



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP in 2010-2013

In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges and opportunities, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works to provide leadership promoting the intelligent use of the planet's natural assets for sustainable development.

Since 1972, UNEP has worked in partnership with diverse groups, including other United Nations entities, governments, NGOs, businesses, industry, the media and civil society. From helping governments form national biodiversity strategies to driving innovation through the Green Economy Initiative, UNEP's mission is to inspire and support nations and communities to improve their quality of life, without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP is also an implementing Agency of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNEP is the only GEF Agency whose sole focus is the environment. UNEP plays a key role in supporting countries to develop and execute GEF projects, including scientific assessments, technology transfer and advocacy. The GEF priorities and UNEP's six thematic priorities under the

Medium-term Strategy, below, are closely aligned. DGEF projects (<http://www.unep.org/dgef>) will build on these complementary priorities to secure additional funding and enhance global environmental benefits.

Poverty alleviation

To fight poverty, promote security and to preserve the ecosystems that poor people rely on for their livelihoods, green economic growth and environmental sustainability must be placed at the heart of economic policies, planning systems and institutions. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have helped to refocus the attention of the world community on these needs by setting ambitious targets for the elimination of poverty. They reaffirm the importance of achieving environmental, social and economic sustainability.

The Medium-term Strategy

To focus its efforts over the period 2010–2013, UNEP has developed a Medium-term Strategy which will enable it to work more efficiently and effectively to achieve its goals. The new approach strengthens the capacity of UNEP to deliver on its mission by focusing on the following six thematic priorities:

1. Climate change

Strengthen the ability of countries, in particular developing countries, to integrate climate change responses into national development processes.

2. Resource efficiency

Ensure that natural resources are produced, processed and consumed in an environmentally sustainable way, paving the way to the Green Economy, in which environmental impact is decoupled from economic growth and social co-benefits are optimized.

3. Disasters and conflicts

Minimize threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of existing and potential natural and man-made disasters.

4. Environmental governance

Ensure that environmental governance and interactions at the country, regional and global levels are strengthened to address environmental priorities.

5. Harmful substances and hazardous waste

Minimize the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and people.

6. Ecosystem management

Ensure that countries use the ecosystem approach: the holistic management of land, water and living resources to promote conservation and sustainable use to enhance human well-being.



Factsheets in this series

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Ecosystem management

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