



# Keeping the promise

Annual Report 2023

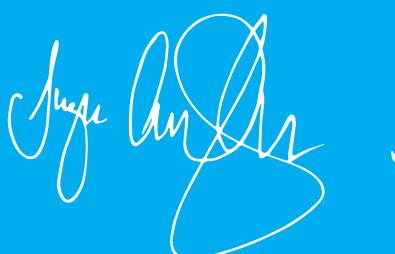
# Message from the Executive Director

Last year was one of broken records and broken promises. We saw new highs of greenhouse gas emissions, temperature records tumbling and climate impacts arriving stronger and faster. The finance to help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change isn't being delivered. At the same time, most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are off track at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There are many reasons for this, but it is clear that slow action on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste is a major driving force.

This is the downside. The upside is that the global response to the triple planetary crisis intensified. Efforts to combat pollution and waste received a shot in the arm with the agreement of the Global Framework on Chemicals and progress on the global instrument on plastic pollution, which should be ready by 2024. Nations adopted a treaty to protect biodiversity in the ocean beyond national borders, while key guidelines to help the private sector reduce its impact on nature were released – a boost to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of which gathered pace. Finally, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, delivered a clear call on countries to transition away from fossil fuels – alongside a framework on the Global Goal on Adaptation, operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund, and new commitments on sustainable cooling, methane reduction, tripling renewable energy targets and nature breakthroughs.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) played an important role in many of these processes – by providing key science and solutions on the triple planetary crisis, convening and supporting important negotiations, hosting critical multilateral environmental agreements, working with the private and financial sectors to align funding with global processes and supporting Member States to deliver on their commitments.

Progress is being made. The great task ahead is to accelerate this progress so that it moves faster than the intensification of the triple planetary crisis. As the leading global authority on the environment, UNEP will work tirelessly to help make this happen – through deploying digital technologies to provide forward-looking and relevant science, boosting the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements that make change possible, and backing Member States to promote climate stability, live in harmony with nature and forge a pollution-free future. This is how we will deliver on the 2030 Agenda and create the conditions for a more peaceful and prosperous world.



Inger Andersen  
UNEP Executive Director



# climate ACTION

UNEP is at the forefront of global efforts to help countries cut their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, which are at the core of SDG13 on climate action. This work also contributes to a host of other goals that back human and planetary health, prosperity and equity, including ending poverty (SDG1), stopping hunger (SDG2), expanding access to affordable and clean energy (SDG7), reducing inequalities (SDG10) and building sustainable communities (SDG11).



Endurance swimmer and UNEP Ocean Advocate Lewis Pugh, seen here during an expedition to the Arctic, helped raise awareness about the threats to the world's water bodies.

Photo: UNEP/Kelvin Trautman



Humpback whales swim in the Pacific Ocean. UNEP's work on climate change was designed to help countries slash their greenhouse gas emissions, crucial to safeguarding life on land and at sea.  
Photo: Shutterstock

# Measuring the depth of the climate crisis

UNEP analysis released ahead of the **UN Climate Change Conference** (COP28) brought into sharp focus the scale of the climate crisis and offered policymakers a suite of solutions.

The **Emission Gap Report 2023: Broken Record – Temperatures hit new highs, yet world fails to cut emissions (again)** showed that current climate pledges put the Earth on track to warm by 2.5-2.9°C this century, well above the goals of the **Paris Agreement**. To keep warming below 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must fall by 42 per cent by 2030. The **Production Gap Report: Phasing down or phasing up? Top fossil fuel producers plan even more extraction despite climate promises** found that governments' plans to produce fossil fuels would obliterate the carbon budget for 1.5°C. Meanwhile, the **Adaptation Gap Report: Underfinanced. Underprepared – Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed**, found that the adaptation finance gap was 50 per cent larger than previously thought. Developing countries need between US\$215 billion to US\$387 billion a year to withstand growing climate impacts. The UNEP analyses were mentioned by heads of state and negotiators during COP28, while the Adaptation Gap Report was cited in the Global Stocktake, the final COP28 decision that called on countries to transition away from fossil fuels. Over 3,300 articles on these "gap" analyses were published in 75-plus countries.



# Bolstering climate-related reporting

In 2023, UNEP supported 43 developing countries as they prepared their biennial transparency reports i.e. documents that gauge how well individual nations are living up to their climate commitments. These national report cards were supported by US\$32 million in financing from the **Global Environment Facility** (GEF), one of the largest sums the facility has ever provided for climate reporting.

UNEP helped dozens of countries bolster their reporting in other ways, including by developing systems to manage climate data. Through the **UNEP-Copenhagen Climate Centre**, UNEP established six regional networks to provide training and technical support on reporting. The transparency reporting process is considered crucial to the Paris Agreement because it informs policymaking and builds trust among nations.

The groundbreaking **Methane Alert and Response System** tracked major releases of the potent greenhouse gas from oil and gas installations. Developed by UNEP and partners, the first-of-its-kind initiative uses satellite data, machine learning and other cutting-edge techniques. In 2023, it notified companies and governments of over 120 methane plumes across four continents, encouraging action to reduce emissions.

# Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

UNEP advised Brazil on the development of energy efficiency standards for commercial refrigerators, an effort that aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 11 million tonnes annually – equivalent to 15 per cent of the emissions from the country's electricity sector. Meanwhile, UNEP helped 10 cities in Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Kenya and Türkiye develop plans to decarbonize their building sectors.

Five countries – Angola, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Romania and Turkmenistan – joined the **Global Methane Pledge** in 2023, bringing total participation to 155 nations. UNEP is a core implementer of the pledge, which was prominent at COP28 and aims to cut global methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. This is crucial to address near-term climate change and buy time for full decarbonization.

The UNEP-led **United for Efficiency** initiative supported over 80 countries as they developed energy efficiency standards for lighting, equipment and appliances. By 2040, those interventions could save around 30,000 MW of energy, equivalent to 60 large power plants.

In 2023, an additional 11 parties ratified the **Montreal Protocol**'s Kigali Amendment, which calls for the phase down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Reducing the use of these potent greenhouse gases could avert up to 0.5°C of warming by mid-century. The protocol's Multilateral Fund was replenished in October 2023 with a record US\$965 million for 2024–2026. More than 60 countries joined the **Cooling Pledge**, organized by the UNEP-convened Cool Coalition. The agreement aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to the cooling sector by at least 68 per cent globally by 2050.

UNEP and partners organized Africa Climate Week alongside the first Africa Climate Summit, which brought more than 10,000 participants, including 20 heads of state, to Nairobi, Kenya. The gathering emphasized that Africa can drive solutions to the climate crisis. "We aim to weave a single, resounding African voice that will carry the outcomes ... to COP28 and beyond," said **Kenyan President William Ruto**.

Community members nurture seedlings at a tree nursery in Cambodia supported by UNEP. The initiative aims to counter the effects of drought and erosion caused by climate change. Photo: UNEP

# Helping communities adapt to climate change

UNEP led the establishment of early warning systems for climate-related disasters in six countries: Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu. Some of those systems are up and running, including a web-based forecasting system that warned Cook Islanders of coastal flooding during a May storm. UNEP is implementing similar projects in 19 other nations, as part of a broader UN push to ensure early warning systems protect everyone on Earth by 2027.

UNEP also ramped up efforts to help communities adapt to long-term changes in the climate, supporting almost 80 projects. UNEP helped Panama and Uganda develop national adaptation plans, bringing the total number of countries it has supported with this work to 23.

The **Climate Technology Centre and Network** (CTCN), a UNEP-hosted body, helped developing countries leverage technology to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These interventions are projected to benefit 69 million people and prevent the emission of 21 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually – the same as taking 4 million cars off the road. For example, the CTCN supported Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to develop minimum energy performance standards for refrigerators and transformers.



Farmers Girukishaka Rodia and Philbert Ntacyica, from Burundi, plant new crops designed to protect their fields from erosion, thanks to support from a UNEP-led project.  
Photo: UNEP/Lisa Murray

# Generating private finance for climate action

The UN-convened **Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance**, a group of institutional investors committed to decarbonizing their portfolios, grew to 87 members by November 2023, from 77 the previous year. The combined greenhouse gas emissions of target-setting members fell 3 per cent in 2022. Alliance members, which have US\$9.5 trillion in assets under management, had dedicated over US\$380 billion to climate solutions through 2022, the last year for which data is available.

By year end, more than 320 lenders, representing half of the world's banking assets, had joined the **Principles for Responsible Banking**. The framework, administered by the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), helps banks align their core business with global environmental deals. Some 71 per cent of signatories have committed to mitigation targets. Many are also financing companies that offer climate solutions. For example, one major lender provided a US\$1.2 billion loan to an Indian renewable energy developer building 900 megawatts of wind capacity and 400 megawatts of solar capacity.

## Reviving lakes, rivers and aquifers

UNEP helped to protect, restore and better manage freshwater ecosystems, which are under increasing threat from climate change. In March, UNEP and several partners launched the **Freshwater Challenge**, which aims to safeguard 300,000km of rivers and 350 million hectares of wetlands around the world. Some 43 nations joined the effort, including many at **COP28**, an important outcome of the COP28 Water Agenda. UNEP also began a project, funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative, to help sustainably manage the Congo River Basin. It is one of several UNEP-led efforts in the area, home to more than 75 million people. As well, UNEP announced it would work with **19 cities around the world** to restore urban ecosystems, overwhelmingly rivers, canals and wetlands. UNEP also supported the launch by Kenya of the **Nairobi Rivers Commission**, which aims to rejuvenate the river basin on which the capital city depends. Finally, the UNEP report **Wastewater: Turning Problem to Solution** found that with the right policies, wastewater could provide alternative energy to 500 million people, supply 10 times the water provided by current global desalination capacity and offset over 10 per cent of global fertilizer use.

A fishing boat on Lake Naivasha, Kenya.  
Photo: UNEP/Stephanie Foote

# By the numbers

# 42%

Amount the world needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C.

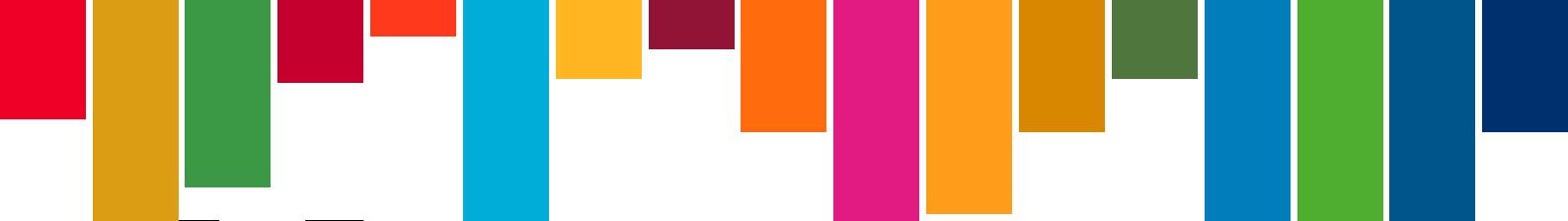


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**The UNEP report shows that the emissions gap is more like an emissions canyon. A canyon littered with broken promises, broken lives, and broken records.**

UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** on the launch of UNEP's Emissions Gap Report

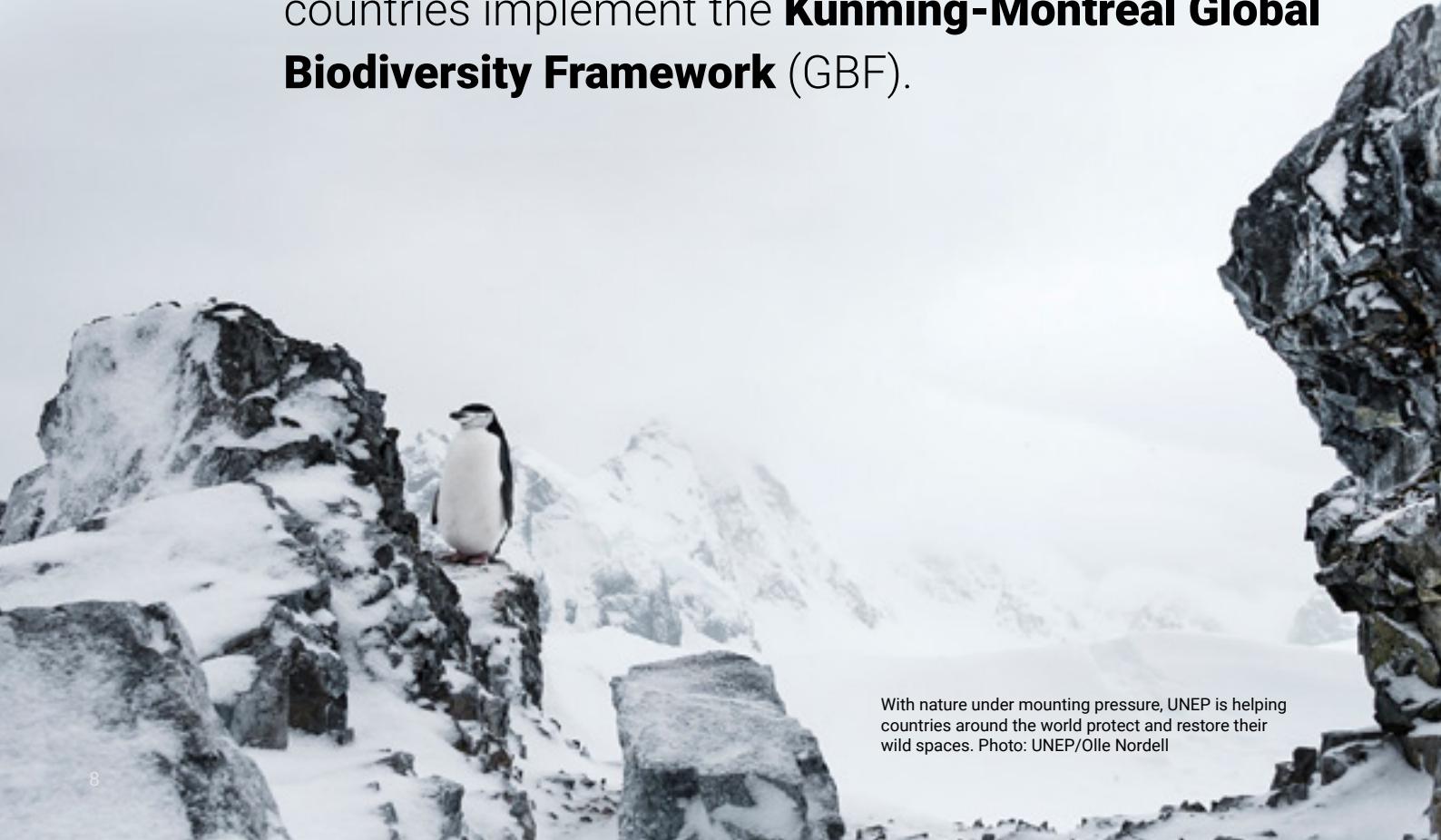
Photo: UNEP



# Nature ACTION

At a time when nature and biodiversity is under huge pressure, UNEP is leading efforts to protect, restore and sustainably manage the natural world. Since nature underpins societies and economies, this work supports safeguarding life below water (SDG14) and life on land (SDG15), amongst other goals.

Many of UNEP's efforts in 2023 focused on helping countries implement the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (GBF).



With nature under mounting pressure, UNEP is helping countries around the world protect and restore their wild spaces. Photo: UNEP/Olle Nordell

# Sustainably managing the natural world

With support from the GEF, UNEP is leading 24 projects in 21 countries, from Chile to Sri Lanka, to protect and revive a range of landscapes and seascapes. In 2023, that work supported the sustainable management of more than 560,000 hectares of ecosystems, an area roughly the size of Trinidad and Tobago. It also led to the creation of 254,000 hectares of protected areas and the conservation or restoration of 110,000 hectares of forests.

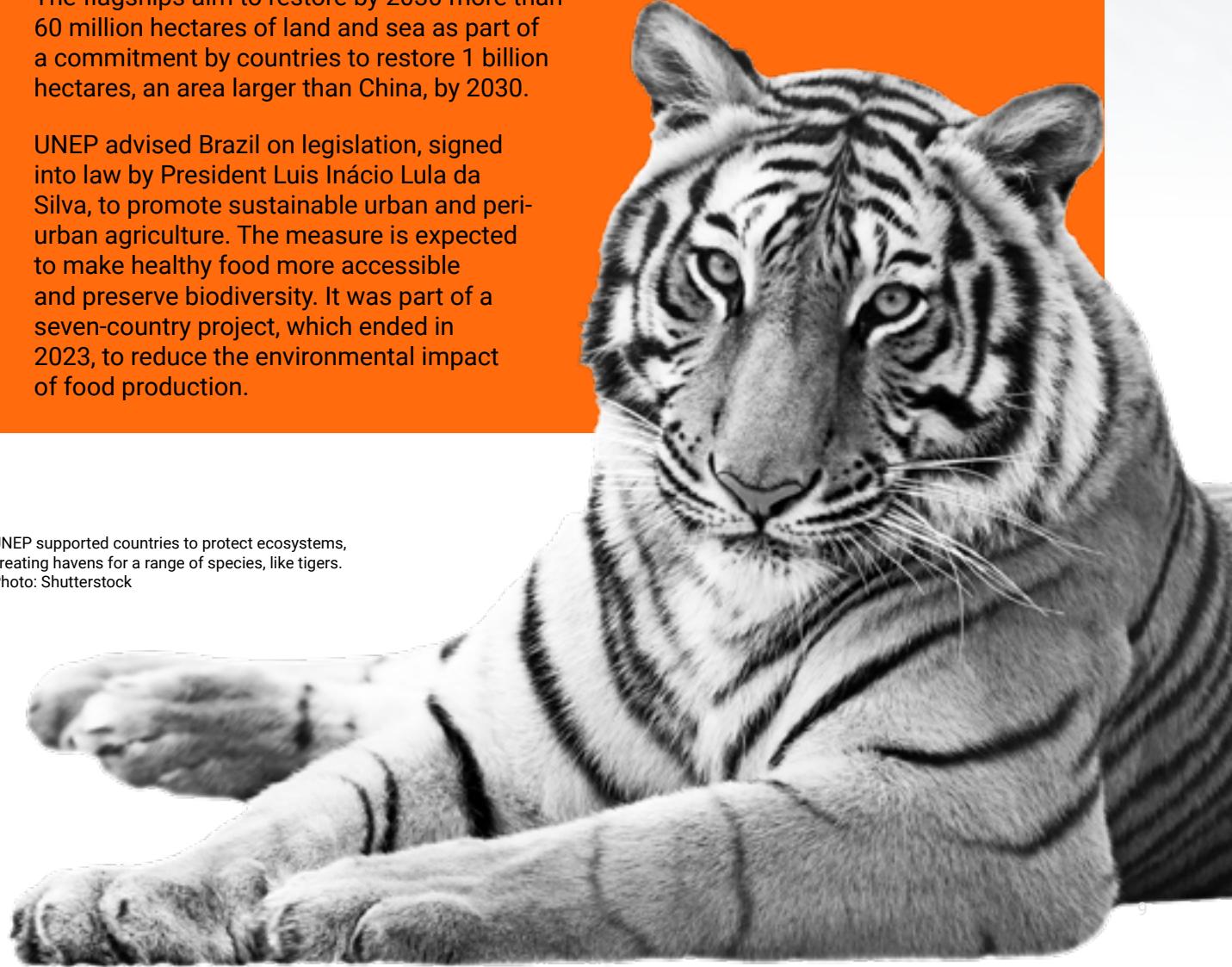
Through the **UN-REDD Programme**, UNEP helped 17 countries to conserve and restore forests, which are crucial carbon sinks. The programme helped countries become eligible for a combined US\$1.5 billion in results-based financing for forest conservation. Those efforts are also expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 100 million tonnes between now and 2026.

The **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, led by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), showcased 10 pioneering restoration efforts. These **Restoration Flagships** were featured in 1,500 media stories and generated 70 million views on social media.

The flagships aim to restore by 2030 more than 60 million hectares of land and sea as part of a commitment by countries to restore 1 billion hectares, an area larger than China, by 2030.

UNEP advised Brazil on legislation, signed into law by President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, to promote sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture. The measure is expected to make healthy food more accessible and preserve biodiversity. It was part of a seven-country project, which ended in 2023, to reduce the environmental impact of food production.

UNEP supported countries to protect ecosystems, creating havens for a range of species, like tigers.  
Photo: Shutterstock



# Improving governance and accountability for nature

UNEP and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported 138 countries as they aligned their national biodiversity policies, targets and monitoring frameworks with the GBF. This is a critical step to the agreement's success.

In September, UNEP and partners launched the **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Accelerator Partnership**, which provides technical support to accelerate implementation of the GBF. UNEP also trained officials from 50 countries to use a **data reporting tool**, which helps streamline reporting to biodiversity-related conventions.

In June, UN Member States adopted **an agreement** that lays the foundation for the conservation and sustainable use of the two-thirds of the ocean beyond national jurisdiction. UNEP provided expert advice as leaders negotiated the deal, which is key to implementing the GBF, particularly its target of protecting 30 per cent of land and sea by 2030.

To mark its 20th anniversary, the UNEP-hosted **Carpathian Convention** adopted a new **framework** to protect biodiversity across one of Europe's longest mountain ranges, a reflection of regional efforts to implement the GBF.

UNEP helped communities around the world, including those in mountainous regions like the Andes, restore damaged landscapes.  
Photo: UNEP/Todd Brown



# Mainstreaming biodiversity

In 2023, UNEP focused on helping financial sector players, including banks and insurers, to embed biodiversity-related considerations into their business practices. This is crucial to mobilizing the capital necessary to make good on the promise of the GBF.

In September, the **Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** released a framework outlining how companies can assess and disclose nature-related risks and dependencies. UNEP-FI co-founded the task force and tested a beta version of the standards with 50 financial institutions in 25 countries. The G7 and G20 took official note of the framework, which supports GBF Target 15 calling on businesses to reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity.

UNEP and other UN bodies supported the Government of Indonesia's **National Blue Economy Roadmap 2023-2045**. Launched in July, it outlines how the country can sustainably develop its marine resources for economic growth. UNEP's support fell under the High Impact Initiative on Nature Driving Economic Transformation, part of a broader UN effort to supercharge progress on the SDGs.

# Combating desertification

Throughout 2023, UNEP helped Member States to counter desertification and other forms of land degradation, which affect more than **3 billion people** and are a prime driver of biodiversity loss. UNEP supported countries in implementing their objectives under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and, in partnership with other organizations, helped countries access funds to address the dual challenges of desertification and climate change adaptation.

A prime example of UNEP's work is in Africa, where the organization is supporting the Great Green Wall, an 8,000km band of trees and shrubs that is helping to hold back the Sahara Desert. UNEP-backed projects in 11 countries helped to strengthen cooperation around the wall while assessing the scale of land degradation. That was part of a multi-year effort to provide technical support to Great Green Wall countries, and to design and implement projects to reclaim land from the desert.

As well, UNEP provided support to countries in West Asia dealing with sandstorms, which can be a source of conflict and are expected to become more common as climate change and desertification accelerate.

Finally, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a partnership between UNEP and FAO, cast a spotlight on the importance of restoring grasslands, popularizing regenerative agriculture and improving soil quality, all key to countering desertification.

# By the numbers

# 138

Number of countries UNEP and UNDP are supporting as they develop national strategies to safeguard biodiversity.



**With only seven years to implement the (Global Biodiversity Framework) we must all act now. And we must continue to act until our web of life is secure.**

**Inger Andersen**  
UNEP Executive Director

# Pollution ACTION

UNEP is helping countries to phase out hazardous chemicals, rein in single-use plastics, close open dumpsites, improve air quality and build circular economies. Tackling the pollution and waste crisis is integral to ensuring good health and wellbeing (SDG3), providing clean water and sanitation (SDG6), forging sustainable cities and communities (SDG11), establishing sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12), and protecting life below water (SDG14).



UNEP named South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research as a 2023 Champion of the Earth, the UN's top environmental honour. Last year's awards focused on groups and individuals helping to tackle the plastic pollution crisis.  
Photo: UNEP/Ihsaan Haffejee

# Reining in chemical pollution and improving human health

In September, the world agreed on the **Global Framework on Chemicals**, a historic deal to protect people and the environment from chemical pollution, which causes an **estimated 2 million deaths** every year. The agreement has 28 targets, including a call for action on highly hazardous pesticides and a crackdown on illegal chemicals. UNEP will manage a dedicated trust fund in support of the framework. Germany has committed 20 million euros to the fund, with France, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland also contributing.

In early 2023, UNEP released the report ***Bracing for Superbugs***. The report's in-depth look at how environmental degradation is feeding the rise of antimicrobial resistance was covered by media in 70 countries. "We must remain focused on turning the tide in this crisis by raising awareness and by placing this matter of global importance on the agenda of the world's nations," said Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, who launched the report alongside UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen.

## Countering plastic pollution

The **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution**, hosted by UNEP, released a zero draft of a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution. The draft, which covers the full lifecycle of plastic, was reviewed during talks in Nairobi, Kenya late in the year marking a key step towards finalizing the agreement by the end of 2024.

Six new governments signed onto the **New Plastics Economy Global Commitment**, co-led by UNEP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. They join 55 nations and hundreds of organizations that have collectively reduced their annual consumption of virgin plastics by 3 million tonnes since 2018. This is more than the annual plastic packaging use of France. Governments of the **High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution** are committed to ending plastic pollution by 2040.

UNEP's collaboration with the **Mekong River Commission** led to the creation of the world's first transboundary **rules for tracking riverine plastic pollution** for the Lower Mekong River. An estimated 80 per cent of the nearly 65 million people living in the Lower Mekong River Basin depend on the river and its natural resources for their livelihoods.

In the Caribbean, UNEP led a regional project to prevent plastic-laced fishing nets and traps from being swept away during storms. The effort, a partnership with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, spanned nine countries. It included awareness-raising campaigns among fishers and AI-based mapping of pollution hotspots.

UNEP used its influential advocacy tools to focus attention on solutions to plastic pollution. The theme of **World Environment Day**, June 5, was on plastic pollution. Generously hosted by Côte d'Ivoire, the day was the top-trending hashtag on X (formerly known as Twitter). Related content was seen more than 300 million times across social media. Several governments also made commitments on the day, with Côte d'Ivoire unveiling a new environmental code to fight plastic pollution. The **Champions of the Earth**, the UN's highest environmental honour, featured individuals and groups re-inventing humanity's relationship with plastic. The awards almost doubled their reach on social media from 2022.

# Combating air pollution

UNEP ramped up its efforts to counter air pollution, which kills **6.7 million** people a year and imposes health costs equivalent to more than six per cent of global gross domestic product.

The organization helped Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, where some cities are among the most polluted in Central Asia during the winter heating season, to **develop** roadmaps to establish modern air quality indexes. The countries of West Asia, with support from UNEP and the World Health Organization, agreed to establish a regional network to improve air quality in the first collaboration of its kind in the region.

The UNEP-convened **Climate and Clean Air Coalition** helped 50 countries – including Cambodia, Kenya, Pakistan, Nigeria and Thailand – advance national plans to reduce short-lived pollutants, like methane and hydrofluorocarbons, which contribute to climate change and air pollution.

Finally, the UNEP-led **International Day of Clean Air for blue skies** focused on how countries can counter air pollution. Several celebrities joined the call for cleaner air, with UNEP **Goodwill Ambassador Dia Mirza** saying: “Breathing should never be a hazard.”





Workers in Zhejiang, China gather plastic debris, part of an effort by organization Blue Circle to fight marine plastic pollution. UNEP named Blue Circle a 2023 Champion of the Earth. Photo: UNEP

## Eliminating waste

Throughout 2023, UNEP helped countries reduce waste. The *Circularity Gap Report* found that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean could take 30 per cent off their material use and carbon footprint by implementing circular economy strategies. The *2050 Electrical and Electronic Waste Outlook in West Asia* found that recycling electronics in the region could recover 130 tonnes of gold, 17 million tonnes of iron and steel, and 5,000 tonnes of rare-earth metals by 2050. The report was released on the inaugural **International Day of Zero Waste**, led by UNEP and UN-Habitat with support from Türkiye.

UNEP, with support from the GEF, led projects around the world to clean up hazardous waste, resulting in the proper disposal of 216 tonnes of electronic waste in Nigeria, 32 tonnes of the pesticide dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) in Ethiopia and 211 tonnes of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Cameroon.

UNEP helped luxury hotels in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates slash their food waste by 65 per cent during the holy month of Ramadan. The effort was part of **Recipe for Change**, a region-wide campaign to reduce food waste.

# Bringing countries together

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury**, hosted by UNEP, celebrated the 10th anniversary of its adoption. Delegates from 147 countries set new dates to phase out mercury-added products, including fluorescent lamps and cosmetics, at the fifth Conference of the Parties. They also reached an agreement on a threshold for mercury waste.

In addition, UNEP helped 33 countries develop national action plans to reduce mercury pollution from small-scale gold mines, a major source of the toxic chemical. Through the GEF-funded effort, 26 nations have submitted plans to the Minamata Convention. The PlanetGold programme, which aims to improve production practices and working conditions in small-scale mines, expanded to 24 countries, with certified mines selling US\$42 million worth of gold through the initiative, which is led by UNEP with GEF funding.

UNEP built on a UN Environment Assembly resolution by twice convening a working group that is developing proposals for a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. The panel, expected to be established in 2024, will help governments make informed decisions on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The Conferences of the Parties to the UNEP-hosted **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm** conventions adopted a further 54 decisions to reduce hazardous wastes, eliminate persistent organic pollutants and control the trade of toxic chemicals and waste. The Stockholm Convention listed three new persistent organic pollutants for elimination, two of which are plastic additives. The Basel Convention adopted technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes.

## By the numbers

# 300 million

Number of people who saw World Environment Day content on social media in 2023. The day was hosted by Côte d'Ivoire.



**Everyone on this planet should be able to live and work without fear of falling sick or dying from chemical exposure. This framework provides a vision for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste, for a safe, healthy and sustainable future.**

**Inger Andersen**, UNEP Executive Director, on a new global agreement to limit chemical pollution.



# Bridging the gender divide

UNEP continued to promote SDG5 on gender equality, and empower women and girls to take leadership roles in conservation and restoration by developing its second Gender Policy and Strategy. Initial results indicate that about 90 per cent of projects designed in the first half of 2023 integrated gender well based on a comprehensive metric used by the UN. UNEP launched the second phase of the **EmPower** project, which is helping women in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam purchase small-scale renewable energy equipment, like solar-powered water pumps. Some 100,000 women are expected to benefit from this initiative. UNEP also played a crucial role in Kenya by providing training to women engaged in sustainable fishing practices, boosting their incomes, and contributing to the conservation of depleting marine resources. Furthermore, in Rwanda, Togo and Uganda, UNEP and its partners launched a programme providing grants to electric mobility start-ups with a focus on creating employment opportunities for women.

UNEP is actively working to bridge the gender divide, particularly in the realm of environmental conservation and sustainability.  
Photo: Unsplash/Ashwini Chaudhary



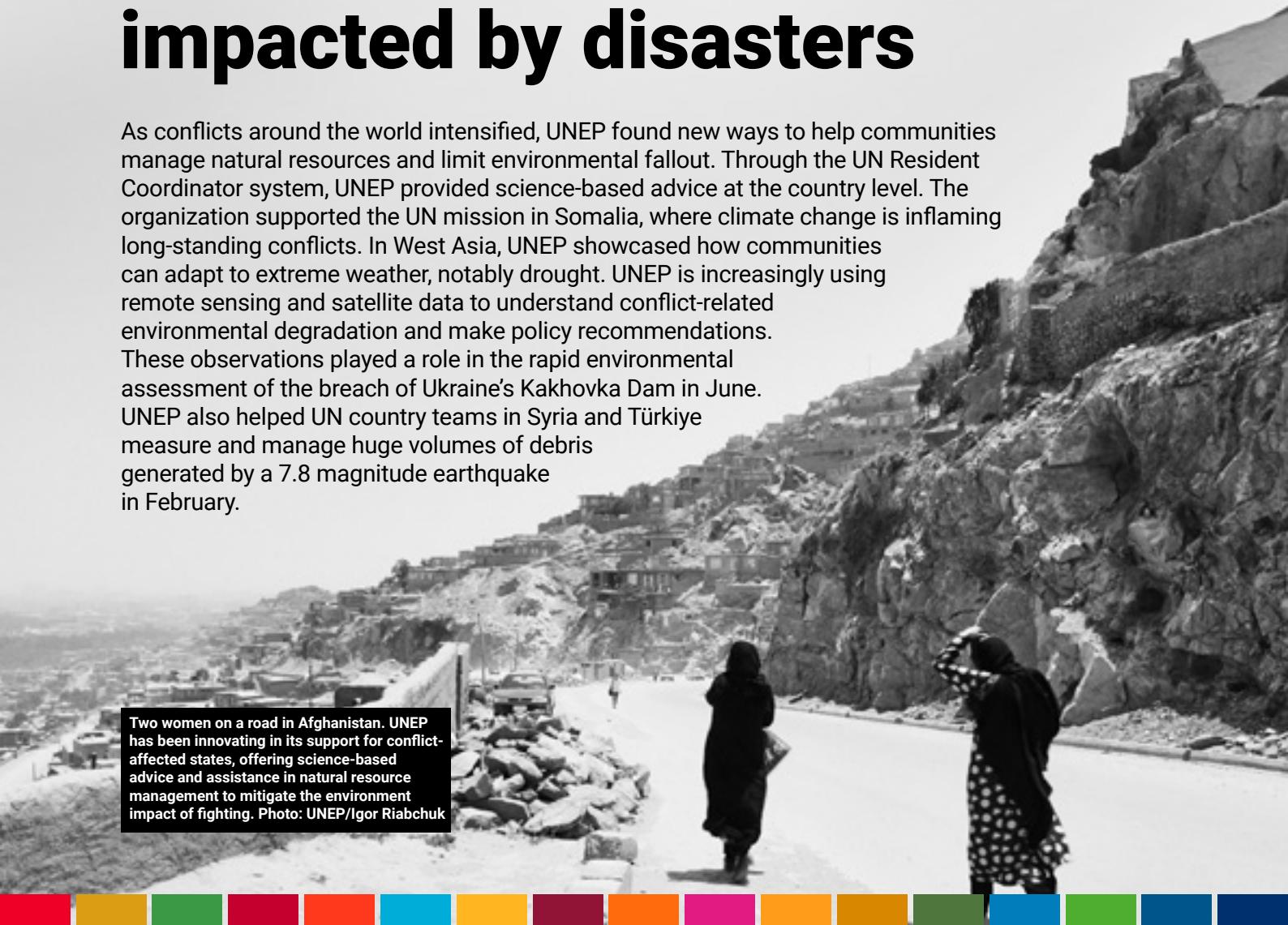
# Leveraging technology for a more sustainable world

UNEP continued to harness the power of technology-driven solutions to advance environmental goals. In partnership with the UN Staff College, the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability and GIZ, UNEP launched an e-learning initiative, **Digital4Sustainability**. Featuring a new climate module, the platform has attracted over 12,000 participants from governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. The new UNEP-led **10YFP** Secretariat's Digitalization 4 Circular Economy initiative supported public and private sector organizations to harness digital technologies. Meanwhile, UNEP and partners released **Rethinking, Extending, Re-using: Harnessing Digital Technologies for a Circular Economy**, which shows how digital product passports can contribute to the lifecycle approach to materials.

# Supporting conflict-affected states and communities impacted by disasters

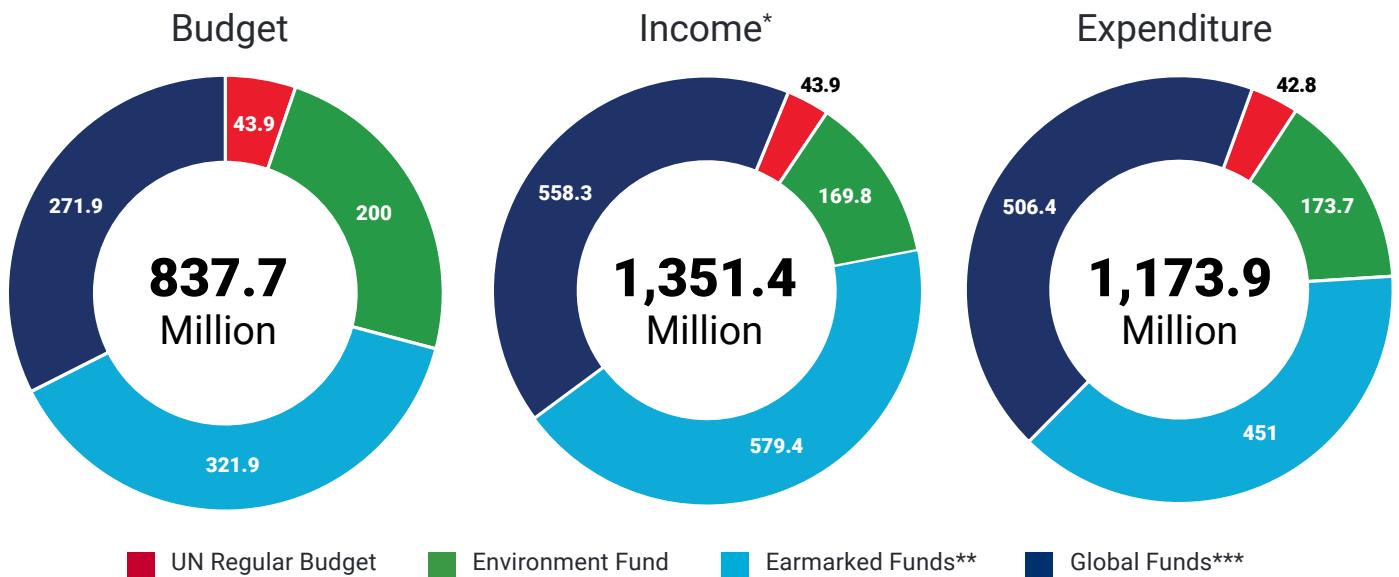
As conflicts around the world intensified, UNEP found new ways to help communities manage natural resources and limit environmental fallout. Through the UN Resident Coordinator system, UNEP provided science-based advice at the country level. The organization supported the UN mission in Somalia, where climate change is inflaming long-standing conflicts. In West Asia, UNEP showcased how communities can adapt to extreme weather, notably drought. UNEP is increasingly using remote sensing and satellite data to understand conflict-related environmental degradation and make policy recommendations. These observations played a role in the rapid environmental assessment of the breach of Ukraine's Kakhovka Dam in June. UNEP also helped UN country teams in Syria and Türkiye measure and manage huge volumes of debris generated by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in February.

Two women on a road in Afghanistan. UNEP has been innovating in its support for conflict-affected states, offering science-based advice and assistance in natural resource management to mitigate the environment impact of fighting. Photo: UNEP/Igor Riabchuk



# Funding

**2022-23 (combined) financial status as of December 2023 (US\$ Millions)**



\* The income figures are provisional and subject to completion and closure of UNEP annual financial accounts.

\*\*Earmarked funds include thematic funds and other softly earmarked funding.

\*\*\* Global funds represent: Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund.

## Top-15 Earmarked contributors in 2023 (US\$ Millions)\*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Germany  | 66.6 |
| UN Agencies  | 36.0 |
| European Union/European Commission                   | 28.2 |
| UNEP Finance Initiative**                            | 26.7 |
| Foundations/NGOs                                     | 24.7 |
| Canada   | 11.4 |
| Japan  | 11.4 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 10.8 |
| United States of America                             | 8.5  |
| Sweden   | 7.7  |
| Norway   | 5.0  |
| Finland  | 4.1  |
| Belgium  | 3.8  |
| Austria  | 3.5  |
| France   | 2.8  |

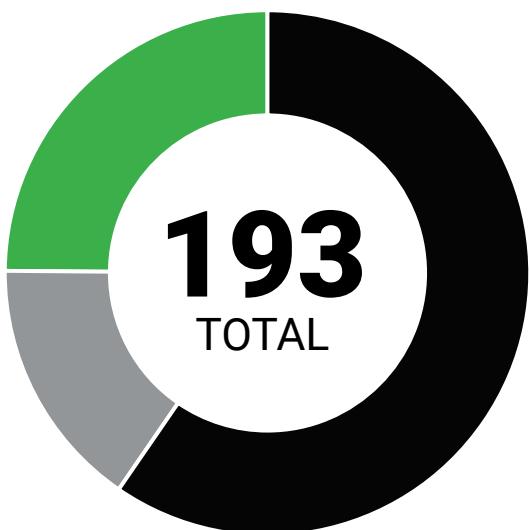
## Top-15 Environment Fund contributors in 2023 (US\$ Millions)

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Norway   | 12.3 |
| Netherlands  | 10.2 |
| Germany  | 8.1  |
| United States of America                             | 7.6  |
| France   | 7.6  |
| Denmark  | 7.2  |
| Sweden   | 5.1  |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 4.5  |
| Belgium  | 4.2  |
| Switzerland  | 4.0  |
| Canada   | 2.8  |
| Italy  | 2.6  |
| Finland  | 2.3  |
| Spain  | 1.6  |
| Japan  | 1.5  |

\*Includes softly earmarked contributions from Belgium, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

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

## Contributors to Environment Fund in 2023 by category (number of Member States)



**48** Full share\* contributors  
**32** Other contributors  
**113** Non-contributors

\*Full share of the Environment Fund budget as per the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, established by the Member States.

| Full share contributors |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Albania                 | Malta  |
| Armenia                 | Mauritius  |
| Barbados                | Micronesia (Federated States of)                     |
| Belgium                 | Monaco   |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Montenegro   |
| Bulgaria                | Morocco  |
| Canada                  | Netherlands (Kingdom of the)                         |
| Cyprus                  | New Zealand  |
| Denmark                 | Norway   |
| Dominican Republic      | Panama   |
| Eritrea                 | Peru   |
| Fiji                    | Saint Lucia  |
| France                  | Serbia   |
| Georgia                 | Seychelles   |
| Guinea                  | Slovenia   |
| Guyana                  | Sri Lanka  |
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