

UN Environment

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), founded in 1972, is the voice for the global environment within the UN system. It has its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

UN Environment's mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment. It does so by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

It assesses global environmental trends and develops instruments and tools to strengthen countries, capacity and institutions to protect the environment.

UN Environment provides Secretariats to several Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Conventions related to biodiversity, chemicals and the ozone layer.



UN Environment is headed by Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General to the United Nations, Mr Erik Solheim.

UN Environment's seven priorities

To fulfill its mandate, UN Environment works in close cooperation with other UN bodies, governments and stakeholders, within seven thematic priority areas.



These priorities are closely connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all. About half of these Goals are directly environmental in focus or address the sustainability of natural resources. UN Environment promotes environmental sustainability as a crucial enabling factor in ensuring the health of our planet, and is committed to working with all parties to ensure the success of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

UN Environment's governing bodies

UN Environment is governed by all UN Member States, through the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Environment Assembly, also referred to as the global Parliament of the environment, has a universal membership and provides a platform for leadership on global environment policy. The first two sessions of the Assembly (2014 and 2016), tackled major issues such as the illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the green economy, marine litter and the Sustainable Development Goals. The next Environment Assembly will take place in December 2017 in Nairobi.

UN Environment delivers on its thematic priorities by utilizing the capacity and expertise of its thematic divisions and a network of some 15 offices around the world, including six regional offices for:

- **Africa** (Nairobi, Kenya)
- **Asia and the Pacific** (Bangkok, Thailand)
- **Europe** (Geneva, Switzerland)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean** (Panama City, Panama)
- **North America** (Washington D.C., U.S.A)
- **West Asia** (Manama, Bahrain).

UN Environment Brussels Office

Established in 2001, the UN Environment Brussels Office works closely with the European Union. Its role is to facilitate and enhance policy dialogue and programmatic cooperation with the EU and in view of shared objectives for sustainable development at global and regional levels. Over the last decade, UN Environment and the European Commission have developed a close bilateral cooperation which covers a wide range of activities, programmes and projects related to all seven priority areas.

The partnership was strengthened in June 2014, with the signing of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission. The agreement enhances the ability of both organisations to jointly contribute to the strengthening of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in the context of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Environment Brussels Office also maintains close working relationships with the Council of Ministers of the EU and its Member States, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee, as well as with the Committee of the Regions, the European Environmental Agency and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat.



Partnering with EU stakeholders

The UN Environment Brussels Office engages with many different stakeholders in Brussels. The Office also coordinates UN Environment contributions to major EU events, such as the annual Green Week, the European Development Days and the European Sustainable Energy Week.

Within the wider United Nations Brussels Team, UN Environment is focal point for environment and climate change and contributes to joint advocacy and outreach initiatives. This includes public events like the yearly celebrations of World Environment Day (5 June), the United Nations Day (24 October) in Brussels, and Ciné-ONU film screenings.



If you would like to partner with UN Environment in an event or activity of your organisation, please get in touch with us.

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UN Environment Brussels Office

"There is an urgent need to fight climate change, halt ecosystem destruction, and reduce pollution for the benefit of all people everywhere. By protecting our planet, we protect ourselves and in the process we can help bring every last person out of poverty. We all have a stake in a healthy planet."

- Erik Solheim -
Head of UN Environment