



**BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST AND  
SECOND SESSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY**

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## **B. INTRODUCTION**

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23 to 27 June 2014, under the overarching theme, “Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production.” The United Nations Environment Assembly adopted two decisions and 17 resolutions on significant environmental issues including: air quality; the science-policy nexus; ecosystem-based adaptation; implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; illegal trade in wildlife; chemicals and waste; armed conflict; water quality; and marine debris and microplastics; coordination across the United Nations system in the field of environment and the relationship between United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environment agreements (MEAs). A Ministerial Outcome Document was also adopted.

From 23 to 27 May 2016, the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly took place in Nairobi under the theme “Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda”. It adopted 25 resolutions that address critical issues including: implementing the Paris Agreement; promoting sustainable consumption and production, food waste, safeguarding ecosystems, combating illegal trade in wildlife, advancing natural capital management, mainstreaming biodiversity, monitoring and preserving air quality, protecting the environment in areas of conflict, preventing marine litter and promoting sound management of chemicals and waste.

This background document outlines the actions that the Executive Director was requested to take under each outcome and presents a summary of the implementation plans where available. It then highlights initial progress, partners and challenges.

United Nations Environment Programme operates under seven thematic priorities: climate change; disaster and conflict resilience; healthy and productive ecosystems; environmental governance; chemicals, waste and air quality; resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption; and environment under review. This document complements the information provided in quarterly reports, presentations on programme performance and briefings to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the implementation of resolutions.

Requests to the Executive Director were subject to the availability of resources; conformity with the United Nations Environment mandate; requests or invitations from the respective country in the case of support to and activities in countries. The Executive Director will also report on the implementation of the outcomes at a subsequent session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

## C. RESOLUTIONS – FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

### 1/4 Science-policy interface

#### Mandate

In **resolution 1/4, on the science-policy interface**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Continue to provide information from existing and ongoing assessments as well as on progress made towards previously agreed global environmental goals to guide future policy debates at the Assembly.
- Further explore ways of communicating key scientific findings of the assessment work of United Nations Environment Programme in all the official United Nations languages to citizens, policymakers, the media and the research community in order to support informed decision-making at all levels.
- Promote a strong science-policy interface by expanding partnerships with centres of excellence and research programmes, promoting integrated and peer reviewed environmental assessments and policy analysis and working closely with Member States, the private sector and experts to establish up-to-date quality-assured data flows.
- Foster collaboration with multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, relevant United Nations agencies and programmes and scientific panels for joint efforts to strengthen the science-policy interface and provide tools for integrated approaches and informed decision-making.
- Submit a gap analysis report on environmental data, information and assessments as well as recommendations on policy instruments for a strengthened science-policy interface to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session.
- Provide expert input on the environmental dimension in relation to the sustainable development goals in accordance with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
- Work closely with relevant United Nations bodies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, on the production of the Global Sustainable Development Report.
- Undertake the preparation of the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), within the programme of work and budget, supported by United Nations Environment Live, with the scope, objectives and procedures of GEO-6 to be defined by a transparent global intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation informed by document UNEP/EA.1/INF/14, resulting in a scientifically credible, peer-reviewed GEO-6 and its accompanying Summary for Policymakers, to be endorsed by the United Nations Environment Assembly no later than 2018.
- Consult with all regions of the United Nations Environment Programme regarding their priorities to be taken up in the global assessment.
- Contribute within the existing programme of work, to the dissemination and outreach of the findings of relevant scientific panels, bodies and processes under the auspices of intergovernmental organizations to maximize awareness among policymakers and the public.
- Strengthen the policy relevance of Global Environment Outlook reports by measuring the progress towards the achievement of the previously agreed global environmental goals and targets and to inform relevant global processes and meetings where progress towards these agreed goals and targets are to be discussed.
- Prepare, within the programme of work and budget and in consultation with governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements and international and regional scientific bodies, a long-term plan for the development and use of Environment Live, with particular reference to its contribution to future Global Environment Outlook reports, future assessment modalities, stakeholder engagement, institutional networking and

partnership activities, content development, technology support and capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, taking into account the existing scientific work and processes of United Nations Environment Programme, and to present the plan to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session.

- Undertake capacity-building and technology support activities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their data-collection management and assessment, including strengthening indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, as appropriate, for the implementation of the present resolution.

## **Progress**

The Executive Director reported to the United Nations Environment Assembly on the findings emerging from United Nations Environment Programme assessments. The assessments cover a number of topics ranging from marine litter, plastics and climate change to sand and dust storms. The findings of many of these assessments have been consolidated in the sixth Global Environment Outlook, which will be launched at the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly.

United Nations Environment Programme has stepped up its communication of relevant findings through ensuring online availability of: interactive databases such as Environment Live and the World Environment Situation Room; e-book versions of GEO-6 regional assessments and the Emissions Gap Report (which includes data visualization tools); and traditional print publications such as the Global Gender and Environment Outlook and the GEO-6 regional and global report. United Nations Environment Programme also communicates relevant scientific findings to the media, and the general public through various product launches, social media outreach and educational products. It also presented relevant findings to government decision makers participating in regional and national policy forums.

Two main advisory bodies were formed for the Global Environment Outlook process: The High-level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Scientific Advisory Panel. Monthly calls with these advisory bodies ensured robust interaction with Member State and scientific experts throughout the GEO process. Partnerships with GRID Arendal, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and China's Centre for Remote Sensing and Digital Earth strengthened these centres and leveraged their expertise on oceans, polar issues, geospatial information and biodiversity. United Nations Environment prepared a revised Science Strategy that will further strengthen collaboration with centres of excellence and research programmes and help improve the collection and analysis of environmental information and data.

Through the Global Environment Outlook process, existing links with multilateral environmental agreement secretariats such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, were strengthened as the authoring teams from each of the chapters of the assessment obtained data on the state of the global environment and the effectiveness of the policy response. The process strengthened collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and generated up-to-date data and analysis on the links between a healthy environment and human health.

GEO-6 was supported by a full intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation conducted in Berlin in Oct. 2014. Regional Environmental Information Network meetings were conducted in each United Nations region to establish the regional environmental priorities. These consultations were followed up by the development and publication of six regional GEO-6 assessments. The global GEO-6 was informed by the INF/14 document mentioned in the resolution, which was further elaborated into a full set of Integrated

Environmental Assessment Guidelines that were published by United Nations Environment Programme in February 2017.

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/16775/IEA\\_Guidelines\\_Living\\_Document\\_v2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/16775/IEA_Guidelines_Living_Document_v2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

The Summary for Policymakers of the sixth Global Environment Outlook was developed through a lengthy drafting process involving the authors of the main assessment, the High-level Group and the co-chairs of the assessment. The draft Summary for Policymakers was negotiated at a meeting of 95 Member States from Jan. 21-24, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The text of the Summary for Policymakers was agreed ad referendum at the final session of the meeting. In line with United Nations Environment Assembly Decision 3/1 that extended the GEO-6 delivery date, the Summary for Policymakers and the main GEO-6 report will be submitted to the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly for possible endorsement.

The innovative, Adhoc Global Assessment Dialogue, enabled United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the links with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the International Resource Panel and the Independent Group of Scientists which will be producing the Global Sustainable Development Report. The Global Assessment Dialogue will increase synergies across global assessment processes, foster collaboration and help streamline and strengthen assessment processes.

United Nations Environment Programme produced the report, "Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface: A gap analysis."

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22261/Gap\\_Analysis\\_2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22261/Gap_Analysis_2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

It consolidates findings on the gaps in environmental data and information as well as policy instruments and frameworks that can strengthen the science-policy interface. The sixth Global Environment Outlook provides more than 25 case studies of environmental policies and assesses their effectiveness in achieving the anticipated environmental outcomes.

United Nations Environment Programme is the Custodian Agency for 26 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators in SDGs 6, 8, 12,14,15 and 17. In March 2016, only five of those indicators had a global indicator methodology, with data reported to the SDG Global Database, and analysis provided for inclusion in the Secretary-General's SDG progress report. Today, 13 indicators have an international standard indicator methodology and data reported to the SDG Global Database. For the remaining indicators, progress was made towards finalization of the indicator methodologies and reporting in 2019. To provide expert input on the environmental dimension of the SDGs specifically the 'leave no one behind' principle, United Nations Environment Programme launched a study on 'Gender and Environment Statistics: Unlocking Information for Action and Measuring the SDGs' on 8 March 2018. The study expounds on the gender-environment nexus, which is not only key to understanding social and environmental inequities and barriers to sustainable development, but also to unlocking options for transformative action. It also identifies specific indicators and strategies for national action.

United Nations Environment Programme contributes to the work of the Independent Group of Scientists in close collaboration with the UNDESA. This group of 15 scientists is currently compiling their first Global Sustainable Development Report. United Nations Environment Programme has provided access to both our SDG environmental data and the various drafts of the sixth Global Environment Outlook. The Global Sustainable Development Report is expected to draw heavily on the Global Environment Outlook.

On 13 March 2019 United Nations Environment Programme will launch the first edition of the report

'Measuring Progress: Towards Achieving the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals'. The report is a derivative product of GEO-6. This publication complements GEO-6 and provides an overview of the current state of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development based on the SDG indicators – including the availability of statistical and spatial data, analytical methods and visualizations. It identifies knowledge and information gaps in terms of assessing progress towards the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

United Nations Environment Programme boosted efforts to build the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to collect, manage and use environmental data, information and knowledge. Examples of activities based on country requests include:

- Support to 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Central Asia on the development of Shared Environmental Information Systems through an EU-funded project on capacity-building for environmental data sharing and reporting. This project responds to calls by governments to improve the availability and accessibility of relevant data. It builds countries' capacities to conduct environmental reporting and to share their environmental data, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, multilateral environmental agreements and country-level reporting needs.
- Expansion of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded cross-cutting capacity development portfolio, to cover 24 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe and West Asia. All projects include components to strengthen/establish environmental information management systems, facilitate reporting to multilateral environmental agreements and related SDGs, State of the Environment Reporting at the national level, and evidence-informed decision-making.
- Regional environmental information networking activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, where possible working through existing mechanisms. These have been instrumental in sharing successful national and regional initiatives to enhance data-collection, validation and use and to identify innovative tools and methodologies for the systematic and sustained production of policy relevant environmental data and information.

Support countries in developing projects to strengthen climate information and early warning services for consideration by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). At present, United Nations Environment Programme is working with 10 countries in Africa, the Pacific, West Asia and Europe.

### **Opportunities**

The projects described represent an opportunity to improve environmental data, establish better connections with national and regional stakeholders, better inform governments of the environmental challenges and encourage policy action. This helped strengthen the science-policy interface between United Nations Environment Programme and Member States and within Member States themselves.

### **Challenges/financial implications**

Inadequate funding remains a challenge. Great efforts are required to close funding gaps through resource mobilization efforts.

## **1/7 Strengthening the role of United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 1/7, on strengthening the role of United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Undertake strengthened capacity-building activities on air quality, through workshops and policy



development assistance, to support governments in their efforts to implement paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the resolution.

- Raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits of improved air quality, including through public outreach campaigns as well as Global Environment Outlook assessment processes, in particular in the context of the discussions on the SDGs as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- Explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation on air pollution within the United Nations system, for example with the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, WHO and WMO, establishing linkages between Environment Live, the World Meteorological Organization Information System, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, other relevant information management systems, programmes and pertinent regional efforts and initiatives.
- Facilitate the operation of existing United Nations Environment Programme-supported intergovernmental programmes on the assessment of air quality issues.
- Undertake global, regional and subregional, as appropriate, assessments by 2016, if possible, focused on identifying gaps in capacity to address air quality issues, including monitoring and control, opportunities for cooperation, air pollution mitigation opportunities, building upon existing global, regional and subregional cooperative efforts on air pollution, such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its eight protocols, and information provided by States Members of the United Nations Environment Programme.

## **Progress**

At its third session, held from 4 to 6 December 2017, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally, which strengthened the mandate of United Nations Environment Programme on air quality, reaffirming the provisions of resolution 1/7.

In its resolution 3/8, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to provide support to countries in implementing the resolution through various means including: continuing to support countries, in particular developing countries, in putting in place affordable air quality networks and producing regional assessments of capacity needs based on inputs from communities of practice; strengthening technical support provided by global and regional networks; enhancing institutional capacity to develop air pollution action plans; supporting Member States in identifying, prioritizing and addressing key sources of air pollution – generally implemented by means of monitoring and assessment of air quality; providing a platform for cooperation and information sharing between member States and relevant organizations working to reduce air pollution, such as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; and delivering information to stakeholders on the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants.

In response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/7 and 3/8, United Nations Environment Programme strengthened the institutional positioning of air quality within the organization, and started the development of a United Nations Environment Programme-wide air quality programme with a view to offering an integrated menu of services to governments at different levels through three components: (1) monitoring and assessment, (2) policy and technology support and, (3) awareness-raising and communication.

Both human and financial resources were mobilized to support that work and partnerships have been

strengthened with key actors at the regional and global levels.

Detailed progress is presented in the Executive Director's report which provides an update on progress made in the implementation of resolution 3/8.

## **1/8 Ecosystem-based adaptation**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 1/8, on ecosystem-based adaptation**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director:

- In partnership with governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, within the scope of available resources and in light of its programme of work, to continue providing and enhance support to developing countries, at their request, for the development and implementation of community-based, national and regional ecosystem-based adaptation programmes and activities through, inter alia, practical tools and pilot projects to demonstrate the use of those tools and other policymaking technical support.
- To continue its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant institutions and organizations to integrate ecosystems as a key element in national adaptation planning processes, according to the guidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and taking into account guidance developed under the CBD.

United Nations Environment Programme has been undertaking technical work in the following key areas:

- Developing methods and tools to help adaptation planning and decision-making.
- Supporting developing countries to access finance through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project design.
- Improving the science-policy interface in adaptation policies and planning through climate risk assessments and adaptation planning systems.
- Enhancing climate resilience through planning, piloting and testing ecosystem-based adaptation.

### **Implementation plan**

A team of six United Nations Environment Programme task managers is dedicated to adaptation programming and implementation in the Climate Change Adaptation Unit (CCAU) within the Ecosystems Division in Nairobi. It also liaises increasingly with regional offices and to better respond to partner government demand for programming support. 2019 will see the lateral transfer of one of its Nairobi-based task managers to the Regional Office in Asia-Pacific to better serve partner countries and to support the Regional Office in developing its EbA offering in the region. The CCAU has also established several framework contracts with technical service providers to support the adaptation portfolio. In 2019, CCAU will step up its efforts to develop normative products based on the programming experience it has accumulated since 2014.

### **Partners**

Governments, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), UN Habitat

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme has been developing technical work in the following key areas:

- Developing methods and tools to support adaptation planning and decision-making.

- Supporting access by developing countries to finance EbA project design.
- Improving the science-policy interface in adaptation policies and planning through climate risk assessments and adaptation planning systems.
- Enhancing climate resilience through planning, piloting and testing ecosystem-based adaptation.

Since 2014, United Nations Environment Programme has accessed financing for 20 EbA projects for 24 countries funded by the Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund and the GCF across a range of ecosystems, securing 176 million in grant funding. Two thirds of those projects have been in Africa, with most of the rest in Asia. Seven projects have closed and provide valuable lessons about the implementation performance of adaptation projects, with another seven projects due to close in 2019.

The regular Committee of Permanent Representatives reporting provides details of implementation progress made at the country level.

In October 2018, United Nations Environment Programme organized the first project manager training event in Nairobi, bringing together 16 project managers from projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and covering both technical and project management issues.

In collaboration with UNDP and other relevant bodies, to integrate ecosystems as a key element in national adaptation planning processes and in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines, the development of National Adaptation Planning (NAP) proposals is ongoing in several countries where the GCF funds readiness projects. Approved NAP projects are:

- Africa: Mauritania, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
- Asia: Nepal, Mongolia, Pakistan, Iraq
- Latin America: Dominican Republic, Costa Rica

Projects in development are:

- Africa: Eritrea, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Sao Tome & Principe, South Sudan, Seychelles
- Asia and the Pacific: Myanmar, Nauru, Vanuatu
- Latin America: Honduras, Panama, El Salvador

Since 2013, United Nations Environment Programme has been working in partnership with UNDP on the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP GSP), which supports developing countries in establishing national adaptation planning processes. There have been four such projects under this programme, and three are ongoing. Key achievements emerging from the United Nations Environment Programme over the last three years for least (LDCs) and non-least developed (non-LDCs) countries include:

- Non-LDC projects (closing in 2019): 359 national technicians from 105 developing (non-LDC) countries attended regional training workshops to increase their technical capacity to support key steps in their NAP processes. The NAP training packages were developed and delivered during 2016-2017. Three modules were developed and delivered in 2018; namely,
  - Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Water Resources
  - Appraisal and prioritization of options for adaptation planning
  - Adaptation Finance with focus on project development
- 359 national technicians from 105 developing (non-LDC) countries attended regional training workshops to increase their technical capacity to support key steps in their NAP processes. Of these participants, 168 were women (47 per cent of total participants).

- From the LDC project (mid-term as of February 2019) 101 participants (44 women/44 per cent) received training from 37 LDCs.
- Out of four regional trainings organized in 2018, there were 44 women participants from total of 101 participants, accounting for 44 per cent, from 37 LDCs capacitated.

Specific training events organized by United Nations Environment Programme, with participant numbers over LDC and non-LDC regions over the last three years, are as follows:

- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for South America and Mexico - Bogota, Colombia, 25-27 October 2016- 25 national technicians (48 per cent of whom were women) from 11 non-LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for Central America - Panama City, Panama, 8-10 February 2017- 28 national technicians (50 per cent of whom were women) from 8 non-LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa - Amman, Jordan, 3-5 April 2017 - 37 national technicians (32.4 per cent of whom were women) from 12 non-LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for the Caribbean - Georgetown, Guyana, 31 May- 2 June 2017- 25 national technicians (60 per cent of whom were women) from 10 non-LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for Asia and the Pacific on 'Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Water Resources' - Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13-16 Sep 2017- 38 national technicians (31.6 per cent of whom were women) from 13 non-LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for African non-LDCs - Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 17-19 October 2017 - 20 national technicians (10 per cent of whom were women) from 11 non-LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for the Pacific on 'Appraisal and Prioritization Tools for Adaptation options' - Nadi, Fiji, 28-31 May 2018- 24 national technicians (70.8 per cent of whom were women) from nine non-LDCs; 17 participants (9 women/53 per cent) from 5 LDCs (including Haiti)
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for Africa on 'Adaptation Financing' - Anglophone countries - in Kigali, Rwanda, 25-28 Sep 2018 9 non-LDCs -26 national technicians (61.5 per cent of whom were women) from 9 non-LDCs; 29 participants (12 women/41 per cent) from 10 LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for Africa on 'Adaptation Financing' - Francophone countries - in Kigali, Rwanda, 1-4 Oct 2018 - 6 national technicians (33.3 per cent of whom were women) from 7 non-LDCs; 35 participants (17 women/49 per cent) from 13 LDCs
- NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshop for Latin America on Innovation in Adaptation - Panama City, Panama, 24-26 Oct 2018 - 38 national technicians (71.1 per cent of whom were women) from 17 non-LDCs
- The NAP-GSP Inter-Regional Training Workshop for Asia and Africa – LDCs – Manila, Philippines, 15-16 Oct 2018 - 7 national technicians (57.1 per cent of whom were women) from 5 non-LDCs; 20 participants (6 women/30 per cent) from 9 LDCs

All materials and targeted training modules were uploaded on the NAP-GSP website, including various tools and methodologies which were delivered. These are available on the NAP-GSP website:

<https://globalsupportprogramme.org/nap-gsp/regional-training>

United Nations Environment Programme and UNDP have engaged in various knowledge sharing and outreach activities to support NAP development. This includes organizing side events and presentation sessions at:

- COP21/22/23/24
- NAP Expos 2015/2016/ 2017/2018
- APAN Forum 2016-2018:
- UNDP Climate Change Adaptation:

- UNFCCC NAP Central
- LEG events

'NAP in focus' publications are shared widely through knowledge networks.

The United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean through the REGATTA community of practice is also supporting governments in the region to access GCF Readiness support for the development of National Adaptation Plans.

United Nations Environment Programme has supported climate risk assessments during EbA project development and implementation that can serve as inputs into NAP processes. These include:

- GCF project Gambia: Large scale ecosystem-based adaptation in The Gambia: developing a climate-resilient, natural resource-based economy. Project implementation started in January 2018. A baseline study was carried out between May and September 2018. This carried out a species suitability study for the land restoration component of the project. The modelling revealed changes in moisture levels for trees resulting from increases in temperatures and increased evapotranspiration rates. The main conclusions were that species selection should draw from a larger genetic basis covering a larger area in Western Africa, that trees should be planted that meet multiple needs, and that the project's adaptation strategy should include the domestication of wild edible plants.
- In Laos, climate change impacts were modelled in watersheds for six cities so that sustainable drainage systems/urban ecosystem-based adaptation could be designed. The climate change impact analysis estimated changes to rainfall and extreme changes, evaporation and temperature. It assessed vulnerability to exposure to flooding, and sensitivity (assessed through land use) to flood events. A qualitative assessment was carried out on the types of flood damage experienced. The climate change impact assessment was based on local and global data sets and CORDEX climate model projections.
- A climate vulnerability assessment was carried out in Benin (2018) based on the IPCC definition (exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity).
- Climate modelling and impact and vulnerability studies in four coastal areas in Madagascar. A study of climate trends using data from 1981 to 2010 showed that the four coastal regions (Boeny, Menabe, Atsinanana and Vatovavy Fitovinany) experienced a significant increase in temperature. Changes in rainfall were insignificant apart from the Atsinanana region, which showed a significant decrease. Upward trends in mean sea level are significant in all four regions, and most marked in the two regions on the East coast. Modelling of future climate using RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 scenarios showed a long-term increase in temperatures for all four regions, as well as an increased risk of extreme temperature events. No categorical trends in projected rainfall were established for these two scenarios. The studies projected an increase in salinity on both coasts by 2100.
- In Afghanistan, a United Nations Environment Programme EbA project supported climate change analysis through a technical report: "Climate Change Science Perspectives." This report provided up-to-date information on climate change for policymakers and planners, including a series of maps and graphs outlining the past trends and predicted changes for five climatic regions of Afghanistan under RCP scenarios for temperature, annual precipitation, spring and winter precipitation, and extreme precipitation.

### **Challenges/financial implications**

The national execution model can be slow, and this affects the financial status of the CCAU since staff supporting projects are paid through a fee that is a percentage of the total project budget. National execution partners tend to need a lot of support to execute projects effectively. We expect this to improve

over time. Adaptation projects are inherently difficult to execute as they normally have various technical components including a livelihood component and a climate services component. They therefore require inputs of different lines of technical support and management. Climate change is a departure from historical conditions. Adaptation measures themselves should be adapted to expected normal conditions. For this to happen, the scientific evidence must be applied to the design and implementation of the measures in the execution of a project. This is often a challenge.

## 1/9 Global environmental monitoring system/water

### Mandate

In **resolution 1/9, on global environmental monitoring system/water**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Collaborate closely with member States with the aim of identifying additional key elements of GEMS/Water, such as regional hubs, capacity development programmes, technology support and new services, as appropriate, and to ensure the necessary resources as reflected in the programme of work and budget for enabling the GEMS/Water Global Programme Coordination Unit in United Nations Environment Programme to effectively and efficiently operate as the interface between national focal points, GEMStat, the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, GEMS/Water regional hubs and relevant global partners.
- Initiate discussions with Member States, United Nations agencies and other relevant institutions and organizations that have done significant work developing water quality exchange standards on a common data policy, taking into account relevant national legislation that allows the exchange of water-quality-related data and metadata for the purpose of building a consistent database in GEMStat, supporting Environment Live and informing sustainable development policies.
- Draft a revised GEMS/Water programme for adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, including a budget, while linking it clearly to the next biennial programme of work of United Nations Environment Programme.

### Progress

The revised GEMS/Water Programme was submitted to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the support of new donors. The GEMS/Water mandate was expanded by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/10, which acknowledged the growing need for data and capacity development in all aspects of water quality monitoring, and related SDG 6. GEMS/Water has progressed significantly since 2015 with active focal points in 100 countries, approximately 70 water professionals trained and data flows (re-) established from 67 countries. The programme works with regional entities of mutual interest to harmonize monitoring and data exchange, including on SDG indicator 6.3.2.

The GEMS/Water programme is developing a strategy 2020-2024, describing the key elements of how it will deliver on its expanding mandate including the World Water Quality Assessment (WWQA) (Res. 3/10). United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with UN-Water members, is developing this WWQA in an alliance format to report initially to the United Nations Environment Assembly, which will leverage data from GEMStat and other data sources.

Since United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/9, the SDG process has highlighted the importance of ambient water quality monitoring, but more resources are required including for capacity

development. The ongoing World Water Quality Assessment Alliance also supports strategic partnerships for the GEMS/Water programme.

### **Challenges/financial implications**

Resolution 3/10 requested to build upon, as needed, the GEMS/Water Trust Fund to support countries in water quality monitoring. However, no new contributions have been made for monitoring or capacity development. Current activities are carried out within the existing workplan and funding of the programme.

## **1/10 Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 1/10, on different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Provide a report on the basis of the information resulting from paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8, and to submit the report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session.
- Consider organizing a workshop at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on different approaches, visions, models and tools for achieving sustainable development, noting the approach of the "Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth" proposal and that, in this context, the workshop will provide recommendations to the Executive Director for appropriate further steps and work.
- Provide guidance and to facilitate, through Environment Live, the visibility of different visions, approaches, models and tools for achieving sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8.
- Take into consideration the different visions, approaches, models and tools referred to in paragraph 3 of the present resolution during the consultation processes for the Global Environment Outlook and Environment Live.
- Encourage giving appropriate consideration to the issue of harmony with nature in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

### **Progress**

In addition to the activities and outputs described in the 2015 update, which included the production of a report on the basis of the information resulting from paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8 that was submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, the United Nations Environment Programme undertook the following activities to deliver on the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10:

- Prepared a second report on national and regional visions, tools, models, and approaches to sustainable development, entitled "Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development: Further Evidence of Sustainability in Practice". It covered the concepts of Circular Economy, Natural Capital Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, and Gross National Happiness, was published in 2016, and launched during an event at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in May 2016.
- Organized a workshop at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly about the different visions, approaches, models, and tools to achieve sustainable development that included a high-level round-table.

- Hosted, at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, a knowledge exchange pavilion where Member States showcased their own unique sustainable development approaches and tools.
- Produced the report "Uncovering Pathways Towards Inclusive Green Economy: A Summary for Leaders" that updated the Green Economy concept based on the lessons learned from the stocktaking work of the "multiple pathways" to sustainable development.

## **1/11 Coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 1/11, on coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group (EMG)**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Develop system-wide strategies on the environment and to invite the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels.
- Prepare, in consultation with regions, as appropriate, and to submit to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, a report which includes proposals developed in conjunction with the EMG describing the integration of the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda into the environmental work of the United Nations.
- As Chair of the EMG, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board, to identify possible measures to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the Group and to submit a report with recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration at its second session.
- In his capacity as Chair of the EMG, to provide a summary report at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the Group's work, highlighting issues that may require the particular attention of the Assembly.
- In his capacity as Chair of the EMG, to transmit the summary report to the governing bodies of the members of the Group.

### **Progress**

- The System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment was endorsed by the Senior Officials of the Group on 30 March 2016 and launched at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on May 25th, 2016 in Nairobi. The first edition of the synthesis report "United Nations Collaboration on the Environment: Synthesis Report on UN System-wide Contributions to the Implementation of the Environmental Dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals" (2017), was prepared on the basis of inputs from 31 United Nations agencies.
- In addition to triennial synthesis reports, annual thematic reports will be prepared. The topic for the first United Nations System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) thematic report (2019) will focus on biodiversity.
- The EMG is expected to discuss the second edition of the SWFS Synthesis Report. At a planned annual event, the UN system is expected to consider progress made in the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and to showcase best practices and inter-agency collaboration efforts.
- The 2015 report "Maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for



Sustainable Development” provided recommendations and findings on the EMG's modalities of work as well as its substantive focus and role in view of the 2030 Agenda. The report was considered by the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in May 2016.

- Building on the report’s recommendations, updated terms of reference and new rules of procedures for the EMG were endorsed in 2017.

## **1/13 Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio declaration on environment and development**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 1/13, on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio declaration on environment and development**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- To ensure that a final report is submitted to the next session of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to putting the issue before the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- Submit information on the progress made by the task team and its two working groups to the relevant conferences and meetings of parties to be held in the period before the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

### **Partners**

High Courts - Judicial Training Institutes, Directorate of Public Prosecution, Police Academies, Universities, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment, UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), World Conservation Monitoring Commission, at University of Cambridge

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme continues to engage countries in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. This engagement includes its work on disseminating environmental information of various issues to ensure access to information and wider appreciation of issues relating to the environment;

On enhancing public participation in decision-making in countries its work relating to engaging major groups and other relevant stakeholders in its programmes continues. Public participation engagement is also encouraged in relation to environmental impact assessment processes and in developing national environmental legislation and regulations. In this regard United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the WCMC, completed a study on “Global Stocktaking of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Legislation”. This study is already providing guidance to policymakers and practitioners in countries as they develop and implement national laws and policies relating to Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments. On enhancing access to justice in environmental matters, United Nations Environment Programme has undertaken programmes for legal practitioners to enhance the adjudication of cases in the field of environmental law.

As part of a programme of integrating environmental law in judiciary training institutes, United Nations Environment Programme worked with various judiciaries at the regional level to ensure that training on environmental law is included in the curriculum of Judicial training institutes. This exercise also included engaging the police and prosecutors and embedding a curriculum on environmental law in their institutes as appropriate. In addition, individual countries were assisted to develop curricula and training manuals for

various legal practitioners.

United Nations Environment Programme collaborated with the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment to develop and disseminate 16 Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment.

Launched on 24 January 2019, the Environmental Rule of Law Report gives an overview of the recent developments in the field of environmental law at the international, regional and national levels. (Link)

Various activities are planned in the programme work for 2019 to implement Principle 10 by enhancing access to environment-related information, ensuring and assuring public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters

### **Opportunities**

The recent adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean will stimulate application of Rio+10.

### **Challenges**

The Secretariat requires more resources to promote the application of Principle 10.

## **1/16 Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions**

### **Mandate**

In **1/16 Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions**, the United Nations Environment Assembly, requested the Executive Director to:

- Provide the secretariat of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform on such mutually agreed terms as the Executive Director and the Members of the Platform see fit and in accordance with the outcome of the sixth Biodiversity in Europe Conference, establishing the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform.

### **Progress**

The secretariat of the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform (PEBP) was established and two main projects under the 2014-2017 Programme of Work were implemented.

Even though the PEBP was established, the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution called for the creation of a "Trust Fund for the Secretariat of the Pan European Biodiversity Platform" that could provide financial resources so that United Nations Environment Programme hosts the Secretariat of the Platform. However, that Trust Fund was never created and as a result there are currently no resources to provide the Secretariat and the PEBP is no longer operational.

## **D. RESOLUTIONS - SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY**

### **2/2 Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/2, on the role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities** the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in accordance with the programme of work and budget, to support and to facilitate convening and/or strengthening the existing regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities.
- Within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to support and to facilitate convening new regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities upon the request of the regions, through the intergovernmental process, with all countries in the respective regions, and subject to the availability of financial resources.
- Provide an update on progress made in implementing the present resolution through intersessional work relevant to the United Nations Environment Assembly as appropriate.

### **Implementation plan**

Through its Regional Offices, United Nations Environment Programme will continue to support Member States in the organization of the regional forums of the environment and environment authorities, with a view to mobilizing greater political will and action on priority environmental issues in the region, while preparing effectively for the United Nations Environment Assembly sessions. In Europe where such dedicated regional forums do not exist, United Nations Environment Programme will support and facilitate relevant consultations, including in the context of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

### **Partners**

United Nations regional commissions, subregional forums of Ministers of the Environment, major groups and stakeholders.

### **Progress**

#### *Africa*

United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat to the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and, in collaboration with WHO, provides secretariat support to the Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa. In this capacity, United Nations Environment Programme provided financial and technical support towards the convening of the following meetings:

- 16th regular session of AMCEN held under the theme “Investing in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa” in June 2017 in Libreville, Gabon.
- Seventh special session of AMCEN held under the theme “Turning environmental policies into action through innovative solutions” in September 2018 at United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters in Nairobi.
- Third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa held under the theme “Health and environment: shaping a better future together in Africa” in November 2018 in Libreville.

These meetings have been appreciated by member States and relevant stakeholders as offering important building blocks in the preparation for the meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to various conventions, including on biodiversity and climate change.

#### *Asia Pacific*

At the First Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific held in Bangkok in May 2015, member States requested the Executive Director to organize the Forum every two years, which resulted in, among others, the adoption of the present resolution 2/2.

- Second Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities held under the theme “Towards a resource efficient and pollution free Asia Pacific” in September 2017 in Bangkok, together with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
- Third Forum of Ministers of Environment Authorities held under the theme “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production” in January 2019 in Singapore.

As demonstrated by the participation of, among others, the President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, in the Third Forum of Ministers, both the political support and stakeholder interest in the Forum are growing, and the Forum is increasingly recognized as an important regional preparatory process for the United Nations Environment Assembly.

### *Europe*

In Europe, there is no a dedicated preparatory process to engage member States in the lead up to the United Nations Environment Assembly, but United Nations Environment Programme supports existing forums like the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference under the auspices of the UNECE and the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health under the auspices of WHO, both of which take place every five years. For the first time in 2017, United Nations Environment Programme organized, in partnership with WHO and the UNECE, the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in June 2017 in Ostrava, Czech Republic “to shape future common actions to decrease the burden of diseases caused by environmental factors.” In the margins of this Conference, United Nations Environment Programme organized an informal regional ministerial consultation under the theme “Europe’s call for a pollution-free planet” in preparation for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. United Nations Environment Programme also organized a ministerial conference under the theme “Innovative solutions to pollution in South-East and Southern Europe” in December 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia. United Nations Environment Programme has also included the “United Nations Environment Assembly” as a standing agenda item in the annual sessions of the Committee of Environment Policy of the UNECE. In addition, United Nations Environment Programme facilitates regular consultations of major groups and stakeholders in the lead up to the United Nations Environment Assembly through extrabudgetary funding.

Member States welcomed the convening of these subregional and regional opportunities to consult, including at the ministerial level, and urged United Nations Environment Programme to ensure their continuation in the future. Member States have also asked United Nations Environment Programme to consider opening a dedicated regional fund to enable greater country engagement, in particular from the Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia.

### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

United Nations Environment Programme has been providing secretariat to the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean since 1982, when it first convened. The Forum, which meets biennially in tandem with the United Nations Environment Assembly, provides leadership and guidance to the regional mechanisms that monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and coordinates inputs to the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Forum has also established several regional networks that promote South-South cooperation on key issues such as environmental education, biodiversity and chemicals and waste.

In its capacity as the secretariat of the Forum, United Nations Environment Programme organized:

- High-level Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the

Caribbean and Regional Consultation for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in October 2017 in Bogota, Colombia.

- XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment in October 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, preceded by the Civil Society Regional Consultative Meeting. The XXI Meeting adopted the following decisions: 1) Chemicals, marine litter and waste management; 2) Climate change; 3) Sustainable consumption and production: decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental impact; and 4) Innovative solutions to enhance the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Member States expressed the need for annual meetings, with the intersessional meeting taking place in the years when the ordinary session of the Forum does not meet.

#### *West Asia*

United Nations Environment Programme, together with the League of Arab States and the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia, provides secretariat to the Council of the Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), which meets annually under the League of Arab States. In this capacity, United Nations Environment Programme supported the organization of the following meetings:

- 30th session of the CAMRE held in October 2018 in Cairo, Egypt which agreed to a number of actions including: holding a special session of the Council in 2019 to prepare for the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly; concluding a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the United Nations Environment Programme and the League of Arab States in the margins of the fourth session; and re-operationalizing the United Nations Environment Programme Liaison Office in Cairo.
- Extraordinary session of the CAMRE held in January 2019 beside the Dead Sea in Jordan, which prepared for the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and discussed issues including the Global Pact for the Environment and the CAMRE inputs to the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (held at the level of Heads of State in Beirut, Lebanon, in January 2019). The extraordinary session developed a concept note on solid waste management in the Arab region, which was approved by the Summit; the Summit subsequently mandated the CAMRE to prepare a framework strategy for solid waste management in the Arab region.

Member States welcomed the extraordinary session of the CAMRE, and they urged United Nations Environment Programme to organize such sessions on a regular basis ahead of each United Nations Environment Assembly session. For United Nations Environment Programme, it would be useful to consider resolving the discrepancy between the 12 countries served by the West Asia Office and the 22 members of the League of Arab States.

The regional forums of ministers of the environment provide excellent opportunities not only to enhance the governance of major environmental problems in the region, but also to prepare regional inputs to the United Nations Environment Assembly. The forums also allow for more active stakeholder engagement as called for by paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want" and Governing Council decision 27/2 on the implementation of paragraph 88. There is room for greater cooperation with the UN regional commissions to ensure that the outcomes feed into the regional forums on sustainable development.

#### **Challenges/financial implications**

Financial resources continue to constrain the ability of United Nations Environment Programme Regional Offices to further support and facilitate (new) regional forums of ministers. There is an expectation that United Nations Environment Programme also helps Member States to implement the decisions adopted at these forums, which require additional resources.

## **2/3 Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/3, on investing in human capacity for sustainable development, through environmental education and training** the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building through access to environmental education, training and capacity-building opportunities, including increased capacity development to help Member States, upon request, to integrate the environmental dimension into their relevant curricula in line with the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as appropriate.
- Promote cooperation and interaction between the United Nations Environment Programme and the higher education community in mainstreaming environment and sustainability across education and training.
- Enhance cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU), the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other international institutions, for better implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

### **Implementation plan**

United Nations Environment Programme has updated its Environmental Education & Youth Programme with the introduction a revised project document. This programme will be developed within the context of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/3 and SDG 4.7 on Education for Sustainable Development.

In particular, the new programme will focus on the following core areas:

1. Supporting the integration of environmental education into the curricula of universities and technical and vocational education and training institutions to increase student awareness, behavioural change, employment opportunities and where possible, the leadership capability of students. This will include:
  - Influencing course design & delivery: Expand the university network and work to ensure environmental education is formalized as a normative interdisciplinary subject that is delivered into broader range of courses at university level.
  - Policy and advocacy: With partners such as UNESCO, UNU, UNICEF and UNDESA, to play a stronger leadership role in key global alliances (e.g. HESI, Global Alliance) to design a global advocacy agenda on this issue to share key content and assess the status of environmental education in key countries around the world so that best practice, policy frameworks and guidance is collated and shared with countries.
  - Communication outreach: Raise the profile of environmental education work across the world, by organizing all the content in one place and show-casing what is working.
  - Student engagement and Green Campus outreach programme.
2. The creation and diversification of public-private, non-formal and other relevant partnerships and

initiatives in environmental education, education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles. This would include the gaming industry, so it can integrate environmental content in its platforms.

3. New youth and education partnerships developed which lead to an increase in new environmental education curricula integrated into their agenda. A Young Leaders Plastic Challenge Badge produced and launched in five countries with scouts, guides and universities to remove plastic waste in their community. This will launch in 2019.
4. Collaboration with United Nations partners to explore a new project around the theme of “Green Collar Jobs”. This would explore how universities, together with the public and private sector, can collaborate to support students to be equipped with skills to work in the green jobs sector across fields such as energy, conservation, finance and technology. A plan will be put in place in 2019 with partners and focus countries selected to take this work forward.

### **Partners**

UNITAR, UNU, UNESCO, United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

### **Progress**

- Components on environmental education have been included in a number of projects under development in countries such as the Maldives, Mongolia, Mozambique, Guinea and South Sudan. Support is being offered to other countries on a demand-driven basis.
- In strengthening university engagement, a strategic planning meeting was held with leaders from the United Nations Environment Programme-led Global Universities Partnership. This meeting identified a number of priority actions that will be further elaborated and implemented over the coming years.
- National engagement has been strengthened with the launch of the Morocco Green University Network aimed at enhancing campus sustainability, promoting strengthened curricula and supporting the role of universities in the achievement of the SDGs.

United Nations Environment Programme has continued to work closely with higher education institutions across the globe by promoting innovative, action oriented environmental education for sustainable development. By December 2018, its flagship platform, the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) had over 800 partners worldwide, with a strong presence in the Global South. GUPES has also been promoting South-South and South-North partnerships among higher education institutions and enables academic exchanges, knowledge sharing and cooperation.

United Nations Environment Programme has delivered content through different platforms, including information and communication technologies and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) such as:

- Marine Litter Course (English and Spanish versions), developed together with the Open University, The Netherlands
- Wicked Problems, Dynamic Solutions: The Ecosystem Approach and Systems Thinking, developed together with Concordia Univ., Canada
- Disasters and Ecosystems: Resilience in a Changing Climate, developed together with developed together with TH Köln/University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace Course, developed together with the SDG Academy, United Nations Environment Programme, UNDP, the Environmental Law Institute, and the Universities of Columbia, Duke and University of California, Irvine

- The Landscape Academy, developed together with Wageningen Univ., The Netherlands
- The REDD+ Academy, developed by UN-REDD, United Nations Environment Programme and Yale University

United Nations Environment Programme will launch a new Education and Youth Alliance at the forthcoming fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Alliance will build on the GUPES programme.

#### **Programme challenges/financial implications**

While some staff costs are covered by the Environment Trust Fund, additional funding will be needed to ensure full implementation.

### **2/4 Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the sustainable development goals**

#### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/4 Role, on the functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals** the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Incorporate into the medium-term strategy and its ongoing programme of work, and clearly identify, actions that assist small island developing states (SIDS) in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, with an emphasis on partnerships, technology transfer, capacity-building, institutional support, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- Enhance the provision of strategic and targeted support in areas covered by the environmental dimension of the SAMOA Pathway, including, inter alia, sustainable tourism.
- Facilitate learning, exchange of information, and North-South and South-South cooperation between small island developing states, regions and other developing countries, particularly with regard to how they have adapted and implemented approaches such as sustainable consumption and production patterns and resource efficiency.
- Build national and subregional capacity for reporting against the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs, linking it to United Nations Environment Programme international environmental reporting platforms such as Environment Live and utilizing the Programme Indicator Reporting Information System for reporting under multilateral environmental agreements and the SDGs.
- Support small island developing states in their implementation of the SAMOA Pathway to contribute to achieving the SDGs.
- Report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on programme activity outputs and impacts.

#### **Implementation plan**

- United Nations Environment Programme has already prepared its implementation matrix of the SAMOA Pathway. Activities relevant to SIDS are aligned with the SAMOA Pathway.
- Use of the Environment Live SIDS page for reporting.

#### **Partners:**



SIDS, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, Nairobi Convention secretariat, Abidjan Convention secretariat, Caribbean Environment Programme.

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme continues to implement the SAMOA Pathway. In 2018, there was progress in areas such as marine litter, sustainable tourism, climate change adaptation in 2018. An opportunity arose to coordinate implementation with Programme SDG implementation support activities.

## **2/5 Delivering on the 2030 agenda for sustainable development**

### **Mandate**

**In resolution 2/5, on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** requests the Executive Director to:

- Enhance United Nations Environment Programme activities, in support of the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the recommendations of the HLPF.
- Initiate new multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthen existing ones, including with the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to promote activities that contribute to delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Continue to consult international financial institutions and the private finance sector, building on the report of the United Nations Environment Programme's "The Financial System We Need" inquiry report, on issues at the intersection of finance and the environment to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Strengthen the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Ensure that the Global Environment Outlook process, products and thematic assessments, which include assessments of the state of, the trends in and the outlook for the environment, and cover the internationally agreed environmental goals, take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the SDGs and related targets.
- Ensure that the early warning activities of the United Nations Environment Programme support relevant decision makers, as well as the HLPF, through the provision of information on emerging issues and risks that may have an impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Ensure that Environment Live, which already covers the internationally agreed environmental goals, provides credible, up-to-date information to support the follow-up to and review of progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, at all levels, by establishing a long-term plan for the maintenance of the programme and the relevance of its content and ensuring good traceability of the data and information made accessible through it.

It also encourages the Executive Director to continue the United Nations Environment Programme work on indicators to support monitoring the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

### **Implementation plan**

- Align the subprogrammes to the 2030 Agenda Environment Under Review.
- Implementation of monitoring, reporting information systems for the 2030 Agenda.
- Full implementation plan for Sustainable Development Indicators and Global Environment Outlook 6 available.

- United Nations Environment Programme as custodian agency, working with all lead United Nations entities, to submit and develop all indicators required for follow-up and review of the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda.
- United Nations Environment Programme Statistics, in partnership with national statistics offices and relevant ministries to undertake capacity development and deployment of indicators and data collection to support the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Full implementation plans for Sustainable Development Indicators for the annual report by the United Nations Secretary-General and for follow-up and review by High Level Political Forum.
- United Nations Environment Programme, acting as the Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, is developing and implementing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to achieve a range of SDG targets as well as SDG targets in goals 2, 8, 12, 15 and 17. The Monitoring & Evaluation Framework will guide and measure the collective impact of the framework and inform the 10YFP mid-term review in 2017

### ***Strengthen the science-science policy interface***

Continuing to collaborate with other relevant United Nations bodies and to facilitate the work of scientific panels that provide integrated assessments to support policymaking, especially those for which United Nations Environment Programme is secretariat, such as the International Resource Panel and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

- a) Increasing the visibility and impact of such assessments by presenting them to the HLPF and facilitating their dissemination to a wide range of audiences;
- b) Continue to provide policy-relevant information, incl. Global Environment Outlooks to track progress on environmental dimension of the SDGs, trends in global sustainability; and to present them to the HLPF.
- c) Providing relevant reports and assessments that contribute to the development of the Global Sustainable Development Report;

### ***Sustainable Development Report***

The Global Environment Outlook assessment, in response to the United Nations Environment Assembly will be submitted to the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly, with a progress report at the third United Nations Environment Assembly, with an additional focus on the pollution theme of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The work programme is designed to:

- a) Consider the Goals as cross-cutting issues within the five environmental themes of air, fresh water, oceans, land and biota;
- b) Develop innovative approaches that consider specifically the achievement of the 2030 agenda;
- c) Expanding the vision of the sixth Global Environment Outlook to consider how it links to the seventh and eight Global Environment Outlooks in terms of monitoring progress towards achievement of the 2030 agenda;
- d) Produce findings which are aligned with and can be easily extracted into other tracking reports such as the Global Sustainable Development Report and the SDG progress report;

### **Partners**

United Nations entities, the European Commission, national ministries and statistical offices, regional economic commissions, governments.

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme has been implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030

Agenda in the following ways:

- a) Aligning the Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work with the 17 SDGs;
- b) Supporting the United Nations Environment Assembly to contribute to the HLPF;
- c) Providing inputs for Member States to engage in the HLPF, and engaging itself at the Forum;
- d) Promoting an integrated approach to deliver the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda;
- e) Engaging in regional forums and dialogues with the regional economic commissions and other partners;
- f) Providing analysis on countries' Voluntary National Reviews;
- g) Collecting data and reporting on the SDG indicators where United Nations Environment Programme is the custodian agency (26 such indicators in total) and where methodologies exist;
- h) Developing methodologies for the SDG indicators where United Nations Environment Programme is the custodian agency and where they do not exist;
- i) Reviewing progress and trends on 93 SDG indicators that United Nations Environment Programme deemed as environment-related;
- j) Engaging in global-level discussions especially those with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York;
- k) Strengthening participation in the work related to the UN Development Assistance Framework at the country level
- l) Promoting internal information sharing, knowledge exchange and learning;

### **Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

The United Nations Environment Assembly emphasizes the importance of making meaningful contributions to the High-level Political Forum. United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 3/3 entitled "Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum", reiterated the United Nations Environment Assembly "commitment to conveying the main messages agreed upon by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum to assess progress and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its interlinkages with the social and economic dimensions". The resolution mandated inclusion of the agenda item on this matter in the agenda of each biennial session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. One of the key deliberations under the agenda item will be the development of written inputs to the HLPF, which are captured in the synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums.

### **Programme of work**

The second United Nations Environment Assembly provided guidance to United Nations Environment Programme on aligning its strategic planning with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs through the approval of the medium-term strategy for 2018–2021, which forms the framework for this programme of work and budget. It thus gave both the United Nations Environment Assembly and United Nations Environment Programme a critical role in supporting countries in achieving the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

The same session approved United Nations Environment Programme of Work 2018-2019 which promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The SDGs are weaved through the narrative and theory of change for various thematic sub-programmes with outcomes mapped to 2030. In 2016 when the Programme of Work 2018-2019 was approved, the SDG indicator methodology was not yet available for inclusion during the definition of the Programme of Work performance indicators.

## 2/6 Supporting the Paris agreement

### Mandate

In **resolution 26, on supporting the Paris Agreement**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of pre-2020 global efforts to address the challenge of climate change by:

- a) Strengthening efforts in the areas of education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation (UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 2);
- b) Reinforcing and stepping up the United Nations Environment Programme participation in partnership programmes and initiatives;
- c) Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders on work related to adaptation, mitigation and the transition to a sustainable future in a manner that reinforces synergies, avoids duplication and maximizes efficiency and effectiveness;
- d) Accelerating support to countries, especially developing countries, for building national readiness capacity to implement the Paris Agreement, implementation capacity and capacity to access finance and technology;
- e) Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme support to the IPCC;
- f) Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme support for and contributions to global climate-change-related assessments;

### Implementation plan

There is close alignment between the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Environment Programme subprogramme on climate change as the subprogramme was designed to respond and support the delivery of the Paris Agreement.

United Nations Environment Programme will:

- Support and expand the GUPES network of universities to integrate climate change into their curricula.
- Develop guidance and training materials on inclusion of climate change into their curricula.
- Integrate climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation, access to information and cooperation into its projects and programmes.
- Engage with UNFCCC secretariat and active partners in this focus area.
- As a full and active member of the UN Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness, explore new partnerships on education and training on climate change.
- Support new research, policy and analytical work on a set of identified post-Paris priorities, which are incremental to the 2018-2019 Programme of Work, such as emissions and adaptation gap reports, tracking and communicating nationally determined contributions (NDC) implementation through Environment Live and analysis of what it will take to reach the 1.5 °C target. These priorities will be implemented through partnerships with relevant organizations and institutions.
- Design an IPCC library facility to support the sixth Assessment Report, including a knowledge repository for the IPCC as a component of the United Nations Environment Programme's Knowledge and Research Centre. Secondment of staff to the IPCC.
- Continue supporting the development of Gap Reports (Emissions and Adaptation gaps) and integrated assessment of short-lived climate pollutants in the Asia and the Pacific region.

### Partners

UN Alliance on Climate Change Education; Member States universities, (GUPES), UNFCCC secretariat.

UNDP, World Resource Institute (WRI), NDC partnership, CTCN partners, CCAC partners, SE4ALL, Sub-national climate action hub, Global Alliance for Buildings, GCF, GEF, collaborating Centres, governments.

## **Progress**

*Strengthened efforts on education, training, public awareness public participation, public access to information and cooperation*

United Nations Environment Programme initiated a new partnership with the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium for Climate Change to help catalyse integration of climate change into curricula. United Nations Environment Programme embarked, in partnership with UN Women, on an initiative dedicated to gender equality and climate change.

United Nations Environment Programme concluded work with Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi and South Sudan for enhancing national climate change information management, coordination systems and strategies for engagement in the UNFCCC. Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana and Kenya have been supported to model climate scenarios and socioeconomic impacts of their NDCs, as part of raising public awareness of climate action.

*Strengthening participation in partnerships and initiatives to reinforce synergies (UNEA2/6-1b-c)*

United Nations Environment Programme is active in more than 20 partnerships. Furthermore, we engage in partnerships with individual organizations. United Nations Environment Programme signed an MoU with UNFCCC in December 2017.

In 2018, United Nations Environment Programme, Rabobank, and other partners launched the over US\$1 billion 'Agri3 Fund'. FMO (the Dutch development bank) also signed an MoU with United Nations Environment Programme, joining the Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture partnership.

*Accelerated support to countries*

United Nations Environment Programme provided 73 country experts with support to advance their NAPs and supported 13 Pacific Islands, the Pacific Territory Tokelau and Haiti, on adaptation.

With support from United Nations Environment Programme, Bangladesh finalized its NAP for Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants.

**Mongolia:** The Ministry of Energy was supported to develop an investment strategy and proposal to scale-up implementation of low carbon district heating systems.

**Pakistan:** The Ministry of Energy was assisted to scale-up the use of energy efficient lighting appliances. A road map was developed to implement policies, regulations, and a financial support mechanism.

**Lao PDR:** The Lao People's Democratic Republic was supported to submit a GCF Readiness proposal to access funding for promoting transformation to LED lighting.

**Uganda:** The National Planning Authority of Uganda received assistance to develop its National Development Plan, prioritizing clean energy and ecosystem-based adaptation for agricultural enterprises.

## **REDD+:**

The Viet Nam REDD+ National Safeguard Information System was finalized.

With our support, Swaziland and Zimbabwe each received approval of the GCF for Readiness Support to build the capacity of their respective National Designated Authority.

Mozambique has, with support from United Nations Environment Programme, produced an integrated modelling tool to inform investments in the agriculture and energy sectors as part of their NDC.

### *Support to IPCC*

United Nations Environment Programme continued its support to the IPCC, through the Chief Scientist Office and a secondment of the Deputy Secretary of the IPCC. The delivery of the 1.5°C report was supported by technical as well as communication assistance.

### *Strengthened support to climate-change-related assessments*

The 2018 Adaptation Gap Report undertook an in-depth assessment of adaptation capacity in the health sector. Furthermore, United Nations Environment Programme, through its Global Adaptation Network, facilitated the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative. The Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative catalyze improved access to data, information and knowledge for adaptation practitioners. United Nations Environment organized the Global Adaptation Futures and Global Adaptation Network conferences for more than 3000 participants. To facilitate research on adaptation, the World Adaptation Science Programme was launched in 2018.

The Emissions Gap Report 2018 delivered record engagement with over 13,000 downloads and 19.6 million in media reach. The combined reach of social posts was over 1,400,000. Total year-on-year media exposure saw a six fold increase.

In addition, a report on Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific was produced (<http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/content/air-pollution-measures-asia-and-pacific>).

## **1/5 Chemicals and waste**

### **2/7 Sound management of chemicals and waste**

#### **Mandate**

**Resolution 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste, building on resolution 1/5**, focuses on: achieving the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management 2020 goal; waste; chemicals; and a final section on further action. The resolution recognizes that sound management of chemical wastes is one of the key requirements for achieving the 2030 Agenda. This contributes to SDG 3.9 which seeks to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination; SDG 6.3 which focuses on improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally; and SDG 12.4, which seeks to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, and significantly reducing their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

On achieving the 2020 goal and beyond, the United Nations Environment Assembly calls on Member States that have not yet done so to reflect the sound management of chemicals and waste as a priority within their national sustainable development planning processes. It asks the United Nations Environment Programme to support the process to prepare recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 to foster the active involvement of industry stakeholders; and to: support countries in the implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste; and to continue work on lead and cadmium; and

The private sector is called upon to play a significant role in financing and to build the capacity of small

and medium sized enterprises, for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

On waste, the Executive Director is asked to ensure full integration of environmentally-sound management of waste in United Nations Environment programme-wide strategies and policies; and to issue an update of the Global Waste Management Outlook by the end of 2019.

On chemicals, the Assembly invites all stakeholders with relevant experience to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 June 2017, best practices, indicating how these may enhance the sound management of chemicals, and requests United Nations Environment Programme to submit an update of the Global Chemicals Outlook by the end of 2018. An additional section invites governments and other stakeholders to provide appropriate forms of assistance, within their capabilities, for the implementation of the resolution.

### **Implementation plan**

- Under the advisory service project and 2030 Agenda implementation concept for 2018-2019, further guidance is being developed to assist countries in making the case to integrate sound management of chemicals and waste in national, sectoral and local planning
- In 2017-2018, the Secretariat, working with other UN agencies will implement a project to support three pilot countries in linking national data collection and statistics to global chemicals and waste related indicators under the 2030 Agenda and multilateral environmental agreements. To support the process, two international expert meetings will be organized in 2017 and 2018.
- In addition to approved projects within the Programme of Work, Secretariat services to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and its financial mechanism, United Nations Environment Programme will contribute to the beyond-2020 process as a stakeholder.
- The second application round under the Special Programme for Institutional Strengthening at the national level for the chemicals and waste cluster will be launched in February 2017. There will be a series of meetings in 2017 between the Executive Director and the private sector to explore opportunities for partnerships.
- Global Mercury Waste Assessment is planned for publication in early 2018.
- Regional outlooks for Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and SIDS are planned for publication in 2017 and early 2018.
- The Secretariat will organize a workshop in Burkina Faso in the second quarter of 2017 to support development of a regional strategy in Africa for the sound recycling of lead acid batteries.
- The Secretariat will send out a global survey on Sustainable Chemistry in early 2017 to obtain a better understanding about the concept in Member States. The results will inform a communication to Member States during the second quarter of 2017, to submit good practices by 30 June 2017.
- A review paper will be prepared in 2017 which will address issues which have been identified as emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as well as other issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment.

### **Progress**

#### *1. Meeting the 2020 goal and beyond*

To respond to increased demand for improved data and capacity for the follow-up and review of progress made in implementing the SDGs and targets, United Nations Environment Programme launched in 2017 the project entitled "Chemicals and Waste in the 2030 Agenda – Building capacity in SDG follow-up and review in developing countries to minimize chemicals and waste risks across sectors", financed by the

United Nations Development Account. The project aims to enhance capacities in developing countries to collect data, monitor trends and identify related needs and action in support of evidence-based national decision-making and reporting under relevant international chemicals and waste agreements and the SDG global indicator framework. A global review of reporting requirements on chemicals and waste, including reviewing the current status of MEAs and the Strategic Approach reporting, related gaps and identifying methodological issues, has been conducted. An international expert group was established and tasked with developing and agreeing on metadata for SDG indicators related to chemicals and waste. Three selected project pilot countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon and Costa Rica) are currently being assisted in conducting national assessments of their chemicals and waste statistics, indicators, and reporting.

United Nations Environment Programme led the organization of two international workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 April 2016 and 11-13 February 2019 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshops brought together more than 100 stakeholders and was organized through collaboration with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariats and the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

United Nations Environment Programme, in addition to hosting the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, actively contributed to relevant international conferences and meetings, including the preparations for the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, mainly by providing updates on the substantive work undertaken through Global Chemicals Outlook-II.

The Strategic Approach secretariat continued to actively engage industry stakeholders to ensure their active involvement in the intersessional process and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Such engagement includes participation by the Strategic Approach secretariat in industry organized meetings. Under a collaborative agreement with ICCA signed in 2016 the Secretariat and ICCA co-organized a global workshop in September 2016 (Shanghai) on the role of chemistry in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with more than 100 participants from around the world.

The Strategic Approach secretariat has serviced the first and second meetings of the intersessional process on the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and will be supporting the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in Montevideo from 2-4 April 2019.

The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management prepared several documents for stakeholders considering SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 that provide policy analysis linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including documents: SAICM/IP.2/6 Gender and the sound management of chemicals and waste; SAICM/IP.2/8 Proposal on objectives in support of the 2030 Agenda and related milestones; SAICM/IP.2/9 Financing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

The Special Programme Secretariat organised the third meeting of the Executive Board (2-3 December 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya) at which 17 projects on institutional strengthening were approved, accounting for a total of US\$ 5,096,735. The countries for which projects were approved at this third meeting are: Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kiribati, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Uganda and Vietnam. The



fourth meeting of the Executive Board took place from 29-31 January 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland and 18 projects on institutional strengthening were approved, amounting to US\$ 4,703,849. The countries for which projects were approved during this meeting are: Albania, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Pakistan, Palau, State of Palestine, South Africa, Tunisia, Tajikistan and Vanuatu.

The Executive Board, the composition of which reflects a balance between donors and recipient countries, serving during the 2018-2020 term include a representative from: Zimbabwe (representing Africa), India (representing Asia and Pacific), Cuba (representing Latin America and the Caribbean), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (representing Central and Eastern Europe), Bahrain (representing LDCs and SIDS, and donor representatives from the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States of America.

The fourth application round under the Special Programme for Institutional Strengthening at a national level for chemicals and waste cluster is expected to be launched after the fifth meeting of the Executive Board to be convened tentatively in September/October 2019.

Contributions and pledges to the Special Programme Trust Fund received from 2015-2018 amount to US\$ 25,896,460 from the following donors: the European Union, Sweden, United States of America, Norway, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark and Belgium.

United Nations Environment Programme has developed the Global Chemicals Outlook-II. It presents a range of options for implementation of actions to reach relevant SDGs and targets up to and beyond 2020. It includes insights from the previous parts within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on opportunities for collaborative action to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste. The outlook will be launched at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly taking place between 11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

United Nations Environment Programme has held two workshops on the sound management of used lead acid batteries (ULABs) in Osaka, Japan, in November 2015, and in Guatemala in February 2016. As a follow-up to the Osaka workshop, a pilot workshop for lead battery recyclers was held in Jakarta in March 2016. The outcome from the Guatemala workshop was reported to the Latin America and the Caribbean Forum of Environment Ministers in March 2016, which urged countries to adopt measures towards sound recycling of ULABs.

#### *// Waste*

The Secretariat developed the project portfolio for chemicals, waste, and air quality for 2018 – 2021. A waste-to-resource approach and waste prevention are integrated in the project portfolio. This included developing a detailed project on environmentally sound waste management for implementation during 2018-2021.

The International Environmental Technology Centre provided knowledge and technical support for development of national and municipal level waste policies, strategies and action plans. In partnership with the Global Partnership on Waste Management, the Centre completed three assessments in 2017: (i) Global Mercury Waste assessment, (ii) Waste management in ASEAN Countries, (iii) Regional study on mercury waste management in the ASEAN countries. More work is planned for 2019.

The Secretariat is updating the Global Waste Management Outlook continually with targeted regional and

thematic outlook reports. A thematic outlook for mountain regions was published in December 2016. Regional waste management outlooks for Asia, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean were published in September 2017. Waste management outlooks for Africa were published in June 2018 during World Environment Day. An update to the Global Waste Management Outlook, published in 2015, is being planned for publication in 2019.

The Secretariat is updating the Global Waste management Outlook with regional and thematic outlook reports. Five waste management outlooks were published by December 2018:

- Mountain Regions Waste Management Outlook – Published in December 2016
- Asia Regional Waste Management Outlook – Published in September 2017
- Latin America and Caribbean Regional Waste Management Outlook – Published in September 2017
- Central Asia Regional Waste Management Outlook – Published in September 2017
- Africa Waste Management Outlook- published in June 2018

Based on the best available technologies, the Secretariat promoted the 3R approach (reduce, reuse, and recycle) for waste management through development of waste management strategies and action plans at the national and city levels. For example, it supported the Government of Kyrgyzstan in developing a national waste management strategy, including the decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Sustainable Management of Waste. Furthermore, a technology assessment methodology for sustainability assessment of technologies to enable decision makers to select the most appropriate technologies is incorporated in the Secretariat's work for 2018 – 2021.

### *III Chemicals*

United Nations Environment Programme prepared a report entitled: 'Analysis of Stakeholder Submissions on Sustainable Chemistry Pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7' which explores linkages between relevant cases submitted by stakeholders and the SDGs and targets. It finds that stakeholders consider sustainable chemistry to cut across the 2030 Agenda and play a key role in achieving Target 12.4 as well as other SDGs and targets.

The second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO-II) was prepared under the guidance of a Steering Committee, which provided oversight, strategic direction and guidance on all aspects of GCO-II development, as well as technical inputs, where applicable. The Steering Committee was composed of representatives from governments, non-government organizations (including civil society, industry/private sector, and academia) and inter-governmental organizations with participation from all regions and a wide range of stakeholders. The Summary for Policy Makers has also been finalized.

United Nations Environment Programme within the pharmaceutical pollutants agenda has prepared a mapping and scoping report on gaps and identified several aspects of concern including how biological activity may directly adversely affect non-target organisms, such as wildlife. United Nations Environment Programme is developing a page on its website to showcase the findings, gaps and information available.

A GEF medium-size project proposal in this area has been finalized and is under consideration by the GEF Secretariat. The project includes a component on emerging scientific issues including endocrine disrupting chemicals and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants.

## 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production

### Mandate

In **resolution 2/8, on sustainable consumption and production**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues and strengthens its work to facilitate coordinated efforts in all regions to ensure sustainable consumption and production and implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are relevant to sustainable consumption and production, including through continued efforts to provide support, analyses and data.
- Continue and strengthen the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate implementation of all programmes of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, taking into account national strategies, capabilities and priorities, including through:
  - a) Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships within and between the thematic programmes, including through strategic linkages with other global initiatives that showcase best practices, business cases, innovation and new business models for resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, and that facilitate implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
  - b) Broadening the funding resources for the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;
  - c) Establishing implementing measures for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in support of the SDGs;
  - d) Monitoring and evaluating progress towards implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns through the indicator framework;
  - e) Supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries for adequate measurement, follow-up and review of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including through the agreed indicators for Sustainable Development Goal targets related to sustainable consumption and production;
- Requests the Executive Director to initiate and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships within available resources to facilitate sharing and implementation of best practices of sustainable consumption and production across relevant sectors.
- Explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation in promoting sustainable urban development at the city level within the United Nations system and with other relevant stakeholders.
- Facilitate sharing of information and best practices within and between the programmes and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance good practices and generate multiple benefits of sustainable consumption and production in different areas.
- Continue to provide scientific and expert support through the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in cooperation with relevant organizations, programmes and forums, to increase understanding of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the different regions and the effectiveness of policies, programmes and strategies in promoting sustainable consumption and production.

### Implementation plan

United Nations Environment Programme as the acting Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns is developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SDG 12, among others.

A Global Survey on National Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies and Initiatives was undertaken by the Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework. This survey aims to develop a baseline of existing national sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives of governments worldwide and will help highlight opportunities for replication and scaling up efforts in this regard, as well as identify any capacity building needs.

As part of the current Programme of Work, United Nations Environment Programme will assist 15 countries in the design and implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement plans. United Nations Environment Programme is also involved in two European Commission funded projects related to Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labelling in 12 countries.

The Secretariat is empowering national focal points through capacity-building and sustainable consumption and production institutional strengthening and mainstreaming at both regional and national levels, as well as supporting the alignment of the regional sustainable consumption and production road maps to the Goals. These Focal Points are also being supported to engage in the 10 Year Framework, through sustainable consumption and production roundtables and enhanced coordination regional sustainable consumption and production initiatives such as SWITCH-Asia.

The six thematic and sectoral programmes of the 10 Year Framework gather more than 450 partner organizations, drawn from governments, business, civil society and institutions working on sustainable consumption and production, which have formed consortia to establish concepts for large-scale projects, defining work areas and capacity building needs

A new resource mobilization strategy for the 10 Year Framework has been developed to seek funds from a variety of sources for the Trust Fund and the Programmes. The Secretariat is overseeing its Trust Fund that allocates resources through calls for proposals.

10 Year Framework will report annually against indicators of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework, including against a number of Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

The Secretariat together with the Programme supports Member States and Stakeholders in identifying relevant indicators and data collection to measure progress on sustainable consumption and production in the context of multiple SDGs.

An Inter-Agency Coordination Group has been convened by the Secretariat, which agreed on action points to facilitate strengthened coordination for sustainable consumption and production and visibility of the 10 Year Framework and Production Patterns across different Agencies.

The Production Patterns Secretariat has upgraded its knowledge management and information sharing web platform, the Global Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearing House.

The Secretariat continues to provide scientific and expert support through the 10 Year Framework. It is collaborating with the International Resource Panel to promote science-based decision-making for

Sustainable Production and Consumption among Member States and Stakeholders. Cooperation with the Lifecycle Initiative is also in the plans.

### **Partners**

United Nations Statistics Department, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Resource Panel, World Tourism Organization, Sweden Statistics, European Commission, Public Procurement Authorities, Ministries of Finance and Environment, RMIT University Australia, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Stockholm Environment Institute, Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute, World Travel and Tourism Council, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Western Cape Government of South Africa, National Procurement Agency of Uruguay, Jordan's Royal Scientific Society Cleaner Production Center, Jordan Ministries of Environment, Jordan Ministries of Environment, Health, Labor, Industry and Trade, Amman Chamber of Industry, Small and Medium sized enterprises in Jordan, Ministry of Natural Protection of Armenia, small and medium sized enterprises in Armenia, EC Joint Research Center, Consumers International, Lifestyle Initiative.

### **Progress**

The review of the Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the mid-term review of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns both served to inform the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. With the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, 71 countries and the European Union reported on over 300 policies, regulatory, voluntary or economic instruments that supported the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns across their economies or within specific sectors. Since 2016, twelve countries have adopted a national strategy specifically dedicated to sustainable consumption and production.

United Nations Environment Programme has supported the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production objective within national development and regional cooperation strategies through its activities as Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes or through the regional SWITCH projects in Asia Pacific, Africa and the Mediterranean, funded by the European Union. In addition to national level capacity-building activities, this led to the strengthening of regional cooperation, and contributed to the formulation of new regional road maps for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Asia Pacific and Mediterranean regions and of the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy.

However, despite an increasing number of countries developing policies to promote sustainable consumption and production, implementation at scale remains a challenge. Global extraction of natural resources and emissions of greenhouse gases, which have been increasing since the 1970s, show no sign of slowing down. The One Planet network, formed to implement the 10 Year Framework, has been recognized as a key mechanism to fill this implementation gap and help countries achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12. This network is a multi-stakeholder partnership for sustainable development, composed of more than 600 partners and 130 national focal points, generating collective impact for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns through its six programmes.

On monitoring and evaluation, 250 partners of the One Planet network reported more than 1,800 activities at global (38 per cent), national (30 per cent) and regional (21 per cent) levels. Capacity-building has been a strong element of the network's activities since the adoption of the framework, providing a total of 919,260 person-days of training on various policies, practices and sectors.

Through knowledge sharing and science-based tools, the capacities of countries to design and implement science-based strategies on sustainable consumption and production has been strengthened. The secretariats of the 10-Year Framework, the Life Cycle Initiative and the International Resource Panel support the development of a National Hotspot Analysis tool, to help countries understand high-impact sectors and activities and define intervention areas to reduce those impacts. The Global Life Cycle Assessment Data Access network (GLAD), a multi-government initiative launched in 2018, has helped promote life cycle approaches worldwide.

The work of the International Resource Panel on sustainable management of natural resources led to an information document launched at the third United Nations Environment Assembly. Progress was reviewed at the 22nd meeting of the International Resource Panel in Shenzhen, China in June 2018 and a final version will be ready for the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

United Nations Environment Programme's work for the uptake of more sustainable business practices used a two-pronged approach. It enhanced capabilities of national business service providers to help businesses respond to growing demand for more sustainable products and services while building the motivation and capacity of policymakers and other key actors to develop enabling conditions for eco-innovation.

The new Strategy of the One Planet network for 2018 - 2022 was formally launched at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018. It defines a common vision and objectives with a clear way forward to exploit the diverse strengths of the network to achieve greater scale in activities to secure Sustainable Development Goal 12.

### **Challenges/financial implications**

Reports from the United Nations Secretary-General highlighted that SDG 12 on Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production is the least resourced of all the goals and is addressed in a fragmented way. The One Planet network reporting highlighted that efforts to implement sustainable consumption and production are mainly focused on the development of policies, tools and solutions. There is therefore a gap in the implementation of these policies and solutions. The fourth United Nations Environment Assembly provides an opportunity to address this implementation gap.

## **2/9 Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/9, on prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to within available resources and in cooperation with FAO and other relevant international organizations:

- Support the development of multi-stakeholder initiatives that focus on food waste reduction and prevention along the whole food value chain, including contamination at the production stage, food reuse, and diversion of food loss and waste from landfill disposal to other productive uses, making full use of existing partnership programmes related to food waste, and collaborate with other international organizations and institutions – for example, through the Think.Eat.Save initiative – as well as with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders such as those involved in the recently launched Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.
- Enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United

Nations agencies, with the purpose of supporting communities of practice that focus on food loss and waste reduction.

- Continue to participate in ongoing international initiatives to improve the measurement of food loss and waste, including those aimed at quantifying the socioeconomic and environmental benefits.
- Strengthen efforts, such as those being made by the International Environmental Technology Centre, to disseminate information on waste management in forums such as the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including information on the technologies available to prevent food loss and enable the reuse of food waste as a productive economic resource, and explore opportunities to collaborate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to expand use of the products of food loss and waste as feedstock for biogas generation and composting; UNEP/EA.2/Res.9 3.
- Continue to raise awareness of the environmental dimensions of the problem of food waste, and of potential solutions and good practices for preventing and reducing food waste and promoting food reuse and environmentally sound management of food waste, and to identify regional and subregional hubs of expertise, including by engaging the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme to advance these objectives.
- Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session on progress made in implementing the relevant provisions of the present resolution.

### **Implementation plan**

- To reinvigorate and relaunch the Think.Eat.Save campaign in partnership with the Communications Division in 2017.
- To continue leadership and advocacy efforts on achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3 by: a) ensuring that the Food Loss and Waste Protocol is approved as an indicator for target 12.3, with United Nations Environment Programme as the custodian, and in collaboration with technical partners, and b) co-leading Champions 12.3 with United Nations Environment Programme as a co-chair to raise awareness.
- Further increase United Nations-wide coherence on food loss and waste in cooperation with the FAO through joint activities in the context of the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme and linking Think.Eat.Save and Save Food.
- Deliver capacity building and implementation support to businesses and countries that commit to preventing and reducing food waste through the development of a community of practice. Sustainable Development Goal target: 12.3 - by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses.

### **Partners**

FAO, WRI, Waste Recourses Action Programme, Wageningen University, Champions 12.3, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, US EPA, WWF.

### **Progress**

#### *Multi-stakeholder engagement*

United Nations Environment Programme developed a joint initiative on Food loss and waste with FAO as a part of the One Planet Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

Development of the Food Waste Index in partnership with FAO and key stakeholders

SDG 12 targets cover a range of entry points and actors for promoting responsible consumption and production. This includes a series of indicators related to waste generation and management, including

Indicators 12.3.1.a and 12.3.1.b on Food loss and Food Waste. The Indicators are under the custodianship of two UN agencies: United Nations Environment Programme and FAO.

Target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

- Sub-indicator: 12.3.1.a Global Food Loss Index (Tier II, led by FAO)
- Sub-indicator: 12.3.1.b Food Waste (Tier III, led by United Nations Environment – Economy and Science Divisions)

The development of indicators takes place in the context of the Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), while the custodian agencies are tasked with leading the methodological development of the indicators, as well as overseeing the data collection and reporting process up to 2030. FAO has been developing a Food Loss Index to track progress towards 12.3.1.a and is now at Tier II status.

United Nations Environment Programme is overseeing the development of the Food Waste indicator methodology. This is at an earlier stage of development. The groups developing both indicators are working closely together, sharing information to minimize overlaps and gaps between the two indices. To support the development of the methodology for Indicator 12.3.1.b for tracking Food Waste, United Nations Environment Programme established an International Expert Group, comprised of experts from relevant UN agencies, national governments, research organizations, and academia/individual experts. This first Expert Group Meeting was held in Rome, Italy, on 30 – 31 October 2018. The draft methodology was presented for feedback and refinement from the Group, before being piloted with Member States.

#### *Communication*

The Think Eat Save website is now fully integrated with the unep.org web site and is up-to-date.

#### **Challenges/financial implication**

No extra funding has been made available to implement this resolution. Increased funding is needed for its effective implementation. A staff member specifically employed to focus on food loss and waste will be joining the Food Systems team in Paris in Q1/2 2019 to help with the lack of capacity.

## **2/10 Oceans and seas**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/10, on oceans and seas**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Include oceans-related aspects of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in United Nations Environment Programme activities, in cooperation and coordination with relevant global and regional forums, agreements and organizations, consistent with international law, and to report on that work to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session.
- Step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling intersectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning.
- Provide, upon request by the Member States, technical advice on the designation, establishment and active management of marine protected areas and on the application of other spatial management measures in cooperation with competent international and regional forums and organizations, including, as appropriate, multilateral environmental agreements and regional fisheries bodies
- Strengthen cooperation, coordination, communication and sharing of best practices and information



among the existing regional seas conventions and action plans across different geographical areas, in line with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017–2020; UNEP/EA.2/Res.10 16.

- Assess the effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme 2011 marine and coastal strategy and, on the basis of that assessment, submit a proposal for its updating, revision or replacement, for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session.

### **Implementation plan**

- United Nations Environment Programme is moving towards the implementation of the Regional Seas Directions.
- Synergies discussion will be organized between United Nations Environment Programme and key conventions, e.g. on Biological Diversity, Migratory Species and the International Whaling Commission and Basel Convention.
- Continue participation in UN-Oceans, and the Advisory Panel for the Fiji-led conference through convening and participation in the informal working groups, including submission of an official paper to the Prepcom and main conference. A side event on the regional seas to be organized.
- Implementation of the MOU with FAO, IMO, UNESCO, World Maritime University, International Atomic Energy Agency.
- Collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative and Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Collaboration with CBD (on marine spatial planning (MSP), mainstreaming and marine debris), CMS (marine debris and connectivity) and the International Whaling Commission (marine debris).
- Regional coordination mechanisms of SDG14 implementation (under the EC project) Marine Spatial Planning guidelines to be published; MSP experience sharing platform possibly combined with the Blue Solutions platform, integrated coastal zone management and governance work.
- Ecosystem based Management pilot activities (Mekong Delta); MSP pilots (Western Indian Ocean, Adriatic, West Africa).
- Marine Protected Area governance work is being developed.
- GCRP: exchange of tools and approaches for coral reef planning and management (e.g. replication of Green Fins, regional approach to Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) reporting, economic instruments).
- Sharing of climate change resilience data and planning tools through coral reef theme on Environment Live.
- Implementation of the MOU between United Nations Environment Programme and FAO.
- Implementation of the blue carbon project manual on ocean acidification monitoring.
- Internal process for review of the 2011 strategy to be started.

### **Partners**

UNESCO-IOC, FAO, IMO, GRID Arendal, Biodiversity-related conventions, Global Change Research Program, Global Partnership on Marine Litter, Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, Global Wastewater Initiative, Global Programme of Action, Regional Seas, 10YFP.

### **Progress**

The implementation of the resolution is on track. United Nations Environment Programme completed a project funded by the European Commission to contribute to the achievement of ocean-related SDGs through application of area-based management measures, and cross-sectoral cooperation and policy coherence. The information on marine protected areas governance was included in the United Nations

Environment Programme Foresight report. Collection and analysis of practical experiences of marine spatial planning is ongoing. United Nations Environment Programme participated in the Preparatory Committee of the development of an international legal binding instrument and submitted papers officially to the Committee. It continues its participation and input to the Intergovernmental Conference as a result of the preparatory committee.

United Nations Environment Programme established an international network of seagrass experts and scientists.

Opportunities arose to contribute to the discussion on sustainable blue economy, based on the activities in support of the resolution.

### **Challenges/financial implications**

Enhanced coordination is required in the implementation of the other ocean-related resolutions, particularly on marine plastics and coral reefs.

## **1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics**

## **2/11 Marine plastic litter and microplastics**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/11 and building on resolution 1/6, on marine plastic litter and microplastics**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Assist Member States, especially developing countries, with emphasis on SIDS and least developed countries, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national or regional measures and action plans; invites those in a position to do so to support such action; and recognizes that targeted measures in regions that are the largest sources of marine litter are especially important for the global reduction of marine plastic debris and microplastics.
- In close cooperation with other relevant bodies and organizations, to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the relevant international, regional and subregional regulatory frameworks and identifying possible gaps and options for addressing them, including through regional cooperation and coordination, and to present the assessment to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session.
- Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

### **Implementation plan**

Continue work on the assessment of the effectiveness of relevant subregional, regional and international governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics.

Opportunities include identifying concrete actions for the third United Nations Environment Assembly to consider moving the issue forward. The Global Marine Litter Campaign and Innovation Challenge also offer opportunities for broad engagement of stakeholders in particular private sector and universities.

An advisory group has been established to undertake the assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and sub-regional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic

litter and microplastics.

### **Partners**

Members of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, Advisory Group for the Assessment for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the private sector.

### **Progress**

In response to resolution 1/6, the Executive Director presented a report on marine plastic debris and microplastics to the second United Nations Environment Assembly (see UNEP/EA.2/5), which informed the development and subsequent adoption of resolution 2/11, on marine plastic litter and microplastics. Resolution 2/11 requested the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme to undertake the assessment outlined in the mandate above.

The Coordination Office, with guidance from an assessment advisory group consisting of 34 experts nominated by governments and major groups and stakeholders, produced the assessment “Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches” (UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/INF/3).

The assessment was presented at the third United Nations Environment Assembly, in December 2017, and will inform discussions at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting and the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly. The United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, meetings of an ad hoc open-ended group of experts to further examine the barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources, and requested the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme to provide secretariat support for that work. The expert group was to identify options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, in 2019. Two meetings were held in May and December 2018 and a summary document is available as working document 12 of the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly.

The Coordination Office supported the development and implementation of national and regional action plans on marine litter in partnership with the secretariats of the regional seas programmes. These included the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), the Cartagena Convention, the Abidjan Convention, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia.

Regional platforms for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter have been established in the Northwest Pacific, and the Wider Caribbean Region, hosted by the Gulf and Caribbean Institute and the Cartagena Convention secretariat, Mediterranean, Pacific and South Asia.

The platforms are mandated to identify stakeholders, define priority areas and work with the Coordination Office to better address marine litter within the region through regionally appropriate approaches while implementing regional action plans on marine litter.

The Coordination Office continued to implement awareness-raising activities, such as the five-year Clean Seas campaign, launched in February 2017. The campaign promotes improved plastics management through a drastic reduction in the use of single-use plastics and a global phasing-out of microplastics in personal care and cosmetics products. By 2018, more than 57 governments had joined the campaign and made substantial commitments. World Environment Day was held on 5 of June 2018 under the theme “Beat plastic pollution!”. The Sixth International Marine Debris Conference had 75 sessions, 400+ oral presentations and 170+ posters. It was co-hosted between United Nations Environment Programme and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA.

## **2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/12, on sustainable coral reefs management**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the United Nations Environment Programme to:

- Through the Coral Reef Unit and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations and initiatives, within the programme of work and available resources, to contribute to raising awareness through public outreach campaigns as well as the Global Environment Outlook assessment processes of the importance of the sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems.
- Within available resources and in cooperation with governments and stakeholders in a position to do so, to strengthen capacity-building, knowledge transfer and the development of relevant planning tools to avoid, minimize and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and human-based threats on coral reefs and related ecosystems, as well as to support the improvement and maintaining of the resilience of coral reefs and related ecosystems.
- Through the Coral Reef Unit and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, forums and initiatives, to, within available resources, assist governments, including those of small island developing States, least developed countries and other developing coastal States, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national and regional measures and action plans in this regard.
- In cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative, other relevant international organizations and other relevant partners to prepare, by 2018, an analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs.
- Support the further development of coral reef indicators and regional coral reef assessments as well as the preparation of a global report on coral reef status and trends through the International Coral Reef Initiative GCRMN, in collaboration with existing regional initiatives, and taking into consideration ongoing regional and global assessments.

### **Implementation plan**

- Actions requested will primarily be pursued through the United Nations Environment Programme Global Coral Reef Partnership, as well as through direct collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative.
- Collaboration will be expanded.
- In regard to outreach and gender, links will be built between United Nations Environment Programme’s work in the three marine-based resolutions adopted during the second United Nations Environment Assembly.

## Partners

GRID-Arendal, UNEP-WCMC, Intergovernmental, Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

## Progress

- The analysis of coral reef relevant global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms has been completed. Summary findings and recommended action are presented in UNEP/EA.4/23, the full final analysis report is provided in UNEP/EA.4/INF.6.
- The International Coral Reef Initiative approved an Implementation and Governance Plan for the GCRMN. The plan strengthens GCRMN as an ocean observation network and as a catalyst for reef monitoring, providing a credible mechanism in tracking coral reef health in the context of global and regional targets including the SDGs and global biodiversity framework. A global coral reef status report will be prepared for release in 2020. A regional report for the Pacific was launched in 2018.
- Reports on donor funding for coral reefs and the business case for investing in improving reef health have contributed to increased and more diversified funding for coral reef management.
- A range of outreach activities have been conducted in connection with the International Year of the Reef 2018.

Opportunities include addressing identified coral reef policy gaps. This may be done through a United Nations Environment Assembly mandated working group; through ongoing development of the post-2020 framework; and in the context of SDG implementation. A new funding mechanism for coral reefs such as a multi-stakeholder fund could be developed.

## Challenges/financial implication

Support for activities to implement resolution 2/12 have been provided through extrabudgetary contributions from France, Monaco, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America.

United Nations Environment Programme remains reliant on continued extrabudgetary support for efforts towards sustainable coral reef management.

## **2/13 Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication**

### Mandate

In **resolution 2/13, on sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- In partnership with Member States, continue to strengthen efforts led by the United Nations Environment Programme, including, among others, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Green Economy Advisory Services and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, that seek to:
  - (a) assess and monitor the status and trends of natural capital;
  - (b) consider integrating natural-capital-related data, information, and knowledge into policy development and decision-making;
  - (c) build capacity in Member States to apply, among others, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, consistent with Member States initiatives such as the Gaborone Declaration;
- In partnership with United Nations agencies and other partners to support countries, upon request and subject to availability of resources, in promoting:

- (a) awareness of natural capital and respect for nature, and their contribution to the sustainable development of countries and the well-being of their populations;
  - (b) capacity-building mechanisms for sustainable management of natural resources and natural capital accounting;
  - (c) public and private partnerships to promote sustainable management of natural capital, value addition and accounting, and reversing environmental degradation and biodiversity losses;
  - (d) research and development and technological innovations, as well as the technical capacity to sustainably manage national natural capital;
- Report on progress on the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly no later than in 2019.

### **Implementation plan**

In line with the 2030 Agenda, improve the capacity of national decision-makers to integrate natural capital accounting.

### **Progress**

#### *I. Inclusive Wealth Report 2018*

A country's inclusive wealth is the social rather than monetary value of all its capital assets, including natural capital, human capital and produced capital. United Nations Environment Programme led the preparation of the Inclusive Wealth Report 2018, which advances methods of measuring the base economic capital of all types.

The results of the IWR 2018 covering 140 countries indicate that:

1. Inclusive wealth (IW) in 135 countries was higher in 2014 compared to the level in 1990 and the global growth rate of IW was 44 per cent over the indicated period, which implies an annual average growth rate of 1.8 per cent. However, during the same period the annual global GDP growth was 3.4 per cent, which is close to twice that of the annual growth rate of IW.
2. The global growth level of each of the three capitals over the study period indicates that produced capital was growing at an average annual rate of 3.8 per cent and health and education induced human capital was growing at 2.1 per cent. Conversely, natural capital was decreasing at a rate of 0.7 per cent per annum.

The structure of capital at the global scale as of 2014 was composed of produced capital (21 per cent), human capital, and natural capital (20 per cent).

#### *II. Economics of land degradation neutrality in Asia*

In March 2018, United Nations Environment Programme produced a study for 44 Asian countries entitled Economics of Land Degradation Neutrality in Asia: Empirical Analyses and Policy Implications for the Sustainable Development Goals, which was launched at the Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Drought and Desertification. It assesses the efficiency of sustainable land management practices needed to achieve SDG 15.3. This report shows that on average Asia has been producing close to 2.5 billion tons of crops per year. Yet, an additional 1.3 billion tons of crops could be produced from the same land area, by simply preventing topsoil loss which in turn causes nutrient depletion and hence reductions in crop productivity.

#### *III. The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity for agriculture and food*

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Agri Food Report was launched at World Environment Day 2018 in New Delhi. TEEB<sup>1</sup> is a global initiative focused on drawing attention to the

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<sup>1</sup> [www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)

economic benefits of biodiversity including the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. TEEB presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the values of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The TEEB for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood<sup>2</sup>) study reviews the economic interdependencies between human (economic and social) systems, agriculture and food systems, and biodiversity and ecosystems. In doing so, it addresses the economic invisibility of many of these links while exploring how biodiversity and key ecosystem services deliver benefits to the agriculture sector and also beyond, itself being a key contributor to human health, livelihoods and well-being.

### **1/3 Illegal trade in wildlife**

### **2/14 Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products**

#### **Mandate**

**Resolution 2/14 on illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products** builds upon previous commitments made in **resolution 1/3, on Illegal Trade in wildlife**, and General Assembly resolution 69/134, urging Member States to take further steps at the national level and through regional and international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the supply, transit and demand related to the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

The resolution recognizes the important role that the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife can play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and in addressing illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife. This contributes to SDG 15.7 which seeks to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products. It also contributes to SDG 15.c, which is geared towards enhancing global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The United Nations Environment Assembly requests the Executive Director to continue to collaborate with CITES and United Nations entities to support Member States in implementing their commitments, including by, inter alia, cooperating with UNDP to analyze best practices in local community involvement in wildlife management as an approach to address unsustainable use and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

#### **Implementation plan**

- Operationalization of an Action Plan and the United Nations Environment Programme of Work which both work towards supporting the Member States in strengthening national, regional and global responses to illegal trade in wildlife.
- Provision of technical support and guidance to ensure that trade of timber is also included in further actions against illegal wildlife trade.
- United Nations Environment Programme will prepare a report that assesses best practices in local community involvement in wildlife management, drawn from diverse examples from around the world, and presents lessons from various approaches as possible solutions to the unsustainable use and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The assessment will provide a comprehensive understanding of local community involvement in wildlife management, providing a solid background

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<sup>2</sup> [www.teebweb.org/agrifood](http://www.teebweb.org/agrifood)

for a better-informed policymaking process and therefore contributing to integrate the role and involvement of local communities and indigenous groups in ensuring the sustainable use of wildlife and the prevention of wildlife crime.

- In the context of progressive development of international environmental law, United Nations Environment Programme intends to facilitate an experts' process to ascertain and document the current status of knowledge of crimes that have serious impacts on the environment, including illegal trade in wildlife, in their environmental impacts, and identify interlinkages between these crimes.
- On cooperation between the CITES Secretariat and United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Environment Programme will provide legal advice and technical assistance to the 17 countries that had been identified by the Secretariat as requiring priority attention with regard to related legislation. Such assistance includes legislative guidance for the drafting of national legislation with a special focus on optimal penalties to deter illegal wildlife trade.

### **Partners**

UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime.

### **Progress**

Building on the mandates received by the first and the second United Nations Environment Assembly, United Nations Environment made significant progress across the three interrelated components of United Nations Environment Programme's work on Illegal trade in wildlife: I. Supporting political momentum and policy dialogues on Illegal Trade in Wildlife, including through strengthening the evidence base for such dialogues and supporting implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements II. Providing support to legal, judicial and enforcement measures and promoting capacity development for rule of law III. Strengthening international efforts to develop and catalyse prevention and demand reduction communication strategies.

I. Policy support at national, regional and global scales United Nations Environment Programme is leading efforts in producing high-level scientific assessments on the environmental aspects of Illegal Wildlife trade to ensure the best-available information is provided to Member States. For example, reports were prepared to support the development of policies and strategies to address illegal wildlife trade and timber products, including an analysis of the environmental impacts of illegal wildlife trade and an analysis of best practices for community engagement in wildlife management decision-making. The "Wild life, Wild Livelihoods: Involving Communities in Sustainable Wildlife Management and Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade" report reviewed decades of experience on how unsustainable and illegal use and trade of wildlife can be effectively reduced through supporting and engaging local communities.

United Nations Environment Programme also worked with partners to implement regional and national level strategies on reducing illegal wildlife trade and timber products. For example, it has supported the Experts group that implements the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Wildlife trade. At the sub-regional level, it hosted the East African Community meeting on implementation on the anti-poaching strategy and is supporting the dissemination of the strategy. Through its regional office in Panama, United Nations Environment Programme organized the Mesoamerican Dialogue on the conservation of wild fauna and flora in Panama on 4-5 May 2018. Furthermore, United Nations Environment Programme hosted at its premises in Nairobi on 26-27 February 2018 the meeting of the CITES Working Group on Rural Communities, which was established by the CITES Standing Committee at its 69th Meeting (Geneva,



November 2017). United Nations Environment Programme also worked with partners to implement regional and national level strategies on reducing illegal wildlife trade and timber products.

II. Providing support to legal, judicial and enforcement measures and promoting capacity development for environmental rule of law. Ninety participants from 22 countries in the African and Asia Pacific regions advanced national efforts to strengthen legal frameworks and proposed inter-regional cooperation to dismantle criminal networks in the fight against wildlife crime at the Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 4 and 5 July 2017. The Symposium was the first major event convened by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products and was organized in partnership with the Global Wildlife Program and the United States Agency for International Development.

A Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime in Central and West Africa held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 11 and 12 September 2018 boosted efforts across Central and Western Africa to develop legal frameworks to combat wildlife crime and improve their implementation. Organized with the Inter-Agency Task Force, it gathered over 50 participants, including 38 country participants from the following 19 countries: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Republic of the Congo and Togo.

In 2018, United Nations Environment Programme released an analysis of the legal frameworks for licit and illicit trade in wildlife and forest products

Technical legal assistance was provided to Angola, Eritrea, the Gambia, Lesotho and Somalia on their CITES domestic legislation, to Vietnam on its national wildlife legislation, and to the Solomon Islands on its CITES regulations. Support was also extended to Argentina and to Paraguay in the legal review processes relating to the criminalization of wildlife offences. The InforMEA database (<https://www.informea.org/>), which provides access to information on multilateral environmental agreements, has been updated with CITES relevant laws from selected country in Asia and the Pacific. United Nations Environment Programme recognized and celebrated excellence in the fight against environmental crime in Asia at the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards held in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 September 2017 and 21 November 2018.

### III. Communication and Awareness Raising

In collaboration with Member States and other relevant international, regional and national actors, United Nations Environment Programme continued to lead the One UN global campaign, Wild for Life, in eight languages, to raise broad public awareness for the social, economic and environmental implications of the Illegal Trade in Wildlife. The campaign was launched in June of 2016. Since its launch, #WildforLife has:

- recruited over 30 celebrities, 16 which champion specific species
- reached 1.5 billion people and mobilized millions to participate in the process of making commitments and taking action to end the illegal trade in wildlife and forest products
- engaged more than 4.5 million individuals as evidenced by likes, shares or comments. Over 50,000 have found their kindred species and pledged
- collaborated with 20 NGO partners that are supporting the campaign

As part of its phase 2 plans to build and maintain momentum, #WildforLife will identify and raise awareness for emerging threats, advocate for wildlife friendly policy, add new species, and innovate new

user journeys to deepen the connections. Further, phase 2 acknowledges that to ensure a future for wildlife, there must be a higher level of commitment to robust, targeted and measurable social and behaviour change communication campaigns, at the national level. This should address the drivers and shift norms; thereby preventing and reducing demand and support stronger enforcement and legislation through a better informed public. To do this, United Nations Environment Programme has created an open-source Communication to Combat Wildlife Crime Toolkit for countries to develop and implement these outreach action plans. This tool was piloted in Vietnam and Malawi with support from United Nations Environment Programme.

## **2/15 Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/15, on Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- In partnership with governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and countries in post-conflict situations, including those affected by the unintended collateral impacts of related human displacement, at their request, for post-crisis environmental assessment and recovery.
- In partnership with the Director-General of UNESCO, governments and relevant stakeholders, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries within whose territory natural World Heritage Sites affected by armed conflict are located, including those affected by the environmental impacts of the illegal exploitation of natural resources, at those States' request.
- Continue interaction with the International Law Commission, inter alia by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict.

### **Implementation plan**

- Extend offers of support to the International Law Commission and UNESCO, developing joint work if appropriate and requested.
- Conduct awareness raising events on importance of environmental protection in conflict zones.
- Continue providing support to countries affected by the environmental impacts of armed conflict.

### **Partners**

International Law Commission, UNESCO, INTERPOL, Department of Political Affairs and OCHA.

### **Progress**

Ongoing work to address the environmental causes and consequences of conflict and providing assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and the unintended collateral impact of human displacement.

United Nations Environment Programme contributed to a pioneering MOOCs on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace developed by the SDG Academy in New York. Other partners included the Environmental Law Institute, the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, and the Universities of Columbia, Duke and California at Irvine. The course was held for eight weeks from March to May 2018 and

had 9,895 participants from 170 countries.

Through the Crisis Management Branch and United Nations Environment Programme/OCHA Joint Unit, 100 per cent of Member State requests for assistance have been met.

There has been ongoing assistance to Iraq, including pioneering debris clean-up work in Mosul that is also being expanded across Iraq.

In 2018, United Nations Environment Programme produced the first State of the Environment Report for South Sudan.

The creation of new standing capacity in Nairobi to expand delivery of the Programme of Work, including developing work in Somalia, Palestine, and work with United Nations partners.

### **Opportunities**

A growing recognition of multiple links between crisis and environmental management and emergency response raises awareness for the need for more systemic work on risk reduction.

Important partnerships with the African Union, Department of Political Affairs, and UNDP (e.g. a tripartite effort to provide the Security Council with information on climate risks)

The revamp of the Resident Coordinator system provides an opportunity to increase engagement in countries.

## **2/16 Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being**

### **Mandate**

**Resolution 2/16 on Mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being** notes both the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda and is linked primarily to SDG 15, as well as Goals 1, 2, 6, 14, and 16. It recognizes that conservation of biodiversity promotes sustainable development by advancing social well-being, economic growth and environmental protection. It calls on Member States and Parties to the CBD to align plans, programmes and commitments adopted in the framework of those international instruments with the principles and approaches set out in the 2030 Agenda to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in various sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others, which are interconnected, among other things, with food security, economic growth, human health, the improvement of living conditions and the enjoyment of a healthy environment.

### **Implementation plan**

- Provision of support to the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity, and its Secretariat as well as the Government of Mexico respectively, in preparing and negotiating outcomes of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties, that will revitalize political support to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources in the context of alignment with plan, programmes and commitments in line with the 2030 Agenda.
- Implement the input provided towards the preparation and adoption of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being.
- Advise and work in cooperation with national focal points of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in promoting the integrated approach in national policies and planning, in order to ensure biodiversity is given due prominence.

### **Partners**

Secretariats of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, national focal points, GEF, Government of Mexico, relevant major groups and stakeholders at the national level.

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme continued to provide support to the Parties to the CBD, and its Secretariat in implementing the outcomes of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties, and the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being. United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with national focal points of biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements, continued to catalyse political support and advisory services on promoting the integrated approach in national policies and planning to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources in the context of alignment with plan, programmes and commitments in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The integrated approach tool is being promoted to integrate biodiversity conservation and governance into development sectors, including health, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining and extractive industries among others, thus achieving multiple targets such as combating pollution and climate change adaptation. The interlinkages of biodiversity to SDGs 1,2,6, 14, 15 and 16, is being integrated to build stronger institutional coordination for biodiversity governance at the national and international levels.

A report was published on the, “Role of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”.

## **2/17 Enhancing the work of United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity- related conventions**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/17, on enhancing the work of United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Share information and to strive to align the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme with the decisions and resolutions of the respective conferences of the parties of the biodiversity-related conventions, and invites the respective conferences of the parties to be mindful of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme during their deliberations.
- Promote the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and communicate at all levels the importance of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as instruments for delivering coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, including by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into relevant sectors and policies.
- Cooperate with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to facilitate the interoperability of data, information, knowledge and tools and enhance sharing of information among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and United Nations Environment Programme.
- Strengthen coherent system-wide action on capacity-building for facilitating coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, inter alia, through cooperation within the EMG,

and in cooperation with members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, as appropriate, in particular through the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including through the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, and by linking the work of the United Nations Environment Programme with United Nations country teams to contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

- Facilitate collaboration among the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant United Nations bodies to contribute to the follow-up and review process of the biodiversity-related goals and targets of the SDGs by the HLPF.

### **Implementation plan**

- Sharing the resolution with the Governing Bodies of biodiversity related agreements and secretariats, prepare publications, stories and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and emphasize the importance of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as instruments for delivering coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.
- Production and distribution of guidance documents on the SDGs and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to promote synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs, including those on the Regional Seas, as well as ensuring that the SDGs are duly incorporated into their respective national planning, including the use of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.
- Increased cooperation and collaboration on improving efficiency of interoperability of data, information sharing, knowledge and tools using instruments that are part of the United Nations Environment Programme Information and Knowledge Management Initiative and Environment Live.
- Preparation of the Review Paper for the HLPF in 2017 which will reflect on the lessons learned from the HLPF that took place in 2016 as well as the Conference of the Parties and the Meetings of the Parties of the relevant biodiversity-related MEAs and related developments in regions and countries that took place in 2018.
- Consulting and advising on biodiversity-related MEAs when considering the results and implementation of the project on improving the effectiveness and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, exploring opportunities for further synergies and sharing the outcomes of the project.
- Participating in the preparatory process of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework to ensure readiness for active engagement in discussion before the 14th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity in 2019 with other partners and the related Governing and Subsidiary Bodies.

### **Partners**

Secretariats of the MEAs and their respective Governing Bodies, MEAs, Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, EMG Secretariat, Biodiversity Liaison Group Secretariat, national focal points, relevant major groups and stakeholders, national statistics offices, donors, GEF, the Government of Mexico.

### **Progress**

Through an established coordination mechanism, United Nations Environment Programme held at least three joint meetings with MEA focal points in 2017-2018 on the Programme of Work 2020-2021 to enhance synergies, share information, solicit inputs and align the Programme of Work 2018-2021 with the decisions and resolutions of the respective Conferences of the Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions. The meeting also enhanced the engagement of MEA secretariats at the United Nations Environment Assembly and the overall United Nations reform process.

United Nations Environment Programme promoted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Programme of Work supported the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans through its regional offices and projects as instruments for delivering coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, including by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into relevant sectors and policies.

United Nations Environment Programme also cooperated with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to facilitate the interoperability of data, information, knowledge and tools and enhance sharing of information from global and regional environmental assessments including through the InforMEA knowledgebase and the sixth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook;

To strengthen coherent system-wide action on capacity-building for facilitating coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, United Nations Environment Programme, continues to cooperate with the EMG, and the Biodiversity Liaison Group on the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including by linking the biodiversity governance agenda with United Nations country teams to contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

United Nations Environment Programme is providing programmatic support at the national level and regional levels on the integrated approach to strengthen the biodiversity-related MEAs goals alignment with the SDGs, their indicators and policies, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies to contribute to the HLPF.

Among the outputs of the project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies was a Synergies Source Book, technical guidance for national focal points and case studies which all received positive feedback. The project's achievements led to a new project on Synergies for Biodiversity under the Treaties Synergies Programme.

The United Nations Environment Programme engagement in collaborative activities under the Synergies for Biodiversity project has contributed to enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. The collaboration has produced three compendiums of guidance for (1) achieving synergies at the national level; (2) capturing, managing and using data and information and; (3) global key data and information sources. They will support the road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020 under supervision of the IAG on synergies established by Secretariat of the CBD, inputs to the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

United Nations Environment Programme and the IUCN also prepared a survey on capacity development, synergies across the biodiversity related conventions and their enhanced implementation. The project led to the development of an online synergies database (DART Tool) hosted by InforMEA.

United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Environment WCMC contributed in December 2018 to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with a proposed strategy on "Towards Success in Beijing for a New Deal for Nature".

There is wide interest from the MEA Secretariats the Biodiversity Liaison Group and donors and national

focal points to continue these collaborative efforts on Biodiversity MEA synergies.

### **Challenges/financial implications**

Long term funding needs to be secured.

## **2/18 Relationship between United Nations Environment Programme and the MEAs for which it provides the secretariat**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/18, on the relationship between United Nations Environment Programme and the MEAs, the United Nations Environment Assembly** requested the Executive Director to:

- In consultation with the secretariats of the United Nations Environment Programme-administered MEAs, develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, such as an MOU between the Executive Director and the Conferences of the Parties or other relevant governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme-administered MEAs, for their consideration.
- Waive programme support costs on voluntary contributions
- Prepare information for the governing bodies of the MEAs on the implications of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards for their operational budgets.
- Foster mutually supportive programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the MEAs in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and make available relevant scientific information important to their work.

### **Implementation plan**

- United Nations Environment Programme will begin consultations with the secretariats of the United Nations Environment Programme-administered MEAs in the first quarter of 2017 to determine the most appropriate template of options for the provision of secretariat services.
- An update on all the actionable requirements of this resolution will be presented to the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and a final report of the same to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019.

### **Partners**

Secretariats of MEAs for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat or secretariat functions.

### **Progress**

The Executive Director was requested to develop a list of administrative services provided, in consultation with the secretariats of the MEAs, Protocols and Conventions. Accordingly, United Nations Environment Programme issued on 29 March 2018, a list of services that it provides to these bodies. The range of services allow flexibility and provide suitable options. In accordance with the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolutions 1/16 and 2/18, the provision of administrative services is based on the principle of cost recovery and in line with Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The services include policy guidance and operational administrative instructions that govern the United Nations. The catalogue of services covers budget & finance, human resources, legal, information technology, security and safety and other general administrative services such as travel, procurement and asset management.

## **2/19 Midterm review of the programme for the development and periodic review of environment law (Montevideo programme iv)**

### **Mandate**

**In resolution 2/19, on the mid-term review of the Montevideo Programme IV on Environmental Law**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Prioritize action on environmental law during the remaining period of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law to support delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consistent with the environmental objectives, and public health benefits such as those related to air quality, identified in recent United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council resolutions and decisions, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations of the meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law on the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law.
- Produce guidance to Member States for effective legislative, implementation and enforcement frameworks in a manner consistent with Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability and, as appropriate, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/13 on implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.
- Prepare (i) an assessment of the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and (ii) proposals for the work by the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020; provide an opportunity for comment on the aforementioned assessment and proposals by relevant actors who are undertaking the implementation of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, including major groups and relevant stakeholders; and submit the assessment and proposals for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its session to be held before the end of 2019.

### **Implementation plan**

- A *note verbale* was sent out inviting all member States to nominate national focal points by end of December 2016. United Nations Environment Programme is working towards the establishment of a steering committee of selected national focal points to support more closely the implementation and evaluation of the Montevideo Programme.
- To enhance coordination with governments and their focal points, United Nations Environment Programme is planning the following activities: involving the focal points in the implementation of environmental law related activities, in particular with respect to the priorities identified by the resolution and the outcome of the midterm review of the Programme; organizing two meetings of the Montevideo steering committee and one meeting of all national focal points to monitor the implementation of the Programme; plan for the final evaluation of the programme; and develop a proposal for the work of United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental law in 2017 and 2018; organize one intergovernmental meeting to validate the final evaluation of the Programme and a proposal for the work by United Nations Environment Programme in the areas of environmental law in mid-2019.

### **Partners**

MEA Secretariats, Montevideo Programme national focal points.



## **Progress**

In its resolution 2/19 on the midterm review of the fourth Montevideo Programme, the United Nations Environment Assembly invited Member States to designate national focal points for exchanging information and building capacities in order to collaborate with and guide the United Nations Environment Programme in strengthening the application of the Montevideo Programme and to monitor and evaluate its implementation. To this date, over 90 Member States have nominated national focal points.

United Nations Environment Programme is therefore undertaking an open and all-inclusive process for the final evaluation of the fourth Montevideo Programme. In this process, governments, United Nations bodies, other relevant intergovernmental bodies and organizations, secretariats of the relevant MEAs, expert institutions, academia and civil society have been invited to submit to United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the implementation of the Programme, including their experiences, progress or challenges in one or more of the specific programme areas of Montevideo Programme IV, and views concerning important and emerging issues in the field of environmental law.

The final assessment of the Programme will serve as the basis for discussing proposals for the work by United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020. The final assessment and the proposals will be presented at the United Nations Environment Assembly.

## **Challenges/financial implications**

The biggest challenge was to identify resources to organize the two meetings of Montevideo focal points in September and November 2018. Resources were finally identified after an effective mobilization effort by the Law Division.

## **2/21 Sand and dust storms**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/21, on sand and dust storms**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Support Member States, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners, in addressing the challenges of sand and dust storms through the identification of relevant data and information gaps, policy measures and actions, building on the “Global assessment of sand and dust storms” under General Assembly resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015, and in connection with the ongoing efforts on air quality monitoring and assessment in response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7.
- Engage with all relevant United Nations entities to promote a coordinated approach to combating sand and dust storms globally.

### **Implementation plan**

Provide data and information on the impacts and possible solutions for sand and dust storms.

### **Partners**

WMO, UNCCD, University of Arizona.

## **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme actions since December 2017 on sand and dust storms (SDS) pursuant to resolution 2/21, include:

- Preparing the Secretary General’s report on implementing General Assembly Resolution 72/225 for General Assembly consideration at its 73rd session.
- Establishing an inter-agency network to enhance coordination on SDS, to ensure a more coherent approach to tackling SDS issues at global, regional and national levels.
- Supporting international meetings on SDS, including a high-level interactive dialogue at UN Headquarters in New York, on 16 July 2018, as called for in General Assembly Resolution 72/225, an SDS technical guide write-shop and discussions on SDS collaboration between UN Agencies, countries and key partners in Geneva, 1-4 October 2018.
- Co-launching, with WHO and World Meteorological Organization, a global coalition on health, environment and climate change in May 2018, with SDS issues constituting an important component.

## **Challenges/financial implications**

Not least of these is a lack of available financial resources to conduct SDS activities, so that the identification of potential donors and the mobilization of sufficient resources is key to its success.

United Nations Environment Programme can rise to the challenges by maximizing the opportunities offered by the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21. The inter-agency network on SDS proposed by United Nations Environment Programme could focus on the harmonization and coordination of ongoing and planned initiatives from different relevant entities of the UN system.

## **2/23 Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/23, on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to prepare a report highlighting the challenges of managing multiple trust funds and to propose steps that could be taken to reduce the administrative burden of maintaining these trust funds. The United Nations Environment Assembly approved the extension of a number of trust funds in support of United Nations Environment Programme’s Programme of Work; and noted and approved trust funds on regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds.

### **Progress**

An information note highlighting the challenges of managing multiple trust funds was submitted at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly which noted the need to accelerate the closure of inactive trust funds. In order to use the outstanding balances in support of the unanimously agreed programme of work and as a first step for addressing the administrative burden of maintaining multiple trust funds.

## **2/24 Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands**

### **Mandate**

In **resolution 2/24, on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands**, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to:

- Contribute to strengthening existing global partnerships that promote a shared vision of resilient landscapes for resilient people and strengthen coordination in the fight against desertification and land degradation.
- Provide support to the UNCCD to facilitate the sharing of best practices for the development and implementation of strategic frameworks and early warning systems for enhanced disaster risk management, sustainable land management, land restoration and resilience to drought.
- In partnership with Member States and United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to explore whether there are gaps in the current provision of technical support and environmental and socioeconomic assessments of grasslands, rangelands, soil erosion, land degradation, land tenure security and water security in drylands, including the ongoing assessments of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in order to better understand the implications for sustainable livelihoods, while taking into consideration local and indigenous knowledge and technologies.
- In partnership with governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society, pastoralists, communities and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the strengthening of the science-policy interface on sustainable pastoralism and rangelands.
- Contribute to raising global awareness of sustainable pastoralism and rangelands, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, relevant conventions and partners.
- Consider hosting the Regional Coordination Unit for Africa in order to strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD on the African continent, subject to available funding from the Convention.
- Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly on progress in implementing the present resolution.

### **Implementation plan**

- Foster enhanced collaboration with the UNCCD and the IUCN on all issues addressed in the resolution.
- Pre-invest resources to develop the GCF and the GEF projects jointly with the abovementioned partners and key member countries, to address the issues raised in the resolution.
- Update on progress on the gap-assessment study planned for the third United Nations Environment Assembly.
- Gap assessment completion planned on or before the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly.

### **Progress**

United Nations Environment Programme produced a report entitled, "A case of benign neglect: Knowledge gaps about sustainability in pastoralism and rangelands". It will be launched on 12 March at a special ministerial breakfast event, co-organized by United Nations Environment Programme, FAO and WHO.

[http://dev.grida.no/gap/GAP\\_report\\_print.pdf](http://dev.grida.no/gap/GAP_report_print.pdf).

A summary of the report is being translated into six languages for the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly. A draft presentation in English (PowerPoint and story map formats) that communicates the gap analysis and recommendations is ready and will be finalized before the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly. A poster on the knowledge gap on rangelands and pastoralism is being prepared and will be displayed at the Science Division booth during the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly. All products, including the graphics and the report will be available from the website.

## **2/25 Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean region**

### **Mandate**

Resolution 2/25 on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region emphasizes that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential for sustainable development. The United Nations Environment Assembly encourages countries to continue their efforts to implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and strengthen environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels. The resolution also notes the progress made in the Latin American and Caribbean region to advance the development of a regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

### **Implementation plan**

- Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was adopted. Sixteen countries have signed it already and their working on their ratification instruments. Meanwhile a number of activities have been initiated in the region to promote the treaty and prepare for the implementation.
- In 2019 a number of activities for promoting the United Nations Environment Programme Bali Guidelines are planned. United Nations Environment Programme will continue engaging governments, the Judiciary, Prosecutors, Investigators, Institutions of Higher Learning to enhance the application of Rio Principle 10.

### **Partners**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

### **Progress**

16 countries have already signed the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Funding from regional partners in the Latin American region will enable United Nations Environment Programme to work with countries to facilitate the process of implementation of the regional agreement once it enters into force.

United Nations Environment Programme provided support to the Latin American and Caribbean negotiation process which ended on 4 March 2018, with the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental matters (Escazù Agreement).

The regional agreement is the result of negotiations by the countries of the region that began in 2014. Two subregional workshops organized by United Nations Environment Programme and a number of partners, served as starting point by identifying best practices, gaps and challenges in implementing the Bali Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental matters adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in 2010.

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean seeks to guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of

every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.

It is the only binding agreement stemming from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the first regional environmental agreement of Latin America and the Caribbean and the first in the world containing specific provisions on environmental human rights defenders.

The Regional Agreement was opened for signature by the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on 27 September 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, coinciding with the annual General Debate of the United Nations Assembly. As of January 2019, the following countries had signed the Agreement: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, Dominican Republic.

United Nations Environment Programme is working with ECLAC to promote the signature and entry into force of the agreement, as well as its early implementation by those countries in the region. This includes support for the development of an Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin American countries which aims at fostering knowledge, dissemination and implementation of rights of access ([observatoriop10.cepal.org](http://observatoriop10.cepal.org)).

#### **Challenges/financial implications**

More resources are needed to create awareness and further enhance access to information on the application of Principle 10. More work is also needed on how to effectively engage the public in decision-making especially as it relates to the processes of developing legislation and in Environmental Investigation Agency processes.