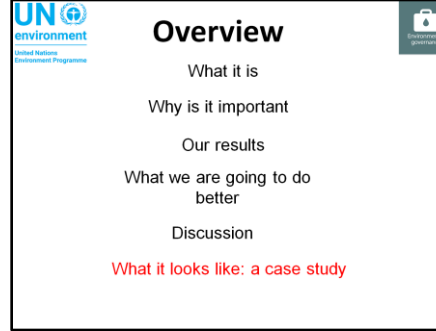




We need to focus on better environmental governance for a  
healthier planet and people



We focus on three main areas:

A. Promoting policy coherence and synergy of action. In this area, we foster a coordinated global response to environmental challenges. We will show in later slides what this means in practice.

B. Strengthening institutional capacities and legislation. To operationalize this global approach, countries need to take action in the policy and legal spheres and they need to be equipped with the necessary knowledge and capacities to create and enforce their own rules and translate international commitments into reality. This is why we support institutional strengthening and improved regulatory frameworks.

C. Placing the environment at the core of development. Because environment is not necessarily the central concern of the development agenda, it is important to put in place mechanisms to ensure that this is the case. These include collaborative mechanisms and the mainstreaming of environmental priorities in development plans and policies and closer association of poverty and environmental objectives.



Environmental Governance, although not formally defined, can be described in simple terms as comprising the rules, practices, policies and institutions that shape how humans interact with the environment. Improving environmental governance means working on all these elements to achieve a smarter management of the environment, for the benefit of this and future generations.

These are very important elements because:

- The Policies set the direction, and so they need to be science-based and well informed, coherent, adequate to the issue at stake.
- Laws embed further this direction in the more compelling legal framework of a country. Adequate legislation can enable action by providing the incentive structures. Laws are enforceable and so they provide a strong backbone for change.
- The institutions and the practices that these follow are key to ensure that policy and laws work for the people. This is fundamental because ultimately it is the people and their activities, their business, their attitudes that make environmental change happen.

UN Environment works with countries to foster, encourage and enable a cohesive and coordinated global response to environmental threats and opportunities. How do we do that? Our approach is to promote such a cohesive response through the right mix of policy and legislation, and informed and empowered institutions. We ground these efforts in the rule of law, which is key for sustained and inclusive change.



Our long term vision, approved as part of our 2018-21 Medium Term Strategy, is aligned with Agenda 2030 and sets the direction for our efforts from now on. Further, UNEA continues to identify global priorities, such as illegal trade in wildlife, marine litter and air pollution, which further define our objectives. The Sustainable Development Goals and environmental conventions are also key in identifying the thematic priorities of our work (this shown by the vertical bars on the right). Further, internal policies on social safeguards, gender, and results based management shape how we go about delivering on these priorities.

This slide shows the current and future approved strategies and programmes of work which in turn lead to our long term goal that environmental issues are handled in an inclusive, sustainable and coherent manner, based on integrated policy and effective norms and institutions at all levels of governance (top green bar in this graph)

The current programme of work (blue bar in the graph) comprise three expected accomplishments, focusing on promoting policy coherence and leveraging synergies, especially at the international level; strengthening laws and institutions; and mainstreaming environment into development planning and decision-making. These reflect the outline of our approach presented in the previous slide.

UNEA 2 resolutions that are closely relevant to the Environmental Governance programme are:

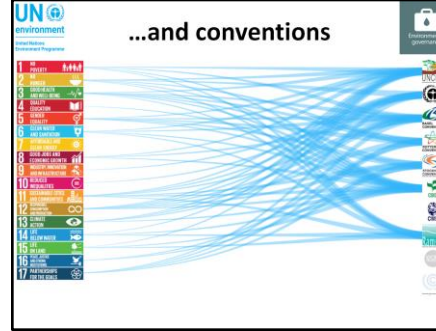
- 2/2 Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities
- 2/4 Role, functions and modalities for UN Environment implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- 2/5 Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 2/16 Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
- 2/17 Enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity- related conventions
- 2/19 Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
- 2/25 Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Further, we contribute to the implementation of resolutions 2/11 on Marine plastics and 2/14 on Illegal trade in wildlife.

The grey box outlined the project portfolio that we have in place to deliver on the programme of work. The projects are managed by diverse Divisions and regional offices across UN Environment. Currently we have 19 active projects, complemented by a smaller number of Global Environment Facility projects on biosafety, access and benefit sharing and illegal trade in wildlife.



Our environmental governance work contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its integrity, supporting its universal, indivisible and inclusive nature. However, some goals are particularly close to the objectives of this subprogramme, as shown in the diagram above which links individual goals to our project portfolio.



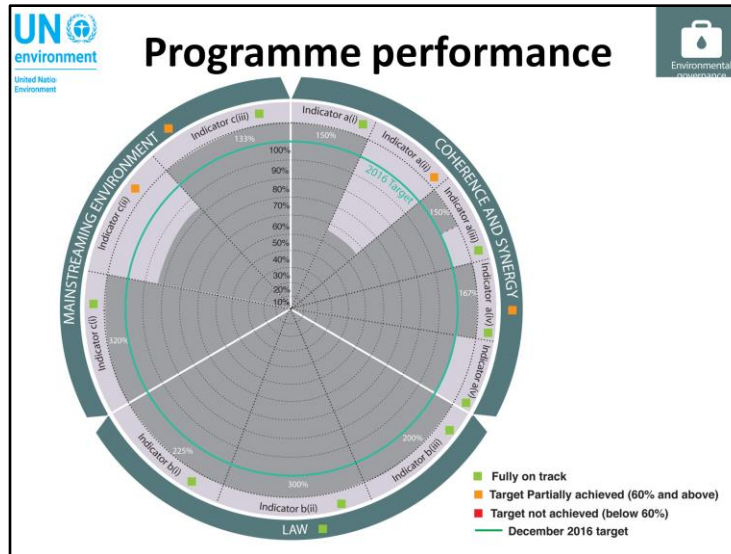
This slide shows how major global conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals are linked.

We take this into account when we design and implement our projects: we ensure that the priorities of the conventions and those expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals shape the focus of our work and we work in close collaboration with the convention secretariats.

In terms of concrete work that we do together, examples include:

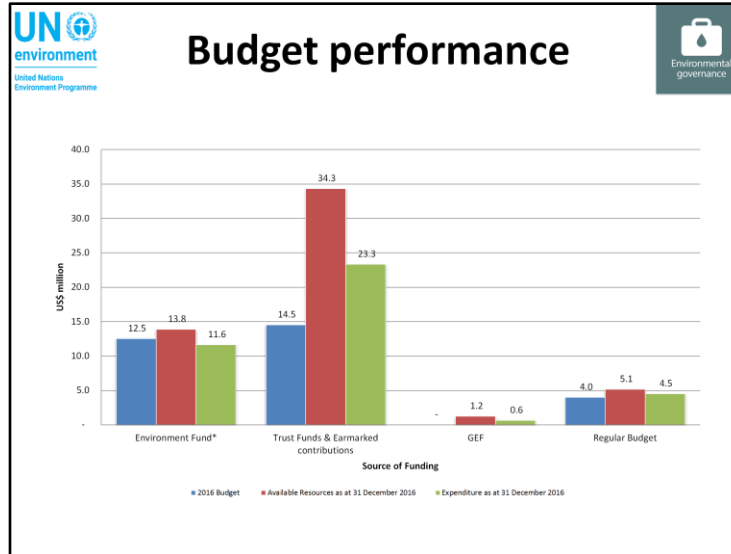
- the work we do with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on wildlife legislation;
- our capacity building support in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries for the implementation of conventions in the biodiversity and the chemicals and wastes clusters
- The support to countries to implementing multiple biodiversity-related conventions with integrated efforts;
- The Informea portal providing information on over 50 conventions (global and regional).

These linkages also demonstrate how governance foundations support the achievement of long term results in all environment areas; in fact all UN Environment thematic programmes aim to embed change in policy and legal instruments or in different ways of handling and deciding on environmental matters.



The pie chart summarizes the level of achievement of programme of work indicators which is outlined in detail in this presentation and which is reflected in the Programme Performance Report for January-December 2016. While we have achieved or overachieved in most cases the interim target for 2016, we still see challenges in aiming for higher ambition especially in view of the new indicators included in the 2018-19 Programme of Work which require a more in depth approach to national level institutional strengthening. These challenges are indicated in the last slide.

For the Poverty-environment initiative work, the 2016-17 indicator (b(ii)) measures progress in the programme country capacity framework; this is a new indicator which requires extensive data and thorough analysis. For this reason, the results are preliminary and more countries could result having met this objectives based on additional data provided by the national teams.



Budget performance shows general alignment of planned budget, income and expenditures for the Environment Fund and the Regular Budget. On other hand, for trust funds and earmarked contributions there is a significantly higher amount generated as income than the planned budget, and lower level of expenditures as compared to this higher amount. This is largely due to the fact that the red bar includes multi year funding that became available in 2016.

While UN Environment has been able to deliver on most indicators, its ambition level especially in terms of promoting more in depth change and in terms of reaching a wider audience through its services requires a higher investment.

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