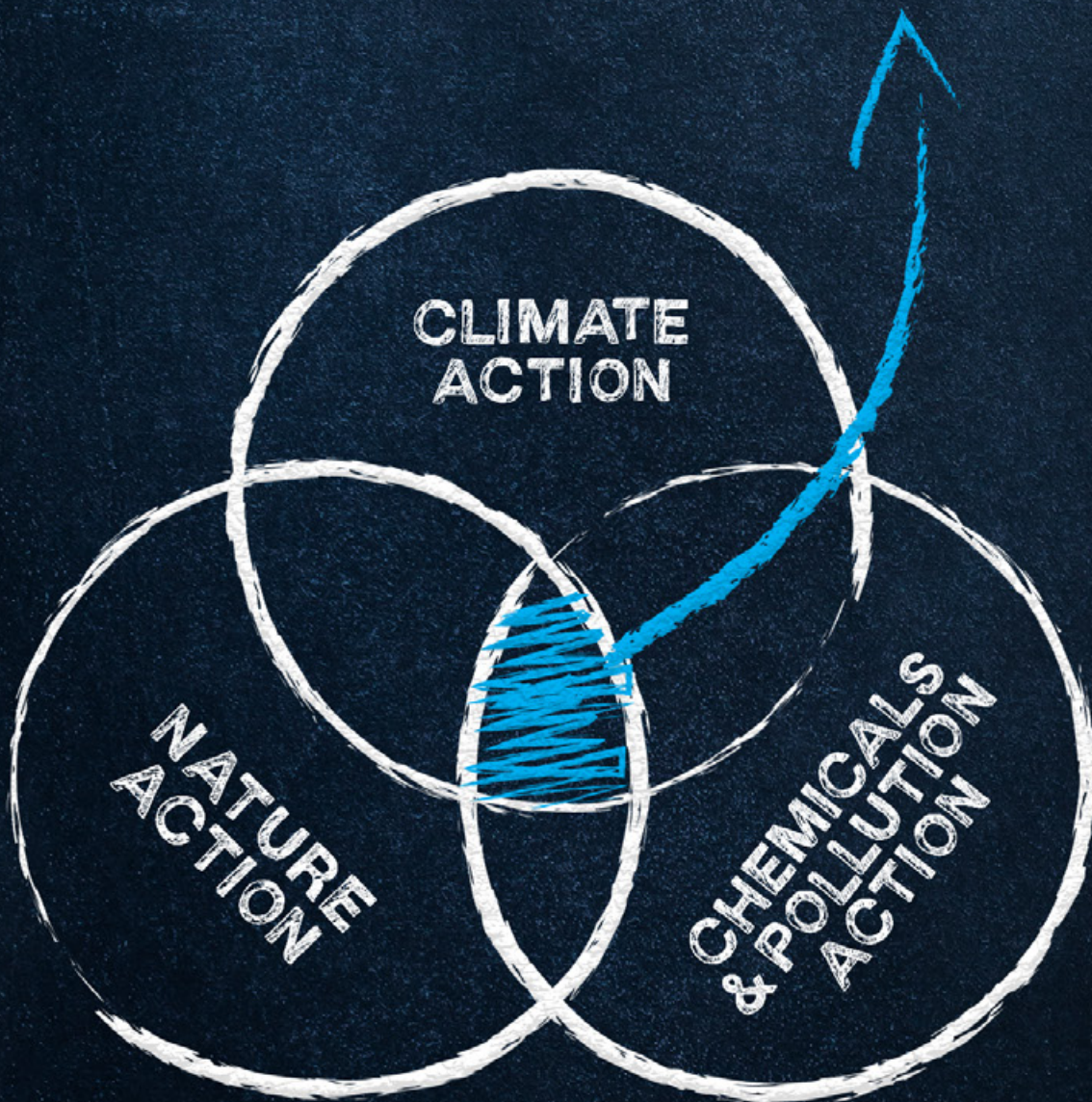




UNEP in 2021

# PLANETARY ACTION



# Making peace with Nature



**2021 was a year in which environmental issues reached an unprecedented prominence on the global stage. The eyes of the world focused on the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.**

**While our leaders did not fully deliver, they have kept the door open to holding global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Negotiators continued to flesh out the post-2020 global biodiversity framework – so that nations can reach an agreement at COP15 in 2022. Momentum to address pollution and waste grew, with nations increasingly looking at a global framework to address plastic pollution and all its impacts, alongside existing frameworks and conventions on chemicals. Progress was also made at the COPs focused on the ozone layer, mercury and hazardous waste.**

Despite these achievements, there is much work to do on addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste – particularly as the chance to build back better after COVID-19 appears to have been lost. The University of [Oxford's Global Recovery Observatory](#), supported by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), showed that less than 20 per cent of total recovery spending was green. As UNEP marks its 50th anniversary, its mission to inspire, inform and enable nations to live in harmony with nature has never been more critical.

UNEP in 2021 backed the world's efforts to transform its relationship with nature and tackle the triple planetary crisis through the [Making Peace with Nature](#) report. It brought the blueprint laid out in the report into its work through a new [Medium Term Strategy](#) for 2022-2025 – geared towards building a UN system that is stronger, more coordinated and mutually supportive of environmental action to accelerate global efforts to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. And it helped drive the action we need on the triple planetary crisis.

UNEP provided climate science to guide policymakers. The organization worked with the private sector to boost financing and support on everything from net-zero targets to nature-based solutions. UNEP backed global efforts to reduce emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane. A long UNEP-led campaign culminated in ending the use of lead in petrol, which will save millions of lives. UNEP supported action on the environmental rule of law in the year that the UN Human Rights Council recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The ability of UNEP to positively impact the environmental agenda depends on UNEP's Member States and partners that fund and champion its mission. In 2021, contributions to UNEP's core funding, the Environment Fund, exceeded those received during the past five years. UNEP is deeply grateful for all the support provided, especially during this second year of COVID-19.

UNEP will keep striving to improve. I was pleased to read the substantive [evaluation](#) of UNEP by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network. It was encouraging to see how UNEP has strengthened, but I also took careful note of the areas for further improvement.

UNEP has delivered, but it must deliver more. The challenge ahead is immense. Still, there are reasons to be hopeful. As a science-based organization, UNEP is pushing for breakthroughs, as this annual report shows.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Inger Andersen'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Inger Andersen**  
UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director



# UNEP by the Numbers



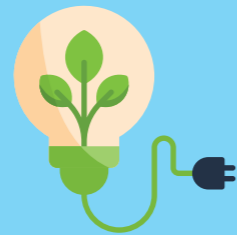
## USD 10 Trillion

**in assets** under management by the UNEP Finance Initiative-run **Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance** members, who committed to aligning their portfolios with a 1.5°C scenario.



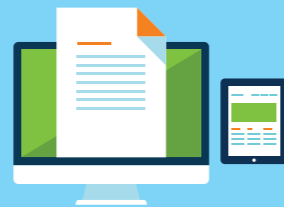
## 270

**banks** from 66 countries have, by 2021, signed up to the **Principles for Responsible Banking** to align their strategies and practices with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **Paris Agreement**. Together, they account for 45 per cent of global banking assets.



## 40

**nations** supported in the transition to eco-efficient products through UNEP's **United for Efficiency** initiative.



## 42,000

**media articles** published on World Environment Day and the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.



## 1,2 Million

**premature deaths** per year prevented through the UNEP-led **Global Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles** to ban the use of leaded petrol.



## 70

**companies** representing more than 30 per cent of the world's oil and gas production pledged greater transparency on reporting methane emissions through the **Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0**.



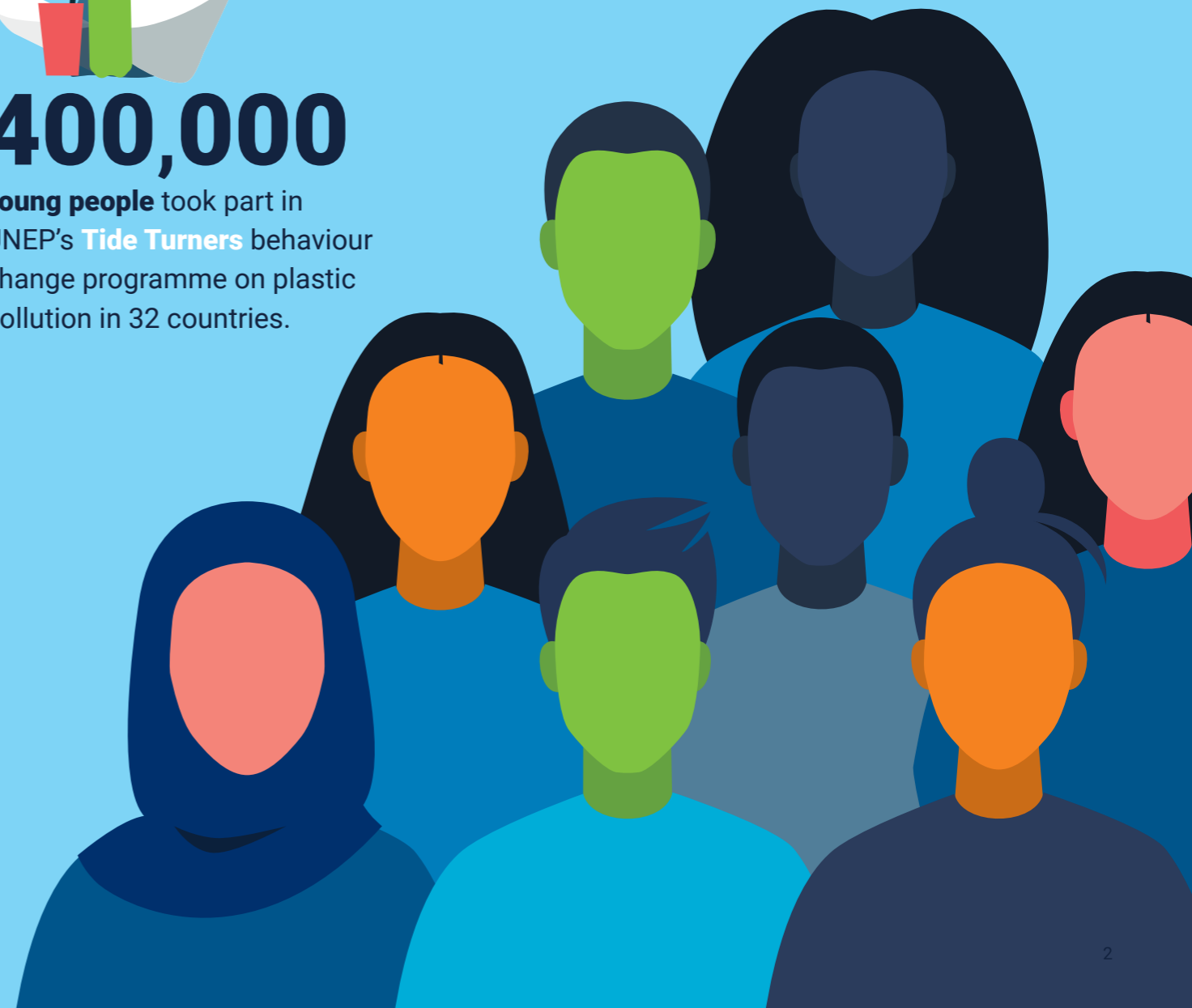
## 400,000

**young people** took part in UNEP's **Tide Turners** behaviour change programme on plastic pollution in 32 countries.



## 500

**major companies** aligned behind a shared vision of a circular economy for plastic that never becomes waste through the **New Plastics Economy Global Commitment** co-led by UNEP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.



# PLANETARY ACTION

**Climate**

**Nature**

**Chemicals & Pollution**

## Promoting climate action through science

UNEP's **Emissions Gap Report 2021: The Heat Is On** (EGR 2021), released ahead of COP26, found that **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs) leave the world on track for a global temperature rise of at least 2.7°C this century. If net-zero pledges were implemented, this rise would fall to 2.2°C. The report also showed that 17 G20 members covering almost 70 per cent of global domestic emissions have firmly pledged a net-zero target. Over 4,500 articles in 104 countries featured the report's science and findings – nearly double the reach from 2020.

UNEP's science and data are being made available to users from 100 countries on Facebook through its new **Climate Science Centre**. UNEP also developed a **climate action dashboard** to help stakeholders measure global and national progress against climate commitments. This dashboard has received almost 30,000 views, with referrals from China's National Bureau of Statistics, Cardiff Metropolitan and Google Classroom.

“As this report [EGR 2021] makes clear, if countries deliver on their 2030 NDCs and net-zero commitments which have been announced by the end of September, we will be heading towards average global temperature rises of just above 2°C. Complementary analyses suggest that the commitments made in Paris would have capped the rise in temperature to below 4°C.”

Alok Sharma, COP26 President.

## Driving global action to reduce methane emissions

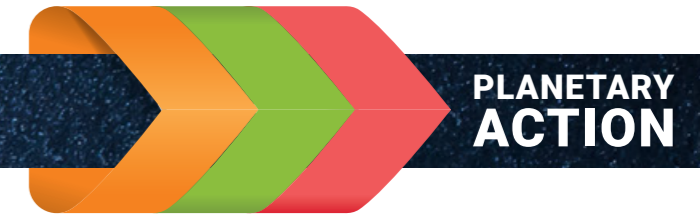
UNEP and partners launched the **International Methane Emissions Observatory**, as well as the **UNEP-Climate and Clean Air Coalition** (CCAC) **Global Methane Assessment**, to reduce emissions of methane, which is responsible for at least a quarter of climate warming. The assessment shows that human-caused methane emissions can be cut by up to 45 per cent this decade. This would avoid nearly 0.3°C of global warming by 2045, helping to keep the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement within reach while reducing air pollution and protecting crops.



Dandora dumpsite, Nairobi, Kenya.  
Photo: UNEP

At **COP26**, more than 100 countries signed the **Global Methane Pledge** to reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas, agriculture and waste sectors by at least 30 per cent by 2030 – backed with over USD 300 million in finance. The Emissions Gap Report shows it is possible to achieve this goal at low or no cost. More than 70 companies representing more than 30 per cent of the world's oil and gas production also pledged greater transparency on reporting methane emissions through the **Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0**. CCAC's efforts and the Observatory will play an essential role in the implementation of these commitments.

# Climate Action



Eco-friendly green buildings.  
Photo: Shutterstock

## Creating sustainable buildings and cities

Together with partners and the **Global Environment Facility** (GEF), UNEP launched the billion-dollar **UrbanShift** initiative, supporting more than 20 cities to adopt integrated approaches to urban development and shape a resilient zero-carbon future. The UNEP-hosted **Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction** co-led the development of the Marrakech Global Climate Action's common goal to halve buildings' emissions by 2030 and completely decarbonize by 2050.

Mobilizing finance for a net-zero emissions economy



Surveying a renewable energy project.  
Photo: Shutterstock

The **UNEP Finance Initiative** (UNEP FI)-run **Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance** almost doubled its members committed to aligning their portfolios with a 1.5°C scenario, reaching USD 10 trillion in assets under management. This includes some of the world's largest insurance underwriters, who are implementing policies on coal phase-out and other fossil fuel exclusions. UNEP FI also created two net-zero alliances for **banking** and **insurance**. By 2021, more than 270 banks signed up to the **Principles for Responsible Banking** to align their strategies and practices with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Together, they account for 45 per cent of global banking assets and serve 1.7 billion people.

The **Seed Capital Assistance Facility** multi-donor trust fund, led by UNEP, increased investment in low-carbon projects in 13 developing countries – resulting in more than 1,000 MW of clean energy development, projected CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation of over three million tons per annum and 10,000 new jobs.

## Accelerating global efforts on cooling and energy efficiency

The UNEP-led **Cool Coalition** is helping to cool cities that could warm by as much as 4°C – such as in Vietnam, where three cities are piloting new **guidelines** launched at COP26. In 2021, UNEP's **United for Efficiency** initiative supported 40 countries to transition to eco-efficient products. For example, Brazil, Nigeria and Indonesia leapfrogged their markets to fully LED lighting – resulting in USD 300 million in annual consumer savings and avoiding the need for two large power plants.

Meanwhile, the UNEP-hosted International Resource Panel report **Resource Efficiency and Climate Change** was cited in the European Union's New **Circular Economy Action Plan** as well as in reports by authorities in Turkey and South Africa, along with Deloitte's leading private sector **World Climate Strategy**.



The Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems project can provide valuable climate information in Timor-Leste. Photo: UN Photo



The village of Nalma, Nepal. Most of the land here is used for rice fields, gardens and housing. Photo: CIFOR

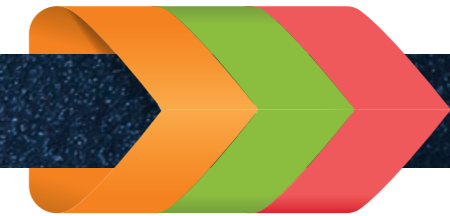
## Adapting to intensifying climate impacts

UNEP is helping countries create National Adaptation Plans informed by the latest climate science. The **National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme** (NAP-GSP), funded by GEF and jointly run with UNDP, came to a close in 2021 after supporting almost 60 developing countries. Meanwhile, UNEP-supported adaptation projects were launched in Djibouti, Lao PDR, Nepal, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

UNEP also launched two new funds for **accelerating** and **financing** adaptation innovation in developing countries. The Global EbA fund is providing seed capital for innovative approaches to **ecosystem-based adaptation** (EbA), from coral reef protection in the Philippines to restoring riverbank ecosystems for erosion control in Fiji. UNEP is also supporting over 45 adaptation projects to restore around 113,000 hectares of ecosystems for the benefit of 2.5 million people worldwide.

A new USD 21 million Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems project launched by UNEP in Timor-Leste will strengthen climate information and early warning services for its vulnerable population of 1.3 million people.

# Climate Action



PLANETARY ACTION



Oil Palm Adaptive Landscapes Project, Bulug Sen, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: CIFOR

## Building resilient communities through nature-based solutions

As a result of the UNEP-led **Blue Forests Solutions** partnership, blue carbon has been reflected in over 30 NDCs and has grown the mangrove forest area in the voluntary carbon market by a factor of 25.

UNEP also influenced donors and the private sector to deliver a gigaton of high-quality emissions reductions from forests before 2025 through the **Green Gigaton Challenge**. The **LEAF Coalition** – which is making USD 1 billion in results-based payment to protect tropical forests in developing countries – adopted this public-private model and supported seven countries to access forest funding at scale. Through **UN-REDD**, the coalition's call for proposals for USD 100 million was oversubscribed tenfold.

UNEP's **State of Finance for Nature** report called for investments in nature-based solutions to triple by 2030 and to increase four-fold by 2050. It identified opportunities for governments, businesses and financiers to tackle the triple planetary crisis. As a result, financial institutions and agribusinesses committed **USD 3 billion of lending and investment to accelerate land conversion-free beef and soy production** in South America.

UNEP's partner **&GreenFund** and the Brazilian food processing company Marfrig signed a USD 30 million, **10-year sustainability linked loan facility** to achieve a deforestation-free cattle supply chain in the Amazon and Cerrado, and finance sustainable palm oil in Indonesia and soy in Brazil.

## Right to a clean environment

In October 2021, the **UN Human Rights Council (HRC)** adopted a resolution on the **right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment** in a breakthrough moment for UNEP's social and environmental justice work.

The new resolution recognizes the damage caused by climate change and the destruction of the environment on millions of people worldwide. It anchors the work of environmental defenders in the human rights framework and helps protect those persecuted for activism. It can also embolden governments, legislators, courts and citizen groups to pursue the **Common Agenda** for renewed solidarity, as well as the **2020 Call to Action on Human Rights**.

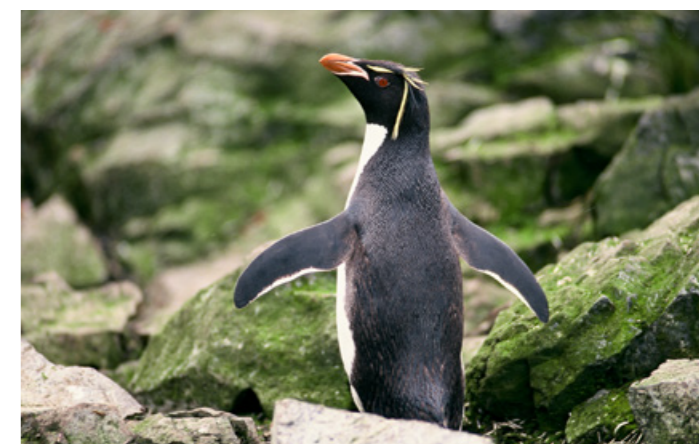


A group of activists protesting about the environmental damage inflicted by climate change. Photo: Shutterstock

## Fostering global biodiversity

In October 2021, Parties to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** gathered for the first part of the **UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-15)** and committed to develop, adopt and implement an effective post-2020 framework. UNEP continued to support the CBD Secretariat and Parties to ensure the framework is based on the latest science and data and that accountability for progress towards its global ambitions is strengthened. Working with the GEF and UNDP, UNEP has also been developing plans for early support to Parties to implement the framework once adopted.

**UNEP-WCMC** partnered with UNDP and the CBD Secretariat to develop the **UN Biodiversity Lab 2.0** – a free, open-source platform with more than 400 state-of-the-art maps and data on nature, climate change and human development as a digital public good. Microsoft has committed to supporting the platform with its **Planetary Computer** and custom analytics. So far, more than 60 countries have accessed the UN Biodiversity Lab data as part of their national reporting to the CBD.



Due to rapid population declines, the Rockhopper Penguin is "vulnerable". Photo: GRID-Arendal

In May 2021, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed the **UN Common Approach to Biodiversity**, integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into UN policy and programme planning and delivery. Through the common approach, the UN system has committed to mainstream biodiversity and catalyse collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and ultimately live in harmony with nature.

# Nature Action



## Transforming natural capital accounting

In 2021, the **UN Statistical Commission** adopted the **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting** in what UN Secretary-General António Guterres called "a historic step towards transforming how we view and value nature." Through a **project** implemented by UNEP and UNDESA, South Africa has become the first developing country to launch a **10-year strategy for Natural Capital Accounting**.

UNEP communicated with more than 200 countries and territories to collect and report data for the SDG environment-related indicators under UNEP custodianship - up 10 per cent from 2020. This new data reported to the **Global SDG Database** is helping to close the gap on SDG indicator data.



NCAVES in South Africa compiled a species account for cycads. Photo: Shutterstock

## Restoring the planet's ecosystems

**On 5 June, World Environment Day 2021, UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) launched the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.**

FAO and UNEP have jointly established a Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the implementation of core activities of the Decade. Major commitments to the fund included USD 16 million from Germany and USD 11 million from Denmark. World Environment Day-host Pakistan also made a strong commitment through its Green Stimulus plan, which aims to protect and increase forest cover, create thousands of green jobs and address climate change. **More than 100 countries have made pledges to restore their land and coastlines** as part of commitments to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. The promises add up to over one billion hectares – an area larger than China.

Launched by UNEP and the **Global Peatlands Initiative** at COP26, the **Economics of Peatlands Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management** report identifies the principal cause for peatlands mismanagement as the undervaluation of their economic contributions. It further highlights that protecting and restoring peatlands can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 800 million metric tons per year – equivalent to Germany's annual emissions. The report called for investments of up to USD 46 billion annually by 2050 in order to almost halve the emissions caused by draining and burning peatlands. At the Global Peatlands Pavilion, led by UNEP and partners, Chile and Scotland signed an agreement to conserve peatlands, whilst Ireland committed to establishing a European Peatlands Initiative. Peru, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo also promised to include peatlands in their NDCs.

## Sustainable management of nature

UNEP and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction started the year with a new Massive Open Online Course on **Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience**. Over 50,000 people from over 190 countries enrolled in the course. At ten years old, Indivara, the youngest graduate of the course, said, "It was really interesting, and it made me understand more in-depth ways of how you can use nature to save nature itself."

## Transforming food systems for a more sustainable and inclusive planet

UNEP led the UN Task Force at the **Food Systems Summit**, where more than 100 countries committed to national pathways for food system transformation. UNEP and partners are also bringing industry leaders together through the **Good Food Finance Network** to ensure sustainable food system finance becomes the mainstream standard.

Ahead of the Summit, UNEP's **Food Waste Index Report 2021** found that people waste almost one billion tons of food each year – about 17 per cent of all food available for human consumption. The report showed for the first time that food waste is an issue in almost every country, including middle-and lower-income countries.

## Preventing health risks



Milking an Australian Tiger snake.  
Photo: Shutterstock

UNEP is working with UN partners to strengthen the **One Health** approach, which recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, and nature. This will be critical to tackling the triple planetary crisis. In 2021, the G7 and G20 both issued declarations backing the One Health approach.

UNEP supported the **Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** and a new One Health High Level Advisory Panel to advise on pandemic prevention. These initiatives will help improve science for coordinated interventions to ensure strong global stewardship of nature to prevent health risks.

# Nature Action



Bottle Reefs are a cost-effective method for reef restoration. It increases the available substrate for transplanting corals when restoring reef areas.  
Photo: UNEP

## Conserving habitats and ecosystems

The Shar Mountain National Park – established by the Government of North Macedonia with support from UNEP, the GEF and partners – wrote a green page in the country's history book after a campaign spanning almost 30 years. The new park has contributed to the creation of one of the largest trans-boundary protected areas in Europe. Spanning 67,000 hectares, it harbors around 6,000 different animal and plant species, including the critically endangered Balkan Lynx, of which less than 35 remain. UNEP also assisted the Government of Montenegro to establish its first-ever two Marine Protected Areas – a major milestone towards achieving international biodiversity standards.

The UNEP-supported **Sixth Status of Corals of the World: 2020 Report** found that 14 per cent of the world's coral has been lost in less than a decade due to climate change.

This informed the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework** processes. UNEP, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund and partners also raised more than USD 30 million through the **Global Fund for Coral Reefs** in 2021. The Global Fund for Coral Reefs also raised an additional USD 125 million through the Green Climate Fund to support private investment for the protection of coral reefs.

Meanwhile, the new **Freshwater Ecosystem Explorer** – created by UNEP in partnership with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the **Google Earth Engine** – provides crucial information on how different freshwater ecosystems change over time within every country worldwide.





Beach clean up in Watamu, Kenya. Photo: UNEP

## Mitigating plastic pollution

Throughout 2021, UNEP advocated global action on plastic pollution. UNEP's **Pollution to Solution: a global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution** showed a growing threat in all ecosystems. The report highlights that plastic accounts for 85 per cent of marine litter and warns that by 2040, volumes of plastic pollution flowing into marine areas will nearly triple.

There is growing momentum amongst countries for meaningful action on plastic pollution – with Member States leading regional and global dialogues on marine plastic litter, including the Forum on the Multi-stakeholder Platform on Marine Litter and Micro-plastics and the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, in preparation for discussions at the second part of the **UN Environment Assembly** (UNEA 5.2).

The Assembly is the world's highest-level environmental decision-making body, with universal membership of all 193 Member States.

A UNEP-led project in Asia changed recycling behaviour in Selangor, Malaysia, where residents' willingness to participate in waste separation has increased to 75 per cent of households in some parts of the state. Malaysia also launched a new marine litter policy at an annual event co-hosted by UNEP.

Meanwhile, citizen science played a major role in a pilot study for the UNEP-led **CounterMEASURE II** project in Asia, generating a baseline on pollution along the rivers, which will serve to judge the success of mitigation efforts.

Globally, over 400,000 young people took part in UNEP's **Tide Turners** behaviour change programme in 32 countries, with a team of 2,000 young people trained to influence policy on plastic pollution at the local, regional and national level.

UNEP is also advocating for businesses and governments to rethink the future of plastics. The **New Plastics Economy Global Commitment**, co-led by UNEP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, aligned more than 500 major companies behind a shared vision of a circular economy for plastic that never becomes waste.

**The Basel Convention** to control trans-boundary hazardous waste also reached a milestone in 2021 when amendments adopted by 187 countries to better control international trade in plastic waste, prevent its generation and improve its sound management came into force.

# Chemicals & Pollution Action

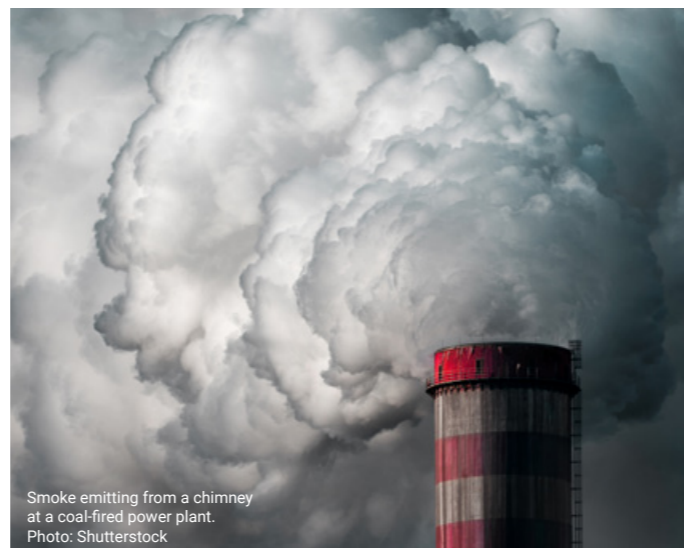


## Controlling air pollution

In September 2021, UNEP's first **global assessment of air pollution legislation**, which examined national air quality legislation in 194 States and the European Union, revealed that most countries embedded ambient air quality standards in legislation, but monitoring of the implementation is lacking. The report, presented at the second **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**, will serve as a basis for more effective air pollution reduction.

UNEP has teamed up with **IQAir** to build the world's largest **global air pollution network**, providing real-time data on global air quality and pollution hotspots. In the first pilot of its kind in Africa, UNEP and Kenyan telecom company Safaricom streamed real-time air pollution measurements to digital billboards across Nairobi. This resulted in a major

increase in air quality awareness and engagement in Kenya and led to a commitment from Safaricom to roll out the infrastructure across Kenya and potentially other nations.



Smoke emitting from a chimney at a coal-fired power plant. Photo: Shutterstock

## Responding to environmental disasters



In June 2021, the **UNEP-OCHA Joint Environment Unit** advised the government on how to contain the **toxic fallout from the X-Press Pearl** off the coast of Sri Lanka – where a mixture of plastic pellets, chemicals and oil created a complex **pollution crisis**. The same month, UNEP, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and partners bolstered disaster efforts in case of an oil spill from the **FSO Safer off the coast of Yemen**, where close to 8.5 million people could have been exposed to harmful levels of pollution within the first 36 hours.

UNEP used Earth Observation technology to monitor pollution incidents and bolster clean-up operations in Israel, Lebanon, Sierra Leone and Syria. Experts from the IMO/UNEP Mediterranean Assistance Unit also mobilized to assist response operations in Lebanon and Syria.

Debris washed onto a beach from the MV X-Press Pearl container ship, Ja-Ela, Sri Lanka. Photo: Dinuka Liyanawatte/Reuters



Gold miner trying out a mercury-free shaking table for gold extraction at the Aqua Azul mine in the Saramacca district, Suriname.  
Photo: Ranu Abhelakh/Reuters

## Reducing health and environmental impacts from mercury

In 2021, UNEP assisted 35 countries to complete the Minamata Initial Assessments using the UNEP Mercury Inventory Toolkit, and 30 countries to develop National Action Plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining, both in support of the implementation of the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**. An additional USD 44 million of funding was pledged through the GEF **planetGOLD** programme led by UNEP and Conservation International, along with substantial co-financing commitment from partners. A major refiner has already committed to purchasing one ton of mercury-free gold produced by the programme, worth more than USD 50 million.



Demonstrating a new shaking table that uses only water and gravity as an alternative to the more common mercury method to extract gold from ore. Saramacca district, Suriname.  
Photo: Ranu Abhelakh/Reuters

# Chemicals & Pollution Action



## Eradicating toxic lead in fuel and paints



2021 marked the end of leaded petrol after an almost 20-year **campaign** by the UNEP-led **Global Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles**. Banning the use of leaded petrol in ground transport has been estimated to prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths per year, increase children's IQs, save USD 2.45 trillion a year for the global economy and **decrease crime rates**.

UNEP is also supporting countries to phase out lead (Pb) in paints through the **Lead Paint Alliance**. Georgia, Morocco, Peru and Ukraine were the latest nations to adopt laws restricting lead paint, bringing the total to 83 countries.

Lead in paint graffiti exhibition.  
Photo: UNEP

## Raising awareness of hazardous lead in batteries



The transport sector is the fastest-growing greenhouse gas emitter, responsible for around 25 per cent of energy-related emissions.

At COP26, the Programme to Accelerate the Shift to Electric Mobility – part of UNEP's **Global Electric Mobility Programme** – was launched to support almost 30 low and middle-income countries. This is important, as the average car battery contains around 15kg of lead and projected growth would add up to 20 billion kilograms of lead by 2050.

Used lead batteries piled inside a lead treatment plant.  
Photo: Robert Pratta/Reuters

# Making UNEP **fit** for purpose

## New Medium-Term Strategy

In February 2021, Member States approved UNEP's new **Medium Term Strategy** (MTS) for 2022-2025 and the **Programme of Work** for 2022-2023 to strengthen UNEP's ability to deliver on its mandate as the world's leading authority on the environment.

The MTS outlines UNEP's contribution to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **Decade of Action**, with a 2050 outlook on planetary sustainability for people, prosperity and equity. The strategy aligns UNEP's systems, operations, procedures and culture to deliver with greater impact.

UNEP is also standardizing its delivery model to address long-standing challenges and strengthen project portfolio coherence and accountability framework.

## Striving to improve

In 2021, UNEP underwent a substantive evaluation by the **Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network** (MOPAN), comprised of 21 countries that share a common interest in assessing the performance of the major multilateral organizations they fund.

Initiated by Belgium, Netherlands, and Switzerland, the assessment provided independent, robust and comprehensive insights into UNEP's organizational performance from mid-2016 to 2020. It concluded that UNEP *remained highly relevant and its role in global environmental issues increased*. A survey of more than 1,000 UNEP partners, 200 documentary sources and interviews with more than 40 staff informed the evaluation to validate the findings – set against a standard indicator framework based on international best practice.

The evaluation also highlighted areas of improvement for UNEP, notably resource mobilization and project design and review process.

## Staff diversity

Much of UNEP's work in 2021 focused on advancing staff diversity, starting with the endorsement of the UNEP Gender Parity Implementation Report and Implementation Plan 2021-2023 – a continuation of UNEP's response to the Secretary General's **UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy**.

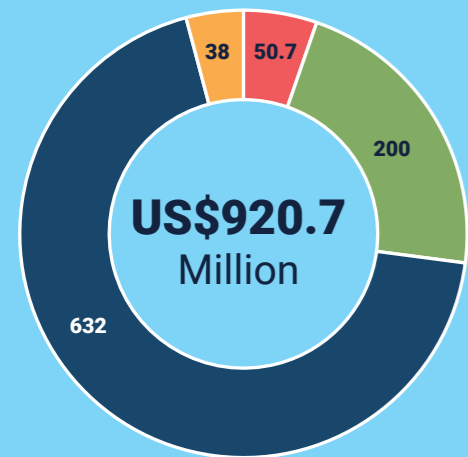
At the same time, UNEP made steady progress in meeting and exceeding gender parity targets at the junior and most senior professional levels. Still, more work still needs to be done at the mid-senior level, where 43 per cent of staff are female.

UNEP is also committed to increasing staff from regional groupings underrepresented within the organization. Through targeted outreach measures in 2021, UNEP reached more than 600 potential candidates from various countries, along with 360 in the Ukraine and 60 from Russia. UNEP also improved its visibility as an employer of choice for those interested in working in scientific, environmental, biodiversity, climate change issues, and international development.

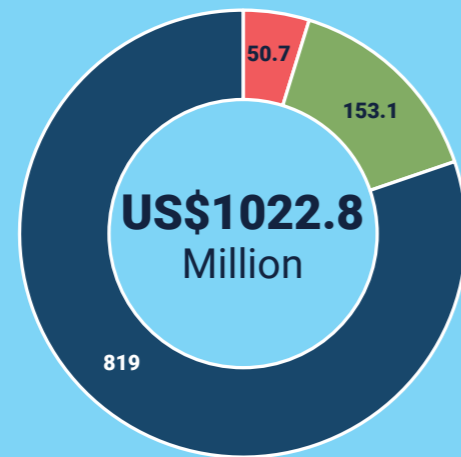
# UNEP funding

## Budget, income and expenditure for 2020 and 2021 (combined)

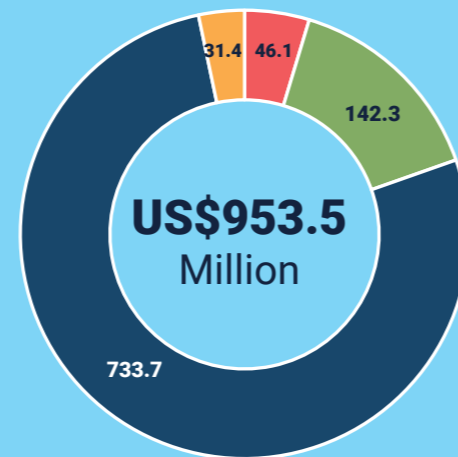
### Budget



### Income

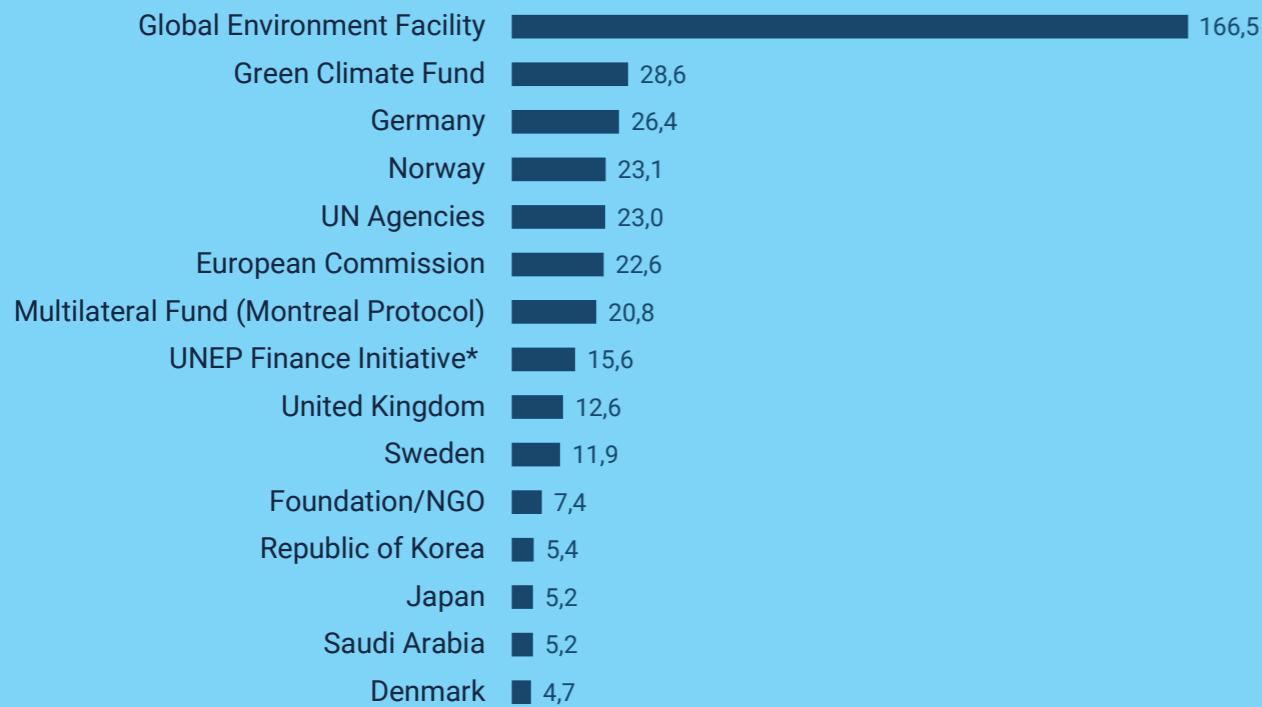


### Expenditure



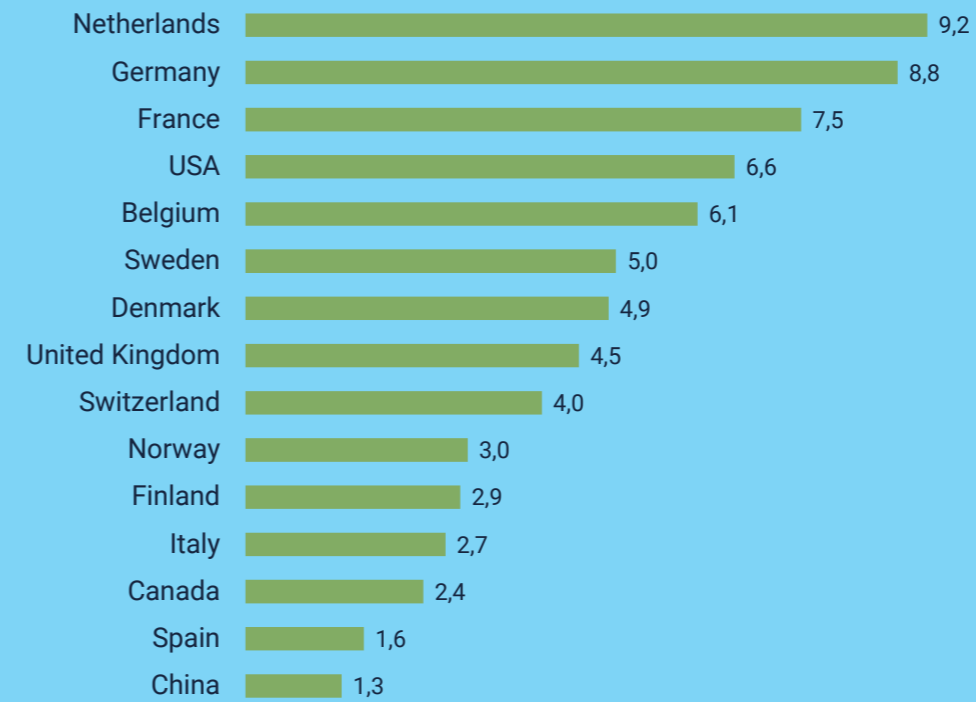
■ Environment Fund 
 ■ Earmarked Funds (including global funds and future years) 
 ■ UN Regular Budget 
 ■ Programme Support Cost

## Top-15 Contributors of Earmarked Funds in 2021 (USD million)

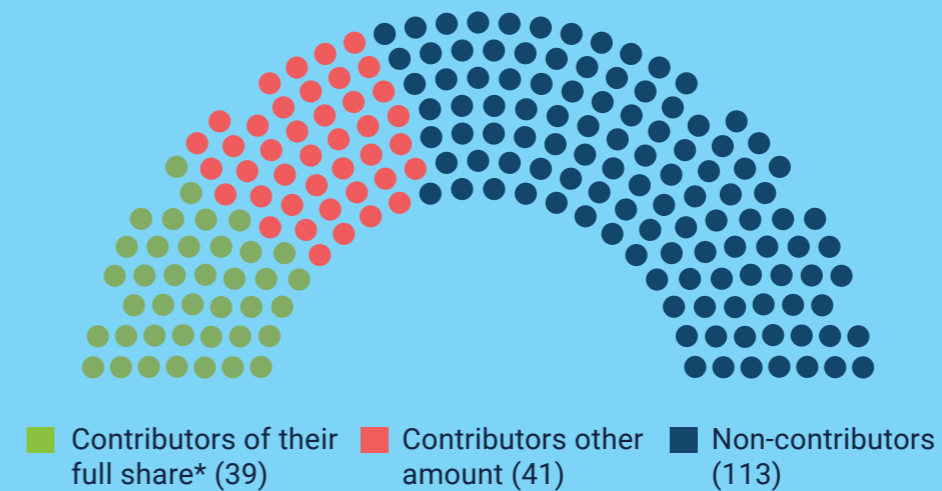


\*Partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development.

## Top-15 Environment Fund Contributors in 2021 (USD million)



## Contributors to Environment Fund (2021) by category (number of Member States)



\*as per the indicative scale of contributions agreed by the Member States

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