

2012 Annual Report



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The mission of the United Nations Environment Programme is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

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* All dollar (\$) amounts refer to US dollars.

* The term 'one billion' in this report refers to one thousand million

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MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



BAN KI-MOON
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

In the past decade, the number of people living in extreme poverty has been reduced by half. Yet, too many people remain poor, hungry and vulnerable to easily preventable disease, and the environmental base that will improve their opportunities for prosperity is under unprecedented threat. No longer can we afford to recklessly consume resources that grow ever scarcer. No longer can we carelessly pollute and degrade fragile ecosystems. No longer can we ignore the threat posed by climate change. No longer can we undermine our future to satisfy short-term needs.

To address all these issues, we must create an irreversible momentum. The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was therefore a welcome step in the right direction. World leaders agreed to establish a set of universal sustainable development goals, which will build on the Millennium Development Goals and become an integral part of the post-2015 development framework. They also agreed to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development, including reinforcing UNEP as the leading global environmental authority.

The conference adopted a ten-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, to be hosted by UNEP, and recognized the need to go beyond gross domestic product as a measure of progress. It also acknowledged the role that green economy policies can play in poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental care.

The broad range of work highlighted in this Annual Report demonstrates how UNEP uses its expertise and experience in working with governments, UN bodies and other actors for sustainability. With the increased authority bestowed on it by Rio+20 and – most recently – by the UN General Assembly decision to allow full participation of all 193 UN Member States at the UNEP Governing Council in February 2013, I expect UNEP to play a key role in creating the future we want.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

TO CELEBRATE UNEP'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY, STANLEY JOHNSON WROTE A HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION, PACKED WITH FASCINATING ANECDOTES, QUOTES AND PICTURES.



UNEP THE FIRST 40 YEARS

A NARRATIVE

BY STANLEY JOHNSON



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2012: YEAR IN SUMMARY





ACHIM STEINER
UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AMINA MOHAMED
UNEP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2012 – A RESOUNDING ENDORSEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

History was made in 2012 with the first institutional reform of the environment programme of the UN since the Stockholm UN Conference on the Human Environment established UNEP in 1972.

At Rio+20, Heads of State and governments decided to strengthen and upgrade UNEP. This was followed by the adoption of a resolution at the 67th session of the UN General Assembly later in the year.

This transformation – in our 40th anniversary year – was not only a vote of confidence in the mission and work of UNEP but also a signal that the environmental pillar of sustainable development and its anchor institution have moved from the fringes and far more into the centre of nations' aspirations for The Future We Want.

It is also a tribute to the former Executive Directors and staff who nurtured UNEP and directed it from a small secretariat of around a dozen people, housed initially above a supermarket in downtown Nairobi, to the truly global institution we see today.

When member states meet at UNEP's Governing Council in February 2013 they will also meet as a forum with universal membership for the first time.

Meanwhile, discussions are already underway on providing UNEP with increased funding from the UN Regular Budget in order to meet the challenges and opportunities, including those possible through a transition to an inclusive Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Additional funding that is stable and predictable will assist in the request from governments for increased support to countries at the national and regional level through enhanced capacity building and technology support.



UNEP – with its long history of working with partners from governments, the UN family, cities, the scientific community, businesses and civil society – is entering a new phase that can better serve the needs of a growing global population.

In short, as a result of reforms put in place in the last six or so years and those delivered at Rio+20 in 2012, UNEP is better placed to deal with the realities of and real opportunities for a sustainable 21st century.

Leading the Charge



The transportation sector, particularly heavy diesel vehicles, is a significant source of black carbon, which the Climate and Clean Air Coalition aims to tackle

UNEP has also been asked to establish and administer a Trust Fund to support Sustainable Consumption and Production under the 10YFP implementation in developing countries and economies in transition.

The framework will contribute to decoupling resource use and environmental degradation from economic growth, as well as provide capacity building and technical support to developing countries.

In February 2012, UNEP and an initial group of six governments launched the **Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)** – the first global effort to treat short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon, methane and some hydrofluorocarbons as a complementary effort.

Compelling scientific evidence indicates that fast action to reduce these pollutants, especially methane and black carbon, has the potential to slow down the warming expected by 2050 by as much as 0.5°C. UNEP pioneered work on black carbon over a decade ago with its **Atmospheric Brown Cloud project** – underscoring UNEP's role as the agency that highlights emerging issues and prompts concrete action. Less than a year after its establishment 26 States the

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