



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



We stand at a crucial crossroads in history. In 2015, the world faces the twin challenge of finalizing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and reaching a new meaningful climate agreement. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is playing a key role in both of these processes by highlighting emerging science and supporting countries in the transition to greener, more inclusive economies.

As Member States prepare to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and shape their negotiating positions ahead of the Paris climate meeting in December, UNEP's latest Emissions Gap Report can provide useful guidance. The 2014 Gap Report clearly laid out the emission cuts required to limit global temperature rise to 2°C.

In addition, UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report showed the need for much greater efforts on, and financing for, climate adaptation, especially for the most vulnerable and least developed countries.

UNEP's work on demonstrating that ecosystems are a key driver of economic growth should also factor into the evolving sustainable development agenda. Many countries have taken this important message on board, and have requested that UNEP support their efforts to incorporate the value of ecosystems into national planning and growth tracking.

This annual report showcases many more successes. It highlights developments of global significance, including the news that the ozone layer is recovering thanks to the Montreal Protocol and growing support for the Minamata Convention on mercury. And it documents local initiatives, such as building climate resilient communities in Afghanistan and enabling sustainable consumption and production practices in Indian factories.

UNEP is thriving under the expanded responsibilities, which were granted to it in Rio in 2012 by universal membership, and by the first-ever United Nations Environment Assembly held in June 2014.

In 2015, I expect nations to commit to building a sustainable, resilient and inclusive future, one that provides for the well-being of both people and the planet. When they do, an ever-stronger UNEP will be there to support them every step of the way.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki-moon Ban". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ban Ki-moon
February 2015

2014 HIGHLIGHTS



Annual reports always trigger a moment of reflection, which from an environmental and planetary perspective highlights the dual sentiments of “we worked so hard” and “so much remains to be done”. Yes, we face a myriad of challenges today: climate change, ecosystem degradation, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, air pollution, and many more. But as this Annual Report shows, thanks to the work of UNEP embedded in a global community of committed partners and actors, these issues and their solutions are now at the forefront of discourse and policy action—undoubtedly significant progress on years gone by.

The fact that the first-ever United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) took place in June 2014—elevating the environment alongside peace, security, finance and health—demonstrates just how relevant environmental issues have become, both globally and in the daily lives of ordinary people. When the world came together for UNEA at UNEP’s headquarters in Nairobi, it added fresh impetus to efforts to chart a global course forward: one that recognizes environmental sustainability as a fundamental element of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, as can be seen in the draft Sustainable Development Goals; one that acknowledges the imperative of acting decisively on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; one that turns the incontrovertible science on environmental concerns into policies that could systematically and decisively alter the way we cooperate in managing our planet.

We know the scale of the task ahead, but the outcomes of the first gathering of UNEA and many other encouraging signs at international, national and regional levels show the world is responding. Take climate change, for example. A range of actions are already underway to mitigate climate change; for example, UNEP is leading the charge on increased energy efficiency—which

can save billions of tonnes of CO₂ each year, through partnerships such as en.lighten and the Global Fuel Economy Initiative. Then we have the announcement of major economies planning to work together in scaling up efforts to tackle emissions. This move by two major economies sent a welcome signal to the rest of the world and raised hopes for a strong agreement on climate action in Paris later this year—an agreement that can be guided by UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2014, which laid out a roadmap of emissions cuts, and the Adaptation Gap Report, which showed that climate change adaptation costs are likely to reach \$300 billion per year by 2050, even with strong emissions cuts.

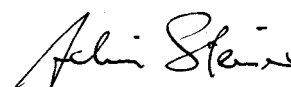
Or consider the encouraging global progress made in ensuring nations take account of the many benefits that ecosystems provide to humanity. After playing a key role in many global initiatives to raise awareness of the need to value nature over the last decade, UNEP now works with a record 58 countries to factor natural capital into their development plans. Another sign of the growing awareness of the need to conserve ecosystems and biodiversity came from the news that 15.4 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 3.4 per cent of the global ocean are now designated as protected areas.

This report showcases many more successes—from 128 countries signing the Minamata Convention on mercury, to financial markets showing increasing commitment to incorporating environmental risks into investments, to the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles catalyzing global action to the point where only three countries still use leaded petrol. We also have the UN-REDD Programme growing in reach, with 60 partner countries representing an all-time high in country requests for UNEP support.

However, one particularly outstanding result demonstrates more than any other what humanity is capable of when nations reconcile

their different needs and act as one on a global challenge. In September, the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion 2014, a report by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization, confirmed that the ozone layer is healing and will return to pre-1980 levels by mid-century, thanks to actions taken by Member States under the UNEP-hosted Montreal Protocol, to phase out ozone-depleting substances. The international community has carried out a repair job on a planetary scale—one that cost far less than expected, and actually saved money in terms of health-care costs from avoided skin cancer and cataract cases.

Yes, there is a long road ahead to a sustainable future, but we must not allow ourselves to be intimidated by the scale of the task or discouraged by seemingly slow progress. After all, the world is a complex place, both in terms of natural systems and human interaction, and therefore the process of change itself is equally complex. The success of the Montreal Protocol shows that when the world acts as one, as it is doing now on so many issues and aiming to do on so many more, results will come—even though they may take decades to show. Fundamentally, the environment is a long-term investment, one that brings longer-term gains that benefit all of humanity for centuries to come. None of our work would be possible without the generous support and investment in the environment by our partners, to whom we are grateful for the unflagging support. We at UNEP are in it for the long haul. Join us in our work, and ensure that everybody reaps the eventual rewards.



Achim Steiner
February 2015



UNEP'S YEAR IN BRIEF

CLIMATE CHANGE



The Adaptation Gap Report found that climate change adaptation efforts must be ramped up, as costs could reach **\$300 billion** per year by 2050. UNEP is supporting 24 countries to implement National Adaptation Programmes of Action, with a further 7 in the pipeline.

The Renewables 2014 Global Status Report revealed that renewables made up over **56 per cent** of net additions to global power capacity in 2013, and now account for **22 per cent** of final electricity power production.

UNEP and partners launched the Efficient Appliances and Equipment Partnership to drive a worldwide shift to energy-efficient appliances and equipment, which could reduce global electricity consumption by more than **10 per cent** and save **\$350 billion** per year.

100 members of Climate and Clean Air Coalition made progress toward goal of reducing global warming by **0.6°C** by 2050 – for example, Bangladesh banned dirty brick kilns and Mexico adopted proposals on stringent heavy-duty vehicle emissions standards.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT



58 countries worked with UNEP on the valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting.

The Protected Planet report found that **15.4 per cent** of terrestrial and inland water areas and **3.4 per cent** of the global ocean are now protected, with **6.1 million km²** of area added since 2010.

The Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 report showed that more needs to be done to protect biodiversity: 5 of Aichi Biodiversity Targets are on track, 33 are progressing slowly, 10 have not improved, and 5 are worsening.

Global Forest Watch, a dynamic online forest monitoring and alert system, was launched with partners such as the World Resources Institute to slow deforestation that saw **2.2 million km²** of tree cover lost between 2000 and 2012.

DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS



CHEMICALS AND WASTE



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_16062

