

Update on the implementation of the UNEA-1 Resolutions

General Status:

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) of UNEP adopted one decision and 17 resolutions on, *inter alia*: strengthening UNEP's role in promoting air quality; the science-policy interface (SPI); ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; illegal trade in wildlife; chemicals and waste; and marine debris and microplastics. A Ministerial Outcome Document of the UNEA of UNEP was also adopted.

This update builds on that provided to CPR Members in July 2015 and complements the comprehensive information provided through UNEP Annual Report, the Programme Performance Report and other mandated documents.

All resolutions are well underway and are on track without major delays. Implementation has been embedded in the programme of work and integrated through standard project review processes and related documents.

All resolutions have led to reinforced and enhanced partnership with other organisations - whether UN, scientific or civil society organisations- for implementation. This is a positive sign for the UN-wide approach. However, these partnerships are still very much project-by-project oriented. There are opportunities to mobilise the broader constituencies and stakeholders, put in place more strategic and structured engagement framework(s), and foster integrated approaches to the implementation of the resolutions, but much of this is dependent on availability of additional resources.

Resolution 1/2: Amendments to the rules of procedure

UNEA at its first session adopted amendments to its rules of procedure. The text of the amended rules of procedure was made available to all Governments in early 2015 and also published as a publication.

Resolution 1/3: Illegal trade in wildlife

Implementation is well underway, with considerable momentum now in place across the range of activities, and many activities anticipated to be completed before UNEA-2, and through the operationalization of the Action Plan and of UNEP Programme of Work in support of Member States in strengthening national, regional and global responses to illegal trade in wildlife and benefiting from strong collaboration with UNDP, International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partners (UNODC, CITES, Interpol, World Bank, the World Customs Organisation) and others. It is anticipated that all requests to the Executive Director made in the resolution will be fulfilled in advance of UNEA-2.

The first full draft of the *analysis of the environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products* was written through a desk-based study and an expert workshop (held in May 2015), and is currently undergoing external peer review. The second draft will be ready by October 2015, including incorporating infographics, developed in close collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and Grid-Arendal. It is anticipated a final draft of the analysis will be submitted for editing and translation by the end of 2015, and be available in all 6 UN languages prior to the Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of the Permanent Representatives (OECPR-2) in February 2016. A side event to formally launch the report is expected in the margins of UNEA-2.

Drawing on considerable external expertise, the analysis compiles and synthesises, for the first time, the evidence base on the environmental impacts (and their socio-economic consequences) of the illegal trade in wildlife. The report will complement (but be released before) the ongoing work of UNODC in relation to assessing the volumes

and values of illegal trade in wildlife, and will secure UNEP's role as a credible source of evidence underpinning policy responses to the illegal trade in wildlife. It is anticipated that, subject to the availability of resources, an annual report will be compiled, to update the impacts analysis and broader areas of the evidence base on the illegal trade in wildlife.

To reinforce the relevant activities of UNEP in collaboration with member States and other relevant international, regional and national actors UNEP is developing a phased approach to this request, which parallels the role identified through the UN Secretary General's (UNSG's) Policy Committee Decision (see attachment) for UNEP to lead the advocacy and outreach elements of the UN system-wide response to illegal wildlife trade.

Phase 1 will focus on a One UN Global Public Awareness Raising effort that aims to quickly and broadly address knowledge gaps about the scale and implications of the illegal trade in wildlife through the identification of strategic, high profile, and high impact activities, for example in relation to airport exhibitions, transport sector outreach, use of digital media and UN wide network of goodwill ambassadors. The Terms of Reference for this communications project have been agreed by UNEP, UNDP and UNODC, joint financing has been secured, and a procurement process for implementing the work is underway. The work will be underpinned by a solid assessment of knowledge on market dynamics for high profile illegally-traded taxa, which is currently underway, leading to a strengthened evidence base for targeted communications. The first phase of research to consolidate knowledge and identify knowledge gaps has been undertaken and a report will be finalised by the end of 2015.

Phase 2 will focus on building the Global Public Awareness Raising effort and developing a Targeted Communications Plan to deliver the Specific Behavioural Objectives (SBO's) identified in the three main components of UNEP's overall work to address the illegal trade in wildlife and forest products: Policy Engagement and Agenda Setting; Strengthening Rule of Law and Communication for Behavioural Impact. This process will likewise be grounded in the evidence-based learning from online surveys and comprehensive studies on knowledge, attitudes and practices in those markets identified through the programmatic scoping exercise.

Various **collaborations with International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partners, UNDP and other UN entities** are underway in response to the request to the Executive Director to work closely with these organisations – in addition to direct support for Member States in relation to core areas of UNEP's expertise.

As part of the work to implement the mandate resulting from Decision PC/2015/1 of the UNSG's Policy Committee, UNEP was requested to convene the UN system to develop a robust evidence base, shared analysis and consequent recommendations for an effective and coherent UN response to the security, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of IWT. Implementation of the decision is progressing and it is anticipated that by early October 2015 all elements of the Decision will be submitted to the Secretary-General.

UNEP continues **to support national Governments, upon their request, to develop and implement rule of law.** UNEP works with a wide variety of actors across the judiciary system to strengthen judicial, prosecutorial sectors and law enforcement to curb illegal wildlife trade, identifying obstacles, strategies and promote collaboration between the different actors.

On July 28-29, 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP and the Conservation Council of Nations along with experts in the prosecution of international crime hosted an East Africa Regional Judiciary and Law Enforcement Workshop on Wildlife / Environmental Crime.

In October 2015, UNEP together with the office of the Chief Justice of Kenya and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will host a special session on illegal wildlife trade during the first Africa Environmental Rule of Law Colloquium. to discuss the obstacles to effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of illegal wildlife trade from the national and regional perspectives. In November 2015, UNEP and INTERPOL will co-organise the second

International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference in Singapore to identify key strategies on law enforcement and demand reduction.

UNEP will be providing technical support in the annual training of the East African Association of Prosecutors in November 2015 in Uganda. The objective of the training is to enhance harmonisation and enhance international cooperation in the prosecution of environmental crimes.

UNEP is supporting the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association develop a training manual on environmental law with a component on illegal wildlife trade. The Manual will be tested in October during a train the trainers workshop.

UNEP provided technical support to the African Union/Republic of Congo International Conference on illegal wildlife trade in wild flora and fauna (April 2015). The support included the preparation of the elements of a declaration affirming Africa's commitment to combatting illegal wildlife trade and; the preparation of a draft strategy titled "African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora".

UNEP is also working with the CITES Secretariat on a flagship initiative to support countries in strengthening their national legislation to control illegal wildlife trade (the National Legislation Project). The project is a high profile initiative within the CITES Convention, and includes legal advice and technical assistance to 17 countries.

UNEP is ***taking a proactive role in UNEP administration of the African Elephant Fund to ensure its contribution to the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan.*** The Action Plan is the only document negotiated under the auspices of CITES that was agreed upon by all 37 African elephant Range States. UNEP has administered the Secretariat of the AEF for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan since February 2013. Support to the AEF during that time has strengthened considerably:

Additional staff joined the team in July 2015, making the fund fully functional and fast-tracking services to all Range States. In addition to its own support directly to the fund in the form of human resources and financial support to develop communications materials, UNEP has mobilised additional funding, including: 500,000 Euros from Germany, 120,000 Euros from the Netherlands, and 50,000 Dollars from Belgium. These new contributions have doubled the budget of the fund within a period of six months.

To-date, 30 projects totalling almost USD 2 million have been funded and are under implementation. Activities funded under the AEF are focused primarily on the objectives of the African Elephant Action Plan, namely reducing illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products, maintaining elephant habitats and restoring connectivity and reducing human-elephant conflicts. Additional measures under the project include advocacy, training, awareness raising, and capacity building.

Visibility and awareness raising: In addition to various promotional materials, which have provided more visibility for Range States and donors to the fund, UNEP has also supported the fund with a revamped website: www.africanelephantfund.org

There is a need to further advance on the opportunities that the AEF offers for the conservation of African elephants, Member States need to be encouraged to channel more funding to the AEF, rather than support bilateral or other alternative initiatives.

The Executive Director's progress report on implementation of the resolution will be prepared by end of November for submission to OECPR-2. In addition, it is anticipated that a side event during UNEA-2 will launch the analysis on the environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. Although there is no Resolution on Illegal Wildlife Trade anticipated to be tabled at UNEA-2, UNEA-1 decided "to remain seized of the matter". In

addition, UNEA-2 will likely be the last opportunity for environment ministers to meet before the CITES 17th Conference of the Parties, being held in South Africa in September 2016. In this regard, UNEA-2 may provide the opportunity for informal discussions on some of the issues likely to surface at CITES CoP17.

A project document is currently being finalised under the Environmental Governance subprogramme incorporating all the above mentioned activities and consolidating approaches within UNEP to address the illegal trade in wildlife. Such work will also be made more prominent through internal and external communications (website, brochure, identification of additional strategic advocacy opportunities for UNEP management etc.).

There remains a significant **need to mobilise additional financial resources to support the implementation of the action plan**, to take advantage of opportunities and demand for UNEP support to Member States, and in particular to scale up communications and awareness raising activities.

Resolution 1/4: Science-policy interface

UNEP Live has been progressing and is providing near real-time data on key environmental issues, **access to scientific findings**, and up-to-date information on **progress towards achieving Global Environmental Goals**. In addition, the Country pages in UNEP Live are linked to an on-line reporting obligations database of internationally agreed reporting obligations, which shows when these are due and the formats to be used. As a member of **key scientific bodies** such as the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, UNEP is ensuring that it links to the best available science to support policy-making.

As requested by UNEA-1 resolution 4, UNEP has been **actively promoting and augmenting the science policy interface** through the development of six GEO 6 Regional Assessments which will inform and support the deliberations at UNEA-2 and development of the global GEO-6 assessment. The GEO 6 Regional Assessments have been developed through a new, innovative approach, using an e-book format in all UN languages as the primary medium for communicating the findings of these assessments. The e-book format allows the direct integration of UNEP Live data, graphics and multi-media to enhance the user experience and make the scientific findings more attractive and understandable to different audiences, including policy makers. The enhanced interactivity of the e-book along with the condensed textual assessment format in all UN languages make the messages clearer and more authoritative, while allowing the findings to be directly linked to social media platforms, thus increasing the reach of the findings to help environmental literacy and debate on the issues.

At the same time, the development of the global GEO 6 assessment is being guided by a High Level Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Advisory Group (HLG) and a Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). Over 1100 experts have been nominated to participate in the development of the both the regional and global assessments. With this broad representation of experts from more than 130 countries, the regional and global assessments are underpinned by a wide body of knowledge, both scholarly and indigenous/local in nature. The global assessment will be supported by the regional assessment outcomes thus providing more targeted and relevant information to decision makers at national and regional levels. The global assessment also draws on the latest findings from the international science policy arena, including *inter alia* thematic assessments, such as the Global Sustainable Development Report, Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO), World Oceans Assessment, World Water Quality Assessment, Global Waste Management Outlook, IPBES assessments, IPCC 5th Assessment Report, the update to the Global Burden of Disease report, and various UN reports that are currently being developed to support the Sustainable Development Goals, leading to greater collaboration with partners, including UN agencies and MEA secretariats, and greater exchange of expertise and information than has ever happened before.

Through the six Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) conferences held in April to May, plus expert consultations, key emerging issues have been identified for further study that directly connect to the implementation of many of other UNEA-1 resolutions. These include illegal trade in less highly profiled wildlife and

(re-)emerging zoonotic diseases (Resolution 1/3), the biodegradability of marine plastics and the use of microbeads in cosmetics (Resolution 1/6), loss and damage and the induction of plant toxicity due to drought (Resolution 1/8). In its role as knowledge provider, UNEP strives to have draft text of the regional assessments ready for consideration during the OECPR-2.

Resolution 1/5: Chemicals and waste

In line with the resolution, UNEP continues to strengthen the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term. The outcome document on the process entitled ***“Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term”*** has been forwarded to the relevant intergovernmental meetings and Programmes for information. Most recently, the document has been submitted to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4).

The Executive Board for the integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste is expected to have been established by end September 2015, together with the creating of the Special Programme Trust Fund. The Secretariat for the Special Programme is fully operational with a staff member on board. The funding for the Special Programme, including Euro 11 million from the European Union, USD 180,000 from the government of Sweden and Euro 200,000 from the Government of Finland. The first meeting of the Executive Board is planned for November 2015.

The Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury continues to work close with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) secretariat in relevant areas, including in the organization of ratification and early implementation workshops for the Minamata Convention, development of technical guidelines for the Minamata Convention as well as in general support to the hosting of the webpage for the Minamata Convention. Close cooperation is also taking place in the organization of The seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury (INC7), including on substantive and logistical matters as well as in regional meetings.

UNEP continues to strengthen its support to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) secretariat through funding two positions, namely that of the Coordinator and the Team Assistant. In addition, UNEP has enhanced its financial and other support to the SAICM secretariat, including support to the organization of ICCM4. In line with the resolution, the Executive Director has formally approached the WHO Director General and the WHO Executive Board on potentially enhancing WHO support to the SAICM secretariat.

UNEP, in cooperation with WHO, leads the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, known as ‘Lead Paint Alliance’, and continues to build capacity in controlling the use of lead paint through, inter alia, the publication entitled “Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint”, a number of publicity events, and the planning of an East Africa Subregional Workshop to be held in Addis Ababa in early December 2015.

In the delivery and implementation activities under the Chemicals and Waste subprogramme, UNEP continues to make optimal use of regional centres in implementing regional sound management of chemicals and waste projects, in particular in the implementation of GEF projects as executing agencies and in supporting the substantive and logistical preparation of regional meetings and workshops.

Resolution 1/6: Marine plastic debris and microplastics

Work is underway to prepare the **UNEA-2 Study on marine plastic debris and microplastics**. Each component (microplastics, modelling, socioeconomics, best available technologies etc.) that will feed into the Study has been initiated and progress is still within the planned timeframe.

- The Advisory Group was established with 30 representatives. The First Advisory Group Webinar for the UNEA-2 Study was convened and the feedback on the draft structure of the Study was received. A Global Modelling Workshop was convened from 30 August to 3 September to further the modelling/monitoring component for the UNEA-2 Study.
- The First Drafting Group Meeting of Working Group 40 of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP WG40) was convened from 3 to 5 September 2015 for the microplastics component for the UNEA-2 Study.
- The Second Advisory Group Webinar is scheduled to take place on 1 October 2015 to review the socioeconomic component as well as the best available technologies component.
- The first draft of the Study will be made available to the Advisory Group on 20 November 2015. The Advisory Group will provide their final round of inputs during the Advisory Review Meeting which will take place from 8 to 10 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.

UNEP is ready to **provide additional support to the development and implementation of action plans and national activities**. In this regard, discussions are underway with the Mediterranean Action Plan, Black Sea Commission, Caribbean Environment Programme, Nairobi Convention, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, etc. Supporting activities related to education and awareness raising include **the first Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter (MOOC) and the development of a Global Campaign on Marine Litter**.¹ Vital Graphics on Marine Litter are under development and scheduled to be finalized in November 2015. These and other supporting graphics will be prepared and used in the UNEA-2 Study;

Coordination has taken place with our partners such as. UN-Oceans and MEA Secretariats including CBD, CMS, IWC, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, and BRS. Webinars have also been held with members of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) which provided updates on UNEP's resolution and related work.

Other successful activities include : the launching of the report entitled 'Plastic in Cosmetics' on 8 June 2015² and collaborating with the Swiss expedition 'Race for Water Odyssey' (R4WO), sailing around the world to assess and raise awareness about plastic pollution in the 5 gyres.

UNEP received financial support from the Government of Germany, towards the socioeconomic component of the UNEA-2 Study, and from the Government of the Netherlands towards the GPML. The G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter is being elaborated with technical input from UNEP to increase synergies and avoid duplication. Financial and in-kind support is provided by the private sector to the work of the GESAMP WG 40 and the best available technologies component.

UNEP however encounters delays in payments to partners due to unforeseen issues related to the roll-out of Umoja. There is a risk of UNEP not meeting the UNEA-2 Report deadline should the situation remains stagnant. Similarly, many experts, who provide in-kind support to the Study, are yet to receive travel reimbursement from

¹ The link to the enrolment page for the MOOC is:

<https://www.marinelittermooc.org/learn/massive-open-online-course-mooc-on-marine-litter-october-2015>

² <http://apps.unep.org/publications/pmtdocuments/->

Plastic_in_cosmetics_Are_we_polluting_the_environment_through_our_personal_care_-2015Plas.pdf

Plastics in Cosmetics: Factsheet:

<http://unep.org/gpa/documents/publications/PlasticinCosmetics2015Factsheet.pdf>

meetings convened in April 2015. There may be a need to postpone some meetings due to internal capacity and UMOJA related problems.

More broadly, **a report is being developed on “Gender, plastics and chemicals”** which will feed into GGEO. The same report may be relevant for Resolution 1/5. Another **report is being prepared on “Marine Litter Relevant Legislation – an overview”** which covers all aspects from production to recovery. It may be relevant to UNEP’s work on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The socioeconomic component of the UNEA-2 Study is also looking at SCP as one area of focus.

Resolution 1/7: Strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality

UNEP’s work on Air Quality contributes to several cross-cutting priorities and sub-programmes, including climate change, environment and health, environmental governance, environmental assessment, and chemicals.

UNEP is well on track to implement the Resolution. ***UNEP-wide activities have been initiated in response to para 5 of the Resolution*** - to support countries in improving their air quality, for example through:

- the development of an Air Quality component in the Montevideo plan of action for environmental law;
- the development of **a major new programme on air quality** to support efforts in strengthening the capacity of Governments and their partners to monitor and assess air quality. An affordable UNEP Air Quality Monitoring Unit and strengthened the air quality data in UNEP Live;
- providing technical support to address air pollution from major polluting sectors, including on reducing air pollution from the transport sector, including through supporting cleaner fuels and vehicles in country projects in all regions.

Regional air quality assessments are being developed, which are planned to be ready before UNEA-2. Several Regional offices are also supporting regional air quality initiatives and programmes, especially in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNEP is also developing, as requested in para 7 of the Resolution, a ***report to show global efforts being undertaken by Governments to address air pollution***. For this purpose, the Executive Director has written to all Member States for inputs. On the basis of this, UNEP will present a Global Air Quality Policy Assessment report at UNEA-2.

UNEP has ***strengthened its existing work in areas related to ambient air pollutant emissions***, ambient and indoor air quality, chemicals and sustainable consumption and production through programmes such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. Air quality is also a major thematic priority in the GEO-6 regional assessments. To support this, national data on air quality from government sources together with links to mobile applications that inform the public about ambient air conditions are being added to UNEP Live as part of the UNEP National Reporting System (NRS) and capacity development.

UNEP has embarked on a **series of ground-breaking activities on air quality monitoring and assessment in strategic partnership** with national governments, research institutions, World Bank, World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organisation. The UNEP Air Quality Monitoring Unit (see Figure 1) launched recently, is the latest capacity to support this initiative, and aims to provide cost effective monitoring and evaluation of air quality and related health impacts, based on the use of novel, yet affordable sensor technology for air quality monitoring. To enable governments and organisations to assemble or fabricate the units themselves, UNEP is publishing the blueprint for the UNEP Air Quality Monitoring Unit as a global public good, thereby opening up opportunities for innovation and enterprise development. The data from the network of AQ Units will be augmented by relevant satellite data flows and social and health surveys, via the Global Platform on Air Quality and Health, and in the first instance delivered to citizens and communities through mobile and on-line applications

in UNEP Live (http://uneplive.unep.org/theme/index/2#.VeBh_vmLEXg). It will help provide improved statistics on air quality exposure of vulnerable populations in urban environments and underpin cross-sectoral policy-making decisions in transport, energy and urban planning. The data will also be integrated into UNEP's NRS, as part of ongoing efforts to improve "SDG readiness".

UNEP has reached out to the WHO, after the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the WHO Air Quality (AQ) Resolution. Consultation is ongoing at operational and managerial level to develop a coordinated approach to the implementation of the two AQ Resolutions that are complimentary.

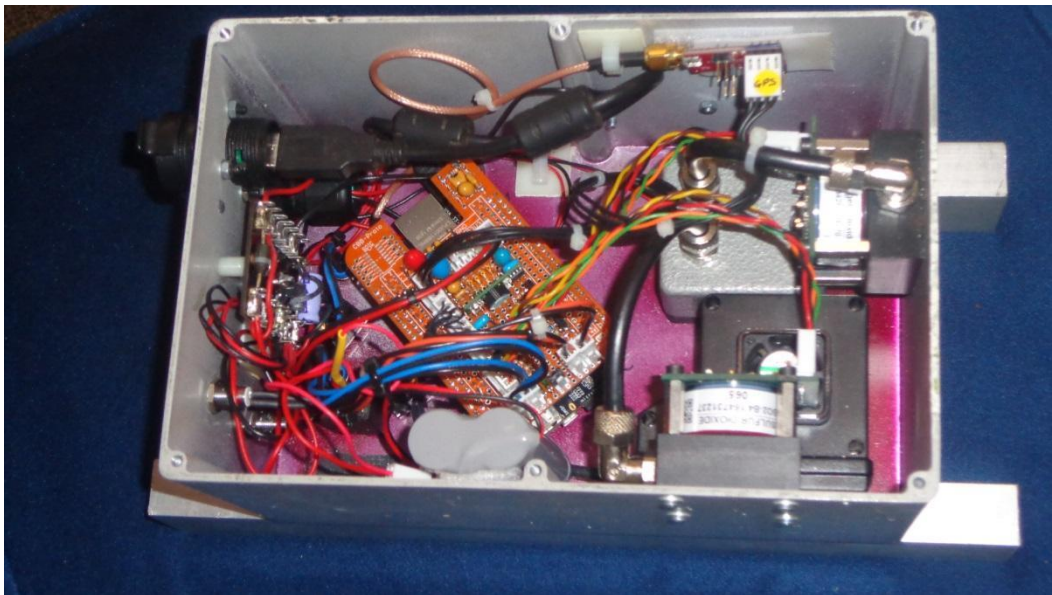
The CCAC, for which UNEP is hosting the Secretariat and in which UNEP is also increasingly substantially involved, has now developed its 5-year Medium Term Plan. UNEP is supporting several key initiatives, including on waste, diesel vehicles, urban health and others.

UNEP is also strengthening its work on environment and health – air quality is a key component of this, and has been supporting the inclusion of air quality in major global fora, including the SDGs and UNFCCC COP21,

However, progress may be slowed down by lack of additional resources and the need to further institutionalize AQ within UNEP.

UNEP is also keen to develop new AQ programs, for example on electric mobility, and is working to secure resources for this.

Figure 1: Affordable Air Quality Monitoring Systems



UNEP is also working with the Ministry of Environment, Kenya Meteorological Department, Kenya Forestry Service, the Bureau of Statistics and National Reporting Systems Nairobi County Government and University of Nairobi, School of Computing and Informatics. One UNEP AQ units has been installed at UN Gigiri.

Resolution 1/8: Ecosystem-based adaptation

UNEP is undertaking a **mapping exercise** to show where UNEP has undertaken and continues to implement ecosystem based approaches (EbA) in countries, in the period since the resolution was passed. This [map](#) (with supporting documentation) currently shows UNEP has been implementing 38 projects (many of them in multiple countries) that contribute to EbA in a range of ecosystems and contexts.

For the last 4 years, completion of **Vulnerability Impact Assessments (VIAs)**, coupled with **capacity building and concrete demonstration projects** for the continued provisioning of ecosystems services have been implemented in the mountainous regions of Peru, Nepal and Uganda in partnership with UNDP, IUCN and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and The Mountain Institute. These have also been up-scaled to other ecosystem types, and UNEP has garnered new and non-traditional partners through its broader EbA work including private sector. In addition, the African Mountain Atlas, launched at the African Ministers' Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Egypt in 2015, provided decision makers and practitioners with information on the trend and status of the mountain ecosystems in Africa.

As part of its efforts to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to the impact of climate change, UNEP is also building their capacity to undertake vulnerability assessment, to improve planning and decision making for improving ecosystems goods and services and the resultant livelihood in Seychelles, Grenada, Cambodia, Tanzania, Fiji and Djibouti. The initiative has several partners which include, National Government institutions from all the countries, UN Habitat, FAO, UNDP, DANIDA, SIDA, EU and NGOs. Grenada and Seychelles are using knowledge and tools to undertake vulnerability assessments and plan EBA interventions.

UNEP is also **spearheading additional work on EbA for food security** within productive landscapes focused on the Zambezi River Basin (Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia).

In encouraging countries to ***include and improve ecosystem-based adaptation and community-based adaptation in their national policies and to take into consideration ecosystems in their development planning*** a survey of member states (through CPR) was undertaken following the resolution at UNEA -1 to gather information on the extent to which EbA is being implemented at country level. The countries that responded (currently 67) are listed in the table below. The survey closes on 18 September when data compilation will be completed (see figure 2).

UNEP co-sponsored a Community Based Adaptation Conference to support countries ***in the formulation and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation and community-based adaptation measures***, with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Bangladesh Centre of Advanced Studies and Africa Centre for Technology (ACTS) in Nairobi in April 2015.

UNEP is undertaking analytical work to promote a better understanding of the relationship between EbA and the need to ensure that all adaptation actions take into account ecosystems ***to support the development and implementation of programmes, projects and development policies for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change that take into account ecosystems***.

Figure 2. Summary of the EbA survey within UNEPs Regional Offices (67 countries that have responded to the survey)

ROA	ROAP	ROWA	ROE	ROLAC
Algeria	Bhutan	Bahrain	Afghanistan	Barbados
Burkina Faso	Brunei Darussalam	Iraq	Armenia	Antigua & Barbuda
Democratic Republic of Congo	Japan	Israel	Austria	Belize

ROA	ROAP	ROWA	ROE	ROLAC
Ethiopia	Korea, Republic of	Oman	Belgium	Brazil
Gambia,	Lao People's Democratic Republic	State of Palestine	Croatia	Colombia
Ghana	Maldives	Syrian Arab Republic	Czech Republic	Costa Rica
Guinea	Marshall Islands		Georgia	Dominica
Guinea Conakry	New Zealand		Hungary	Grenada
Kenya	Niue		Latvia	Guatemala
Lesotho	Philippines		Lithuania	Peru
Liberia	Sri Lanka		Republic of Moldova	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Malawi			Netherlands	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Mauritius			Norway	Trinidad and Tobago
Rwanda			Spain	Uruguay
Senegal			Sweden	
Sierra Leone			Turkey	
South Africa				
Uganda				
Zimbabwe				

Initial responses from countries to the survey were quite limited with few member states responding. As such the survey had to be re-issued. Funding is still lacking to undertake additional work in other areas such as Urban adaptation.

Most of the funding for EbA has been bilateral with the German government being the biggest donor. Other sources of funding include European Community (EC) for Coastal EbA and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for broader EbA work (focused on coastal areas, cities and river basins).

Resolution 1/9: Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS)/Water

The UNEP GEMS Water has taken up a **key role in the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative GEMI**, aimed at assisting countries in the reporting on SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. GEMS Water concentrates on developing water quality monitoring and data standards and on increasing and maintaining data flows, quality assurance and capacity development with focus on ambient water quality monitoring in target 6.3³. Through UN-Water GEMS Water has contributed to and leads on parts of the indicator and metadata development for the IAEG. GEMS collaborates with several UN Agencies e.g. WHO, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, FAO, on refining indicators, standards and methodologies. This includes development of a universal water and water quality vocabulary in the context of UNEPs work on the SDG Interface Ontology which improves the detection, access and analysis of water quality data from multiple sources relevant to SDG 6 but also to many other water related SDG targets of which at least 8 are identified ranging from health, chemicals and waste management to economic decoupling and oceans.

The GEMS Water Data Centre, based at Federal Institute for Hydrology in Germany, and the GEMS Water Capacity Development Centre based at University College Cork, Ireland are **working with UNEP Regional Offices and the**

³ “By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and at least doubling recycling and safe reuse globally”

GEMS Regional Hub in Brazil on the status and needs of monitoring programs, data and technical capacity. This focuses GEMS efforts across the science policy interface by building regional partnerships and focal networks and to foster the utility of the NRS and UNEP Live in national SDG and MEA reporting and improved accessibility of data for analysis in assessments on all relevant temporal and spatial scales. New Regional Hubs are being explored. The GEMS Water implementation links to efforts in Resolution 1/4 on the Science Policy Interface. In the future working regionally, establishing and maintaining new focal partner networks and regional Hubs will be critical for both SDG as well as general reporting, assessment and informing sustainability solutions and options.

Resolution 1/10: Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of of sustainable development and poverty eradication

UNEA Resolution 1/10 references and very closely echoes UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/8. Therefore, the work that was begun as a means to address UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/8 is directly relevant to UNEA Resolution 10.

With support from China, work began in April 2013 (in response to UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/8) and aimed to **collect and share the experiences of four countries in implementing their own sustainable development and inclusive Green Economy policies**: Ecological Civilization in China, Sufficiency Economy in Thailand, Living Well in Bolivia, and Green Economy Transition in South Africa. The project included:

- A brochure summarizing the four national approaches, distributed at the ETB's booth at the Global South-South Development Expo in Nairobi in October 2013;
- A capacity building workshop that was held in Bali in December 2014. Representatives from the four project countries, ASEAN member states, and UNEP and other IOs attended and discussed the different national pathways to sustainable development;
- Four background papers and accompanying case studies – one on each of the four national approaches - written by national consultants in coordination with national government counterparts (completed March 2015).
- Four videos, each highlighting one of the four national approaches (completed April 2015)
- A synthesis report, "Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development: Initial Findings from the Global South", that outlines and analyses the four national approaches (completed April 2015)
- A joint UNEP-GGGI capacity building workshop and launch event for the videos and the report in Seoul, South Korea, April 28-29, 2015.

More broadly, UNEP is undertaking additional work that will expand the scope of the knowledge gathering and sharing work done to date, and include additional national and regional visions, tools, models, and approaches to sustainable development. Expected outputs will include: a new expanded report on multiple approaches focusing on country experience; additional outreach at upcoming Regional PAGE event in Colombia, S. America in November 2015 and, a launch event at UNEA-2 to share and publicize the findings of the report

The new Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) report expands and deepens UNEP's narrative on green economy and can also be framed as part of UNEP's response to the UNEA decision, backed up the IGE publication and also the short video which will touch on IGE and put it into a broad lens perspective.

Some funds were allocated to this work in 2015 but additional funds will be required (USD 30-40k) to complete the outreach efforts and support the planned UNEA side events in 2016.

Resolution 1/11: Coordination across the UN system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group

The Interagency Task Team on the System-wide Strategies Framework on Environment (SWFS) met three times since its establishment in 2015 and:

- Agreed to prepare a UN System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS);
- Provided feedback on a draft outline for the SWFS on the Environment;
- Provided comments on a compilation paper prepared by UNEP on environmental mandates in the UN system prepared to support the elaboration of the outline of the Strategy;
- Agreed on the TOR of the Process that includes the views of the EMG members on the focus and scope for the Strategy;
- Considered the “substantive elements” of the SWFS including a shared high level vision and medium-term objectives as well as possible “process elements” (monitoring, review and reporting) as outlined in a Concept Note prepared by UNEP.

The revised draft of the concept note, prepared by the EMG Secretariat, was submitted as a background paper to the discussion by the Senior Officials at their twenty-first meeting (SOM21). SOM21 approved the continuation of the Interagency Task Team for another year.

The Interagency Task Team to identify options for maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG was established in January 2015, composed of focal points nominated by EMG members. The Task team agreed at its first meeting on its Terms of Reference including a plan of work and has so far held three virtual meetings.

The Interagency Task Team engaged in a process of reviewing the effectiveness of the EMG, including its Terms of Reference, modalities of work and effectiveness and fitness for purpose more broadly, including its contribution to the post-2015 development agenda. With the support of UNITAR, a series of semi-structured interviews with EMG member organisations were conducted during the months of April and May 2015. The interviews elicited views of EMG focal points on maximizing the effectiveness of the EMG in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The interviews were held under Chatham House rules and followed a set of questions that were shared with respondents in advance, but with the flexibility to discuss other issues of particular interest to respondents. As a result of these interviews, an Emerging Insights Report, containing the preliminary findings of the interviews, was prepared and discussed at the second meeting of the Task Team in May 2015. The preliminary findings included views of the EMG members on:

- EMG’s approach for identification of topics/issues (internal UN issues as well as global issues);
- EMG working modalities, their effectiveness and workload (consultative processes, IMGs, Task teams, reports etc.);
- Dissemination of EMG products within the UN system – how does this happen, what is the take up of our products and conclusions; what has been the most effective method?
- Whether EMG fits for purpose and institutionally-well equipped to guide and support the UN system on environmental dimensions of SDGs;
- The functioning of the Secretariat and linkages with the wider coordination system including the CEB.

In its third meeting which took place in July 2015, the Task Team considered the first draft of the Report. At SOM21, the Senior Officials decided to extend the Task Team for another year to take into consideration their inputs, analyse the cost implications of the recommendations and finalize the report.

The twentieth meeting of the Senior Officials (SOM20), by its decision VIII, agreed that **the development of a report which includes proposals on integrating the outcome of the post-2015 development agenda into the environmental work of the UN** would be handled by the Interagency Task Team set up to identify options for

maximizing the effectiveness of EMG. The Interagency Task Team agreed that given the advanced stage of the SDGs negotiations, the EMG should refocus from screening of the environmental sustainability of the SDGs to prepare, by consolidating the existing materials, an implementation-focused and forward-looking analysis aiming to:

- Explore linkages of the SDGs and their targets and emerging indicators with existing international environmental agreements and goal frameworks;
- Inform, as appropriate and through existing channels, the development of indicators from an environmental sustainability perspective;
- Provide analytical insights to support consideration of implementation issues and linkages at an early stage.

The third meeting of the Task Team agreed to proceed with a pilot analysis, testing an analytical framework proposed by UNITAR on three thematic pilot areas including sound chemicals management, biodiversity and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

At SOM21, the Senior Officials agreed to extend the Task Team for another year to prepare the analytical report on the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

On 17 September 2015, UNEP's Senior Management Team in its 108th Meeting reviewed the draft concept note for the report of the Executive Director on coordination across the UN system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group. This report will specifically cover the progress of the work undertaken by UNEP to respond to the mandate set out in UNEA Resolution 1/11.

The report will go deeper to showcase how, beyond EMG, UNEP is executing its coordination, how it is working to integrate environment across the UN system's agenda and how this helps UNEP deliver better results. The report will be compiled, refined and finalised in November in time for submission to the OECPR.

Resolution 12: Relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements

A UNEP/MEA Task Team **reviewed two reports and recommendations from the two working groups on programmatic cooperation and on administrative issues**. The Task Team has reviewed and approved the Programmatic working group while the work of the other group is being finalised. On the basis of the latest reports of the two working group, the Task Team has prepared its preliminary draft report which was reviewed at a meeting of the MEAs Management Team (MMT) that took place on 19 June 2015 and was led by the Executive Director and included all executive MEAs heads who provided further guidance on the recommendations proposed by the Task Team for their consideration. The MMT meeting identified further areas for improving collaboration including an institutional mechanism to ensure the recommendations adopted will be executed. The report will be provided to OECPR-2 and UNEA-2. The Executive Director appointed two focal points in UNEP secretariat for programmatic cooperation with MEAs and for administrative cooperation in July 2015.

The Task Team will meet again in the coming weeks to review the administrative working group report and its recommendation with the objective of approving it. It will then be shared with MMT for their review and final approval of the entire Task Team report which will form the basis of the Executive Director's report to UNEA-2 in response to resolution 1/12 through the OECPR.

The report on the progress of the work of Task Team and its working groups has been shared with the conferences/meetings of the Parties of respective MEAs (e.g. CBD, CMS, Montreal Protocol, BRS) and with their other governing bodies (e.g. Standing Committee of CMS) that have taken place since UNEA-1.

The Final Report on the results of the work by the UNEP Task Team on the Effectiveness of Administrative Arrangements and Programmatic Cooperation between UNEP and MEAs to which UNEP provides Secretariats will be provided to OECPR and UNEA-2.

More broadly, over the past decades a number of biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) have been adopted, which have put into place a comprehensive legal and governance regime for addressing most biodiversity issues. However, when considered together, they can be challenging to implement in a coherent manner. As a result, there have been calls by governing bodies of conventions, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – decision SS.XII/3, paragraph 1, to explore possible synergies between such MEAs, with the specific aim of making their implementation more coherent, efficient and effective.

Through the UNEP project on **“Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”**, funded by the European Union, with additional support from the Governments of Finland and Switzerland, UNEP carried out online surveys, to review together with respective MEAs and National Focal Points lessons learned and elaborate options for enhancing synergies in implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.

Expert group **elaborated options for enhancing synergies across the biodiversity-related conventions**. The Options Paper sets out 28 recommended options, under which 88 action points in total have been identified for various actors which include: Parties; UNEP and other relevant UN bodies; convention secretariats; and others. These options and actions take into account relevant completed, existing and planned initiatives undertaken by a number of actors. The focus of the Options Paper is on programmatic cooperation.

The options are proposed to achieve two main outcomes: a) Implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions carried out in an increasingly coherent manner, involving greater collaboration and cooperation amongst convention parties, convention secretariats and key partners, leading to more efficiency and effectiveness in achieving the aims of those conventions; b) Increased collaboration and cooperation in implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at all levels, facilitated engagement with other sectors, and improved opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity objectives into other policies and sectors (including through the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals).

Specific options for action with respect to improving synergies and coherence in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions were identified in the Options paper under seven related themes: NBSAPs, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; Reporting, monitoring and indicators; IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface; Information management and awareness raising; Capacity building; Funding and resource efficiency; Institutional Collaboration).

Resolution 13: Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The **Implementation Guide for the UNEP Bali Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters** (Bali Guidelines) has been finalized and is due to be launched in Abu Dhabi by October 2015. Activities promoting the Guidelines for the purpose of enhancing their application in strengthening national environmental legislation in various regions are ongoing.

UNEP is **supporting 20 countries of Latin American and the Caribbean** that are part of the process of negotiation of a regional legal instrument on the rights of accessn partnership with The Economic Commission for Latin

America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). UNEP has been providing capacity building and facilitating exchange among national stakeholders on Principle 10 and Bali Guidelines implementation.

On the judiciary and rule of law, in pursuance to the Global Symposium on Environmental Rule of Law held in June 2014, UNEP, in cooperation with the Government of Jamaica, the Organization of the American States (OAS), the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, and the Caribbean Court of Justice, **gathered more than a hundred environmental law authorities and experts from the Americas** who debated the current trends and challenges for the development and implementation of environmental law in the hemisphere and made a strong call for environmental rule of law to be engrained in to the sustainable development strategy of the OAS .

It also supports Asia Pacific and organized a **Roundtable on Environmental Rule of Law and Sustainable Development in Support to the Post 2015 SDG Agenda** on 20th of May 2015 in Thailand Bangkok.

UNEP also plans to support Senegal, Kenya and Sierra Leone judiciary are planned for Senegal in November 2015. A Meeting of Rule of Law for African countries will be held from the 16-18 October 2015.

UNEP is also preparing to undertake a **study on environment courts** for the purpose of generating a set of good practices and lessons learned on the developments of environment related courts and tribunals.

UNEP Input to the AARHUS Convention, and the EU Judges Network Awareness Raising activities

UNEP's input to the Aarhus process is through papers such as on "*Global perspective on judicial environmental networking and the environmental rule of law*" at the Special session on Promoting Judicial Networking in Environmental Matters Across The Pan-European Region of the Aarhus Task Force on Access to Justice. In addition, UNEP contributed to the environmental rule of law and access to justice to the Aarhus Task Force on Access to Justice and as a result two countries have made an approach to explore judicial training related to the environmental rule of law / green courts.

Together with the Aarhus Secretariat, UNEP is discussing the establishment of a possible Pan-European judicial network on environmental matters, which received initial positive reaction from partner organizations. This network could provide a regional platform for judges to exchange knowledge and experiences and facilitate capacity-building on access to justice in environmental matters. This initiative might be regarded as a regional contribution to the global judicial network supported by UNEP. This will be further explored in the coming year. EUFJE, the European Union Forum on Judges, is also involved.

Progress on reviewing the UNEP Access-to-Information Policy was made by opening the policy for written comments since mid-November 2014. After the circulation of UNEP secretariat's responses to comments on the Policy from Governments and stakeholders and a subsequent comment period to the UNEP responses until late July 2015, the draft revisions to the Policy were incorporated by mid- August 2015. This revised document has been circulated for comments for the following one month. There will be another informal event on dialogue on the Policy and the proposed revisions in September 2015 before the revised Policy is finalized by 8 October 2015.

Resolution 14: Revised Programme of Work 2014-2015

The programme of work is under implementation. The Programme Performance Report (PPR) for 2014 was submitted to the CPR. The annual meeting of the CPR will discuss further progress and a **written report for the 2014-2015 performance will be submitted to the OECPR in Feb 2016, and thereafter UNEA,**

Resolution 15: Proposed programme of work and budget for 2016-2017

A report on any needed revisions to the Programme of Work 2016-2017 will be submitted to the OECPR-2 in February 2016 and will be dependent on the General Assembly's decision on the regular budget of the UN to UNEP, the outcome of which will be known in December 2015. In June 2015, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) met to review UNEP's Programme of Work 2016-2017 from a UN regular budget perspective. Their recommendations will feed into the General Assembly's decision on the regular budget of the UN to UNEP for 2016-2017.

In addition, UNEP is preparing the next Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2018-2021 and the Programme of Work 2018-2019. Already, consultations on the Medium-term Strategy with the CPR sub-committee are well underway and the September meeting of the CPR sub-committee has started discussions on the Programme of Work and budget with further consultations planned for the annual meeting of the CPR and thereafter, until the end of the year, when these strategic plans are submitted to the OECPR and UNEA.

Resolution 16: Management of Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions Resolution 5: Chemicals and waste

UNEP is carrying out the functions of the secretariats for the Tehran Convention, the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, and the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform.