



Fourth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Agenda item 3: Implementation of UN Environment Work on Environment under Review  
Nairobi, 7 March 2017

The work under the Environment under Review subprogramme focuses on strengthening the interface between science, policy and governance by bridging the gap between the producers and users of environmental information and better linking science with policy.



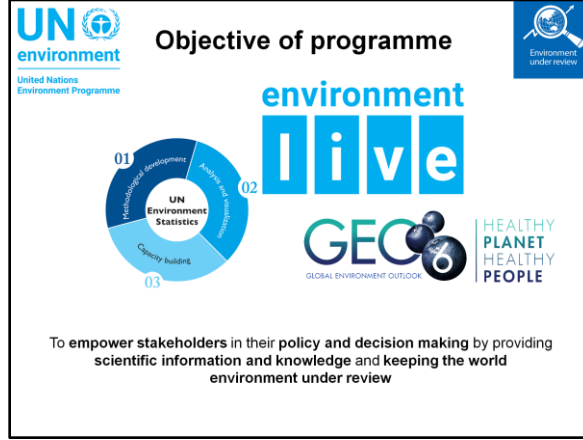
## Overview of Presentation

1. Vision 2030
2. Objectives of the Subprogramme and Outcomes
3. Overview of the portfolio
4. Overview of progress, including UNEA resolutions
5. Case study
6. Science Policy, Private Sector, Equity and Gender Considerations
7. Global Opportunities
8. Questions and Answers

The presentation will set out our Vision for the Subprogramme – and in particular how it contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

An overview will be provided on progress in key deliverables, such as the Global Environment Outlook, as well as on the programme’s contribution to implementing the UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

We will spotlight some of the work in the form of a case study and conclude the presentation by bringing into focus a number of emerging and critical issues in moving forward with the Subprogramme, such as the opportunities to partner with the private sector and the needs to leave no one behind.



The Environment under Review subprogramme was established in 2014 with the aim to empower stakeholders in their policy and decision making by providing scientific information and knowledge and keeping the world environment under review. In our work, we focus on three main areas:

- **Assessment** where UN Environment facilitates global, regional and national policy-making from environmental information made available on open platforms
- **Early warning** where UN Environment enables better policy planning that incorporates information on emerging environmental issues
- **Information management** where UN Environment enhances the capacity of countries to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge



## Vision 2030

By 2030, **evidence-based policy making** informed by robust data and assessments fully **integrates the environmental dimension of sustainable development**, resulting in shared prosperity for all within the ecological limits of the planet

- **Principles and policies:** enabling governments and other stakeholders to keep the global environment under review
- **Delivery:** Medium-Term Strategy including UN Environment Assembly resolutions

Our ultimate goal is that by 2030, evidence-based policy making (informed by robust data and assessments) fully integrates the environmental dimension of sustainable development, resulting in shared prosperity for all within the ecological limits of the planet.

We work towards this on the basis of principles and policies to enabling governments and other stakeholders to keep the global environment under review.

Our delivery is guided by the Medium-Term Strategy including UN Environment Assembly resolutions

The following could be seen as indicators for success for achieving the 2030 vision:

- All countries are fully reporting on environment-related SDG indicators
- Policy action on the environmental dimension of sustainable development is based on the use of environmental data, information and assessments

## Objectives and 2021 Outcome



### Environment under Review objective:

Governments/stakeholders empowered with quality assessments and access to data/information to deliver environmental dimension of sustainable development

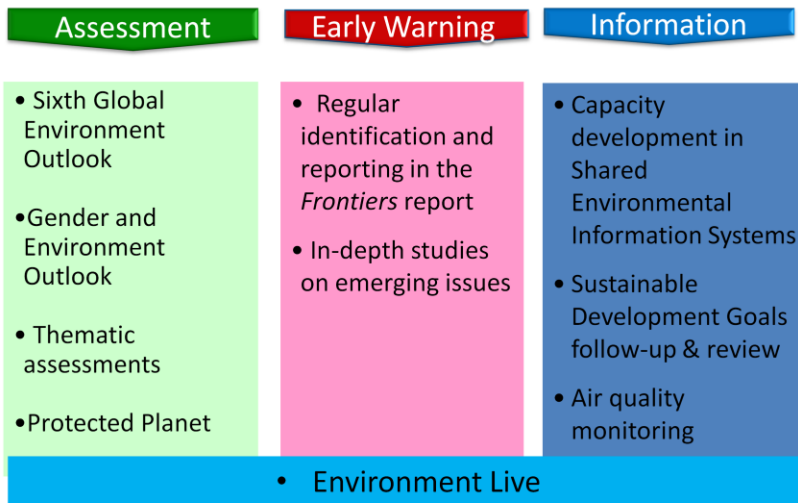
**Outcome:** Governments/stakeholders use environmental data/analyses that **strengthen the science-policy interface** to generate environmental assessments, identify **emerging issues** and **foster policy action**



**Project portfolio:** Coherent follow-up and review on environmental goals and indicators; thematic and integrated assessments (including the Global Environment Outlook, Environment Live open access knowledge platform; foresight services, and country capacity development in information management)

The above diagramme shows the expected outcome for the 2018-2021 Medium-Term Strategy. In order to achieve this outcome, we have developed a coherent portfolio of projects that integrates the aspects or data and information, assessment and emerging issues, as well as the strengthening of the capacity of countries to follow-up and review progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed environmental goals.

## 2016-2017 Portfolio Overview

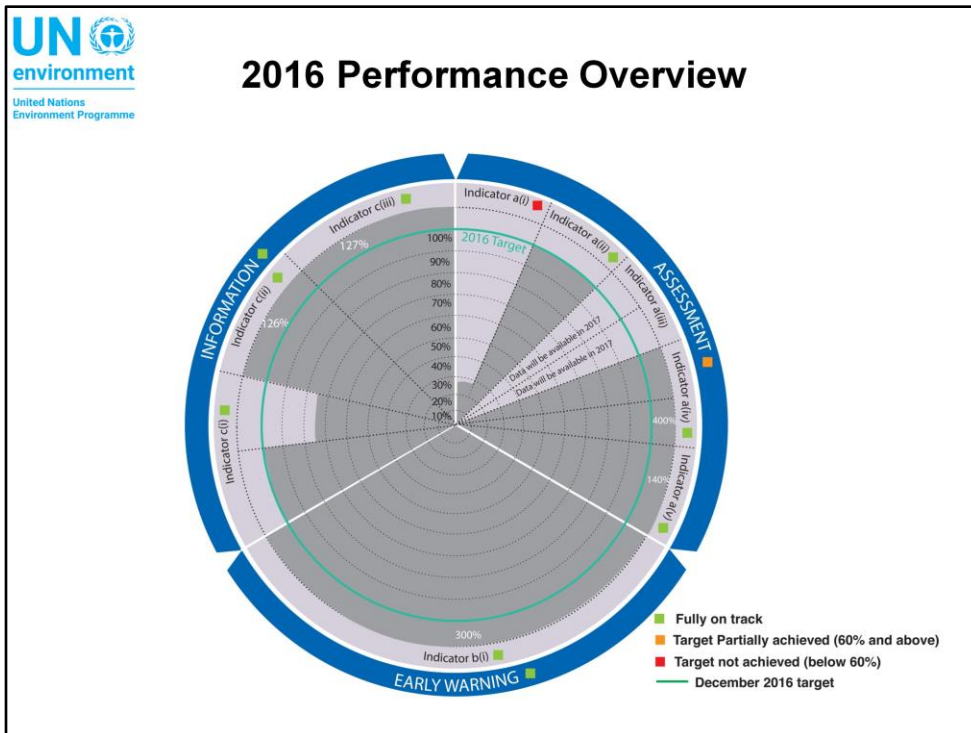


Coming back to 2017, our current portfolio is structured as follows:

- A workstream on data, information and assessments
- Our work on emerging issues relevant to the environment
- Capacity development in the area of data, information and reporting

However, all the work is highly interrelated and ‘Environment Live’, UN Environment’s online global knowledge platform that provides open access to data and information (formerly known as UNEP Live) is supporting all areas of work.

The Subprogramme currently also leads on important work on air quality monitoring and assessment. This work will however move to the ‘Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality’ programme from 2018 onwards.



The 2016 performance indicators show progress made at the mid-point of the 2016-2017 biennium. Whereas good progress have been made in the areas of data, information and partnerships, evidence on the use of assessments by other UN Agencies and multilateral environmental agreements is not yet on target. However, as custodian agency – in reality many UN agencies are using Un Environment data made available through Environment Live. Furthermore, with the recent release of the regional assessment, we expect to see more evidence in the coming months and dedicated efforts will be undertaken to gather this information.

The work under early warning keeps getting traction and seems well on track. As usual, a survey will be held by the end of the biennium targeting all governments and stakeholders to confirm the use of our emerging issues work.



### Highlight: Global Environment Outlook

- **Six regional assessments** delivered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Environment Assembly
- **First global authors' meeting**, 20-24 Feb 2017 hosted by Italy
- **Second and third global authors' meeting** in May and October 2017
- **Third UN Environment Assembly, 2017**: progress report provided on environmental state and trends; process will also inform pollution paper
- **Fourth UN Environment Assembly, 2019**: full Global Environment Outlook report and Summary for Policy Makers released; findings widely shared
- **High Level Political Forum, Global Sustainable Development Report**: Contributions will be made to the reports on the relevant themes

The Global Environment Outlook reports every 4-5 years on the state of the global environment, policy responses in addressing major environmental challenges, and future prospects or outlook for the environment. It is an important tool for tracking progress towards environmental goals.

The assessment process for the sixth Global Environment Outlook began in early 2015 with a series of Regional Environmental Information Network conferences to help define the priorities for the assessment in each region and the production of six regional environmental assessments that form the foundation of the global assessment, in particular for the state of the environment and the policy response.

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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_9795](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_9795)

