GREENING THE BLUE REPORT 2020

The UN System's Environmental Footprint and Efforts to Reduce it

GREENING THE BLUE

UN environment programme

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007, the United Nations (UN) System embarked on a journey to integrate environmental sustainability in its facilities and operations. Since then, the United Nations Environment Programme annually collects and analyses information provided by UN System entities on their environmental impacts and publishes this data in the *"Greening the Blue Report: The UN system's environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it."*

The report is composed of two elements: a brochure and entity-specific webpages. This brochure focuses on the UN System data as a whole; whereas, on www.greeningtheblue.org each contributing entity provides information about its environmental impacts and reduction measures taken in the course of the reporting year.

The *Greening the Blue Report 2020* covers emissions for 2019; therefore, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel and facilities' emissions are not yet visible in the reported data and will not be until 2021.

The report focuses on the environmental impacts of over 310,000 personnel in Headquarters, field offices and operations on the ground. Data was provided by close to 60 UN System entities and one new member of the growing Greening the Blue community: The Green Climate Fund.

Hundreds of personnel, from Headquarters to remote offices on the field, work on the data collection in an effort to continuously improve the data accuracy and the coverage of the environmental inventory.

In 2019, the UN System continued its downward trend on emissions generation. It produced ~2 million tonnes CO_2eq emissions, with per capita emissions of 6.5 tonnes CO_2eq. As a comparison, per capita emissions of 8.3 tonnes CO_2eq were reported in *Greening the Blue Report 2010.*

With 97% of reported 2019 emissions offset, the UN System is well on track to achieve its goal of 100% climate neutrality of its 2020 footprint.

Environmental Governance has also progressed with five additional UN entities advancing in their implementation of environmental management systems.

As part of these efforts, UN entities are finding innovative ways to fund projects in their offices around the globe. For instance, UNICEF Uruguay was able to renew their old air conditioning system and replace all lighting across the office with energy-efficient LED lights via UNICEF's Greening and Accessibility Fund. The fund is generated by UNICEF's 3% air travel surcharge to finance or co-finance small

scale Environmental Impact Reduction as well as Accessibility Improvement projects.

The power of partnerships is leveraged by UN entities to reduce their environmental impacts in field offices. FAO Regional Office for Africa in Ghana and UNDP Green Energy Team cooperated in 2019, to build a solar system that will strongly reduce energy costs and cover for 30-40% of the office energy demand.

UN entities are also implementing efforts to address environmental impacts. For example, UNON in Nairobi, Kenya has changed landscaping practices and developed a number of initiatives to respect and foster biodiversity at their compound.

Despite operational challenges experienced in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, the vast majority of UN entities were able to provide data on their 2019 environmental footprint. Looking forward, more efforts are necessary to further improve and facilitate data collection and quality in all areas. Based on better data, emissions reductions can both be tracked more precisely and supported by a solid environmental management approach.

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General

"The emergence of COVID-19 is a stark reminder of how we are all a part of nature and the environment. Just as humanity does not exist in isolation, neither does the United Nations system. Everything we do affects the world around us. We are all part of the global climate crisis, and our efforts to achieve environmental sustainability are essential to tackling it. We must work harder and faster to bequeath a livable planet for this and future generations."

–

António Guterres

OVERVIEW

The annual *Greening the Blue Report* provides information on the UN System's environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it. The report acts as a means to help determine if the UN System's facilities and operations are "on the right track" with their environmental objectives and to show where adjustment might be needed. The report also serves to inform the public both on how the UN System is doing in its environmental sustainability efforts and, hopefully, as a source of inspiration for other organisations.

The UN System first published its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2009 (for 2008 emissions) and has continued to do so ever since. With time, reporting has improved in accuracy and in scope and offers an ever-more detailed picture of the UN System's emissions and their sources.

It is important to remember that the annual report is a snapshot in time and does not reflect all of the intricacies and ever-changing realities that are involved with environmental sustainability in a system as varied as the United Nations.

In no way does the report rank UN System entities against one another, nor against a scale of good or bad sustainability efforts. Entity-specific data is available online at www.greeningtheblue.org.

For the years 2009 to 2019, the UN System's approach to environmental sustainability focused on three main objectives:

MEASURE AND REPORT ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO SYSTEMATICALLY MANAGE AND REDUCE ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

OFFSET ITS UNAVOIDABLE EMISSIONS AND ACHIEVE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2020

2020 IS
A TURNING POINT

This 2020 report marks a change. The UN's Chief Executive Board for Coordination has now endorsed the UN Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030, Phase I: Environmental Sustainability in the Area of Management.
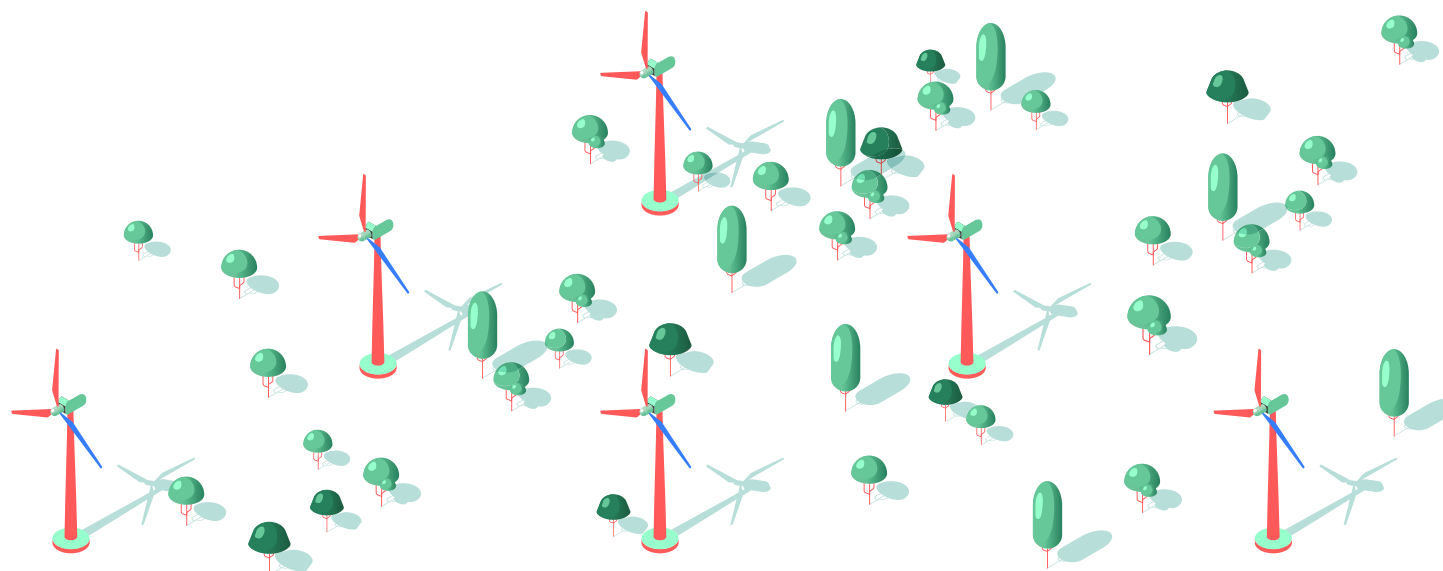
The strategy intends to accelerate the UN System's corporate efforts to combat climate change and to systematically integrate sustainable development considerations into how it operates. In particular, UN entities are committed to reducing their environmental impacts via targeted actions on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste management, air and water pollution, and biodiversity degradation.
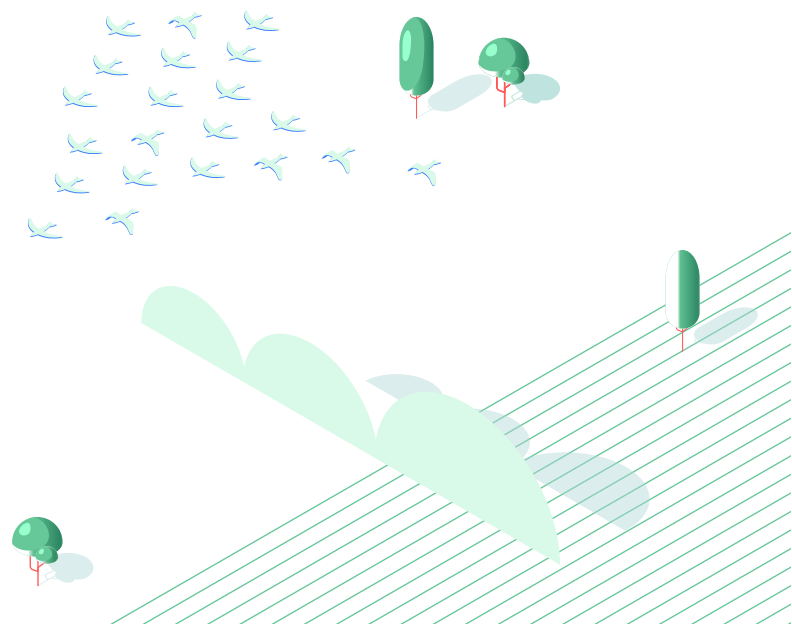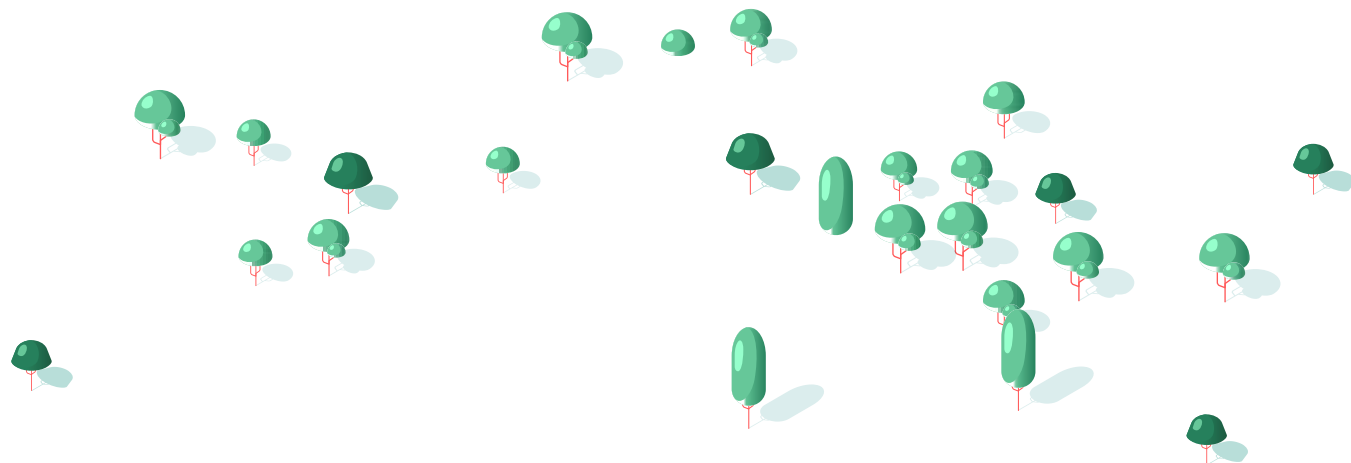
In the area of GHG emissions, UN System entities agreed to align with the recommendations of the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. This requires them to take concrete steps in energy demand reductions in all facilities and operations; transition to renewables; make improvements in travel and transport management; and, to maintain climate neutrality.

Entities will adopt environmental management approaches based on the principles of continuous improvements. They will also ensure that opportunities for improvements are captured wherever possible via the application of environmental and social safeguards in projects and programmes.

Building on the Greening the Blue experience, the UN System committed to upscale and improve its sustainability reporting framework to transparently communicate about progress, efforts, and challenges on the journey.

In 2020, the Greening the Blue community opened its membership to other intergovernmental organisations that are willing to follow the UN System's path towards emissions reduction. The Green Climate Fund is the first of such organisations to become a member, which is why its environmental information is shared in this report and on the Greening the Blue website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Included here is information on the environmental impact areas identified in the UN Sustainability

In each area, a '2019 best practice' from a UN entity that successfully made improvements in the area

across the UN System on biodiversity is currently being discussed. While no data is available, a 2019

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_13736