



**INVEST IN A  
HEALTHY PLANET**  
INVEST IN  
UN ENVIRONMENT



**UN**   
**environment**

United Nations  
Environment Programme



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promotes environmentally  
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"UN Environment has been, and will continue to be, a crucial actor in supporting nations to deliver on their environmental commitments.

In 2019, I fully expect the organization to continue this transformative work and help steer the world towards a more sustainable track."

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**António Guterres,**  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations

# INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Environment Programme (the UN Environment Programme) is the **leading global authority on the environment**. Since 1972, we are a powerful advocate, setting the global environmental agenda, providing leadership and delivering scientific solutions on some of the most urgent challenges facing the planet and humankind.

Around the world, we work in partnerships with governments, the scientific community, the private sector, civil society and other United Nations entities and international organizations. We bring together all partners to agree on solutions to our common challenges.

Through our normative work, and by facilitating and hosting intergovernmental platforms, we have a long history of contributing towards the development and implementation of environmental law and policies.

Working under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we identify and address the most relevant environmental issues of our time. We are people-centred and envisage a world where humanity lives in harmony with nature.

Our headquarters in Nairobi, our six regional offices – in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe,

Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and West Asia – and other offices located around the world including our centres of excellence, are instrumental in translating the UN Environment Programme's global mandate to local action.

Our medium-term strategy (2018-2021) guides us in our support to countries in their efforts to balance the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. In all our programmes and operations, we strive to incorporate a gender lens.

We are committed to efficiency and effectiveness to ensure best value for money. We work with multiple oversight bodies to help us achieve this.

Since 2008, we have been climate neutral, offsetting our greenhouse gas emissions.

We aim to be globally coherent and regionally responsive. While priorities and trends differ from region to region, there are also many issues that are relevant and urgent across all regions. In our strategy, Member States have identified seven thematic areas for our work in the coming years.



### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Transitioning to low-emission economic development, enhancing adaptation and building resilience to climate change.



### **RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS**

Preventing and reducing the environmental impact of disasters and conflicts, while building resilience to future crises.



### **HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS**

Managing ecosystems to protect and restore their long-term functioning and supply of goods and services.



### **ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

Promoting effective and inclusive environmental governance, underpinned by policy and legislation, and informed and empowered institutions.



### **CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY**

Promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, and improving air quality for a better environment and human health.



### **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

Promoting sustainable consumption and production, and supporting the transition to inclusive green economies.



### **ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW**

Monitoring the state of the planet's health to empower stakeholders to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development.



## UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

The universal 'parliament for the environment' brings together all 193 United Nations Member States, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector. It is the world's highest-level environmental decision-making body and meets biannually in Nairobi. The Assembly sets the global environmental agenda and agrees on joint priorities and action to tackle the most pressing environmental challenges. We, the UN Environment Programme, host the UN Environment Assembly – this is what we call our **unique convening power**.



Photo: © UN Environment

The UN Environment Assembly was created in June 2012, and embodies a new era in which the environment is at the centre of the international community's focus, and is given the same level of prominence as issues such as peace, poverty, health and security.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Our ambition is to **inform, enable** and **inspire** nations and peoples to improve their quality of life – without compromising that of future generations. Here are some illustrative results and highlights of our work.

Photo: © Neil Palmer Photography

## WE INFORM.

Science is fundamental in providing answers to some of the most pressing sustainability issues of the 21st century, and to ensure evidence-based decision-making. Informing society of the risks as well as the opportunities of new developments is at the heart of our work. We keep the global environment under review and improve access to information and knowledge-sharing, with the ultimate goal being the transformation of humanity's relationship with our environment.

As an example, the UN Environment Programme's flagship scientific publications such as the Global Environment Outlook and the Emissions Gap Report provide detailed analysis and key findings that support enhanced environmental policymaking and governance. These reports help bridge the gap between science and policy by turning the best available scientific knowledge into information relevant for decision makers, who then can turn policy into action.

On a global level, we highlight the most compelling, effective and replicable environmental policies and practices, no matter their source. We keep a finger on the environmental pulse and identify global emerging environmental issues.

With our dedicated team of scientists and experts, the UN Environment Programme is the only Member State-led organization that has both the mandate and the capacity to assess the world's environmental resources.

The information and knowledge gained from our work is discussed and shared through a range of scientific assessments and reports, as well as information and knowledge portals such as InforMEA, which provides a bird's-eye view of all major environmental treaties across key topics.

The science and its implications for policymakers is discussed and negotiated through convening platforms, such as the UN Environment Assembly.

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