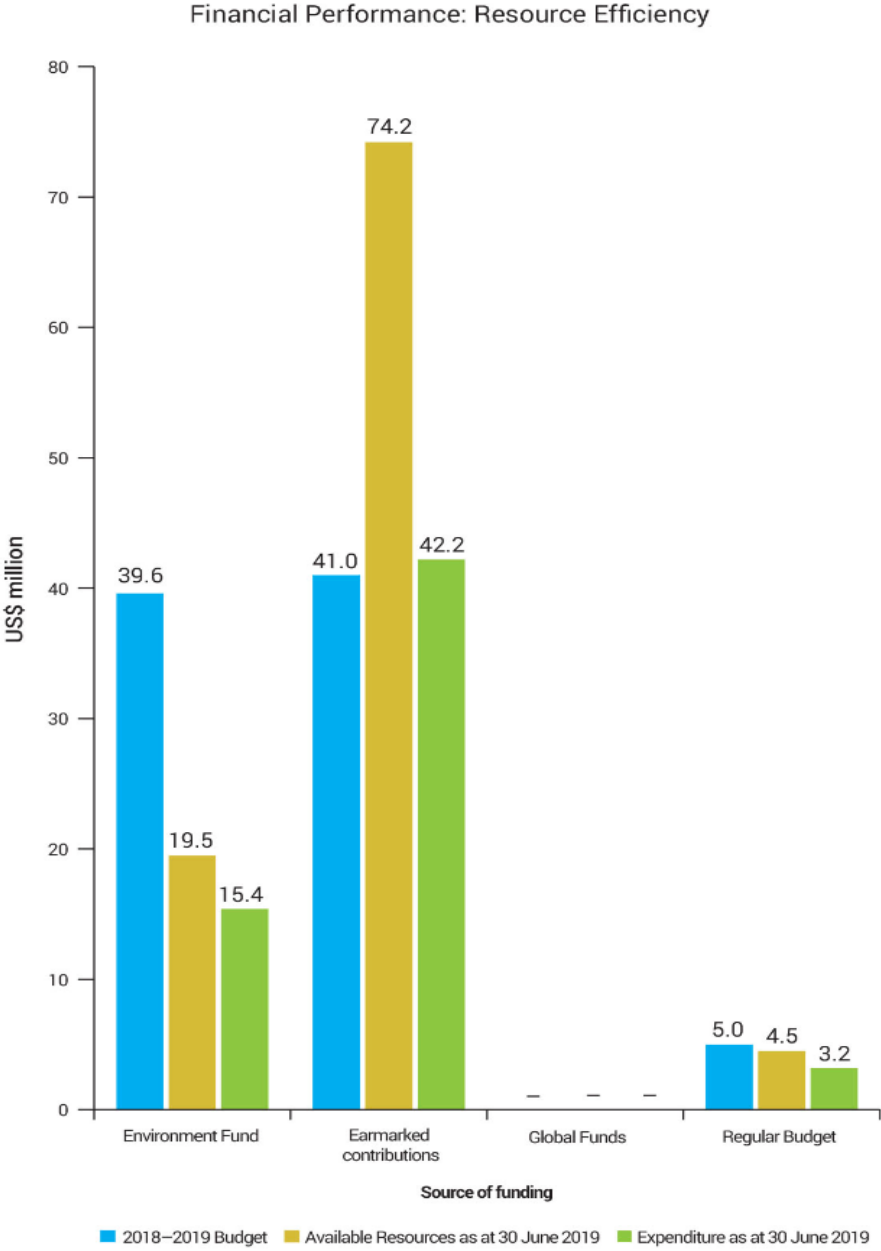
⁷³ New Zealand, Gabon (Olam Palm), Saudi Arabia, Italy, Denmark, Australia.

⁷⁴ In support of UNEA resolution 2/9 on Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste, available at http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/17511/K1607215_UNEP_EA.2RES9E.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y.

⁷⁵ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.1 on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28517/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>; Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.2 on Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste, available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28499/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>; Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.4 on Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices, available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28500/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>; and Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.5 on Sustainable infrastructure, available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28470/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>.

for example, will require a multisectoral approach that covers elements of the subprogrammes on resource efficiency, on chemicals, waste and air quality, as well as on healthy and productive ecosystems.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

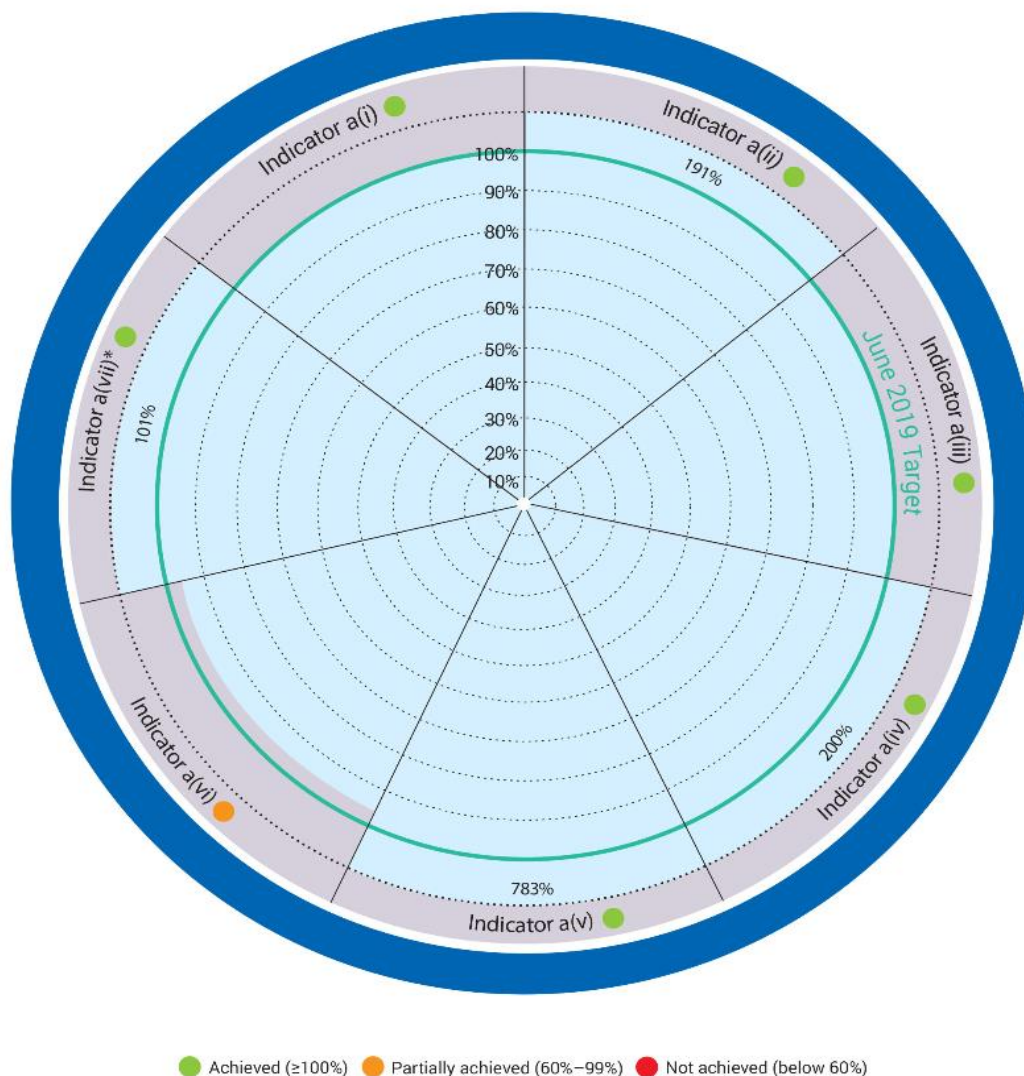


- Only US\$ 19.5 million of the projected US\$ 39.6 million Environment Fund budget for 2018-2019 was received. This was part of an overall trend where UNEP received a smaller amount of Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Trust funds and earmarked contributions have been used, to some extent, to compensate for the Environment Fund shortfall. Available resources as at June 2019 stood at US\$ 74.2 million. However, as some of this amount represents multi-year contributions, only part of it can be counted against 2018-2019. The budget available for 2018-2019 is therefore US\$ 41 million.
- Overall expenditure from January 2018 to June 2019 reached US\$ 60.8 million, which is 71 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 85.6 million.

ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

Our work to keep the environment under review strengthens the interface between science, policy and governance by empowering governments and other stakeholders to develop and use environmental data and analyses to generate environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action. By strengthening the science-policy interface, we are bridging the gap between the producers and users of environmental information to enable evidence-based decision making on the environmental dimension of sustainable development and other internationally agreed environmental goals.

By June 2019, the Environment under Review subprogramme had met or exceeded six of its seven indicator targets and made significant progress in one.



*Environment Live has moved, as from January 2019, to a new platform, whose percentage improvement in level of accessibility and usability will only be available at December 2019. The value reflected here uses the December 2018 percentage improvement in level of accessibility and usability.

INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- a(i)** Increase in the number of tagged and maintained data sets available in the United Nations system data catalogue enabling systematic user access to relevant data on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- a(ii)** Increase in the number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UN Environment Programme.
- a(iii)** Strengthening of the science-policy interface by countries based on the use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues.
- a(iv)** Increase in the number of indicators to measure the environmental dimension of sustainable development made through United Nations Environment Programme live platform that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender, geography and age.
- a(v)** Increased number of people belonging to different major groups and stakeholders acknowledging the relevance and usefulness of data and environmental information made available by UNEP.
- a(vi)** Increase in the number of relevant global, regional and national forums and institutions using data on environmental trends identified through United Nations Environment Programme for environmental assessment, early warning on emerging issues and/or facilitation of policy action.
- a(vii)** Level of accessibility and ease of use of United Nations Environment Programme environmental information through open platforms measured against internationally recognized standards for open access to information.

Expected Accomplishment A: Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.

Data on the environmental dimension of the SDGs

We met our June 2019 targets through developing and refining methodologies to measure SDG targets, and capacity-building for their implementation and related data gathering. This involved increasing cooperation and alignment with the United Nations Statistical Commission and other United Nations organizations. We have mapped all the environment-related SDG indicators to Environment Live.⁷⁶ This work formed the basis for a UNEA-4 release, *Measuring Progress: Towards Achieving the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs*, which explores progress made on all environment-related SDGs indicators including, natural resources, human health, food security, policies, financial and institutional processes and data availability.⁷⁷

The publication *Gender and Environment Statistics: Unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs* is a major reference for mainstreaming gender into policy action through the use of gender indicators focused on the environment.⁷⁸ It was jointly produced by UNEP and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and was published in March 2019 during UNEA-4.

UNEP has continued to build capacity on national data systems for the SDGs. We have a partnership with all five Regional Commissions⁷⁹ and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs on capacity building for environment statistics in support of the SDGs.

Data, science and our vision

During UNEA-4, UNEP demonstrated the World Environment Situation Room, an on-line knowledge platform designed to keep the world environment under review and transform environmental data into a visualization of the state of the environment. The demonstration highlighted the valuable support the World Environment Situation Room can provide to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as UNEP's contribution to the UN system-wide country work, particularly the Common Country Analyses.

UNEP has continued to enhance the content of the Situation Room, which comprises environmental statistics, geospatial data, foresight analyses, multilevel topography and maps from multi-data open sources, among other data sources. The visualization tool provides easy understanding of environmental trends. The platform also integrates UNEP knowledge

⁷⁶ <https://environmentlive.unep.org/sdgs>

⁷⁷ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/measuring-progress-towards-achieving-environmental-dimension-sdgs>

⁷⁸ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27615/Gender_Environment_Statistics.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁷⁹ UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA).

repository and access to the Online Access Repository on the Environment (OARE) and more broadly the Research4Life network.

The Situation Room is accessible through online platforms and physical situation rooms and is powered by several geospatial engines, including MapX software developed by UNEP/GRID-Geneva. Since September 2018, the World Environment Situation Room has been populated with country geospatial dataflows on four environmental themes (biodiversity, climate change, pollution and risks).⁸⁰

Policy action and impacts on the ground

UNEP continues to work with countries on policy action to promote the science-policy interface through data and assessments. A good example of this approach is the Royal Government of Cambodia, which has a strong commitment at the highest level to address environmental issues resulting from a decade of strong economic growth and achieving the previous Millennium Development Goals. In terms of environmental sustainability as part of implementing the SDGs at country level, Cambodia has set a national target of 100 per cent access to improved water supplies and sanitation by 2025.⁸¹ It has also created an additional national SDG on demining that aims to make the country free of landmines and unexploded ordnance by 2025.

The report *Sand and Sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources*, published in May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, is another viable example of the value of solid data and analysis.⁸² The report provides an overview of the sustainability challenge, governance gaps, available solutions and options for action for all stakeholders on sand resources and sustainability. It was circulated among member states at UNEA-4 and led to the inclusion of sand in the Mineral Resource Resolution, which cites the report. Extensive media coverage verifies the importance of the issue.

The Science–Policy–Business (interface) Forum

The Second Session of the Global UN Science-Policy-Business (interface) Forum on the Environment took place in Nairobi in March 2019. The event was entirely self-financed and had over 2,000 registered participants.⁸³ The Forum played a pivotal role in supporting the development of the 2019 UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration by providing important information and perspectives on big data and artificial intelligence conversion.

Assessments and why they matter

UN Environment's flagship *Global Environment Outlook–6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People (GEO–6)*,⁸⁴ was published in March 2019, covering all environmental issues and their links to

⁸⁰ https://environmentlive.unep.org/media/html/situation/situation_room.html

⁸¹ <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/sites/default/files/downloads/resource/ESA-Cambodia.pdf>

⁸² <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28163/SandSust.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁸³ <https://un-spbf.org/>

⁸⁴ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>

human health. The GEO-6 was instrumental to underpin discussions on several UNEA-4 resolutions, and its endorsement and plans for future editions are outlined in UNEA-4 Resolution 4/23.⁸⁵ The GEO-6 report received the highest ever levels of press coverage at UNEA-4. Its key messages are being presented at several important global events during year 2019, at the request of several member states and international organizations that are interested in GEO-6 science-based findings and their applications to policy formulation.

The 2018/19 *Frontiers* report underpinned the discussion on several UNEA-4 resolutions on emerging environmental issues (e.g., on the nitrogen cycle and on peatlands resolutions).⁸⁶ The *Emission Gap Report 2018* has, once again, informed the climate discussions.⁸⁷

The above are examples that demonstrate the value of the science-policy interface and the impact of data and assessments on the global environmental agenda by bringing scientific expertise to guide environmental performance, to track progress on Agenda 2030 and to provide member states with pathways to more effectively achieve the environmental dimension of development. This comprehensive review also guides UNEP's development of its Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Access to environmental knowledge and data is the foundation for linking science to policy opportunities: "if you can't measure it, you can't improve it".⁸⁸ Data gaps continue to present challenges. More consistent and stable data is needed on the SDGs, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other environmental indicators for assessments and by policymakers.

For the data that exists, UNEP's online hub for open access to environmental data, and tools for distilling knowledge from that data, offer opportunities for compiling and analysing scattered data sets to reveal patterns, provide early warning, spot emerging issues, track progress and course-correct. A main challenge is making compatible the various technology-enabled platforms. Another is addressing the lack of proficiency in policy communities to gather data and to use available data effectively.

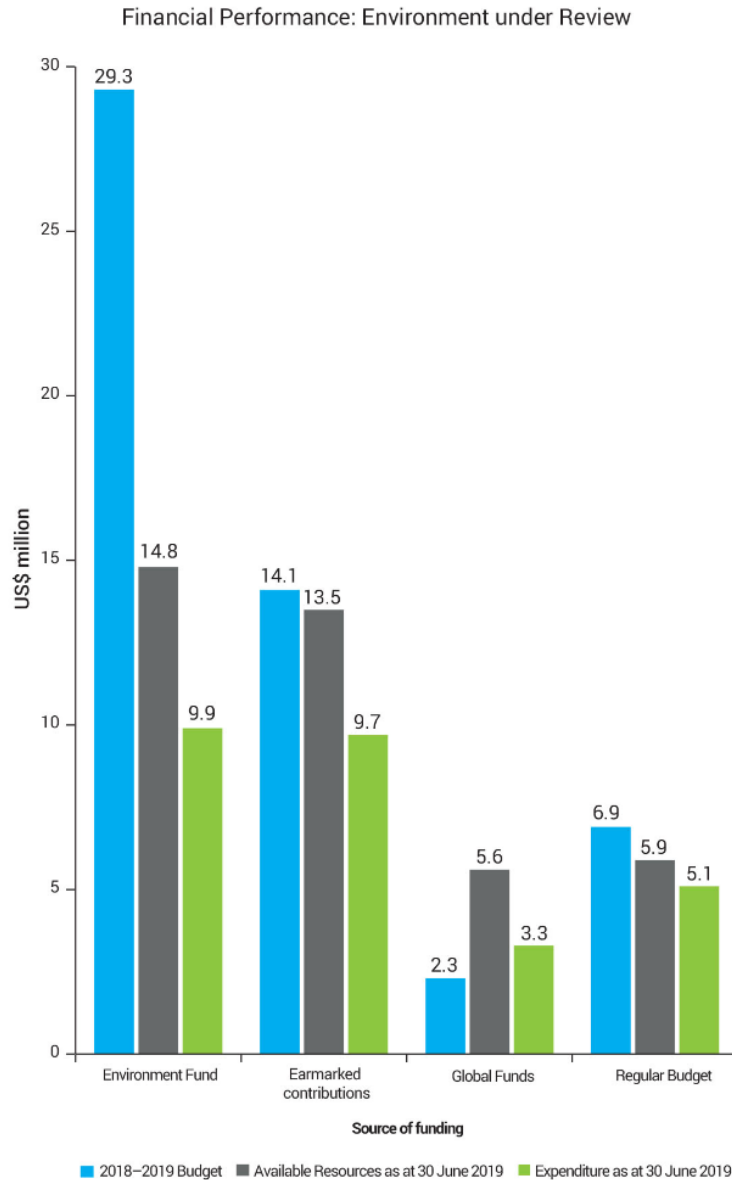
⁸⁵ Resolution UNEP/EA.4/RES.23, on Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing United Nations Environment Programme's Science-Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook, available at <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28486/K1901170.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

⁸⁶ <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/frontiers-201819-emergingissues-environmental-concern>

⁸⁷ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26895/EGR2018_FullReport_EN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁸⁸ Peter Drucker, 1954

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



- Out of the planned Environment Fund budget for 2018-2019 of US\$ 29.3 million, only US\$ 14.8 million was received. This was part of an overall trend in which UNEP received smaller Environment Fund contributions than originally projected.
- Trust funds and earmarked contributions have been partly used to compensate for the Environment Fund shortfall. The subprogramme received US\$ 13.5 million (against a projected budget of US\$ 14.1 million). However, this amount represents multi-year contributions.
- This means overall expenditure is US\$ 28 million, 53 per cent of the target budget of US\$ 52.6 million.

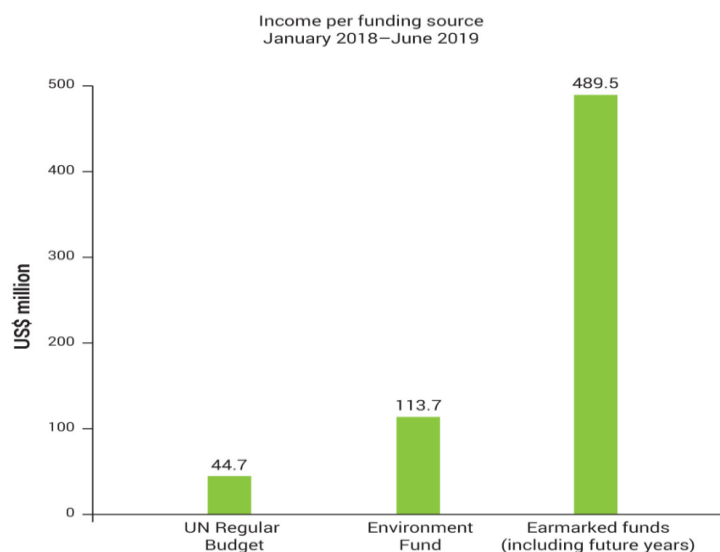
BUDGET PERFORMANCE

Our projected overall budget for the biennium 2018-2019 was US\$ 793.7 million. This comprised the United Nations regular budget, including the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and United Nations Development Account allocations, the Environment Fund, earmarked funds and programme support costs.

As in previous years, a significant part of the income received was earmarked for specific projects. This created an imbalance in the delivery of the approved Programme of Work 2018-2019, with some areas often receiving more focus than others. The total income for the period ended June 2019 was US\$ 648 million⁸⁹ (including multi-year contributions to be applied against future years).⁹⁰ Total expenditure in 2018-2019, as at 30 June 2019, was US\$ 667 million.⁹¹ The total of available resources was thus US\$ 1,088.6 million.

INCOME ANALYSIS

Core resources from the United Nations Regular Budget and Environment Fund (both annual funds) made up 24 per cent of the total income received. Earmarked income comprised all other contributions from the Member States, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund, European Commission, foundations, private sector and other United Nations organizations. The amounts received were for the period January 2018 to June 2019 and, in the case of multi-year contributions, future years.



⁸⁹ The figures do not include the Multilateral Fund and conventions and protocols administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

⁹⁰ Per the United Nations Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), our financial and administrative management platform Umoja does not allow a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

⁹¹ As for income, the available resources and expenditure for earmarked funds include resources for multi-year projects.

United Nations Regular Budget

The United Nations Regular Budget covers substantive support for the governing bodies, coordination of environmental programmes in the United Nations system and ensures effective cooperation with relevant global scientific and professional communities. Following the approval of the budget by the General Assembly, United Nations Member States disburse funding from their assessed contributions, meaning there are no gaps between the budget and income. Since the budget only provides 7 per cent of the total income, which is not sufficient for core functions, such as servicing the United Nations Environment Assembly, it must be supplemented by contributions from both the Environment Fund and earmarked contributions.

The Environment Fund

The Environment Fund finances the essential capacity needed for the efficient delivery of the Programme of Work of the United Nations Environment Programme, approved by the 193 Member States. It enables the organization to lead science to policy solutions, identify emerging environmental threats and innovate to address them, advocate and raise awareness, build capacity, and ensure robust oversight and accountability. Despite its critical role providing direction for the organization, the fund has only received 42 per cent of the approved budget for the biennium from 90 Member States, which represents just 18 per cent of the organization's income.

Earmarked contributions enable the scaling up and replication of results of core work, including capacity-building in more countries with more partners. Earmarked income received, including for future years, exceeded the annual budget for this income stream by 10 per cent. As earmarked income makes up a significant share of the total income (76 per cent), it tends to skew programme delivery towards the priorities of specific partners. Earmarked contributions were provided by GEF (35 per cent), Member States (30 per cent), other United Nations organizations (12 per cent), the Green Climate Fund (9 per cent), the European Commission (7 per cent) and the private sector, including Finance Initiative (7 per cent).

We are extremely grateful to all the contributing Member States and other funding partners for their commitment and support to the organization, especially the 10 largest funding partners, which continue to contribute over 90 per cent of the Environment Fund and earmarked funds. UNEP is determined to provide value for money by delivering results and financial performance, partnering for increased impact, responding to global, regional and local challenges, and ensuring robust oversight and accountability. We aim to provide a return on your investment for the planet and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (Jan 2018 - Dec 2018)

	Member States	US\$ million
1	Netherlands	9.1
2	Germany	8.9
3	France	7.6
4	USA	6.1
5	Sweden	5.1
6	Belgium	4.6
7	United Kingdom	4.3
8	Switzerland	3.8
9	Norway	3.0
10	Canada	2.4

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (Jan 2019 - June 2019)

	Member States	US\$ million
1	France	7.6
2	Sweden	5.1
3	Belgium	4.5
4	Denmark	4.5
5	United Kingdom	4.2
6	Switzerland	4.0
7	Germany	3.9
8	Norway	3.0
9	Canada	2.3
10	China	1.5

Top 10 Contributors to Earmarked Funds (Jan 2018 - Dec 2018)

	Funding Partners	US\$ million
1	Global Environment Facility	126.7
2	UN Sister Organizations	50.9
3	Sweden	39.9
4	Private Sector	26.7
5	Green Climate Fund	26.4
6	European Commission	21.2
7	Denmark	16.8
8	Norway	16.3
9	Japan	10.0
10	Germany	9.7

Top 10 Contributors to Earmarked Funds (Jan 2019 - June 2019)

	Funding Partners	US\$ million
1	Global Environment Facility	45.8
2	Green Climate Fund	15.9
3	European Commission	14.3
4	Japan	6.6
5	Other UN Organizations	6.6
6	Germany	3.7
7	Italy	2.0
8	Finance Initiative	1.5
9	Private sector	1.5
10	Switzerland	1.3

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Total expenditure as at 30 June 2019 was US\$ 667 million, against available resources of US\$ 1,088.6 million from all UNEP funding sources, excluding Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).

Regular budget

The approved appropriation by the General Assembly for 2018-2019 was US\$ 44.7 million, comprising US\$ 40.5 million from the Regular Budget and US\$ 4.2 million from the United Nations Development Account. As at 30 June 2019, UNEP had used US\$ 33.5 million. It is worth noting, due to liquidity issues with the Regular Budget, that only US\$ 33.9 million of the US\$ 40.5 million has been allotted as at 30 June 2019.

Environment Fund

The Programme of Work 2018 - 2019 approved US\$ 271 million of resources from the Environment Fund. However, based on projected income for the years 2018 and 2019, UNEP authorized an allocation of US\$ 140.4 million from the Environment Fund. As at 30 June 2019, the total use of the Environment Fund allocations was US\$ 96.5 million towards the core delivery of the Programme of Work.

Programme support costs

The authorized budget for 2018-2019 was US\$ 33 million, with an allocation of US\$ 35.7 million based on the programme support cost of previous years earned from earmarked funds. The expenditure as at 30 June 2019 was US\$ 27.3 million with a use-rate of 76.4 per cent.

Earmarked funds

Earmarked funds continue to make up the largest part of the UNEP budget. These contributions prioritize core activities that could be implemented over various years. As such, the available resources include the allocation of 2018 and 2019, as at 30 June 2019, in addition to balances of previous years. The approved budget for 2018-2019 was US\$ 445 million, with available resources standing at US\$ 874.5 million, as of 30 June 2019. Total expenditure as at 30 June 2019 was US\$ 509.7 million. Within these funds, the Global Funds' authorized budget for 2018-2019 expenditure was US\$ 140 million, with US\$ 390.7 million in available resources and total expenditure of US\$ 247.2 million, as at 30 June 2019.

The table below shows the budget, income, available resources and expenditure for the period January 2018 to June 2019 of the Programme of Work 2018 - 2019.

