

QUARTERLY REPORT to the 149th Meeting of the COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTH ISSUE – DECEMBER 2019 TO JANUARY 2020



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FOREWORD

The year concluded with the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25) in Madrid, and I am pleased to report that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) made several substantive contributions to this important event. The *Emissions Gap Report 2019* was widely referenced and was the defining evidence that we need ambition and urgent action. At COP 25, we drew attention to a menu of opportunities available for countries as they strengthen climate plans. We contributed to several high-level engagements, including the High Ambition Alliance on Chemicals and Waste, green finance and nature-based solutions, and put forth options for decarbonizing critical sectors, including mobility, power generation, and buildings and construction.

Our contributions at COP 25 were complemented by a newly released report from the International Resource Panel that calls for greater attention to circularity, sustainable consumption and production, and resource efficiency. The report, *Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future*, is also an important reminder of the importance of individual action for climate by highlighting that the largest reductions of life-cycle emissions can be achieved by changing patterns of vehicle use such as ride-sharing or car-sharing. The measures database released by UNEP meanwhile points to some progress, with a 106 per cent increase in green finance measures globally since 2015.

I am pleased to also report that just a few months after the launch of the [Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance](#), with 12 of the world's largest pension funds and insurers committing to decarbonizing their investments by 2050, total assets under management has doubled to almost US\$3.9 trillion.

While it is clear that we did not get as far as we would have wished at COP 25, our success in 2020 will depend on the strength of our partnerships and collaborations to take ideas and science to scale. In this regard, I am delighted to report that we began the new year with technical consultations with the United Nations Development Programme. Over two days, colleagues from both agencies took a deep dive into three entry points, or "promises," on climate, nature and the green economy. I look forward to reporting back to Member States about this collaboration over the course of the year.

And, of course, in the months ahead, we look forward to similar cooperation with our friends in other United Nations agencies, including our partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization on the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

Finally, my congratulations to colleagues at the Convention on Biological Diversity, which released the zero draft of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in mid-January. UNEP remains committed to supporting Member States and the Convention Secretariat to deliver an ambitious, measurable and high-impact post-2020 framework that will enable us to stop, and begin to reverse, biodiversity and ecosystem loss. Extreme events in the last few months, from the wildfires in Australia to flooding in East Africa, are testimony to the perils of our inaction on climate change and nature loss.

We look forward to your collective feedback on the snapshot of results presented here towards strengthening our programme of work to deliver effectively on our mandate in the super year for nature and humanity.

Inger Andersen,
Executive Director, UNEP



INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report updates the Committee of Permanent Representatives on significant political and regional developments related to UNEP's work as well as on management issues in UNEP. It covers the period from 1 December 2019 to 31 January 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ Environmental catastrophes over the last few months come on the backdrop of COP 25 and are some of the all too frequent reminders of the urgent need for radical action and transformative change to safeguard a healthy environment for future generations.
- ➔ Worldwide, the consequences of environmental mismanagement are acknowledged as an issue of major concern. The World Economic Forum's *The Global Risks Report 2020*, which identifies the top threats facing our world, places environmental risks in all top five positions by likelihood and in three of the top five positions by impact.
- ➔ The *Emissions Gap Report 2019*, released for COP 25, once again highlights the need for much higher ambition and shows a fast-closing window of opportunity. It calls for dramatic strengthening of the nationally determined commitments in 2020: countries must increase these ambitions threefold to achieve the well below 2°C goal and more than fivefold to achieve the 1.5°C goal.



SECTION 1: Significant Global and Regional Developments

GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE ACTION

UNEP actively engaged in the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25), held under the Presidency of Chile in Madrid, Spain, from 2–15 December 2019.¹ The Executive Director led the UNEP delegation.

In the lead-up to COP 25, UNEP released its flagship *Emissions Gap Report 2019*,² providing clear evidence that we need more ambition and more urgent action. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, despite scientific warnings and political commitments. This calls for dramatic strengthening of the nationally determined commitments in 2020: countries must increase their ambitions threefold to achieve the well below 2°C goal and more than fivefold to achieve the 1.5°C goal. The report was widely referenced at COP 25 and featured prominently in interventions by parties and stakeholders.



United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director at the COP25, 2-15 December 2019, Madrid, Spain (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Communications Division)

UNEP and its partners also released several other reports, including:

- ➔ *Resource Efficiency and Climate Change: Material Efficiency Strategies for a Low-Carbon Future*,³ which argues that using fewer materials like biomass, cement, fossil fuels, metals, non-metallic minerals, plastics and wood to provide the same level of well-being is a key opportunity for the world to move towards the 1.5°C goal set by the Paris Agreement.

- ➔ The *Production Gap Report 2019*⁴ is a first assessment of countries' plans and outlooks for fossil fuel production and a discussion of what is necessary to align this production with climate objectives. The report represents a collaboration of several research and academic institutions and experts and provides a critical insight into climate change negotiations. It was launched in November 2019 in the run-up to COP 25 and complements the *Emissions Gap Report 2019* by highlighting that the global track to extract coal, oil and gas is making climate goals hard to reach.

- ➔ The *2019 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction*⁵ provides an update on drivers of CO₂ emissions and energy demand globally since 2017, along with examples of policies, technologies and investments that support low-carbon building stocks. The buildings and construction sector accounted for 36 per cent of energy use and 39 per cent of energy and process-related CO₂ emissions in 2018, 11 per cent of which resulted from manufacturing building materials and products such as steel, cement and glass.

COP 25 left several key areas (carbon markets, loss and damage, climate finance) of the Paris Agreement yet to be completed. While some 80 countries committed to higher level ambition, the overall ambition level is not sufficient to close the emissions gap. The next major milestone is the end of September 2020, when countries are to submit their enhanced nationally determined commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the preparatory deliberations for COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Meanwhile, COP 25 adopted a five-year gender action plan.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Under the Sustainable Development Goals Global Monitoring System, UNEP has developed the international standard methodologies for the 26 Goals indicators for which it is a custodian agency. Of these 26 indicators, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the Goals reviewed the methodologies and reclassified 22 of them from Tier 3 (no internationally established methodology or standards are available for the indicator) to Tier 2 (internationally established methodology and standards are available). This is a major milestone for the organization. UNEP has now shifted its focus to enabling uptake of the indicator methodologies by countries, capacity-building in developing countries on environmental statistics and accounting, and collecting of country data for reporting on the indicators.

1 <https://unfccc.int/cop25>

2 <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30797/EGR2019.pdf>

3 <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/resource-efficiency-and-climate-change-material-efficiency-strategies-low-carbon>

4 <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/production-gap-report-2019>

5 <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/2019-global-status-report-buildings-and-construction-sector>

The Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals initiative⁶ was launched in September 2019 by UNEP and the Germany Ministry of Environment during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York. The initiative is geared towards stepping up the implementation of the Goals by fostering knowledge exchange on innovative and successful practices from different countries; facilitating institutional learning; enhancing capacity of policymakers, businesses, and civil society to shift towards circularity; and strengthening UNEP's ability to create and bring change in the context of United Nations reforms. To jumpstart its work, the initiative conducted a design workshop on 2–3 December 2019⁷ to develop the operational modalities of the initiative.

UNITED NATIONS UPDATES OF RELEVANCE TO UNEP

General Assembly adopts 47 resolutions on sustainable development

On 19 December 2019, the General Assembly adopted 47 resolutions aimed at bolstering nations' efforts to reach agreed sustainable development goals in the context of constrained multilateralism. The resolutions range from promoting investments or agricultural technology for sustainable development to tackling climate change, biodiversity loss or sand and dust storms to the resolution on the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.⁸

The General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development⁹ reiterated its decision to convene a summit on biodiversity at the level of heads of state and government before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2020. This summit will highlight the urgency of action, at the highest levels, in support of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Modalities of the summit, including its date and place, will be negotiated by March 2020 in New York and co-facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Italy to the United Nations.

General Assembly adopts programme budget for 2020

On 27 December 2019, the General Assembly adopted the programme budget for 2020¹⁰, including the regular budget allocation for UNEP. Operative paragraph 33 notes the funding gap for the provision of conference services, information technology and communication services, and

security and medical services at sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly. It requests the General Assembly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in its resolution 73/260 "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme," to make proposals on the Environment Assembly's funding as appropriate.¹¹

United Nations Development System reform update

In the framework of the United Nations Development System reform and in accordance with the mandate given by Member States to review work in multi-country office settings, the Secretary-General created an inter-agency working group, co-facilitated by UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme.

A set of recommendations from the working group will be presented by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Economic and Social Council to promote a more tailored United Nations support to countries; an enhanced physical presence; an increase in policy and technical resources to address development needs; a deeper engagement in global and regional intergovernmental forums; strengthened data capacities; better access to finance; and South-South and triangular cooperation to better meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and implement the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway priorities.

In the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, UNEP has contributed to the development of the seven companion pieces for the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidelines essential for the United Nations country teams. The companion pieces include guiding principles; common country analysis; programme design, management and evaluation; configuration of country teams capacities; humanitarian development peace collaboration; financing and funding; and economic transformation. After review by the Deputy Secretary-General's Office, the companion pieces should be approved at the Development Group principals meeting in May 2020, in Nairobi.

Human rights

UNEP supported the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to prepare a report¹² describing good practices of Member States in recognizing the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and implementing the procedural and substantive elements of that right. The report will be presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2020.

Seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

In 2020, the United Nations celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary under the theme "Shaping our Future Together".

6 <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/event/launch-go-sdgs-initiative-creating-opportunities-inclusive-and-sustainable-economies>

7 <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/global-opportunities-sustainable-development-goals-go4sdgs>

8 UNGA resolution A/RES/74/222 available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/222>

9 UNGA resolution A/RES/74/221 available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/221>

10 In UNGA resolution A/RES/74/264 available at <https://www.un.org/en/ga/74/resolutions.shtml>

11 <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28512/Decision%204-1.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

12 <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/53>

As stressed by the United Nations Secretary-General, this anniversary will not only celebrate past achievements but also look ahead. In support of this, a global campaign entitled UN75¹³ was launched on 2 January 2020; its aims are to build a global vision for 2045, the United Nations' centenary; increase understanding of the threats to our future; and drive collective action to realize that vision.

Throughout 2020, UN75 will involve as many people as possible in formal and informal dialogues. Climate change is among the five major challenges¹⁴ that will be addressed. The views and ideas generated will be presented by the United Nations Secretary-General to world leaders and senior United Nations officials on 21 September 2020 at a high-level event to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary.

UNEP intends to fully support the UN75 campaign and encourages Member States, civil society and our partners to organize dialogues on key environmental challenges and solutions as a contribution to the celebration and the building of our future.



MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

Following the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held in August 2019, the co-chairs and the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity were requested to prepare a zero draft text of the framework for consideration at the second meeting of the working group to be held on 24–29 February 2020, in Kunming, China. It was released to the public¹⁵ on 13 January 2020. The zero draft¹⁶ follows a theory of change methodology to help plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the impacts of actions taken.

Montreal Protocol

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, entered into force on 1 January 2019. One year later, by 20 January 2020, it has been ratified by 92 parties. Full implementation of the Kigali Amendment would forestall up to 0.4°C of global warming by the end of the century while protecting the ozone layer.

Carpathian Convention

The tenth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee was held on 11–13 December 2019, in Budapest, Hungary. The Committee is responsible for drafting the political decisions of the Carpathian Convention, and one of the main topics discussed was the accession of the European Union as a party and the related next steps, including high-level meetings between the ministers of the Carpathian countries and the European Union Commissioner for the Environment. The Committee recommended further engagement of the Carpathian Convention in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as it can play an important role in implementing the framework as the instrument translating global biodiversity goals at the regional and local levels. The relevant documents are available on the Carpathian Convention website.¹⁷

Basel Convention

On 5 December 2019, the Ban Amendment¹⁸ to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal entered into force.¹⁹ The Ban Amendment prohibits the export of hazardous waste from developed countries (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, European Union Member States, Liechtenstein) to developing countries. It is an achievement of international efforts to ensure that those countries with the capacity to manage their hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner take responsibility for them, while allowing other parties who wish to do so to receive wastes as raw materials for recycling or recovery industries.

Barcelona Convention

The 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (COP21) was held on 2-5 December 2019 in Naples, Italy. The meeting adopted important decisions to address the plight of Mediterranean ecosystems. A groundbreaking roadmap for a proposal to designate the Mediterranean as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides, may pave the way for a low-Sulphur future in the Mediterranean, one of the busiest shipping routes in the world. COP 21 adopted decisions on integrated coastal zone management, biodiversity and marine protected areas and the reduction and prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources. It requested UNEP/ Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to prepare new legally binding measures to address marine litter, wastewater and sludge management.

¹³ <https://www.un.org/UN75>

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/un75/issue-briefs>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/UNBiodiversity/status/1216507109690441729>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/efb0/1f84/a892b98d2982a829962b6371/wg2020-02-03-en.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/tenth-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-implementation-committee.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PublicAwareness/PressReleases/BanAmendmententryintoforce/tabid/8120/Default.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HorqSUpr94E>

AFRICA

Amplifying the Voices of Africa's Young People for the Environment

Through the World Youth Forum, held on 15 December 2019 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of Egypt, supported Africa's youth to showcase their work on climate action in the region. The findings of the Africa edition of the sixth *Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) for Youth*²⁰ were discussed at the event. The report's messages reflect the voices of young people from various backgrounds on several areas at the centre of global and regional environmental discourse.

It was noted at the Forum that it is imperative for policymakers and other stakeholders to work closely with young people to seek solutions and drive actions for the current environmental emergencies in Africa. Young people constitute a significant proportion of Africa's population and are the foundation of future generations that will experience the impacts of our current environmental decisions. They are also pivotal in the creation of transformational leadership for the environment that will benefit people and the planet.



Mr. Olumide Idowu, one amongst the thirteen GEO Lead Authors, Africa edition of the sixth *Global Environment Outlook for Youth*; at the World Youth Forum, 15 December 2019, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/Africa Office)

Enhancing Participation of Subnational Authorities in Environmental Protection

To accelerate interventions against plastic waste and air and water pollution, the Government of Kenya and UNEP jointly convened a forum in Mombasa, Kenya, on 17–19 December, in which more than 47 subnational authorities participated.

It was agreed that these challenges and the resulting policy commitments would be tackled at the local level in Kenya, including domestic-level implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions on pollution and pollution-related multilateral environmental agreements for better environmental and socioeconomic outcomes. The subnational authorities stressed that going forward, particularly in this super year for nature and the forthcoming Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, governments and other players should recognize and create space for the involvement of subnational-level stakeholders.

Positive progress in turning the tide on single-use plastics waste

UNEP has been working closely with governments across Africa to explore solutions to reduce the mounting plastic waste in a manner that benefits nature and people. These include efforts to reduce and eventually abolish single-use plastics, coupled with robust circular economy interventions.

Part of these collaborative interventions led to a legislative process in Senegal that resulted in the tabling of a bill outlawing single-use plastics in various phases. Senegal's National Assembly passed the bill in the first week of January 2020. This decision was preceded by the Circular Economy Conference held in Dakar in July 2019. The *Africa Waste Management Outlook (2018)*²¹ reports that by the year 2025, Senegal will be one of 10 African countries most affected by the proliferation of plastic waste if no suitable interventions are instituted.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

GEO-6 in China

On 10-11 January 2020 in Shanghai, China, UNEP organized a meeting with three leading Chinese universities (Peking University, Tongji University and the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences). It was the culmination of an innovative approach to environmental education that resulted in the development of a GEO-based course curriculum that will be delivered in these universities in 2020. This pioneering initiative will disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge to university students in the top three institutions of higher education in the country and has the potential to be replicated globally.

EUROPE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Air Quality

On 12 December 2019, UNEP participated in the special session marking the fortieth anniversary of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution²² in Geneva.

20 https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30673/GEO6_Youth_Africa.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

21 <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/25514>

22 https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/AIR/EB/1012Programme_40th_Anniversary_Special_Session_10122019.pdf

A new Global Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution²³ was launched, spearheaded by the Bureau of the Executive Body of the Convention. The Global Forum will link up with the cooperation and knowledge-sharing platform called for in UNEA's resolution 3/8, "Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally." In addition to providing an opportunity to continue working with the Convention Secretariat, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Global Forum is an opportunity to step up and give enhanced visibility to UNEP's air quality-related work in the pan-European region, notably in Central Asia and the Western Balkans, following the regional study "*Air Pollution and Human Health: The Case of the Western Balkans*"²⁴ recently developed with the World Health Organization.

Data and information to monitor the environment in Central Asia

On 11–12 December 2019, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, UNEP organized the first national multi-stakeholder workshop to initiate a project in that country. The workshop, "Capacity Development and Technology Transfer to Improve the Generation and Use of Data and Information in Support of Monitoring the Environment in Central Asia," was funded by the Russian Federation. A digital atlas of the environment will also be developed that will allow for an analysis and assessment of environmental change in the key domains of water, land and biodiversity and lead to the production of data flows, indicators, statistics and pilot water and land accounts.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Latin America and the Caribbean Leadership in COP 25

At COP 25, Latin America and the Caribbean countries played a significant role under Chile's COP Presidency, including the Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Caribbean Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States. Costa Rica submitted the San Jose Principles for Article 6 as part of the global engagement on the transparent, ambitious and integral cooperation among countries to implement the international transfer of mitigation outcomes as part of their nationally determined commitments implementation plan.

NORTH AMERICA

Establishing a North American Marine Protected Area Network

Working in close collaboration with the United States, Canadian and Mexican federal governments, UNEP is facilitating a series of virtual consultations for managers of marine and coastal protected areas across all three countries. The consultations will, for the first time, connect them across national and regional boundaries to create a "community" of practice. The aim is to identify key challenges and opportunities, share information and best practices and consider how best a North American marine protected area network can serve the needs of area managers. The Regional Office for North America will serve as convener and facilitator for the network. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's "Solve" programme will provide support.

23 https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2019/AIR/EB/Informal_doc_no_4_Proposal_Forum_Clean_24102019.pdf

24 https://www.developmentaid.org/api/frontend/cms/uploadedImages/2019/06/Air-Quality-and-Human-Health-Report_Case-of-Western-Balkans_preliminary_results.pdf

SECTION 2: Resources and Management Issues

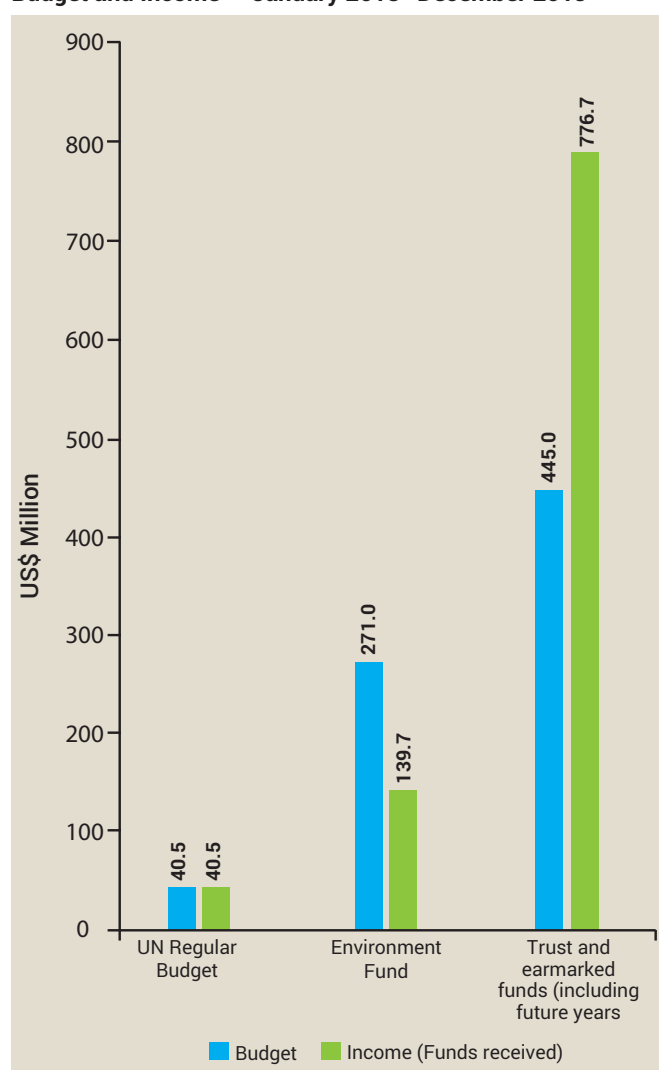
This section of the report focuses on financial issues, human resources and management issues. It provides an update on evaluation work and highlights lessons for future work.

3.1 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

Income Overview

By 31 December 2019, UNEP had received US\$956.8 million in income (121 per cent) against the total biennial budget of US\$789.5 million. This includes the biennial funds of the United Nations regular budget and Environment Fund as well as earmarked contributions, which include multi-year funding.¹

Budget and Income – January 2018–December 2019



¹ As per the Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards, Umoja does not enable breakdown of this income into annual figures.

Core Funding

Core funding to the Environment Fund and from the United Nations regular budget enables UNEP to deliver on its core mandate. Total core funding included 19 per cent of total income by 31 December 2019, which is in line with 2018's funding pattern.

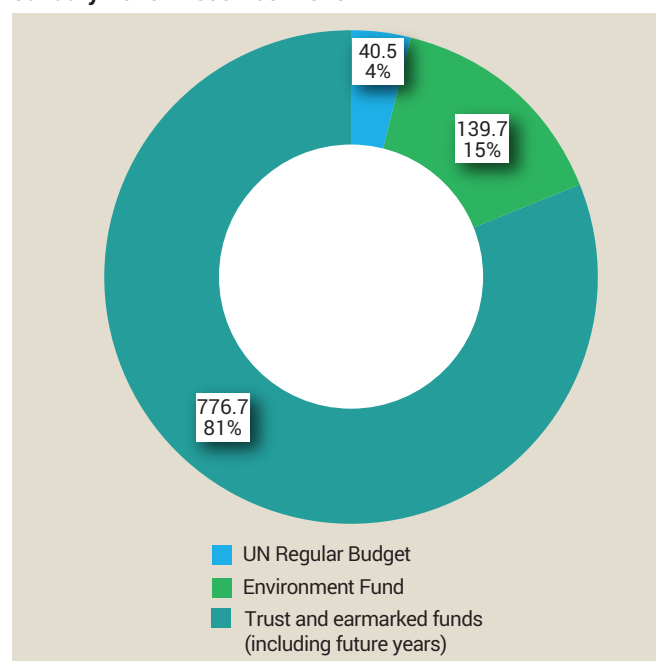
The Environment Fund is UNEP's core source of flexible unearmarked funds, and it provides the bedrock for its work worldwide. It finances the essential capacity needed for efficient delivery of the programme of work, approved by the 193 Member States. It enables the organization to lead on science-policy solutions, identify emerging environmental threats and innovate to address them, advocate and raise awareness, build capacity and ensure robust oversight and accountability. It also supports our convening power in bringing together governments, the private sector and civil society to advance the global environmental agenda.

Despite its critical role for providing direction for the organization, the Environment Fund received only 52 per cent of the approved budget for the biennium and amounted to only 15 per cent of the organization's income.

Earmarked Contributions

Earmarked contributions (includes trust funds) enable the scaling-up and replication of results of core work, including capacity-building in more countries with more partners.

Income per Source of Fund (in US\$million) January 2018–December 2019



By 31 December 2019, the organization had received US\$776.7 million in earmarked funds, including trust funds, for the biennium (also including funds for future years) against a budgeted amount of US\$445 million. Earmarked income received, including for future years, exceeded the biennial budget for the Environment Fund by 75 per cent.

Funding Partners

We are grateful to all the contributing Member States and other funding partners for their commitment and support

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2018–December 2018)

	Member States	\$ (million)
1	Netherlands	9.0
2	Germany	8.9
3	France	7.6
4	United States of America	6.1
5	Sweden	5.1
6	Belgium	4.6
7	United Kingdom	4.3
8	Switzerland	3.8
9	Norway	3.0
10	Canada	2.4

Top 10 Contributors to Earmarked Funds (January 2018–December 2018)

	Funding Partners	\$ (million)
1	Global Environment Facility	126.7
2	United Nations agencies	50.9
3	Private sector	26.7
4	Green Climate Fund	26.4
5	European Commission	21.2
6	Denmark	16.8
7	Norway	16.3
8	Sweden	13.4
9	Japan	10.0
10	Germany	9.7

to the organization, especially the 15 largest funding partners that continue to contribute more than 90 per cent of the Environment Fund and earmarked funds. We also extend a special thank you to those Member States that contribute their “fair share” of the Environment Fund budget, as established by the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions.

Of the 193 Member States, 98 contributed to the Environment Fund during the biennium; this represents approximately half of the Member States.

Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2019–December 2019)

	Member States	\$ (million)
1	Netherlands	8.8
2	Germany	8.3
3	France	7.6
4	United States of America	6.1
5	Sweden	5.1
6	Belgium	4.5
7	Denmark	4.5
8	United Kingdom	4.1
9	Switzerland	4.0
10	Norway	3.0

Top 10 Contributors to Earmarked Funds (January 2019–December 2019)

	Funding Partners	\$ (million)
1	Global Environment Facility	94.2
2	Green Climate Fund	92.1
3	Germany	89.7
4	European Commission	36.4
5	Saudi Arabia	25.3
6	Norway	19.4
7	United Nations agencies	14.5
8	Sweden	9.7
9	Japan	9.0
10	Finance Initiative	5.7

3.2 STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

2018–2019 Core Budgets: Programme of Work budget (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Polycymaking Organs	1,700,000		92,700	1,792,700
B. 1	Executive Direction and Management	7,800,000		5,875,300	13,675,300
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)			1,604,600	1,604,600
	Subtotal A + B	9,500,000	-	7,572,600	17,072,600
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	32,300,000		3,812,100	36,112,100
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	21,500,000		2,691,400	24,191,400
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	41,800,000		4,483,600	46,283,600
4.	Environmental governance	35,900,000		7,895,500	43,795,500
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	32,300,000		3,106,400	35,406,400
6.	Resource efficiency	39,600,000		3,427,400	43,027,400
7.	Environment under review	29,300,000		5,595,700	34,895,700
	Subtotal C	232,700,000	-	31,012,100	263,712,100
D	Fund Programme Reserve	14,000,000			14,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	246,700,000	-	31,012,100	277,712,100
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support (United Nations Environment Programme Office for Operations; United Nations Office at Nairobi/United Nations Office at Geneva bills; After-service health insurance provision)	14,800,000	33,000,000	1,944,700	49,744,700
	Subtotal E	14,800,000	33,000,000	1,944,700	49,744,700
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		271,000,000	33,000,000	40,529,400	344,529,400

2018–2019 Core Budgets: Allocations as at 31 December 2019 (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Polycymaking Organs	3,394,771		87,300	3,482,071
B. 1	Executive Direction and Management	7,982,480		6,173,900	14,156,380
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,608,500	1,608,500
	Subtotal A + B	11,377,251		7,869,700	19,246,951
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	16,249,657		4,574,684	20,824,340
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	10,442,059		2,974,003	13,416,062
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	20,611,300		4,781,762	25,393,063
4.	Environmental governance	17,463,403		8,874,045	26,337,448
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	16,518,624		3,448,847	19,967,471
6.	Resource efficiency	19,971,374		3,811,749	23,783,122
7.	Environment under review	14,730,366		5,973,827	20,704,193
	Subtotal C	115,986,783	-	34,438,918	150,425,701
D	Fund Programme Reserve	2,888,000	-	-	2,888,000
	Subtotal C + D	118,874,783	-	34,438,918	153,313,701
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	10,078,566	35,579,346	2,014,083	47,671,995
	Subtotal E	10,078,566	35,579,346	2,014,083	47,671,995
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		140,330,600	35,579,346	44,322,700	220,232,646

2018–2019 Core Budgets: Expenditures as at 31 December 2019 (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Polymaking Organs	3,046,730	-	69,721	3,116,451
B. 1	Executive Direction and Management	7,174,399	-	6,092,460	13,266,858
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,543,340	1,543,340
	Subtotal A + B	10,221,129	-	7,705,520	17,926,649
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	17,135,268		4,617,688	21,752,956
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	10,165,146		2,961,227	13,126,372
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	18,670,647		4,760,380	23,431,028
4.	Environmental governance	17,240,908		8,781,905	26,022,813
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	15,750,962		3,444,552	19,195,514
6.	Resource efficiency	20,791,186		3,807,634	24,598,820
7.	Environment under review	14,260,409		5,969,323	20,229,732
	Subtotal C	114,014,525	-	34,342,708	148,357,234
D	Fund Programme Reserve	1,174,476	-	-	1,174,476
	Subtotal C + D	115,189,001	-	34,342,708	149,531,709
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	8,654,499	33,160,696	2,004,261	43,819,455
	Subtotal E	8,654,499	33,160,696	2,004,261	43,819,455
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	134,064,628	33,160,696	44,052,489	211,277,813

3.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

In preparation of a realignment of UNEP's resource mobilization efforts, and with reference to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly decisions,² the Secretariat has initiated a series of discussions with Member States to address key challenges: (1) improve the ratio between core and earmarked funding and to increase Environment Fund income; (2) broaden the donor base by increasing the number of Member States that contribute to the Environment Fund; and (3) encourage Member States to reduce restrictions on earmarked funding and increase softly earmarked funding.

The Secretariat has also continued strengthening its communication and outreach work related to resource mobilization. This entails more visibility and appreciation of UNEP's strongest funding partners for the core and softly earmarked funds, which is one of the key requests from the Member States. It also entails improved communication about the value added of UNEP, the funding status and the implications of lack of sufficient core resources. Further, the Secretariat is increasingly communicating the value and importance of the agreed upon Member State Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions as an expression of each Member State's "fair share" of the Environment Fund budget.

² United Nations Environment Assembly fourth session decision UNEPEA.4/L.28 on the Programme of Work and Budget 2020–2021, which encourages the Executive Director to implement the resource mobilisation strategy in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

General overview

As of 31 January 2020, UNEP employs 1,241 staff members, consisting of 739 professional personnel and 502 national and general service personnel; 755 staff members are female, and 486 are male.

Senior Level Staff for Secretariat and Multilateral environmental agreements

Total staff members at grade P-5 and above as of 31 January 2020:

Level	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5
No. of Staff	1	3	9	51	137

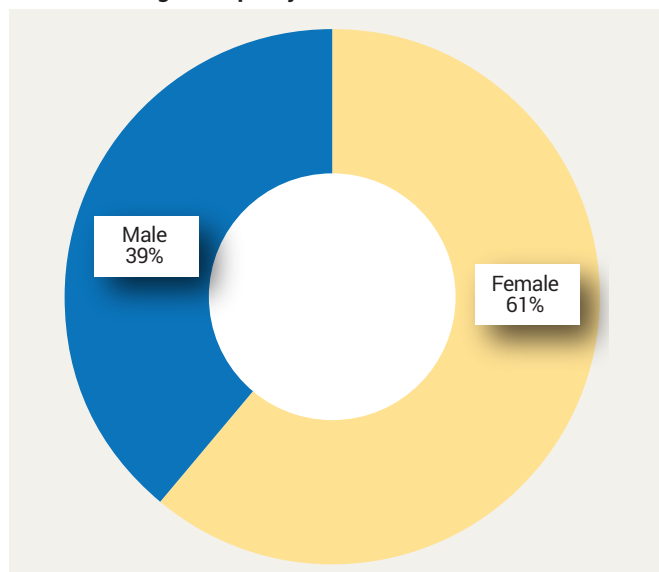
USG = Under-Secretary-General; ASG = Assistant Secretary-General; D = Director; P = Professional

Gender parity status

Secretariat												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional Total	NO Total	GS Total	Total
Female	1	1	4	15	40	79	103	55	297	3	253	554
Male	0	1	1	28	60	94	58	22	264	5	92	361

Multilateral Environmental Agreements												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Professional Total	NO Total	GS Total	Total
Female	0	1	2	4	16	24	30	13	91	0	111	201
Male	0	0	2	4	21	23	21	16	88	0	38	125

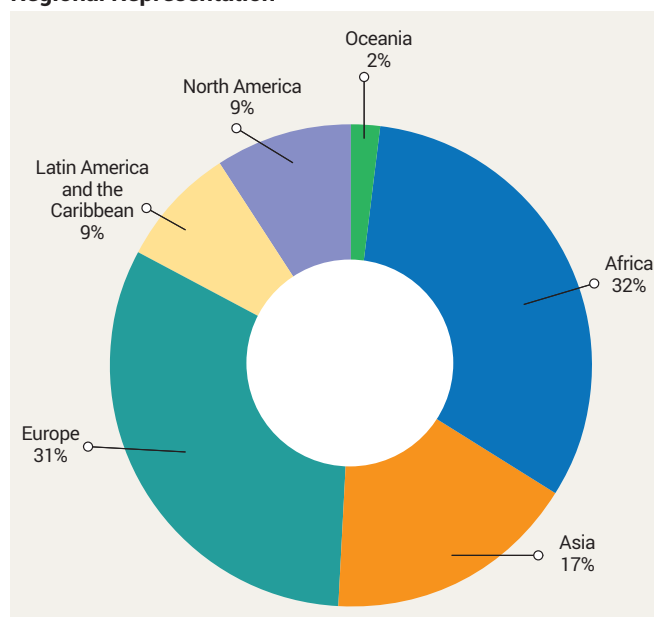
UNEP overall gender parity



Regional Representation

Region	No. of Staff
Africa	397
Asia	207
Europe	389
Latin America and the Caribbean	110
North America	118
Oceania	19
Stateless	1
Grand Total	1,241

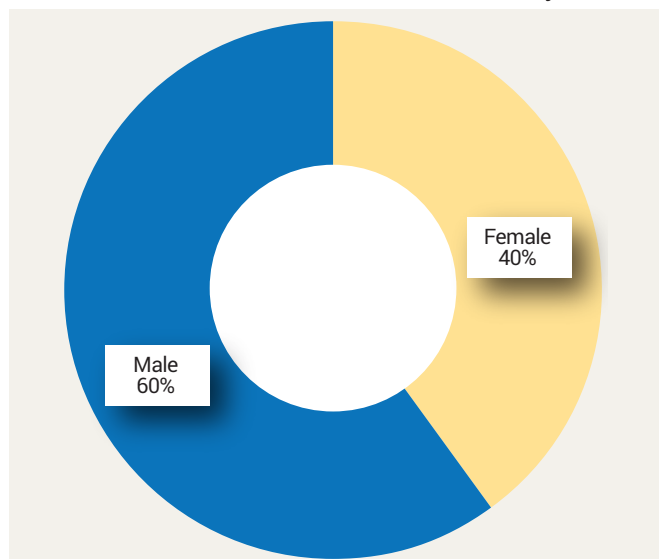
Regional Representation



Gender status for P5 and above for UNEP Secretariat

Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Total
Female	1	1	4	15	40	61
Male		1	1	28	60	90
Grand Total	1	2	5	43	100	151
Female	100%	50%	80%	35%	40%	40%
Male	0%	50%	20%	65%	60%	60%

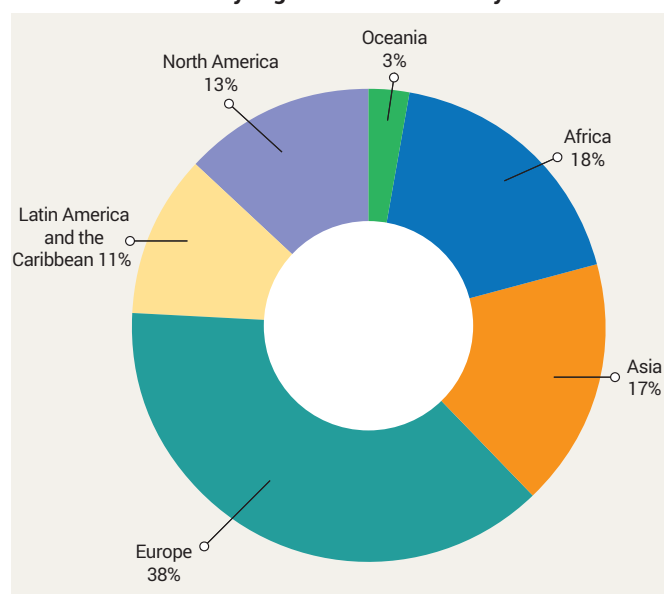
Gender breakdown for P5 and above as at 31 January 2020



Regional representation P5 and above Secretariat and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Region	No. of Staff
Africa	37
Asia	34
Europe	76
Latin America and the Caribbean	21
North America	27
Oceania	6
Grand Total	201

P5 and above staff by region as at 31 January 2020



Key human resource risks and issues

In line with the Secretary-General's system-wide Gender Parity Strategy and UNEP's Gender Parity Implementation Plan, progress has resulted in a 61:39 female to male ratio. However, there is a need to further balance recruitment of both senior level and general service staff.

The selection of roster candidates for new appointments is highly recommended to help reduce the time it takes to fill vacant positions at all levels.

3.5 AUDITS

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

Implementation of the recommendations of audits already completed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the development of audit assignments planned for 2020 are ongoing.

A. Ongoing OIOS Audits

1. Management of partnerships at UNEP
2. Management of Data Classification and Data Privacy at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat
3. Grants management at United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat

B. Implementation of recommendations of completed OIOS Audits

1. Recruitment process at UNEP³
2. UNEP Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁴

3 <https://oios.un.org/file/8450/download?token=mMcoeJJM>

4 <https://oios.un.org/file/8094/download?token=blwEvwsg>

3. UNEP Afghanistan Project Office⁵
4. Official travel at UNEP⁶
5. Contract management at United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and UN-Habitat (Office at Nairobi Lead)⁷
6. UNEP's Asia and the Pacific Office⁸
7. UNEP's Abidjan Convention Secretariat⁹
8. Environmental Governance Subprogramme¹⁰
9. Disasters and Conflicts Subprogramme¹¹
10. Resource Efficiency Subprogramme¹²
11. Caribbean Environment Programme¹³

All United Nations Office at Nairobi audits listed above can be accessed online.¹⁴

United Nations Board of Auditors

Implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors' interim audit of UNEP has begun.

3.6 EVALUATIONS

During the reporting period:

- Four project evaluations were completed.
- Forty-four project evaluations are currently active and ongoing.

The cohort of completed evaluations for the biennium 2018–2019 is being analysed and will be summarized in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report, which is in preparation.

Selected learning points from the mid-term evaluation of the "clean seas" campaign

Lesson 1: The campaign shows it is possible for UNEP to shape and promote clear and salient messages through media and online channels and ensure that these are promoted and shared widely.

Context: UNEP has been a prominent actor on social media, and the campaign has been a major contributor to the conversation. It has also crucially generated momentum that will likely continue, hopefully having a catalytic effect, increasing the call for action and encouraging new countries to address the issue.

5 <https://oios.un.org/file/7508/download?token=AGngDa7P>

6 <https://oios.un.org/file/7283/download?token=FIVPFxu2>

7 <https://oios.un.org/file/7424/download?token=rqeSewZD>

8 <https://oios.un.org/file/6986/download?token=SNM9Eu-S>

9 https://oios.un.org/file/7019/download?token=nz_Ehs1

10 https://oios.un.org/file/6197/download?token=oWmAWD_Q

11 <https://oios.un.org/file/6092/download?token=nHNvTA95>

12 <https://oios.un.org/file/6365/download?token=J0EsYS9L>

13 <https://oios.un.org/file/5675/download?token=VUSK8Y5>

14 <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>

Lesson 2: It is possible for a campaign to use clever and globally relevant communications techniques to become part of a wider movement for change and move the conversation away from traditional audiences in the North.

Context: The campaign helped to create, and now rides, a wave of favourable public and political opinion. It has had global results and has grown support in the Global South. It has shown that the need to cut plastics' use resonates globally, and that it is possible to mobilize champions of progressive measures among Southern governments.

Lesson 3: A broader, more widely owned strategy, properly resourced, should have been agreed and followed through from the outset in anticipation of success. Success beyond expectations created opportunities that have not always been capitalized upon to full effect.

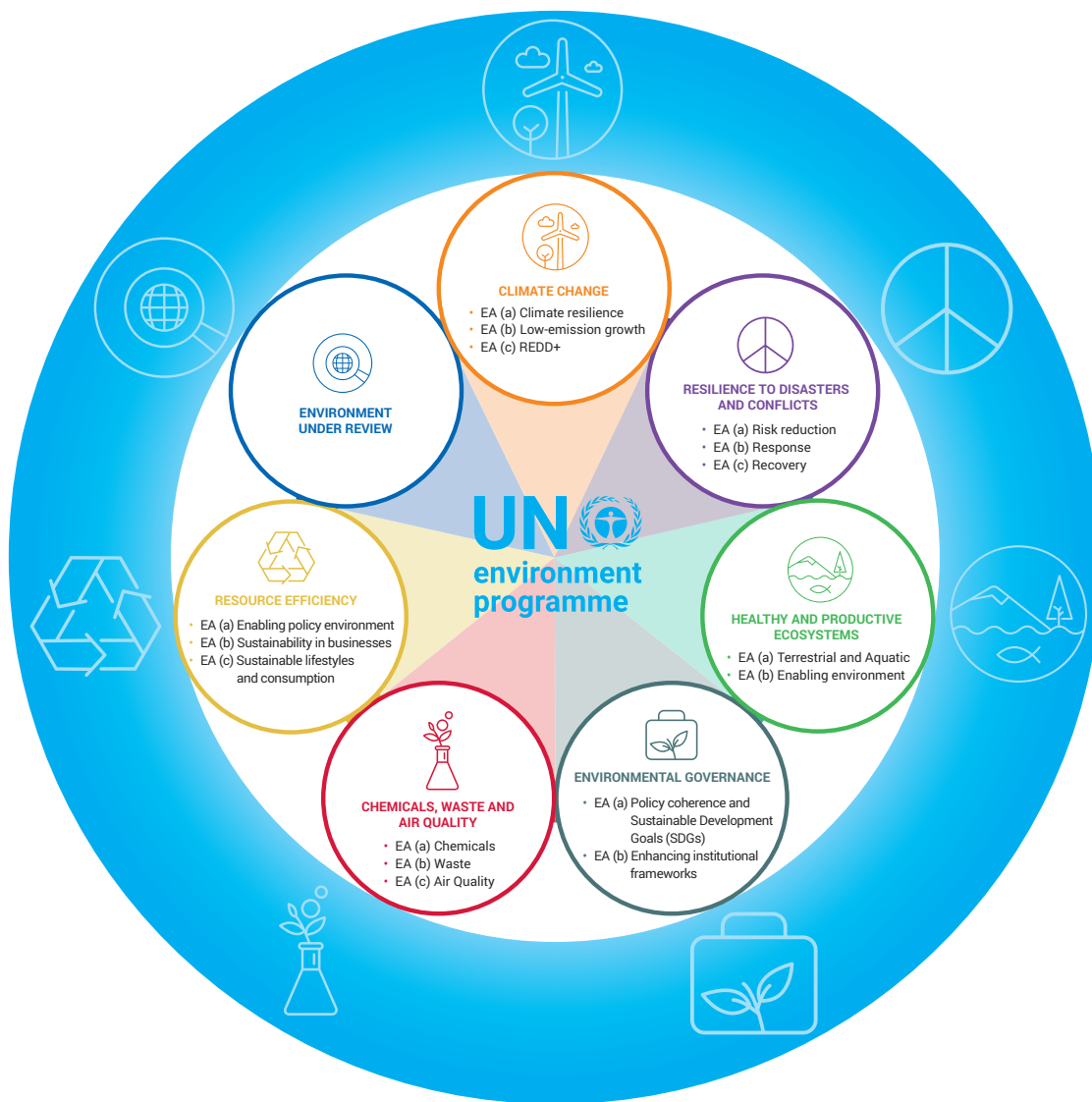
Context: The campaign strategy was not closely used to guide the implementation of the campaign. This resulted in a considerable disconnect between the scope of work/Key Performance Indicators(KPIs) and the course of action followed, which effectively hindered analysis of the campaign's impact.

Lesson 6: Demonstrating success and linking it to the campaign required a coherent and consistent overview of the logic of the campaign, informing the setting of a baseline and ways to track progress that would support making real-time judgements to strengthen the campaign's results.

Context: Monitoring and learning systems were not applied to the campaign in a meaningful way. Regular monitoring and data, including digital monitoring (e.g., use of Google Analytics, etc.) were not available to the campaign team to make informed, real-time decisions or to provide evidence of results and justify how money was spent for accountability purposes. Data were not collected on the key performance indicators.



UN Environment Programme's results framework



CONTACT

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