

Danish Organisation Strategy for United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 2022-2025

Introduction:

UNEP is the UN leading environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, serves as advocate for the global environment, promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the UN system, provides evidence-based technical assistance and norms, standards and policy options, and advises on environmental legislation and governance.

Key results include:

- Decision makers at all levels adopt decarbonisation, dematerialization and resilience pathways.
- Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.
- An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is established.
- Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced.
- Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- Releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean are reduced.

Justification for support:

UNEP plays a critical role in linking climate, environment and sustainable development. As the key normative body on environmental issues, UNEP is well respected for its scientific and capacity building work. UNEP hosts 15 multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies, coordinates environment issues across the UN and enhances cooperation with other UN Agencies. As such, UNEP is a key player in terms of reaching the goals and priorities of the new Danish strategy for development cooperation and Danish long-term strategy for global climate action.

How will we ensure results and monitor progress:

The Danish organisation strategy is aligned with UNEP's Medium Term Strategy. Consequently, results and progress will be monitored through Annual Reports and Programme Performance Reports, and through joint and bilateral consultations and dialogues.

Strat. objectives

Climate stability: Low-emission, adaptation, resilience.
Living in harmony with nature: Nature recovery, ecosystem stability, human well-being.
Progress towards a pollution-free planet.

Priority areas

Green Transition: Water resource management, energy transition, climate smart agriculture, green recovery from COVID.
Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions: Ecosystem restoration, global biodiversity framework.
Sustainable consumption and production: SDG12
Championship, marine litter, chemicals and waste management.
Governance: Efficient and effective UNEP.

File No.	2019-13343					
Responsible Unit	Green Diplomacy & Climate					
	<i>Mill.</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Commitment		50	50	50	50	200
Projected ann. Disb.		50	50	50	50	200
Duration of strategy	2022-2025					
Finance Act code	§ 06.34.01.50					
Head of unit	Karin Poulsen/Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen					
Desk officer	Ninna Katrine Sanden					
Financial officer	Christina Hedegård Hyttel					

SDGs relevant for Programme

 No Poverty	 No Hunger	 Good Health, Wellbeing	 Quality Education	 Gender Equality	 Clean Water, Sanitation
 Affordable Clean Energy	 Decent Jobs, Econ. Growth	 Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure	 Reduced Inequalities	 Sustainable Cities, Communities	 Responsible Consumption & Production
 Climate Action	 Life below Water	 Life on Land	 Peace & Justice, strong Inst.	 Partnerships for Goals	

Danish involvement in UNEP governance structure:

- Denmark is engaged through the MFA, MoE and the permanent representation of Denmark to UNEP.
- Denmark actively participates in the biannual UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), and is actively involved between sessions through EU in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in Nairobi.
- The Danish Embassy in Nairobi actively follows ongoing member state consultations and briefings, while the MoE actively participates in EU coordination in Brussels.
- Denmark has two secondments; one to the Ecosystems Division and one to the Policy and Programmes Division.

Risk and challenges:

- Imbalance between core and earmarked funding, resulting in lack of finance for UNEP's work.
- High demand vs. UNEP's capacity to deliver.
- Governance of UNEP, including CPR dynamics.

Core information

Established	1972
Headquarters	Nairobi, Kenya
Executive Director	Inger Andersen (Denmark)
Financial and human resources	Biannual budget USD 910 million (2020-21). 963 staff members
Regional offices	Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe.
Member States	193
Governed by	United Nations Environment Assembly



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
Danida

Danish Organisation Strategy
for
United Nations Environment Programme

2022-2025

September 2021

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Abbreviations

AMR	Anti-Microbial Resistance
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DHI	Danish Hydraulic Institute
EF	Environment Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
ICARS	International Centre for Anti-microbial Resistance Solutions
IEA	International Energy Agency
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MOPAN	Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy, UNEP's strategic programme
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
PoW	Programme of Work
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	UN Convention of Biological Diversity
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services
UN REDD	UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradatio
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Objective of the Organisation Strategy

This Strategy for the cooperation between Denmark and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) forms the basis for the Danish contributions to UNEP, and it is the central platform for Denmark's dialogue and partnership with UNEP. It sets up Danish priorities for UNEP's performance within the overall framework established by UNEP's own strategy. In addition, it outlines specific goals and results vis-à-vis UNEP that Denmark will pursue in its cooperation with the organisation. Denmark will work closely with like-minded countries towards the achievement of results through its efforts to pursue specific goals and priorities. The Strategy is prepared by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who jointly undertake Denmark's cooperation and engagement with UNEP.

2. The Organisation

Since its establishment in 1972, UNEP has been the leading global environmental authority, keeping the world environment under review, serving as an advocate for the global environment and coordinating environmental issues within the UN System. UNEP's mission is to provide leadership and encourage global action and partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to protect and preserve the world's natural resources and improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Today, UNEP sets the global environmental agenda working on normative and knowledge-providing efforts to ensure inclusion of the environmental perspective to sustainable development and use of natural resources. UNEP provides evidence based technical assistance, evidence and knowledge base for political decision-making, and advises on environmental legislation and governance. In collaboration with other UN agencies (UNDP, FAO, WHO among others), UNEP is also involved in the conceptual and practical work on integrating environmental objectives in sustainable development strategies, including poverty reduction, capacity building and technology support in developing countries and across the UN, among others. Furthermore, UNEP hosts the Secretariats for 15 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and research bodies¹, in addition to managing dedicated trust funds. UNEP's governing body is also the forum for launching negotiations on new international environmental agreements. See organisational chart in annex 2.

UNEP is dependent on voluntary contributions covering approximately 95 pct. of its income (see figure 1). The Environment Fund (EF) is UNEP's core fund, to which Denmark is currently the 6th largest donor, contributing USD 4,4 million in 2020. With the expected increase in the Danish contribution from 2022 onwards, Denmark will become the 4th largest donor to the EF. OECD/DAC-criteria defines 100 % of voluntary core contributions as ODA. The agreed Programme Budget 2022-2023 amounts to USD 873 million.

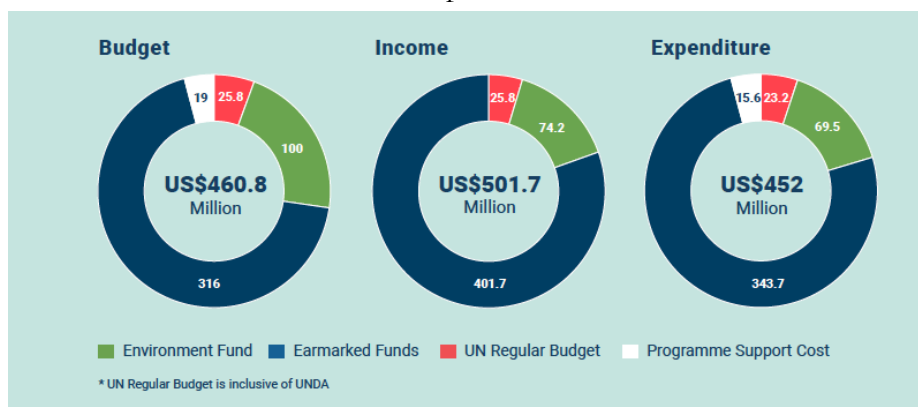


Figure 1: UNEP financial figures for year 2020 ²

¹ See <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/why-does-un-environment-matter/secretariats-and-conventions>

² <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/funding-and-partnerships/funding-facts>

3. Lessons learnt, key strategic challenges and opportunities

The world faces multiple global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, increased pressure on land and water resources, food insecurity, and pollution, which are fundamentally inter-related and which all have a link to human interactions with nature, with COVID-19 as the latest testimony hereof. We have been reminded that human health and the health of the planet are interlinked, and that we need to urgently change course to avoid irreversibly altering human relationship with the natural world. These crises are putting peoples' economic and social well-being at risk and undermining the progress which has been made in the past decades in terms of reducing poverty and promoting the sustainable development agenda as a whole. The environment related SDGs are unlikely to be reached by 2030 at the current pace³. Consequently, there is a need to increase environmental action globally and make peace with nature, as UN Secretary General António Guterres stated in December 2020.

3.1 UNEP's strategic focus: Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025

UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025 *For People and Planet*⁴ takes its starting point from the three planetary crises: Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. By developing responses and deploying solutions, UNEP will work to achieve the three strategic objectives of the MTS, which are:

1. Climate stability, where net zero greenhouse gas emissions and resilience in the face of climate change are achieved;
2. Living in harmony with nature, where humanity prospers in harmony with nature;
3. Towards a pollution-free planet, where pollution is prevented and controlled and good environmental quality and improved health and well-being are ensured for all.

The strategic objectives translate into three principal areas of action: 1) Climate action, specifically that government and non-government development actions are compatible with the long-term mitigation and resilience goals of the Paris Agreement; 2) nature action, specifically that recovery of nature occurs and is contributing positively to human well-being; and 3) chemicals and pollution action, specifically that significant progress is made towards a pollution free planet. These areas of action are underpinned by science-policy and environmental governance as UNEP's foundational subprogrammes. Furthermore, the areas of action are facilitated by two enabling subprogrammes on finance and economic transformation towards more sustainable consumption and production, and digital transformation to systematize, integrate and democratize environmental data.

Each area of action is centred around three outcomes that UNEP will work to achieve by 2025 based on the organisation's comparative advantages. For climate action, the outcomes focus on enabling decision-makers to adopt decarbonisation and resilience pathways; increasing capacity, finance and access to technologies in countries; and supporting actors adopting the enhanced transparency framework arrangements under the Paris Agreement. For nature action, the outcomes focus on establishing an economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity; sustainable management of nature in development frameworks; and enhancing nature conservation and restoration. Finally, for chemicals and pollution action, the outcomes focus on enhancing capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste; improving waste management through circular processes, among others; and reducing releases of pollutants to air, water, soil and the ocean. Details and theory of change is outlined in annex 3.

³ <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/measuring-progress-towards-achieving-environmental-dimension-sdgs>

⁴ <https://www.unep.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/people-and-planet-unep-strategy-2022-2025>

Furthermore, the MTS highlights the UN reform as a path to enhanced environmental action by empowering the wider UN system to address the global environmental crises and through a nexus approach emphasising the integrated nature of environmental and developmental activities. Through the UN reform, UNEP will extend its reach as global environmental authority supporting countries, more effectively fulfil its coordination mandate on environment issues across the UN, and support increased access to environmental data as well as use of this data. UNEP has taken active part in the UN Development System reform process, including strengthening interagency collaboration and with the UN Country Teams, which represents a major opportunity for UNEP to enhance its impact at country and regional level.

Focussing on lessons learned, the MTS points to the transformation process initiated by the senior management in 2019. The internal diagnostic phase, including feedback from Member States, found the need for a more focused, aligned, effective and impactful UNEP. Consequently, UNEP has begun a process of reviewing its organisational focus to ensure that it effectively addresses the urgent environmental challenges and delivers more impactful results on its mandate. Similarly, in 2019 the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) highlighted the need for strengthened strategic processes in UNEP⁵, including coherence with the organisation's resources. In the report, the OIOS concludes that UNEP remains highly relevant in the context of its evolving mandates, which it has started to integrate into its strategic planning. The organization has had difficulty, however, in operationalizing its strategic plans, and has failed to use internal priority setting mechanisms to optimize its programme of work and to align its resources and capabilities accordingly. Further, the report also highlights the decline of flexible funding for UNEP as an issue, and specifically recommends that UNEP develop resource mobilization and partnership strategies to mitigate this issue. Denmark will continue to engage actively in UNEP's transformation process (cf. priority 4.4 below).

A cornerstone of UNEP's efforts is working through partnerships, which is emphasised in the MTS. As an example, UNEP supports the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as one of 18 GEF Agencies assisting partners in accessing GEF finance. Similarly, UNEP is accredited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in order to catalyse the use of ecosystem services to achieve a paradigm shift to resilient, green sustainable development. While many organisations exist in the field of climate, nature, chemicals and pollution action, UNEP is uniquely positioned in the junction between normative efforts and providing knowledge, including technical assistance, policy advice, and reviewing the global environment. UNEP is the leading global environmental authority and has universal membership that encompasses all 193 UN Member States, which offers opportunities and legitimacy for global agreements, efforts and cooperation. An overview of UNEP and other key institutions in the international climate, nature and pollution architecture supported by Denmark is outlined in annex 4.

3.2 MOPAN

[The Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) is expected to be published in late September 2021]

3.3 Strategic opportunities in a Danish context

The previous Danish organisation strategy for UNEP covered the years 2014-2017. Since then, an interim policy paper on Danish priorities for the cooperation with UNEP has set the frame for Danish engagement with UNEP. In the paper, emphasis is on UNEP as the normative and capacity building environmental agency of the UN and UNEP's role in achieving the environmental, climate and nature aspects of the SDG's and the Paris Agreement. The priorities of the policy paper are focused on green

⁵ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/AC.51/2019/7/Corr.1&referer=/english/&Lang=E

transition, biodiversity and the governance of UNEP. Due to the interim nature of the policy paper, a formal review process has not taken place. The priorities set out in the present organisation strategy are based on the overall experience and lessons learned from past cooperation with UNEP.

The Danish support to UNEP contributes to meeting the strategic priorities outlined in the Danish strategy for development cooperation, *The World We Share*⁶, which sets the frame for Denmark's development cooperation until 2025. The fight for climate, nature and environment is one of two key pillars in the strategy, which states that Denmark will increase the contribution to climate, nature and environment efforts in development cooperation and assume the role as a green frontrunner. Particularly relevant for the cooperation with UNEP are the two main objectives on support of climate change adaptation and reduction: Denmark must strengthen action to support climate change adaptation, nature, the environment and resilience in the poorest and most vulnerable countries; and Denmark must assume international leadership within reductions, green transition, and access to clean energy. In relation to UNEP's strategic objectives, focus areas are aligned on access to water; nature-based solutions (NbS); protection, conservation and restoration of nature; sustainable management of ecosystems; deforestation; sustainable food systems and climate smart agriculture; clean and renewable energy; energy efficiency; and connecting adaptation and mitigations efforts.

Furthermore, the support to UNEP contributes to the implementation of the Denmark's global green ambitions as outlined in its long-term strategy for global climate action, *A Green and Sustainable World*⁷. Strategic initiatives and efforts in the strategy most relevant to cooperation with UNEP are, among others, Denmark's leadership on SDG 7 and focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency and access to clean energy; the ambition to strengthen synergies with the climate agenda in global cooperation to promote sustainable consumption and production, global sound management and recycling of plastic, and safe management of chemicals and waste; efforts to stop the loss of natural areas and habitats, and promote the use of NbS; working to make global food systems more sustainable and resilient to climate change, reducing food loss and waste; and working for initiatives that promote and coordinate climate, environment and biodiversity considerations for mutual benefit.

Finally, a number of opportunities for synergies with Danish bilateral comprehensive partnerships exist. Various projects within the government-to-government Strategic Sector Cooperation focus on environmental issues, including water resource management and sustainable management of waste and pollution, green growth, agricultural production and development of sustainable food value chains, and sustainable energy. Possible synergies between each programme and UNEP's efforts could be explored. Furthermore, drawing on Denmark's private sector and scientific expertise, Denmark supports two strategic partnerships with UNEP on water, climate and development led by the UNEP-Denmark Partnership Committee.

Strategies for monitoring and ensuring progress on Danish priorities are outlined in annex 1.

4. Key priority areas and results to be achieved

4.1 Climate Action: Green Transition

Under the overarching Danish efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change in developing countries, the Danish focus areas for climate action are energy transition, water resource management and climate smart agriculture. The impact of climate change on access to water resources and food security,

⁶ <https://um.dk/~media/um/english-site/documents/danida/activities/strategic/denmarks%20strategy%20for%20development%20cooperation.pdf?la=en>

⁷ <https://um.dk/en/foreign-policy/new-climate-action-strategy/>

affected both by droughts and floods and the pressure of population growth and the need for increased food production, influences lives and livelihoods in all countries, and hit developing countries the hardest. Consequently, taking a nexus approach (i.e. thinking holistically) to climate, water, food security, land-use and security when assessing environmental contexts and risks, providing knowledge and designing development programmes is key. UNEP promotes increased action and investment in climate change adaptation, with a focus on incorporating NbS, through three main areas of work: i) promoting country level ecosystem-based adaptation action through accessing international finance for adaptation; ii) distilling evidence for normative policy and programming guidance to catalyse more action on climate change; and iii) strengthening networks and dialogue processes between people and groups engaged on ecosystem-based adaptation. In the field of water resource management, UNEP supports countries to promote management, protection and restoration of freshwater and marine ecosystems, while increasing resilience to natural disasters and conflict. UNEP is also engaged in work on the planetary ecological boundaries for food systems and food value chains, promoting sustainable and resilient food production systems.

The Danish engagement in UNEP's work on SDG 6 and specifically integrated water resource management and resilience to water-related climate change impacts includes the collaboration with the UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment under the current partnership agreement 2018-2022 with a Danish earmarked contribution of DKK 32 million. The Centre is hosted by DHI, an independent, international not-for-profit advisory and research organization established in Denmark, and dedicated to improving the management, development and use of freshwater resources. A new DKK 40 million Danish contribution to the centre is expected to be finalized in the beginning of 2022 covering 4-years.

With energy covering 80 percent of the global CO₂ emissions, the realization of SDG 7 is among the strongest means to mitigate climate change. Global emissions can be reduced significantly through upscaling of renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification, and by encouraging well-planned digital infrastructure to enable decentralized energy supply through smart grids, optimize energy utilization through smart equipment and shifting incentives by reforming fossil fuel subsidies. UNEP has solid professional expertise and capacity in this field and holds a key position in regards to ensuring the incorporation of energy transition elements into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). UNEP has also set up a number of key multi-stakeholder partnerships in this area, with United for Efficiency, District Energy in Cities Initiative and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction. Through Danish SDG 7 leadership, the strategic collaboration with UNEP on energy transition is strengthened, including efforts on cooling such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs' role as champion for the Cool Coalition, and efforts on phasing out fossil fuels in the context of UNEP's Emissions and Production Gap Reports and Denmark hosting the Beyond Oil & Gas Alliance.

Further, Denmark supports UNEP's work on energy transition through the current partnership agreement for 2018-2021 with a Danish earmarked contribution of DKK 78 million. The Partnership's overall strategic objective is to provide tailored support to developing countries in their efforts to progress towards a climate-resilient, low-carbon future through science- and evidence-based analyses, technical support, capacity building and policy advice. A new Danish contribution to the partnership of DKK 98 million is expected to be finalized in 2022.

UNEP co-hosts the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) located in Denmark, which promotes accelerated technology development and transfer, as well as strengthened policy and regulatory environments, at the request of developing countries. The CTCN has delivered 189 technical assistance interventions in 101 developing countries over the past six years, providing targeted mitigation and adaptation interventions that enable countries to make progress in their transition to

more climate resilient, low carbon economies. To support the Centre's ongoing work, Denmark has committed an additional DKK 28 million for 2020-2022.

Finally, Denmark supports UNEP's work regarding building back better and greener after the COVID-19 pandemic. Among others, UNEP is supporting countries in recovering from COVID-19 by placing green stimulus packages, fiscal policy and a just transition at the core of its offerings, and identifying and providing guidance on opportunities with high potential for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority of Green Transition, Denmark will:

- Help meet the Paris Agreement Global Goal on Adaptation by supporting the development of science-based adaptation strategies that build resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems.
- Continue to support UNEP's efforts on water resource management and access to water, including a focus on the climate-water-security nexus both in the normative and project related work, concerning among others ecosystems, fragile regions, sustainable cities, and sustainable food systems.
- Strategically cooperate and continue to explore possible partnerships with UNEP in the field of energy, with a scope on energy transition, phasing out fossil fuels and access through sustainable sources as part of the Danish SDG 7 leadership. To promote synergies and avoid overlap, Denmark will work to enhance closer cooperation with other relevant organisations working on related issues, such as the IEA and IRENA.
- Cooperate and explore possible partnerships with UNEP in the area of sustainable food systems in follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit and the green transformation to climate smart agriculture, including by identifying examples that demonstrate 'proof-of-concept' as well as scaling up implementation following the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit by increasing the ambition level of development finance institutions, commercial banks, investors, traders and agribusinesses to move to climate smart agriculture and sustainable food systems.
- Support UNEP's efforts to integrating green recovery and build back better and greener after COVID-19 in national economic planning.

4.2 Nature Action: Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions

Stable ecosystems promote preservation of species and resilient nature, and are important for supporting living conditions and livelihoods in developing countries, while reducing risks from extreme weather events and future zoonotic disease outbreaks. UNEP works to protect and restore ecosystems and the goods and services they provide. Specifically, UNEP is engaged in major NbS initiatives, including NbS for climate mitigation through the UN REDD Programme and NbS for adaptation building on the work of the Global Commission on Adaptation and through the Global Ecosystem-based Adaptation Fund.

The UN General Assembly has declared the 2021-2030 "the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration" to be realized through joint effort across UN agencies, conventions and multiple external partners, co-lead by UNEP and FAO. The Decade will focus on preventing loss of biodiversity, building healthy ecosystems and contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation activities, for which channelling both public and private finance for nature, including marine ocean ecosystem and biodiversity, is crucial. In 2021, Denmark has contributed DKK 70 million to the multi-partner trust fund for the Decade, and since 2019, Denmark has supported UNEP's Ecosystems Division (among other things responsible for developing and implementing the trust fund) with a seconded senior advisor.

UNEP-led efforts to ensure protection of forests and sustainable food systems transformations, as well as promotion of sustainable infrastructure, including through NbS, will provide a key opportunity to turn deforestation and land degradation tendencies around. UNEP actively stimulates the transition to sustainable forest and agricultural value chains, by i) demonstrating 'proof-of-concept' that sustainable, deforestation-free commodities can be financed with direct benefits for nature, climate, water and rural communities; ii) scaling applications that work by seeking more ambitious commitments from companies, financial institutions and governments; as well as iii) move towards making sustainable land use the 'norm' rather than the exception by tracking public and private investments and through normative work related to economic incentives (including agricultural fiscal policy reform in partnership with FAO, UNDP and others).

Finally, further efforts are needed on biodiversity, as SDG and UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD, 2010-2020) targets are not on the path to achievement. Negotiations on a new Global Biodiversity Framework post 2020 (GBF) are ongoing under the UNCBD. In addition to UNEP, an important partner in this regard is the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Within the priority of Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions, Denmark will:

- Support UNEP's efforts to lead the UN Decade on ecosystem restoration as part of its general efforts to ensuring productive and healthy ecosystems within UNEP's overall mandate. In addition, Denmark will support strategic partnerships on ensuring public and private finance flows to meet global targets related to nature through public finance framework.
- Support UNEP's role in the development and implementation of the new post-2020 GBF. The Danish focus areas cover efforts on the conservation and restoration of forests, marine and coastal areas, freshwater ecosystems for lasting resilience, sustainable food systems and ensuring a close link to the SDGs. To promote synergies and avoid overlap, Denmark will work to enhance closer cooperation with other relevant organisations such as IUCN, FAO, GEF, GCF, and WB.
- Support UNEP's efforts to develop solutions that increase public and especially private investments in sustainable forest and agricultural entities and projects that constitute NbS by ensuring investments reduce emissions, protect biodiversity and improve rural livelihoods.

4.3 Chemicals and Pollution Action: Sustainable Consumption and Production

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP), circular economy and resource efficiency are key to achieving sustainable development, but are among the areas of the 2030 Agenda lagging most behind. UNEP serves as Secretariat for the 10-year framework of programmes on SCP patterns. The One Planet Network, a multi-stakeholder partnership and platform for SDG 12, which includes UNDP, FAO, UN-Habitat, UNOPS, UNWTO and UNEP, is dedicated to the implementation of the framework. Invited by UNEP, Denmark has agreed to become a champion for SCP based on Danish experience, expertise, demonstrated leadership and commitment to the agenda nationally and internationally, including Danish efforts on circular economy and pollution prevention e.g. through sound management of chemicals, waste and nitrogen, and the sustainable use of resources with focus on plastic waste, anti-microbial resistance and zoonoses such as COVID-19.

A growing issue in relation to SCP is marine litter and micro plastics, addressing which is an urgent action, considering the rising levels of plastics in the environment and the impacts to coastal and marine ecosystems. UNEP promotes the protection and sustainable management of the world's marine environments, including governance of marine litter. Informal consultations on a global strategy or a

possible global agreement to reduce marine litter and micro plastics was launched in September 2021, and at the next UNEA in February 2022, a resolution that calls for the establishment of an international negotiating committee to start negotiations on such an agreement is expected to be submitted. UNEP will have a key role to play in that regard.

Further, linked to SCP is also the sound management of chemicals and waste, which have major impacts on the environment and human health. UNEP promotes joint approaches to environment and health that demonstrate the economic, environmental and health advantages of sound chemical management. In addition, UNEP is devoted to reducing air pollution, which is estimated to cause 1 in 9 deaths worldwide. UNEP tackle air pollution by supporting cleaner fuels and vehicles, inspiring individuals and city leaders to act, strengthening laws and institutions, and developing affordable technologies to monitor air quality.

The renewed focus on sustainable food systems and climate smart agriculture in Danish strategy for development cooperation is an opportunity for linking sustainable food production and consumption to climate change, healthy nutrition, and use and waste of natural resources, and will assist in building the link between climate, environment and food. Denmark is actively involved in the joint 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and UNEP's Executive Director has been appointed as the chair of the UN task force to ensure that the summit builds on the knowledge and unique capabilities of the UN system to deliver on the agenda at and beyond the Summit. The Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network will also be a significant contributor to the UN Food Systems Summit.

Denmark also supports UNEP's efforts on zoonoses, including COVID-19 and anti-microbial resistance (AMR), and the organisation's involvement in the newly established international centre for knowledge sharing, International Centre for Anti-microbial Resistance Solutions (ICARS), initiated and hosted by Denmark

Within the priority of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Denmark will:

- Support UNEP's work on SCP, including promoting resource efficiency, reduced waste and pollution, and overall decoupling between economic growth and environmental and climate impact, including through eco-innovation, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable consumption, green finance and investment, and the promotion of and innovation in clean techs. The SDG 12 championship will be a strategic platform for this.
- Continue to contribute actively to the work on governance of marine litter and micro plastics, including by linking related work of UNEP, EU and the Nordic Council on these issues, as well as the work of the World Bank's blue economy programme, ProBlue.
- Support UNEP's work promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, including a contribution to the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster.
- Support UNEP's work developing and promoting the link between climate, environment and food systems, building on the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit.
- Support UNEP's cooperation with WHO, FAO and OIE on the One Health approach, focused on the human-animal-environmental health nexus – including zoonoses and anti-microbial resistance.

4.4 Governance: A More Effective and Efficient UNEP

UNEP's impact relies on the effective internal organization and management, its role in raising awareness about the state and trends of the global environment and the science-policy interface, as well

as sufficient funding, and UNEP's role in relation to key environmental conventions and agreements, as well as cooperation with the UN system and other key organisations and actors. The internal transformation process highlighted in chapter 3.1 emphasises the importance of UNEP being effective and impactful. In this context as well as the strategic process of designing and drafting UNEP's new MTS, Denmark seconded a senior policy advisor to the Policy and Programmes Division. Denmark has also supported UNEP in relation to the elaboration of its Global Environment Outlook (GEO) reports, and is supporting the present UNEP process for a future approach for GEO, with the aim of strengthening UNEP's science-policy impact.

The ratio between earmarked funding and core funding to UNEP is crucial for UNEP's ability to efficiently and effectively deliver on its mandate. Denmark is keen on ensuring that the increase in earmarked funding and the project implementation does not damage UNEP's important normative role on the environmental agenda. Hence, Denmark is a long term and strong supporter of UNEP's efforts to broaden the donor base and increase non-earmarked core funding.

Finally, as outlined in chapter 3.1, Denmark emphasizes UNEP's responsibility under the UN Reform to coordinate and mainstream environmental action in other UN agencies as well as ensuring a nexus approach when relevant, thus taking into account the integrated nature of environmental and developmental activities.

Within the priority of A More Effective and Efficient UNEP, Denmark will:

- Support UNEP's efforts to report and showcase the concrete results and impact which the organisation makes for people on the ground,
- Continue to focus on strengthening UNEP's results-based management, which can contribute to increasing synergies in the organisation's work and to its strategic partnerships.
- Continue to support UNEP's normative and scientific role, reviewing the global environment, providing policy advice, promoting international environmental law and governance, building capacity and raising ambitions, and UNEP's integration and mainstreaming of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the work of UN as part of the UN Reform.
- Support UNEP's participation in the UN country teams, cooperation with UN Resident Coordinators, and participation in collaborative UN arrangements and efforts to implement the 'Delivering as One' approach.
- Work to promote the importance of ensuring enhanced core funding from more donor countries to UNEP's Environment Fund.
- Support UNEP's efforts to increase responsiveness to gender equality and human rights.
- Support continued institutional learning to ensure sound financial management and an effective, efficient and accountable UNEP, who is able to strengthen its normative and technical functions in accordance with agreed priorities and in close cooperation with relevant partners and aligned with UN development reform.
- Continue to follow UNEP's efforts to strengthen ethics, risk management and zero tolerance on corruption, harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, and misuse of power, while promoting a strong and independent evaluations policy.
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5. Budget

In 2022 after the strategy at hand has come into force, a new commitment for Denmark's voluntary core contribution to the Environment Fund will be made for the years 2022-2025. The upcoming

commitment entails a substantial increase in Danish core funding to UNEP to DKK 50 million annually. This is in addition to earmarked funding for specific initiatives as per the table below. The substantial increase in total support to UNEP reflects UNEP's key position in delivering on the SDGs related to the environment as well as the Paris Agreement. As such, UNEP is instrumental in reaching Denmark's increased green ambitions as set out in the Danish strategy for development cooperation and the Danish long-term strategy for global climate action.

Commitment in DKK millions	2021	2022*	2023*	2024*	2025*	Total 2022-25
Core voluntary contribution	30	50	50	50	50	200
Decade for Ecosystem Restoration	70	-	-	-	-	-
Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster	7	7	-	-	-	7
Marine litter and micro plastics	-	7	-	-	-	7
One Planet Multi Partner Trust Fund for SDG 12	-	7	-	-	-	7
Secondment to UNEP Policy and Programmes Division & UNEP Ecosystems Division ⁸	2,5	3,5	3,5	-	-	7
UNEP-DHI Centre	8	10	10	10	10	40
UNEP partnership on climate and development	19,5	24,5	24,5	24,5	24,5	98
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	10	9	-	-	-	9
The Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol (assessed contribution)	10,1	10,1	10,1	10,1	10,1	40,4
Total	157,1	128,1	98,1	34,6	34,6	415,4

Table 1. Overview of Denmark's total contributions to UNEP

**Subject to parliamentary negotiations. - indicates that the amount is to be determined.*

6. Risks and assumptions

Several internal and external risks can be associated with the national, regional and global efforts to meet the integrated nature of the many challenges humanity faces in its relation to climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution. In relation to UNEP's work specifically, the following risks have been identified:

- The imbalance between core and earmarked funding to UNEP has continued to increase over the past years, with the tendency towards an overweight of earmarked funding. Such imbalance risks undermining the strategic priorities and sub-programmes and fragmenting the work of UNEP, including especially its normative efforts. In line with its revised 2021 Resource Mobilization Strategy, UNEP works to broaden the funding base as well as increase core resources, the majority of which currently come from Member States and especially the 15 top donors⁹. Through stable

⁸ The secondment to UNEP's Ecosystems Division is funded by the seconded advisor funds, managed by the MFA Department for Multilateral Cooperation (MUS).

⁹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22253/Resource%20Doc%20-%20Resource%20Mobilisation%20Strategy%20FINAL%20Nov%202017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

core contributions and through voicing the importance of core alongside like-minded countries, Denmark will support UNEP in this regard.

- As a relatively small organization in the UN system met with high demands from member states, there is a risk that UNEP's commitments will exceed its capacity to deliver, thus overstressing the organization. UNEP must continue to focus on targeting areas where it has a clear comparative advantage and where it can add value and deliver a meaningful and sustainable impact. Further, as for other organisations, UNEP can improve its cooperation with others, which is especially relevant in light of the diverse global climate and environment architecture, in order to efficiently and effectively deliver on the global challenges at hand.
- CPR is expected to oversee implementation of UNEA resolutions including execution of the MTS, PoW and budget - all geared towards global environmental action. However, for a considerable period, CPR debate has to a large extent dwelt on political and process discussions, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic when bureau cycles were affected. This has occurred to the disadvantage of UNEP's core mandate. The issue has been raised by a number of member states in different fora. To mitigate this risk, Denmark will partner with likeminded partners to voice this concern and actively seek a solution.

Annex 1: Strategies for monitoring and ensuring progress on Danish priorities

The Danish priority areas correspond to specific parts of the MTS 2022-2025. Consequently, progress is monitored and reported through the Annual Report and the Programme Performance Report. Results-matrix including indicators are outlined in annex 3.

An overall stocktaking of the Strategy based on a Danish mid-term review in 2023 is proposed. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the Strategy in relation to Danish political priorities, the international landscape, and to UNEP results and updated risk assessments, and to include potential changes based hereon, thus following up on UNEP's progress on Danish priorities.

Further, Denmark will follow the progress of UNEP's work on Danish priorities and seek to influence it by the following means:

Denmark will use a range of formal and informal channels to hold UNEP accountable to its commitments, follow its accountability and transparency in monitoring performance and progress on its strategic priorities, including following up on the MTS's operating principles through the evaluation, which captures the results-based orientation of the MTS 2022-2025. Denmark welcomes the 2021 MOPAN assessment of UNEP and will work to ensure follow-up on its conclusions and recommendations.

Denmark will participate actively in UNEP existing governance structures, including through participation in UNEA and the CPR¹⁰; through annual Nordic and bilateral consultations; through the Danish secondments; and by suggesting and influencing resolutions and decisions on key priorities. Denmark will support UNEP in becoming as efficient as possible by working to ensure quality and high ambitions in UNEP's work and efficient governance.

Denmark will actively work with like-minded countries and engage in EU coordination in Nairobi and Brussels to achieve results, including by voicing concern together as a group and take common initiatives on key priorities.

Denmark will engage actively in dialogue with the UNEP Secretariat, in close coordination between the Danish Ministry of Environment, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Denmark's Permanent Representation to UNEP in Nairobi, and in cooperation with Danish authorities and other Danish stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector.

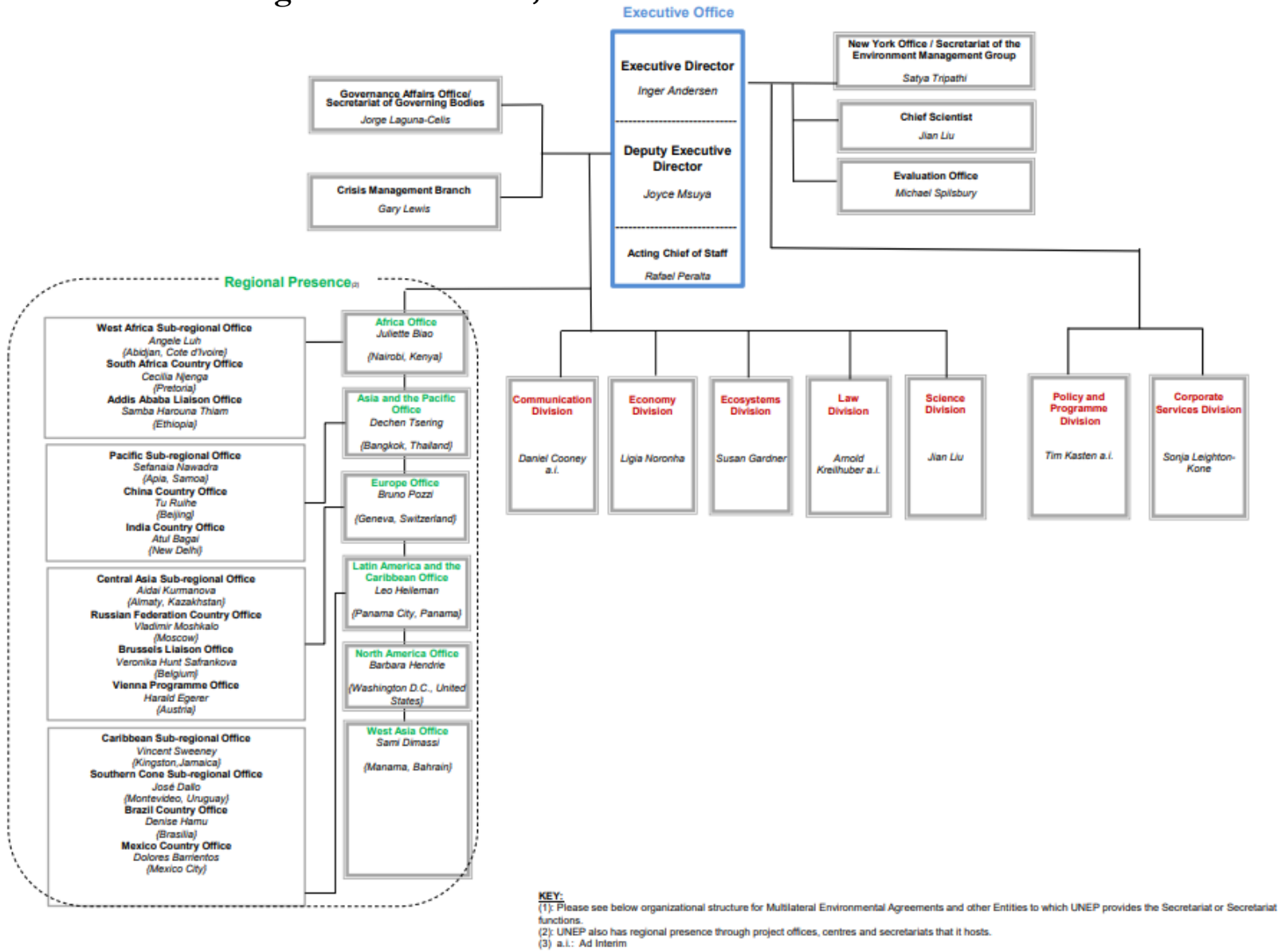
Denmark will promote synergies between efforts and stakeholders, especially between UNEP and other actors working on environmental sustainability, and across Danish partnerships with countries and actors working with nature, environment and climate action.

Denmark will support UNEP's partnership approach, including strengthening existing partnerships with UN entities and external partners, and the effort to engage in new partnerships, especially with the private sector. Furthermore, Denmark will work to include Danish expertise and the Danish private sector as much as possible, and especially in the fields of sustainable consumption and production, sustainable natural resource management, in preventing and combatting pollution and in resource efficiency, and green/blue and circular economy.

¹⁰ The EU Delegation normally speaks on behalf of EU Member States in CPR meetings. Consequently, the Danish engagement in the CPR is primarily channelled through EU coordination.

Denmark will share results, knowledge and information regarding UNEP's work, including through social media, and actively participate in side events during and between sessions of UNEA to enhance knowledge and expertise on international environmental issues of Danish priority.

Annex 2: UNEP organisational chart, 2020



Source: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26006/UNEnvironmentOrganigramme.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Annex 3: Results Framework

The results framework below is based on the results framework outlined in the Programme of Work and the Budget for the Biennium 2022-2023.¹¹

UNEP strategic objectives that drive the results framework are:

Climate stability: Countries increasingly transition to low-emission economic development pathways and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change

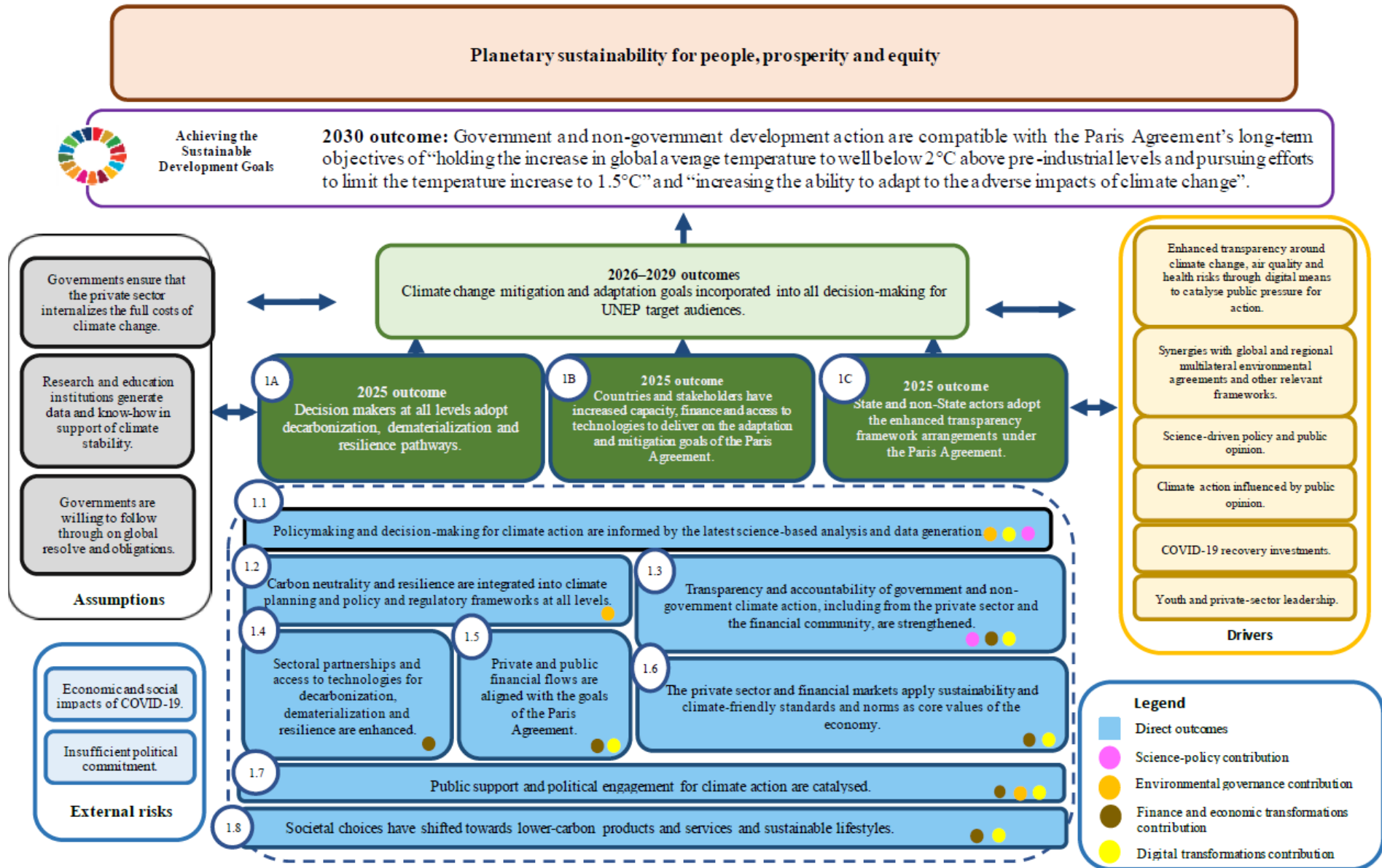
Living in harmony with nature: Recovery of nature occurs and contributes positively to ecosystem stability and human well-being

Towards a pollution-free planet: Significant progress made towards a pollution-free planet

A figure illustrating the theory of change is designed for each of the three strategic objectives:

¹¹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35087/Doc%205-3Add1K2002827.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Figure 2
Climate stability – theory of change



Living in harmony with nature – theory of change

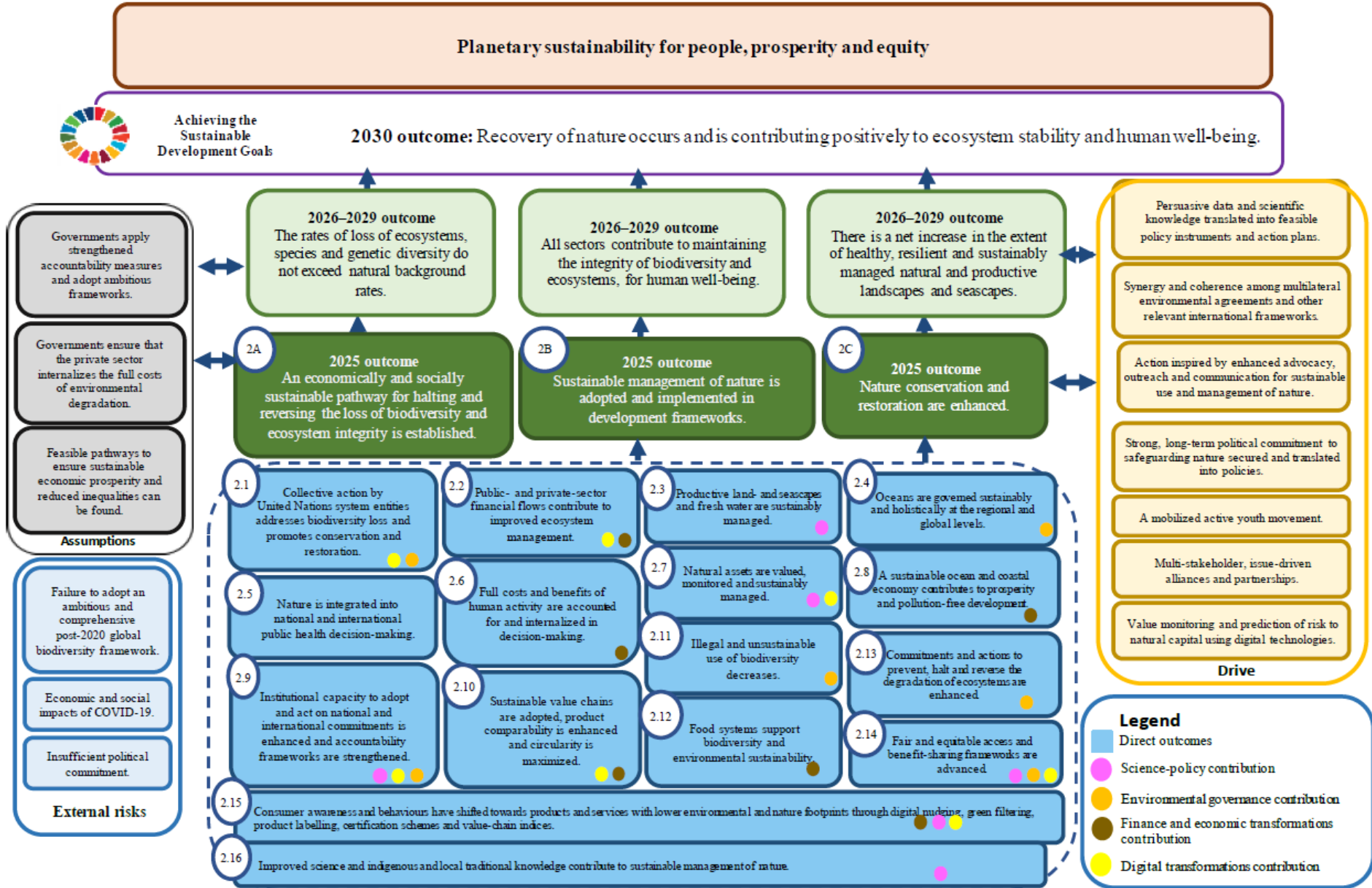
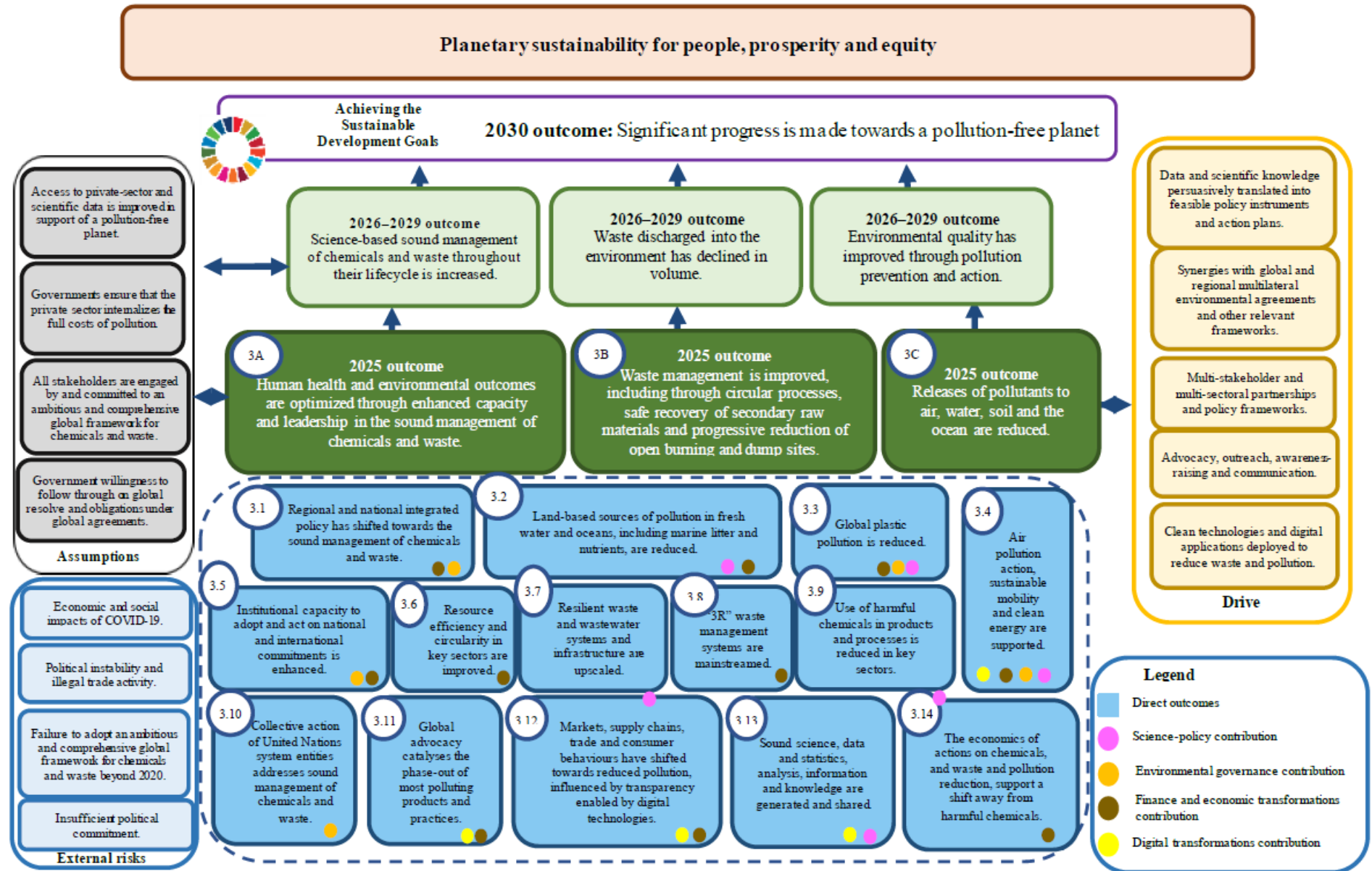


Figure 4
Towards a pollution-free planet – theory of change



UNEP results framework				
Climate action subprogramme				
Indicators	2025 outcome (cf. figures above)	Direct outcomes (cf. figures above)	Baseline and targets	Unit of measure
(i) Number of national, subnational and private-sector actors that adopt climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies with UNEP support.	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.8	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022: +15 Progress expected by December 2023: +40	Number of national, subnational and private-sector actors that have adopted climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies with UNEP support.
(iv) Positive shift in public opinion, attitudes and actions in support of climate action as a result of UNEP action.	1A, 1B, 1C	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.8	n/a – qualitative indicator	n/a – qualitative indicator
Nature action subprogramme:				
(i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.	2A, 2B	2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022: +8 Progress expected by December 2023: +30	(a) Number of national or subnational entities that adopt or adapt economic, regulatory or decision-support tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity. (b) Number of national and subnational entities that adopt integrated approaches to addressing environmental and social issues, including health.
(iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or	1A, 2B, 2C	2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.9, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022 (for units of measure a–c): +40 Progress expected by December 2023 (for units of measure a–c):	(a) Number of countries, national, regional and subnational authorities and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (bilateral, multilateral, global, regional and local) that use common approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity in their development and sectoral plans, policies and processes;

restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas.			+97	(b) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities that use ecosystem-based approaches to sustainably manage terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas, including those making commitments in support of ecosystem restoration; (c) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities that use ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction interventions for enhanced resilience.
(iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration.	2C	2.3, 2.13	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022: 0 ha Progress expected by December 2023: 1,440,000 ha	Number of hectares of terrestrial and marine area reported as being under improved management.
Chemicals and pollution action subprogramme				
(i) Number of Governments that, with UNEP support, are developing or implementing policies, strategies, legislation or action plans that promote sound chemicals and waste management and/or the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the existing framework on chemicals and waste.	1A, 3A	3.1, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 3.12, 3.13	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022: +55 Progress expected by December 2023: +55	Number of Governments developing or implementing relevant policies, strategies, legislation or action plans with UNEP support.
(ii) Number of Governments developing or implementing policies, strategies and mechanisms to prevent or reduce waste and ensure environmentally sound waste treatment or disposal, including in the context of disaster or conflict-related	1A, 3B	3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.11	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022: +5 Progress expected by December 2023: +7	Number of Governments developing or implementing relevant policies, strategies and mechanisms, including in response to humanitarian and environmental emergencies, with UNEP support.

environmental emergencies, with UNEP support.				
(iii) Number of policy, regulatory, financial and technical measures developed with UNEP support to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and the ocean.	1B, 3C	3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.8, 3.14	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2022: +14 Progress by December 2023: +33	Number of air pollution, soil pollution and freshwater and marine pollution reduction measures developed with UNEP support, including gender and social measures.
Effective leadership and programme management				
Executive direction and management Outcome 1: UNEP achieves coherent delivery and integrated implementation of environmental policies and priorities within the United Nations system through United Nations reform .				
(i) Uptake of environmental policy issues or approaches by United Nations entities emerging from UNEP policy advice and/or support.	n/a	n/a	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2023: 45	Percentage of United Nations country teams developing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that include environmental goals.
Executive direction and management Outcome 3: UNEP has strengthened its transparency and accountability as a results-based organization and improved the sustainability of its operations.				
(i) Implementation of audit and investigation recommendations.	n/a	n/a	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2023: 75	Percentage of audit and investigation recommendations acted upon.
Executive direction and management Outcome 4: UNEP has implemented the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).				
(iii) Degree of implementation of Environment Assembly resolution 4/17 on promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance.	n/a	n/a	December 2021 baseline (tbc) Progress expected by December 2023: (tbc)	Number of UNEP projects assessed for gender equality impact.
Programme management and support Outcome 1: UNEP makes management decisions based on risk information.				
(ii) Extent to which an established risk management framework is used as a basis for management decisions in UNEP operations.	n/a	n/a	December 2021 baseline: (tbc) Progress expected by December 2023: 4	Number of UNEP areas of operation covered.

Annex 4: Overview of UNEP and other key institutions in the international climate, nature and pollution architecture supported by Denmark

Institution	UN organisation	Thematic focus						Ways of working		
		Sustainable energy	Water resource management	Nature & biodiversity	Agriculture & food systems	Pollution and waste management	Marine pollution	Technical assistance	Legislation and governance advice	Research and review
UNEP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
UNDP	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
IUCN			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
GCF		X	X	X	X	X	(X)		X	
GEF		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(X)
IEA		X						X	X	X
IRENA		X						X	X	X
SEforALL	X	X				(X)		X	X	(X)
WRI		X	X	X	X		X	X		X
ProBlue		(X)		X	(X)	(X)	X	X	X	
FAO	X	(X)	X	X	X	(X)		X	X	X