**Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between
the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme
for the cooperation period 2021-2025**

*Agreed between the European Commission and UNEP on 26 February 2021*

## Introduction

With a view to advancing the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Nairobi in June 2014 by the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (the "Partners"), the Annex to the MoU, agreed on 27 April 2015, is hereby reviewed in order to adapt it to the changing policy context and priorities of the Partners.

This Annex identifies common areas for enhanced dialogue and cooperation between the Partners, including the European External Action Service (EEAS) on the European Commission' side, for the period 2021-2025, based on their respective policy priorities and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly related to areas of common interest.

As specified in paragraph 3 of the MoU, the common areas of interest identified by the Partners include international environmental governance, climate change, green economy, biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources, disaster risk reduction, environmental security, the science-policy interface, and emerging issues.

During the EC-UNEP High-level Meeting on 2 March 2020 and follow-up consultations, the Partners have revised the common areas of interest in view of the global environmental agenda and the new policy context of the European Green Deal and its external dimensions.

The revised Annex outlines the common areas for further cooperation, with a view to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promote the alignment of initiatives with relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the Paris Agreement, ensure the follow-up and implementation of relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and contribute to mainstreaming the priority actions identified in the European Green Deal into the global environmental agenda, notably the zero pollution ambition, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork Strategy, and the upcoming EU Forest Strategy and Adaptation Strategy, circular economy, the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and digital transformation for sustainability. It also aims at scaling up cooperation between the Partners in the identified areas, in view of the green and inclusive recovery efforts to address the global crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the growing and increasingly acute planetary emergencies.

This Annex does not entail a commitment by either side for programmatic cooperation in specific areas or oblige implementation of specific areas detailed below through EU financial support. This Annex is indicative and is intended to be a living document and can be updated when considered necessary by the High-level Meeting referred to in paragraph 4 of the MoU. For the regional sections, the areas for cooperation will be further elaborated based on the outcomes of the upcoming regional dialogues or existing regional strategies.

## Purpose

1. Through this Annex, the Partners renew their interest in working together towards sustainable, inclusive, resource and energy-efficient development and poverty eradication, in particular energy poverty, through mainstreaming of the environment into all policy areas at global, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels as appropriate, in line with paragraph 2 of the MoU, and promote a green digital transformation to

catalyze systemic changes, improving gender balance and increasing peoples' skills and job opportunities in these areas.

2. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, climate, resource and biodiversity emergency, Agenda 2030, international processes and commitments, and respective priorities, Partners agree to:

   2.1. support a strong multilateral environmental governance system, including collaborative crisis management, based on a robust science-policy interface and sustainable finance;

   2.2. build forward better and address directly environmental degradation and climate change through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), restored and more resilient ecosystems and enrichment of biodiversity, resource circularity, resource efficiency, decarbonisation of power and transport, a zero-pollution ambition, and digital solutions;

   2.3. strengthen political advocacy and engagement on climate action, biodiversity, plant health and forest degradation prevention, natural resources, disaster and pollution prevention and reduction, and on COVID-19 post-crisis green and fair recovery, notably through 'EU green deal diplomacy,' the UNEP inter-agency mandate, and related UN processes.

## Principles

3. The Partners agree on the following principles to guide the Annex implementation:

   3.1. Working together on **climate action, biodiversity, resource and energy efficiency, energy poverty eradication, inclusive and gender-balanced transition, pollution, land, plant health, marine and coastal and freshwater ecosystems, blue economy, waste, and circularity** is fundamental to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, while pursuing a green and just transition for people and nature in line with the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the European Green Deal, relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and UNEA resolutions[1].

   3.2. Sustainability must be integrated into decision-making at the **systems level**, addressing cross-cutting issues, including gender and human rights, and channelled through **sustainable and fair finance, trade and procurement,** through employing a Whole of Government (policy coherence for sustainable development) and a One UN approach, as well as rule-based multilateralism.

   3.3. The next wave of **finance and investment**, including fiscal stimulus packages, should be pandemic- and climate-proof and people- and nature-centred and enable a green digital transformation.

   3.4. Underpinning sustainable development with robust, open, and relevant **environmental and climate data, statistics, assessments,** and other **digital public goods** is essential to identifying, implementing, and monitoring priority policies and action.

   3.5. Strengthening **science-based policies that promote a healthier planet and wellbeing of humans, animals and plants** is key to interrupting zoonotic transmission pathways and prevent future pandemics. **Planetary and people's health** are interlinked and require a One Health approach, addressing human health, animal health, plant health and the environment together.

   3.6. Recognizing the value of **nature** as a fundamental part of the solutions for multiple crises and finding ways to promote investment in nature should be central to the COVID-19 recovery and climate action packages.

   3.7. **A multi-dimensional and inclusive approach** is vital to **climate action**, promoting mitigation and adaptation solutions such as Nature-based Solutions and **economy-wide** transition, backed by solid science, sustainable investments, and broader resource efficiency strategies, and supporting livelihoods, peacebuilding, gender, human rights, education and awareness.

   3.8. **Sustainable consumption and production** is a systems approach to delivering green recovery and Agenda 2030. Shifting to sustainable consumption and production (Sustainable Development Goal 12), including food systems, will address the key drivers of ecosystem disruption, biodiversity loss, pollution, resource depletion, and climate change.

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[1] Some sectors are key for the transformation of our economies and societies, be it energy, mobility, food systems, industry and construction.

3.9. An **integrated approach** is essential to economic recovery that **leaves no one behind**, creates **green jobs and responsible value chains**, and mitigates future threats to lives and livelihoods.

3.10. Investing in **sustainable infrastructure** and digital solutions while mitigating their impact on the environment are practical means of addressing the cross-cutting systemic weaknesses exposed by the crisis[2]. With integrated rural-urban systems and their planning for sustainability, cities and rural areas can provide cumulative benefits across sectors, including a just transition to sustainable urban development.

## Organization of the Annex

4. The Partners agree to consider continued cooperation in the following areas (the "Chapters"):
   - Chapter 1. Improving the science-policy interface and international environmental governance
   - Chapter 2. Enhancing climate resilience and climate neutrality with a focus on sustainable energy
   - Chapter 3. Promoting healthy and productive ecosystems
   - Chapter 4. Scaling up the circular economy and resource efficiency
   - Chapter 5. Towards a pollution-free planet and better health

5. The Chapters include:
   5.1. Common objectives under respective institutional frameworks;
   5.2. Thematic areas for collaboration based on the EC-UNEP High-level Meeting outcomes (02.03.2020), technical meetings and proposals of the Partners;
   5.3. Regional cooperation based on the EC-UNEP High-level Meeting outcomes, EC-UNEP Africa Dialogue (02.10.2019), technical meetings and proposals of the Partners;
   5.4. Cross-cutting areas for coordination between different Chapters.

   The list of areas for collaboration is indicative.

6. The implementation of the MoU Annex will be guided by the following:
   6.1. Coordinators from UNEP and the European Commission will oversee the Annex implementation, organize policy and regional dialogues and ensure communication across different Chapters;
   6.2. Each Chapter will have Leads and Co-leads from the European Commission and UNEP to organize technical sessions for each Chapter together with Coordinators in Brussels;
   6.3. Policy dialogue will focus on political priorities, whereas technical sessions will be working-level meetings for exchanging information, coordinating efforts, operationalizing the identified areas for cooperation, and exploring new opportunities for cooperation;
   6.4. Regional dialogues will continue to take place on a regular basis as relevant;
   6.5. The development of activities in the context of the European Green Deal and its global outreach will involve other UN entities.

   Coordinators in Brussels: Veronika Hunt Safrankova, UNEP; Javier Arribas-Quintana, DG Environment

## Chapter 1. Improving the science-policy interface and international environmental governance

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| **Common objectives under respective institutional frameworks** | ✓ *Strengthen the science-policy-governance interface to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development (* UNEP SP7 Objectives, PoW 2020-2021*) and implement ambitious environment and biodiversity, climate and energy policies across the world; develop early-warning systems and support multilateralism to build resilience; accelerate environmental innovation; engage with all stakeholders to achieve green economies and digital transformation (*European Green Deal communication, European Strategy for Data*)* |

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[2] Physical, natural, socio-economic, and digital infrastructure (i.e., grey-green-blue infrastructure) and innovative digital solutions that do not increase pressure on nature are important parts of the equation.

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| | ✓ *Foster policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks to increasingly achieve environmental goals in the context of sustainable development (*UNEP SP4 Objectives, PoW 2020-2021)<br>✓ *Lead towards a global data strategy to support international cooperation on data development and governance that promotes accessible and interoperable data and harmonized methodologies for environmental statistics and accounting to facilitate monitoring of environmental and social interaction and to inform evidence-based policies and new standards for sustainable growth and to predict and manage climate change impacts and environmental disasters (*European Green Deal communication, European Strategy for Data)<br>✓ *Unlock the full benefits of the digital transformation to support an ecological transition and the science-policy interface and contribute to the development of a robust and inclusive digital governance framework and architecture* (UNEP MTS, European Green Deal). |
| **Thematic areas** | <u>**Science-policy**</u><br>• Work towards global, regional and national development of **trusted, accessible, peer-reviewed and relevant data and statistics to support planning, implementation**, **monitoring and reporting** on the environmental SDGs, and multilateral environmental agreements, e.g., through the Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics, supported by the UNEP World Environment Situation Room;<br>• Cooperate on providing access to the best available **national-level data analyses** (country profiles, national footprints, national capital accounting) and on the development of scientific analyses that explore **inter-linkages and cumulative and (in)direct impacts** and identify solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, measures to prevent and reduce pollution, and methods to maintain and restore degraded sustainable natural systems;<br>• Advance the science of human, animal, plant and environmental health to inform evidence-based policy for zoonotic disease risk mitigation, and the science of antimicrobial resistance to clarify the role of the environment and causal linkages with waste management;<br>• Develop provisions, policies, standards and safeguards to enable the emerging global digital architecture and governance framework to generate and leverage environmental digital public good in an inclusive and equitable manner;<br>• Harness a range of digital public goods and technologies to make financial flows sustainable, inform and transform markets, supply chains, consumer behaviours and decision-making to advance global environmental governance goals;<br>• Enhance cooperation on national capacity building in developing countries to empower governments and other stakeholders to collect data, develop, and use quality indicators and assessments and enhance open access to data and digital public goods to monitor and report on the state, change, and feedback dynamics of the environment[3];<br>• Strengthen synergies between existing science and data platforms and initiatives, amongst others the Green Digital Infrastructure, global and regional assessment reports, and global earth observations;<br>• Support the forward-looking **review report of the science-policy interface over the last 50 years** since the Stockholm Conference in 1972;<br>• Strengthen cooperation and guidance for **citizen science;**<br>• Support science-based **horizon-scanning of innovative environmental solutions** and promote mainstreaming of best available technics (BAT) and best environmental |

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[3] Guided by the Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/71/313), annual refinements contained in E/CN.3/2018/2 (Annex II), E/CN.3/2019/2 (Annex II), and 2020 Comprehensive Review changes (Annex II) and annual refinements (Annex III) contained in E/CN.3/2020/2.

practices as a means to redirect private sector resources toward sustainable production and consumption and strengthen the national science-policy interface;

- Improve uptake and usage of Earth Observation from space and remote platforms and derived services such as the **Copernicus Services** by national and regional users. Engage with governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society to **develop or adapt Copernicus services to user needs**. Explore the integration of the Copernicus Services into the World Environment Situation Room.

**International Environmental Governance**
- Operationalize the **international/global dimension of the main political priorities of the European Green Deal, including involving other UN entities;**
- Explore **synergies** and collaboration in view of the upcoming events and processes (e.g., UNEA5[4], UN SDG Decade of Action UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, UN-International Decade form Action on Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028), UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), IUCN Conference, UN Biodiversity Summit, UN Ocean conference, post-2020 global biodiversity framework, beyond 2020 chemicals and waste framework, EU-AU Summit, Circular Economy outreach in Africa, CBD COP15, UNFCCC COP26, UN Food Systems Summit, Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021, European Development Days 2021, The UN Digital Cooperation Roadmap, FAO work, etc.);
- Promote the implementation of **international environmental law and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements for strengthened international environmental governance[5];**
- Strategically engage in the UN development system reform, with a view to embedding the environmental dimension in national planning and implementation processes for sustainable development;
- Support the World Adaptation Science Programme to advance science-based decision making and action;
- Support the adoption of digital tools for consensus building and enhancing public participation in environmental decision making;
- Increase the digital literacy of citizens and various diverse stakeholders on digital technologies for environmental governance.

| Regional cooperation | **Africa** <br> - Improve environmental governance to mitigate natural resource-related conflicts across Africa, using the Global Conflict Risk Index and related violent event modelling techniques and methods, as well as integrated information systems such as the Science4Peace portal; <br> - Strengthen the implementation of MEAs related to biodiversity, chemicals and waste, enhance ocean governance and mainstream biodiversity in agriculture across the Africa continent; support MEAs such as CBD, CMS, CITES, Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata, Bamako Convention, Nairobi Convention and Abidjan Convention; <br> - Further enhance the capacity of regional environment information and monitoring networks; <br> - Support the development of national statistical systems, helping countries to produce fit-for-purpose data and statistics on SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, and 15; |
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[4] Linking a green socio-economic recovery and building resilience to follow up to the UNEA-4 resolutions on Sustainable Consumption and Production and Single-Use Plastic Products, and the UNEA-3 Resolution on Pollution Implementation Plan; and discussing elements of a political declaration at the UN high-level meeting in the context of the commemoration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972.

[5] Explore active partnership on Montevideo Programme V – a Decade of action on environmental law.

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| | • Support implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs at regional and country levels[6], considering poverty-environment nexus[7]; <br> • Foster the UN-EU-AU cooperation in order to better connect the two continents and accelerate sustainable growth for the achievement of the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063. <br><br> **Other regions** <br> Explore collaboration in other regions and for example: <br> • Identify operational mechanisms for **country-level engagement** (e.g., the European Green Deal country-specific assessments, capacity development); <br> • Enhance collaboration on the science-policy-governance interface in EU Eastern and Southern neighbourhood countries and **other regions[8]**; <br> • Continue the implementation of regional environmental priorities that were identified by countries through **regional environmental forums**. |
| **Cross-cutting areas** | **Synergies with other chapters** <br> • Support the development of predictive and diagnostic tools for climate change and disaster risks, ecosystem-based adaptation, and resilience for use by private and public sectors to reorient investments and provide early warning to enhance resilience and reduce the climate protection gap; <br> • Explore the possibility to develop the global component of the **EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity under the World Environment Situation Room (WESR)**; <br> • Support **the Emissions Gap Report and Adaptation Gap Report** and develop Gap Reports for different environment-related SDG indicators and targets to provide the strong knowledge base needed for scaling up transitions; <br> • Support **the Global Resources Outlook** report and the International Resource Panel to provide science-based options for sustainable resource management; <br> • Work to reduce the direct environmental impacts from digital technology regarding energy, e-waste and supply chains based on benchmark assessments, guidance and targets; <br> • Promote alignment of **trade** policies with the global environmental agenda[9]; <br> • Explore **global mechanisms for tackling plastics, deforestation, unsustainable resource use and green transition[10], including shift to sustainable food systems**; <br> • Support the work of **Regional Seas Conventions**, including their contribution to follow up of Agenda 2030 and Biodiversity strategy (UNEA resolution 2/10); <br> • Support the MEA synergies process, including the connections between the biodiversity MEAs, among the Rio Conventions, and between the biodiversity and chemical clusters. <br><br> **Cross-cutting Analyses and Assessments** <br> • Launch systemic research, provide assessments and identify innovation[11] on climate, oceans, water, cities, biodiversity, forestry, plant health, soil and food; |

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[6] Considerations include enhancing collaboration with UN Country Teams through UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks as the guidance document to accelerate attainment of country priorities; engaging with the UN Resident Coordinator System on climate action

[7] Including through the EU supported UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for the SDGs programme.

[8] A Green Agenda for the Western Balkans; environment, energy & climate partnership with the Eastern Partnership and Southern neighborhood; green alliances with partner countries and regions in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific (EU as a global leader factsheet).

[9] Supporting UNEP-WTO partnership

[10] Leveraging/strengthening existing networks (e.g., Green Fiscal Policy Network, PAGE, One Planet Network, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction

[11] Supports public-private partnerships on transport, including batteries, clean hydrogen, low-carbon steel making, circular bio-based sectors and the built environment

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| | • Support the Global Environment Monitoring on all relevant scales enabling continuous assessment of environmental change and achievement of globally agreed goals applying a multiple nexus lens;<br>• Support the Global Environment Outlook process to provide digitalized science-based information on the state of the environment at global level considering regional assessments[12];<br>• Support the SDG Measuring Progress Report to provide analysis on interlinkages between SDGs. |

## Chapter 2. Enhancing climate resilience and climate neutrality with a focus on clean sustainable energy

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| **Common objectives under respective institutional frameworks** | ✓ *Promote a just transition to climate resilient, low-emission and energy efficient development pathways for the highest possible impact on mitigation and, enhance adaptation and resilience to climate change* (UNEP SP1 Objectives, PoW 2020-2021)<br>✓ *Facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of relevant SDGs, Paris Agreement commitments, and related UNEA resolutions and decisions addressing climate action, renewable energy, and energy efficiency*<br>✓ *Promote coherent action towards climate neutrality and clean energy through (a) achieving a decarbonised and clean energy system, and focusing on energy efficiency across sectors; (b) sustainable and smart mobility; (c) buildings, including by use of organic building materials that can store carbon, such as sustainably-sourced wood; and (d) sustainable finance, trade, and public and private investments* (EC Climate Law Regulation, European Green Deal communication).<br>✓ *Propose concrete actions to eradicate energy poverty in a climate-compatible manner.*<br>✓ *Promote the multiple benefits of policies aiming at climate resilience, low emissions and energy efficiency with a particular focus on equality and improvement of skills and education.*<br>✓ *Promote equal access to financing, funding, grants and loans.* |
| **Thematic areas** | <u>**Climate resilience and climate neutrality – addressing both mitigation and adaptation:**</u><br>• Support the enhancement and implementation of **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategies and of the Paris Agreement's rulebook, including the Enhanced Transparency Framework and Global Stock Take,** through the collection and provision of data sets, improved governance and science on climate change risks, the formulation of more ambitious mitigation targets and adaptation solutions, as well as targeted fiscal policy analysis (among others)[13];<br>• Support adoption of the required policies and regulations for implementing NDCs, addressing the transition to sustainable patterns of energy consumption and production and the transition to sustainable food systems;<br>• Document and share **best practices** on creating enabling conditions (regulations, technology and finance) for mitigation and adaptation through NDCs, Technology Needs Assessments, and National Adaptation Plans;<br>• Document and support the integration of **synergies between climate action and biodiversity action**, including NbS such as the protection and the restoration of key ecosystems for the protection against climate impacts, such as forests, wetlands, |

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[12] Considering amongst others the 'European Environment: State and Outlook' of the European Environment Agency

[13] To help bridge the identified greenhouse gas emission gap and support investments in climate action

grasslands and soils;
- Document and support the design, the implementation and the improvement of **incentives for individual farmers and land managers** to invest in climate neutrality, such as carbon farming and carbon removals certificates;
- Strengthen cooperation on a **sustainable and just energy transition**: (1) mitigation policies and technologies in the context of the Paris Agreement, (2) reducing emission of greenhouse gases and short-lived pollutants, especially methane, and increasing CO2 removals (3) improving energy and cooling efficiency, especially in buildings; (4) promoting renewable energy, including its integration in urban energy systems; (5) promoting green fiscal policy approaches that reduce pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and consumption, freeing up resources through fossil fuel subsidy reforms, promoting investment in renewable energy alternatives, and incentivizing efficiency improvements and digitalization of energy systems;
- Support the preparation of **the long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategies** to be submitted to the UNFCCC by its Parties, including treatment of stranded assets caused by decarbonization measures, connect countries to environmentally sound policies and technologies for low carbon and climate-resilient development[14];
- Support the establishment of **national transparency frameworks** and **UNFCCC reporting standards i**n 2024 under the Enhanced Transparency Framework;
- Support **international research and innovation on low carbon and climate adaptation technology,** for example, through the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme - Horizon Europe.

**Climate adaptation, resilience, and security**
- Establish **dialogue processes towards knowledge sharing, peer learning, and adaptation network development at national and sub-national levels and among different constituencies;**
- Improve **datasets and the science** behind adaptation for more effective action;
- Promote the integration of **climate change considerations** into national budgeting as well as into sectorial development strategies, preparedness, response and recovery and plans;
- Use a range of **digital technologies** to predict and manage environmental disasters and conflicts based on a high precision digital model of the Earth;
- Strengthen **advocacy for combatting climate change and environmental degradation** and addressing **climate and disaster-related displacement** in multilateral fora (e.g., Platform for Disaster Displacement);
- Promote **NbS** for climate and disaster resilience (Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)) and Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR);
- Promote convergence of **climate and disaster risk reduction operations** in relation to hydro-meteorological hazards to maximize coherence and impact;
- Continue safeguarding the **environment** in the context of preparedness for and response to **emergencies**[15]**;**
- Continue integrating environmental considerations in climate and disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery, including by working to reduce the **environmental footprint of emergency operations**[16];
- Strengthen the protection of the environment before, during and after **armed conflict.**

| Regional | Africa |
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[14] Considering the work of the Climate Technology Centre & Network
[15] With UNEP-OCHA Joint Environmental Unit
[16] Includes humanitarian, emergency response (civil protection), military and peacekeeping operations.

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| **cooperation** | • **Improve climate risk assessments** and analytical tools on security/displacement, socio-economic impacts of climate change and the benefits of reinforced climate action;<br>• **Improve the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework on the NDC of African countries;**<br>• **Support strategies for preventing stranded assets in the continent;**<br>• **Phase out fossil fuel subsidies** in line with SDG 12 to advance and finance the energy transition in Africa and ensure sustainable, just, renewable and reliable energy;<br>• Foster **political dialogue** with the African Union[17] and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).<br><br>**Other regions**<br>Explore collaboration in other regions and for example:<br>• Support **resilience** in the Middle East and Latin America;<br>• Support and ensure a **just transition** towards sustainable, clean and renewable energy in ASEAN countries;<br>• support subnational **carbon neutrality strategies** in selected countries;<br>• **Improve climate risk assessments** and analytical tools on security/displacement, socio-economic impacts of climate change and the benefits of reinforced climate action;<br>• **Improve NDC and long-term strategies;**<br>• **Phase out fossil fuel subsidies** in line with SDG 12 to advance and finance the energy transition and ensure sustainable, just, and reliable energy. |
| **Cross-cutting areas** | **Sustainable finance**<br>• **Shift investments and innovative financing towards climate action** and enable uptake by state and non-state actors;<br>• Identify **investment needs/gaps** for meeting environmental and clean energy policy objectives (renewables, energy efficiency investments, enhancing resource efficiency in carbon-intensive sectors of the economy);<br>• Scale-up work on financing, including **blending** and private sector initiatives that support the transition to low carbon, resilient and circular economies and are in line with the zero-pollution ambition;<br>• Explore pathways for scaling up rapidly bankable projects to achieve a **low carbon energy transition;**<br>• Support the adoption of **minimum energy performance standards** and supporting policies and scale up financing for **energy efficiency** approaches[18];<br>• Foster integration of sustainable finance into **energy and climate change policies** and funding mechanisms (e.g., greening national investments in the energy, transport, and other carbon-intensive sectors);<br>• Promote **international alignment** of the various sustainable finance initiatives (natural capital accounting, taxonomies, non-financial reporting disclosures, fiduciary duties, risk frameworks, and stress testing, etc.) with the Paris Agreement and SDGs 7, 9, 12 and 13[19].<br><br>**Training and capacity building**<br>• Consider **training or capacity building** programmes across the identified topics to |

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[17] E.g., join efforts of UN, AU, and EU on climate-related security analysis and action in Africa, building on current UNEP initiatives with the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and UNEP/Climate Security Mechanism work with the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

[18] E.g., the joint implementation of the Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group

[19] E.g., UNEP FI observer role on the International Platform for Sustainable Finance

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>level the knowledge fields and enhance ongoing work relations with participating countries for continued capacity building and information sharing, raising awareness for the need to ensure gender balance;
<ul>
<li>Improve the **capacity of governments** to monitor and enhance transparency around climate data, policy, and action;</li>
<li>Support **capacity building and retooling of youth** with skills for climate action enterprises and leverage their entrepreneurship and energy to scale up climate adaptation and mitigation actions.</li>
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**Synergies with other chapters**
<ul>
<li>Improve the **scientific evidence base** of climate change risks and adaptation solutions;</li>
<li>**Support policy coherence** by strengthening synergies with other policies to enhance biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation, while contributing to peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods;</li>
<li>Enhance **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** by including ecosystem-based approaches for climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster risk reduction;</li>
<li>Foster an integrated approach between **climate action and resource use**;</li>
<li>Promote **trade agreements and trade support mechanisms** that are expressly linked to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building;</li>
<li>Increase **stakeholder engagement** on net zero carbon pathways/ strategies;</li>
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# Chapter 3. Promoting healthy and productive ecosystems

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<td>**Common objectives under respective institutional frameworks**</td>
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<ul>
<li>*Promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems and activities practiced through an integrated socio-ecological and landscape approach and Source-to-Sea approach drawing on environmental monitoring and projection that enables them to maintain and restore biodiversity, long-term ecosystems functioning and the supply of ecosystem goods and services* (UNEP SP 3 Objectives, PoW 2020-2021)</li>
<li>*Facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of relevant SDGs and related UNEA Resolutions and MEA decisions including on the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework addressing marine and freshwater pollution as well as biodiversity on land and in water, including integrated Nature-based Solutions (NbS), food waste reduction and digital technologies*</li>
<li>*Facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of relevant SDGs considering the respective actions, including sustainable food systems (* European Green Deal Communication, Farm to Fork Strategy)</li>
<li>*Increase biodiversity ambitions through addressing main drivers of biodiversity loss; transforming food systems, including the promotion of sustainable agriculture; tackling soil, marine and freshwater pollution, plant health risks, deforestation and forest degradation through deforestation-free commodities and derived products and supply chains and to promote forest-friendly imports and value chains; advancing sustainable management of production landscapes; promoting water systems and ocean governance including the sustainable management of maritime space and sustainable blue economy, curbing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as destructive fishing practices, promoting responsible aquaculture, and preserving and restoring natural capital to protect human and planetary health and create sustainable jobs and growth* (European Green Deal communication, Biodiversity Strategy)</li>
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<td>**Thematic areas**</td>
<td>
**Integrated Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Post-2020 biodiversity framework**
<ul>
<li>Scale-up and accelerate the implementation of NbS, including ecosystem restoration,</li>
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to deliver **multiple benefits[20] for nature and people** as well as **disaster risk reduction** and taking into account projected impacts of climate change**;**

- Support the protection or other effective conservation of at least 30% of the planet - land and sea - by 2030 and the effective management of these areas
- Advance consideration of NbS in the **NDC revision process and the long-term strategies**, with a particular focus on carbon-rich ecosystems and key ecosystems for the protection against climate impacts, such as forests, wetlands, grasslands and soils;
- Identify and quantify **ecosystems services** and integrate them into convincing business models;
- Enhance biodiversity metrics and indicators and advance practical mechanisms in targeted sectors and value chains[21];
- Strengthen **accountability** for the planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and review of the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework[22]**;
- Strengthen collaboration on **Clean Water** for a healthy planet[23];
- Strengthen cooperation on the **Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity** and **information and data systems;**
- Facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by contributing data, knowledge and technical expertise at the global, regional, and national levels to integrate biodiversity and NbS in the planning and delivery of national sustainable development frameworks and SDG strategies.

**Freshwater**
- Address and **reduce chemical, plastic and nutrient pollution** to freshwaters;
- Monitor and address **emerging pressures** including AMR, invasive species and other relevant agents;
- **Restore freshwater ecosystems** and the natural functions of wetlands, rivers, lakes and groundwater, including restoration and maintenance of ecological flows;
- Foster advancement of **data analytics** from land, space and remote system monitoring and citizen science to promote bottom-up water management and ecosystem-based solutions at scale;
- Improve **transboundary water management** by addressing the interlinkages between water resources management, ecosystem and human health, livelihoods and climate change towards conflict prevention and sustaining peace;
- Promote **multi-actor engagement** in the UN-Water SDG6 Accelerator Framework, including data, finance, capacity building, innovation, and governance;
- Continue and further develop cooperation with the World Water Quality Alliance.

**Oceans and coastal and marine environment**
- Prepare a roadmap for cooperation on **clean, healthy, and productive oceans and seas,** including identifying and addressing gaps in public and private financing for ocean governance and the sustainable blue economy;
- Enhance the collaboration **on an integrated approach to coastal and marine ecosystems and assessments of cumulative impacts of pressures to the marine environment**;
- Enhance **Sustainable Blue Economy** policy development and implementation, including 'Sustainable Blue Economy Financing Principles';
- Promote ocean governance at all levels **by strengthening the role of MEAs,**

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[20] Climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, human, animal and environment health, food and water security, disaster risk reduction, sustainable housing, and resilient cities
[21] E.g., agriculture and food systems, and within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
[22] Work towards a strong successor to Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
[23] Consider the World Water Development Report (2017, 2018).

**including RSCs in addressing pressures**, and creating conditions for sustainable use[24], including a **sustainable blue economy** as cost-effective solutions to climate change[25] and development aspirations;

- Address **land- and sea-based sources of pollution**, advancing dedicated actions at the regional sea-basin level;
- Address **biodiversity conservation and restoration**, including on area-based management and **Marine Protected Areas;**
- Promote **clean, healthy and productive oceans and seas to support progress in implementing the Agenda 2030 and sustainable fisheries** in close collaboration with relevant organisations through reforming economic and trade-related incentives and public finance in support of SDG 14.

**Marine litter**
- Discuss a possible **global agreement on plastics** to prevent the long-term discharge of plastic litter and micro-plastics to the ocean;
- Promote an **integrated approach to marine litter prevention, management and beyond;**
- Support and promote **citizen science initiatives** as a complementary source of information for monitoring and data collection[26];
- Support and promote **legislative guidance** to member states on the regulation of single-use plastics;

**Food Waste**

- Support the establishment of the **SDG Sub-Indicator 12.3.1b** (Food Waste Index) and its use to monitor progress towards the UN target of halving food waste at retail and consumption by 2030.

**Forests**
- Improve the **monitoring and the reporting of forest emissions** and **removals**, and the enhancement of the forest components of NDCs and long-term strategies;
- Continue to promote **sustainable forest management** in collaboration with the UNFF and FAO;
- Promote **forests** as a highly cost-effective climate solution and disaster risk reduction and promote **deforestation-free supply chains**, especially in agriculture.

**Sustainable use of components of biodiversity**
- Develop a people-centred **biodiversity-friendly bio-economy** at regional and national levels, addressing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources;
- Develop **national strategies** for such an economy, linked to national biodiversity and economic development strategies, and collaborate with Regional Economic Communities to develop sub-regional strategies;
- Contribute to the development of options[27] for **reducing consumption footprint** on forests and shifting to **deforestation-free supply chains**, considering direct and indirect impacts across the life cycle of products and the benefits from sustainable and energy-efficient actions in the water sector.

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[24] e.g. International Ocean Governance Agenda for the future of our oceans

[25] E.g., "Africa Oceans Governance Strategy and the blue/ocean economy" & the EC Strategy "Comprehensive Strategy with Africa"

[26] New mobile applications such as European Environment Agency Marine Litter Watch also enable citizens to log data on the location and type of debris found on coastlines and waterways into scientific databases.

[27] Work within existing international agreements and frameworks to secure commitments to minimize the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the global market

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| | **Nature and Health Nexus**<br>• Support strengthening of **biodiversity and health linkages** to manage and reduce risks for both human and ecosystem health and to integrate nature in national and international public health decision-making through science-based approaches;<br>• Address plant health and emerging pests and diseases by promoting **better preparedness** across countries with a view to ensure early prevention, detection and control activities.<br>• Support the expansion of environment and plant health dimensions of **One Health** approach, including measures to fight AMR, at international, national and local levels;<br>• Promote **integrated policies** to reduce risk from environmental root causes of public health threats. |
| **Regional cooperation** | **Africa**<br>• Cooperate on **ecosystems restoration** in the context of the **UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**, biodiversity protection and sustainable wildlife economy, deforestation-free commodity, forest conservation in the Congo Basin, and protection of wetlands, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and building on the Great Green Wall Initiative**;**<br>• Promote **Integrated Landscape Approach** to address land degradation as an efficient approach for simultaneously reaching objectives of sustainable agriculture, food security, climate neutrality, and biodiversity preservation[28];<br>• Improve the **forest component of the NDC** and long-term strategies of African countries;<br>• Advance **green recovery** in rural areas through nature-based tourism, knowledge transfer, and advice and expand revenue streams and jobs in wildlife-centered value streams;<br>• Promote **Integrated River Basin management**, water quality and quantity monitoring, capacity development and management.<br><br>**Other regions**<br>Explore collaboration in other regions and for example:<br>• **Promote transboundary cooperation** to implement restoration initiatives, sustainable food systems and expanded biodiversity economies to build resilience and avoid future pandemics;<br>• Enhance policy cooperation on the **global governance of natural resources** to identify gaps and explore the ground for a possible international agreement on the management of natural resources;<br>• Strengthen cooperation on **governance and coherence in the management of transboundary natural resources** and global commons, in particular through the Regional Seas Conventions, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, the World Water Quality Alliance, and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), including the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), and river basin organizations. |
| **Cross-cutting areas** | **Sustainable finance**<br>• Stimulate new **public and private sector investment** opportunities to advance biodiversity positive development and ensure equitable benefit sharing with rural communities;<br>• Foster integration of sustainable finance into **sectoral policies** (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water, aquaculture, land, ocean[29], and coastal zone management); |

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[28] E.g., through support on reforming perverse incentives such as harmful agricultural subsidies; policy analysis and dialogue on reforming agricultural support, capacity building on market-based mechanisms to finance such approaches

- Integrate biodiversity and ecosystem health into the **national economic planning** through green budgeting cooperation, natural capital valuation, risk assessment, and other areas;
- Identify well-founded **investment needs/gaps** for investing in sustainable management and conservation of ecosystems, including the shift to more sustainable forms of commodity production;
- Scale up work on financing, including **blending** and private sector initiatives (e.g., to expand sustainable nature-based tourism, establish or expand sustainable value chains for bio-based products);
- Explore pathways for rapid scale-up of the **bankable pipeline of credible and needed sustainability projects** which promote more sustainable economic activities in fragile ecosystems**;**
- Promote **international alignment** of the various sustainable finance initiatives (notably the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and biodiversity-related SDGs 3, 6, 14, and 15)[30].

**Synergies with other chapters**
- Strengthen the **science-policy interface, regional data collection, monitoring[31] and research/assessments** to protect, sustainably use or restore biodiversity, including the marine and coastal environment at all levels[32];
- Collaborate on **data collection** on the impact of disasters and conflicts on ecosystems to feed into various reporting frameworks, including the Sendai Monitor and restoration requirements;
- Strengthen **synergies** between biodiversity, climate change, pollution, resource extraction and relevant policies on forestry, plant health, agriculture, tourism, ocean governance, and water, considering the oceans and climate nexus and enhancing resilience and adaptation;
- Strengthen **cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration** on ecosystems conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and human health and disease;
- Support **fiscal reform** for nature and sustainable food systems under the existing global agreements;
- Strengthen cooperation on the **pollution pressures** and the impact of pollution on biodiversity/ecosystems;
- Co-create **cross-sectoral knowledge** to monitor impact;
- Explore cooperation on capacity development and implementation support on **reforming agricultural subsidies**;
- Mainstream the "**do-no-harm**" (to biodiversity and climate) principle and promote nature-positive outcomes in all policies and sectors;
- Devise policies and practices that **reduce the impact of trade in commodities** and create more benefits for people;
- Increase public awareness about the linkages between biodiversity and human, animal, plant and environmental health.

## Chapter 4. Scaling up the circular economy and resource efficiency

| Common objectives | ✓ Promote sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production |
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[29] For instance, by mainstreaming the Sustainable Blue Economy Financing Principles in public and private finance/investment decisions
[30] The aim is to harness financial flows to achieve positive outcomes for people and nature, in line with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and focusing on sectors with high impacts and dependencies on nature.
[31] Concreate cross-sectoral knowledge to monitor impact
[32] Consider the regional sea-basin level to support the global ocean assessments (WOA, GSDR, etc.)

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| **under respective institutional frameworks** | *patterns, increasingly decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and environmental impact while improving human wellbeing* (UNEP SP6 Objective, PoW 2020-2021)<br>✓ *Facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of relevant SDGs and related UNEA Resolutions and decisions, addressing resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production and considering the work of the IRP*<br>✓ *Promote initiatives that engage the entire value chains to advance towards a circular economy and climate neutrality, significant reduction of waste, greening national budgets, sustainable finance, trade, and procurement, green growth with a specific focus on Africa, and empowerment of consumers* (European Green Deal communication, Circular Economy Action Plan)<br>✓ *Ensure environmental data, norms and relevant digital public goods are integrated into the "operating system" of the digital economy in an inclusive and equitable manner* |
| **Thematic areas** | <u>**Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production**</u><br>• Explore the establishment of a **Global Alliance on resource efficiency and circular economy,** supporting countries to understand emerging policy issues related to circularity and develop a coherent policy framework on circularity;<br>• Continue the collaboration on robust **science-based environmental footprints / Life Cycle Assessment** work to underpin decisions on Circular Economy and sustainable consumption and production;<br>• Provide support to selected countries and cities to develop mechanisms to promote healthier and more sustainable food consumption patterns in the context of sustainable food systems;<br>• **Enable sustainable consumption** through increased information on e-commerce platforms about the environmental and carbon footprint of all products and services across their lifecycle;<br>• Join efforts to advance **resource efficiency** and **circularity in global value chains and high impact sectors** such as textiles, buildings and construction, electronics, food, plastics, tourism and circularity in cities;<br>• Provide support to selected countries and cities to **scale up action and monitor the benefits of the transition to circularity;**<br>• Document and promote the **climate and biodiversity benefits** of a sustainable circular economy, including the use of long-lived wood products;<br>• Co-develop mechanisms to implement a **just transition** to a circular economy, especially at the city level, focusing on jobs, people, and the informal economy;<br>• Cooperate on capacity building and implementation support for fiscal reform and repurposing **environmentally harmful subsidies;**<br>• Support integration of **resource efficiency and circularity** into the **NDCs**: increasing the mitigation ambition along with broadening the scope of targets in the NDCs and refocusing on full lifecycle GHG emissions reduction;<br>• Explore avenues for increasing **public and private sector financing** for circularity.<br><br>**Sustainable Infrastructure**<br>• Raise awareness of the centrality of **infrastructure** to sustainable development; strengthen the role that natural infrastructure and NbS play in meeting global infrastructure service needs, integrating grey, green and blue urban infrastructure to increase liveability and harness biodiversity and climate mitigation and adaptation benefits;<br>• Develop **new and promote existing tools** for integrating sustainability into infrastructure decision-making and strategic planning at the systems-level;<br>• Explore the potential role that **digital infrastructure** and innovative digital solutions can play in providing infrastructure services more sustainably and increasing the |

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| | sustainability of other infrastructure systems; |
| | • Support **national and sub-national governments** in implementing needs-based, systems-level, integrated approaches to sustainable infrastructure. |
| **Regional cooperation** | **Africa** <br>• Scale up the **circular economy** and promote policy coherence to deliver sustainable economic growth, jobs, positive environment, and climate outcomes; <br>• Join forces to support **green, inclusive, and just transformation** in partner countries, especially in the COVID-19 recovery context[33]; <br>• Support green economic recovery in **rural economies in Africa[34].** <br><br>**Other regions** <br>Explore collaboration in other regions and for example: <br>▪ Consolidate the existing EU regional initiatives on circularity and sustainable consumption and production in Asia, and the Mediterranean and EU (e.g., the Western Balkans) and consider extending them to Latin America and the Caribbean. |
| **Cross-cutting areas** | **Sustainable finance** <br>• Identify well-founded **investment needs/gaps** to accelerate the shift to more sustainable consumption and production patterns; <br>• Scale-up work on financing, including **blending** and private sector initiatives[35]; <br>• Explore pathways for rapid scale-up of the **bankable pipeline of credible and needed sustainability projects** which promote more resource-efficient and sustainable production practices in key economic sectors; <br>• Promote **international alignment** of the various sustainable finance initiatives to accelerate the transition to a circular economy based on sustainable consumption and production patterns; <br>• Promote the adoption of **national sustainable finance policies**[36]; <br>• Promote the use of **sustainable finance tools in the private sector**[37]; <br>• Increase the **scale of sustainable finance** invested in the industrial production base as well as bio-based sectors of the economy of both the EU and its trading partners; <br>• Provide technical assistance on **enabling frameworks and tools** for financial systems to support the transition of businesses towards sustainability[38]. <br><br>**Synergies with other chapters** <br>• Strengthen **data collection, statistical analyses and accounting methodologies** to enhance understanding and to improve monitoring of efforts to achieve circular economies and a green digital economy; <br>• Support policy discussions related to a '**Safe Operating Space[39]** for sustainable development[40]; |

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[33] E.g., green fiscal policy analysis and advisory support, "green alliances," and policy dialogues, building on existing partnerships such as PAGE

[34] Supporting nature-based tourism recovery and expanding revenue streams and jobs in wildlife-centered value streams, ranging from natural products to NBS investments in forests and wetlands for health, climate and biodiversity functions

[35] E.g., to address production and consumption "hotspots" in resource-intensive sectors by investing in more efficient or alternative production methods

[36] e.g. building on the work of the Inquiry into the Design of a Financial System and national sustainable finance policies, including by EU countries.

[37] such as sustainable finance tools developed for example by the UNEP Finance Initiative or the EU, the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

[38] E.g., UNEP FI Observer role on the EC Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, to be transformed into the EC Platform for Sustainable Finance

[39] Building on the work of the International Resource Panel

- Develop circular economy solutions for sustainable **trade** across borders;
- Develop a circular economy for decarbonization of **energy-intensive sectors**;
- Step up efforts in **sustainable procurement;**
- Identify and disseminate innovative and sustainable **business models**;
- Identify new areas for collaboration related to **circularity & waste**;
- Promote the integration of **sound chemicals management** in the identification of solutions for circularity;
- Empower **citizens to take consumer decisions in favor of circularity, climate action** and **NbS** through consumer information and incentives and enhance collaboration on **sustainable lifestyles.**

## Chapter 5. Towards a pollution-free planet and better health

| Common objectives under respective institutional frameworks | ✓ *Promote sound management of chemicals and waste and improved air and water quality for a healthier environment and better health for all* (UNEP SP5 and SP 7 Objectives, PoW 2020-2021) <br> ✓ *Facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of related SDGs and UNEA Resolutions addressing air, water and soil pollution and chemicals and waste management.* <br> ✓ *Promote accelerated efforts to transition towards zero pollution from air, water, soil and consumer products, and targeting critical sectors including transport, agriculture, forestry, food production, energy production and residential heating, and industry, and the use of chemical pesticides, fertilisers, and antibiotics to better protect health and ecosystems* (European Green Deal communication). |
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| **Thematic areas** | **Towards zero pollution** <br> • Promote a **global (coordinated) response on pollution prevention and abatement** (across air, water, and soil and including cross-cutting pollution, e.g., nutrients, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and waste management), involving UN agencies and regional organizations, and in particular: <br>    o Explore synergies between the EU's Zero Pollution ambition and the UNEP Implementation Plan Towards a Pollution-Free Planet; <br>    o Foster multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation to share knowledge and good practices, promote concerted action and address transboundary pollution[41]; <br>    o Strengthen institutional capacities, policies and legislation and more effective governance, including through intersectoral collaboration[42]; <br>    o Promote monitoring of pollution and its impact on the animal, plant and environmental and human health as well as the capacity of countries to prevent and address pollution, including during emergencies, crises, conflicts and disaster events; <br>    o Use digital technologies to enhance access to data and knowledge on pollution sources, pathways, exposures, impacts, as well as preventive measures, risk management and solutions; <br>    o Support specific measures to address pollution, including through technology, infrastructure, NbS, urban planning, fiscal policies and innovative alternatives and finances; <br>    o Promote political prioritization and enhanced leadership and financing at the |

[40] Consider development and dissemination of knowledge for triple wins (climate, biodiversity and circularity), and its uptake in international discussions on related agendas

[41] Consider new and deepen existing cooperation with relevant regional conventions under the UN Economic Commissions

[42] Consider mainstreaming into national budgets through green budgeting; fiscal policies to align price signals, private sector responsibility, dedicated external financing

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>country level[43];<br>o Support regional inter-ministerial fora to address the environment and health.<br><br>**Air quality**<br><br>- Support **strategic sector interventions** to reduce air pollution and pressure on the environment, including industrial emissions and transport emissions, and thereby enhance health and wellbeing;<br>- Strengthen **global and regional knowledge** sharing on air pollution and air quality[44];<br>- Support **air quality monitoring** and air pollution emissions monitoring and inventories through technical and private sector partnerships;<br>- Monitor and promote the implementation of **UNEA resolution 3/8** on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.<br><br>**Water quality**<br><br>- Support strategic sector interventions to reduce pollution to fresh surface and groundwater, including drinking water and marine waters, and thereby enhance health and wellbeing and reduce the overall pressure on the environment in line with the restoration of freshwater ecosystems;<br><br>**Chemicals & Waste**<br><br>- Enhance the implementation of **UNEA resolutions** on the sound management of chemicals and waste[45];<br>- Promote an improved **enabling international framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**[46];<br>- Cooperate with third countries; provide technical assistance and **capacity building** to developing countries (e.g., through the Special Programme);<br>- Supporting **key sectors** in soundly managing and phasing down hazardous chemicals and reducing waste, including through fiscal policies and other accelerators for implementation towards a pollution-free planet, innovation and sustainable alternatives;<br>- Advocate for elimination of **substances of high health and environmental risks** (e.g., DDT, chrysotile asbestos, lead, cadmium) and promote discussions and understanding on issues of concern;<br>- Cooperate in promoting the **coherent implementation of chemicals and waste MEAs,** including at the national level through technical assistance and capacity building;<br>- Promote **energy efficiency in the water sector** and **water efficiency in the energy sector** (e.g., for sustainable water treatment and desalination and energy production and cooling processes).</td></tr>
<tr><td>**Regional cooperation**</td><td>- Explore collaboration in and between different **regions** and identify operational mechanisms for a **country-level engagement.**</td></tr>
<tr><td>**Cross-cutting areas**</td><td>**Sustainable finance**<br>- Identify well-founded **investment needs/gaps** to address pollution hotspots and remove toxic chemicals from value chains, both within the EU and those linked to its trading partners;</td></tr>
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[43] Consider mainstreaming into national budgets; private sector responsibility; fiscal policies; dedicated external financing, including blended finance

[44] Consider partnerships with UNECE and the Air Convention and the International Forum on Air pollution

[45] Relevant UNEA resolutions, e.g., Global Waste Management Outlook; science-policy interface; emerging and new issues of concern; green and sustainable chemistry; pesticides and fertilizers; antimicrobial resistance; pharmaceuticals; lead; etc.

[46] Consider the whole lifecycle of chemicals, materials, and products, including the waste phase and effectively engages all relevant sectors and international organizations

- Scale-up work on financing, including **blending** and private sector initiatives (e.g., to address pollution hotspots and reduce or find alternatives to the use of toxic chemicals in economic activities);
- Explore pathways for rapid scale-up of the **bankable pipeline of credible and needed sustainability projects** which promote less pollution and chemical-intensive production practices in key economic sectors**;**
- Promote **international alignment** of the various sustainable finance initiatives (notably with the Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda, and Chemicals and Waste Conventions and frameworks);
- Increase the scale **of sustainable finance invested in clean production** in all sectors of the economy of both the EU and its trading partners;
- Document and contribute to the improvement and the implementation of sustainable finance (e.g., EU Taxonomy) in the non-EU context.

**Synergies with other chapters**[47]
- Assess the impact of COVID-19 period on key pollution and health risks (e.g., air, waste, water, chemicals, antibiotics) and compile and promote model policies/practices for better prevention, preparedness and response to risks;
- Support and promote an **integrated approach to tackle air pollution and climate**, e.g., in actions relating to emission inventories (air pollutants / GHG) and in promotion and support to climate and pollution reduction actions to ensure synergies and mutual benefits;
- Address **data gaps**, broaden access to data and ensure transparency in science for monitoring and reporting on pollution and chemicals and waste management;
- Support **innovation** and foster the implementation of **integrated approaches** to pollution, chemicals and waste management, and their financing, including through fiscal policies to generate revenues and reduce pollution;
- Promote **closer linkages**[48] **between pollution, chemicals and waste** management as integral elements for a circular economy as well as biodiversity, pollution and health in the context of the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and the post-2020 Biodiversity framework;
- Support better synergies, improving coordination, knowledge, and decision-support systems of common interest, and implementation of and compliance with UNEP-administered **MEAs**[49];
- Increase **public awareness on pollution and chemicals and waste,** including their health, economic and social implications and impacts on the achievement of the SDGs, and engage stakeholders to detoxify, decarbonize, decouple.

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[47] Pollution and health are themes that have synergies with all other Chapters.
[48] Consider food production, prevention of industrial accidents, integrated urban governance, and mobility/transport
[49] Enhance effective synergies among MEAs in the biodiversity/ecosystems and waste/chemicals clusters