

Annexes 1 and 2 – Progress Overview and Activities Report

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
ANNEX 1: Overview of Progress in Advancing the Implementation Roadmaps 2023–2026...	2
Thematic Area 1: legal responses to address the pollution crisis.....	2
Thematic Area 2: legal responses to combat the climate crisis	5
Thematic Area 3: legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis	7
Cross-Cutting Area: Access Rights	10
Cross-Cutting Area: Education and Capacity Building	12
ANNEX 2: Report of Activities	13
Thematic Area 1: legal responses to address the pollution crisis.....	13
Thematic Area 2: legal responses to combat the climate crisis	14
Thematic Area 3: legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis	15
Cross-Cutting Area: Access Rights	16
Cross-Cutting Area: Education and Capacity Building	17

Introduction

1. **Annexes 1 and 2** accompany the report “Montevideo Programme V: Status of implementation, activities and funding” (25 March 2022 – 31 January 2024). The report, and its accompanying annexes, have been prepared by the secretariat for the Montevideo Programme.
2. **Annex 1** includes an overview of progress¹ in advancing the implementation roadmaps, approved by the steering committee for implementation in its fifth meeting.² The implementation roadmaps integrate the initial priority areas per thematic area and cross-cutting areas, as agreed by national focal points for Montevideo Programme V at the second segment of their first global meeting in June 2022.
3. **Annex 2** includes a non-exhaustive list of the activities undertaken under the Montevideo Programme since the last progress report (March 2022 – January 2024). The activities have been grouped into the distinct thematic and cross-cutting areas, aligned with the implementation roadmaps to facilitate the monitoring of progress.
4. The cross-cutting activities, relating to access rights and education and capacity building, have been separated into different tables due to the increased activities in these areas of work. In addition, cross-cutting activities related to education and capacity-building are highlighted in blue throughout the tables of the thematic areas in **Annex 1** as several of these activities cut across the thematic areas.

¹ The figures presented in this document are approximations and may be subject to slight variations due to ongoing updates and data collection methods.

² The fifth meeting of the Steering Committee took place virtually on 10 March 2023. The meeting documents are available on the platform [UNEP-LEAP](#).

ANNEX 1: Overview of Progress in Advancing the Implementation Roadmaps 2023–2026

Thematic Area 1: legal responses to address the pollution crisis

Table 1: General overview of progress

Overview	Indicators	Total Number
Laws and institutions are strengthened, developed, or implemented and related capacity built to prevent, control, and manage pollution of air and of freshwater, marine, coastal and terrestrial environments that could affect the environment and human health	Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement subnational or national laws and institutions to manage pollution, focusing on waste prevention and mismanagement and strengthening compliance with and enforcement of legislation to address pollution	[27]
	Number of female and male legal professionals including judges, prosecutors, legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials with increased knowledge of how to implement and enforce laws relating to pollution as a result of capacity-building activities (measured via survey)	[200]
	Number of regional workshops held with female and male compliance and enforcement personnel from developing countries/countries with economies in transition on compliance and enforcement approaches, developed with gender sensitive considerations	[3]

Table 2: Tracking the Milestones

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
Legislative and enforcement gap analysis on waste mismanagement, with a special focus on offences, violations, crimes, and penalties, carried out in at least eight countries in the ASEAN region.	June 2023	In progress. A full first draft of the legislative and enforcement gap analysis completed for 10 ASEAN countries, with a focus on Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
Five countries supported to develop, implement, or strengthen laws and institutions related to waste prevention and mismanagement and air pollution, and to comply with and enforce legislation to address pollution.	December 2023	The secretariat supported at least six countries in the development, implementation, and strengthening of laws related to waste prevention and mismanagement and air pollution. Specifically, the secretariat supported three countries (Lesotho, Mexico, and Uganda) in the review and development of regulations and guidelines related to waste management, including plastic waste management, and three countries (Jamaica, Ghana, and Sierra Leone) to develop or strengthen laws related to air pollution. In addition, Montevideo Programme regional focal points and legal experts held a meeting on 15 August 2023 to share global experiences for Thailand's Clean Air Act.
One forum on trends and challenges to address the triple planetary crises through the law organized.	June 2024	The second global meeting of the national focal points will be held in Nairobi on 3–5 June 2024.
Two guidance materials developed and disseminated on legislation related to air pollution and waste prevention and mismanagement.	December 2024	UNEP developed and disseminated two guidance materials related to air pollution and waste prevention and mismanagement. These include the Guide on Policy and Legislation for Integrated Waste Management during a Pandemic, released in April 2022, and the Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation, released in May 2023.

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
Five additional countries supported to develop, review, implement or strengthen laws and institutions related to waste prevention and mismanagement and air pollution, and to comply with and enforce legislation to address pollution.	June 2025	
Two additional countries supported to develop, review and strengthen their laws and institutions related to administrative and criminal remedies in response to waste trafficking.	December 2025	
Four initiatives developed and implemented to improve the capacity of female and male legal professionals, including judges, prosecutors, legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials, to implement and enforce laws relating to waste prevention and mismanagement and air pollution.	June 2026	Two events organized to improve the capacity of legal professionals to implement and enforce pollution related laws. These events focused on advancing a human rights-based approach to pollution for people and the planet, held during the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Conference of the Parties (COP) (May 2023); and on building capacity among judges in addressing plastic pollution (at INC-3) (November 2023).
Eight regional workshops organized in a gender-sensitive manner for female and male compliance and enforcement personnel from developing countries/countries with economies in transition on innovative and emerging compliance and enforcement approaches related to air pollution, and waste prevention and mismanagement.	December 2026	At least four trainings/workshops were organized for compliance and enforcement personnel, as well as a series of meetings and consultations focusing on waste prevention. Specifically, UNEP held three regional trainings on combatting illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities for customs and national ozone officials in Southeast and South Asia regions (March and May 2023), and in the East African region (January 2024). Another training was held on transboundary waste management for Omani Customs & Border Enforcement Officers (May 2023).

Table 3: Progress on initial priority areas

Initial priority areas identified by the national focal points	Indicators	Overview of progress
Legal responses to address air pollution are developed and/or implemented in, and among, countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of guidance materials developed on air pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One guidance material developed on air pollution (the Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation), based on the 2021 Regulating Air Quality: the First Global Assessment of Air Pollution Legislation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement laws and institutions to address air pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three countries supported to develop, implement, or strengthen laws related to air pollution (Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Jamaica).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of female and male legal professionals including legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials with increased knowledge of legal approaches to air quality management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 legal professionals attended events/meetings/trainings on legal approaches to air quality management.

Initial priority areas identified by the national focal points	Indicators	Overview of progress
Legal responses to address waste prevention and mismanagement are developed and/or implemented in, and among, countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement laws and institutions to address waste prevention and mismanagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three countries supported in the review and development of regulations and guidelines related to waste management (Mexico, Uganda, and Lesotho). At least five events/meetings related to waste prevention and mismanagement, including one webinar focused on legal tools to address marine litter (September 2022).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of guidance and training materials developed on waste management and emerging and innovative compliance mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One guidance material developed on waste management (Guide on Policy and Legislation for Integrated Waste Management during a Pandemic).
Legal responses relating to plastic pollution .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries with new or improved legislation developed on the promotion of a circular economy for plastics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three countries supported in the review and development of regulations and guidelines related to plastics (Lesotho, Mexico, and Uganda).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries developing regulatory reform in producer/consumer countries with UNEP. 	
Legal responses to enhance compliance with and enforcement of legislation to address pollution are developed and/or implemented in, and among, countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement laws and regulations to enhance compliance with and enforcement of legislation to address pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20 countries supported, (including: 16 countries from two GCI workshops (with OzonAction); Oman green customs training; Kenya on green customs; Burundi, Kenya Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda at the e-waste and Green customs training.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries utilizing UNEP guides and toolkits and/or participating in training opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One guide developed to support countries to strengthen the implementation of MEAs, designed to promote sustainable trade and encourage customs and border control officers to take on a proactive role in protecting the environment (2022: Green Customs Guide to Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (updated version)). The Green Customs Initiative's website was upgraded in 2022 to raise awareness on trade and protection of the environment, among enforcement actors, including on pollution and human health. [est. 20 countries]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of professional network meetings between enforcement agencies to support greater implementation of and compliance with enforcement legislation to address pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least six events/trainings/meetings held to enhance the capacity of enforcement agencies.

Thematic Area 2: legal responses to combat the climate crisis

Table 1: General overview of progress

Overview	Indicators	Total Number
Laws and institutions are strengthened, developed, or implemented and related capacity built to mitigate and adapt to climate change , contributing to the goals of the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement and other relevant MEAs. ³	Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement subnational or national laws and institutions to mitigate/adapt to climate change.	[4]
	Number of female and male legal professionals including judges, prosecutors, legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials with increased knowledge of legal approaches to climate change based on the Law and Climate Change Toolkit and other tools or knowledge products developed (measured via survey).	[500]
	Number of regional workshops convened for female and male professionals on legal responses to climate change based on the Law and Climate Change Toolkit and other relevant tools/knowledge products.	[4]

Table 2: Tracking the Milestones

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
One stakeholder consultation organized in a gender-sensitive manner held on possible priority areas for legal responses to address climate change, taking into account co-benefits relating to pollution prevention and biodiversity.	June 2023	The secretariat held three regional consultations to discuss possible priority areas for legal responses to address climate change. The consultations were held for the (1) Asia-Pacific, West Asia, and Central Asia regions; (2) Africa region; and (3) the Latin America and Caribbean region.
Preliminary list of priority areas identified, integrating feedback from stakeholder consultations.	December 2023	In progress.
Options paper on strategies to strengthen, develop, and implement laws and institutions relating to climate change prepared and presented at the second global meeting of national focal points of Montevideo Programme V.	June 2024	In progress
Roadmap on legal responses to climate change developed based on identified priority areas under Montevideo Programme V.	December 2024	Completed.
Four countries supported to strengthen, develop, and implement laws and institutions related to climate change.	June 2025	UNEP supported three countries (Djibouti, Kiribati, Timor Leste) in the review of climate-related laws.
Four regional workshops organized in a gender-sensitive manner	December 2025	UNEP organised three workshops/trainings ; one training for over 60 judges within the Asia-Pacific region focused on, among other

³ Pending the review of the proposed options by the global meeting of national focal points of Montevideo Programme V, capacity-building and technical assistance on climate change will continue on an ongoing basis.

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
convened for female and male professionals, including judges, prosecutors, legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials on legal approaches to climate change based on the Law and Climate Change Toolkit and other tools or knowledge products developed.		matters, climate law (2022); one workshop on climate change and courts, on the occasion of UNFCCC COP28 (Nov/Dec 2023); and one workshop on the latest scientific and legal developments in climate law (December 2023).
Two guidance tools and materials improved, developed, and disseminated via UNEP-LEAP and other channels, including the Law and Climate Change Toolkit.	June 2026	UNEP developed at least two guidance materials related to climate change. Most notably, UNEP published and disseminated the Global Climate Litigation Report – 2023 Status Review. In addition, in 2022 the secretariat contributed to the Practical Guidance for National Human Rights Institutions on Addressing Human Rights and Climate Change. Further, throughout 2022-2023 the secretariat has been working on the update of the Overarching Climate Laws Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit.
Two initiatives developed to improve the capacity of female and male legal professionals within national institutions, as well as CSOs including women's groups, private sector institutions, media, and the public on laws and institutions relating to climate change.	December 2026	UNEP, in collaboration with the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), organized a roundtable for members of the parliament on climate legislation and technical assistance in the context of the 147 th IPU Assembly in Luanda, on 26 October 2023, with the title "Improving climate change legislation: Informal round table on the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and IPU-UNEP technical cooperation – Opportunities for parliaments in Africa".

Table 3: Progress on initial priority areas

Initial priority areas identified by the national focal points	Indicators	Overview of progress
Preparation of a report, for the national focal points, on options for clearly defined priority areas for legal responses to address climate change that would strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the national or subnational level and build the related capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while avoiding duplication and ensuring the mutual supportiveness of efforts with processes under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.	Options paper developed for national focal points of Montevideo Programme V focusing on strategies for strengthening laws and institutions related to climate change.	In progress. Three regional consultations were held in 2023 on possible priority areas for legal responses to address climate change.

Thematic Area 3: legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis

Table 1: General overview of progress

Overview	Indicators	Total Number
Laws and institutions are strengthened, developed, or implemented and related capacity built to support relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity related conventions and agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. ⁴	Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement subnational or national laws and institutions related to biodiversity.	[5]
	Number of female and male legal professionals including judges, prosecutors, legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials with improved capacity to tackle biodiversity and wildlife crime as a result of capacity-building activities (measured via survey).	[100]
	Number of subregional or regional workshops held with female and male legal professionals by Montevideo Programme V independently or in collaboration with other projects and partners (including the Environmental Treaties Project, joint UNEP-UNODC projects and joint UNEP-FAO projects).	[3]

Table 2: Tracking the Milestones

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
One stakeholder consultation, organized in a gender-sensitive manner, held on possible priority areas for legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis, taking into account co-benefits relating to climate change and pollution prevention.	June 2023	The secretariat held three regional consultations to discuss possible priority areas for legal responses to address biodiversity loss. The consultations were held for the (1) Asia-Pacific, West Asia and Central Asia regions; (2) Africa region; and (3) Latin America and Caribbean region.
Preliminary list of priority areas identified, integrating feedback from stakeholder consultations.	December 2023	In progress.
Options paper on priority areas to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the national or subnational level to implement biodiversity related goals and commitments prepared and presented to the second global meeting of national focal points for Montevideo Programme V.	June 2024	In progress.
Roadmap to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the national or subnational level to implement biodiversity related goals and commitments developed based on identified	December 2024	Completed.

⁴ Pending the review of the proposed options by the global meeting of national focal points of Montevideo Programme V, capacity-building and technical assistance on biodiversity will continue on an ongoing basis.

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
priority areas under Montevideo Programme V.		
Six countries supported to strengthen, develop, review, and implement environmental laws, including criminal laws, and institutions related to biodiversity related goals and commitments and enhance their compliance with and enforcement of these laws.	June 2025	<p>UNEP supported one country (Somalia) in the implementation and strengthening of laws related to biodiversity.</p> <p>UNEP is also supporting four countries (Laos PDR, Malaysia (Sabah), Thailand, Viet Nam) for regulatory reforms to improve biosafety of facilities handling wildlife (in progress).</p> <p>In addition, UNEP participated in numerous events/trainings/meetings with the purpose of strengthening laws and institutions related to biodiversity.</p>
Three initiatives developed to improve the capacity of female and male professionals to negotiate biodiversity goals and commitments, implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and enforce biodiversity-related MEAs in collaboration with the Environmental Treaties Project.	December 2025	<p>UNEP developed or contributed to at least two guidance materials aimed to improve the capacity of relevant stakeholders to advance the biodiversity agenda. These materials include a training manual for the Train-the-Trainers Program for environmental law academics in law faculties and universities in the MENA region, and a contribution to Guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plans (NBSAPs), under the Environment Management Group – Issues Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment (EMG-IMG) (April 2023).</p> <p>In addition, UNEP participated in numerous events/trainings/meetings with the purpose of strengthening the capacity of relevant stakeholders to develop or improve biodiversity-related laws and institutions.</p>
Two additional countries supported to strengthen, develop, review, and implement environmental laws including criminal laws, and institutions related to biodiversity related goals and commitments and enhance their compliance with and enforcement of these laws.	June 2026	
Four sub-regional or regional workshops organized in a gender-sensitive manner convened for female and male professionals, including judges, prosecutors, legal practitioners, parliamentarians, and enforcement officials on legal approaches to address biodiversity in collaboration with the Environmental Treaties Project.	December 2026	<p>UNEP supported at least two regional initiatives, including the Fourth Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Environmental Law and Policy Scholars' Conference, under the theme "Law on Biodiversity, Nature Conservation and the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the MENA region (February 2023); and the session on "Convergence of crimes and investigation techniques" at the Thailand Maritime Stakeholder Workshop to Detect and Investigate Wildlife Trafficking in International Maritime Supply Chains, which included a presentation of legal approaches and capacity building tools on legal approaches to address biodiversity (December 2022).</p>

Table 3: Progress on initial priority areas

Initial priority areas identified by the national focal points	Indicators	Overview of progress
Legal responses to enhance compliance with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries provided technical 	[5]

<p>and enforcement of biodiversity related laws, including criminal laws.</p>	<p>support to draft legislation on crimes that affect the environment in the field of biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One country (Somalia) supported in the implementation and strengthening of laws related to biodiversity. • Four countries (Laos PDR, Malaysia (Sabah), Thailand, Viet Nam) supported for regulatory reforms to improve biosafety of facilities handling wildlife (in progress).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of female and male participants engaging in capacity-building activities delivered by Montevideo Programme V with improved ability to promote compliance with and enforcement of biodiversity-related laws (measured via survey). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [50]
<p>Preparation of a report for the national focal points on options for clearly defined priority areas to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the national or subnational level to implement biodiversity-related goals and commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options paper developed for national focal points focusing on strategies for strengthening laws and institutions related to biodiversity. 	<p>In progress.</p>

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Cross-Cutting Area: Access Rights

Table 1: General overview of progress

Overview of cross-cutting activity	Indicators	Total Number
Enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, in particular for vulnerable groups.	Number of countries supported to strengthen, develop, or implement subnational or national laws and institutions related to environmental rule of law.	[14]
	Number of intergovernmental bodies or forums supported to advance, strengthen, develop, or implement regional or global legal instruments, policies, or other approaches related to environmental rule of law.	[2]
	Number of partnerships developed with academia/research institutions, academic networks, judicial training institutions and other actors to support scale-up of education and training on environmental rule of law and to strengthen awareness and understanding of environmental rule of law and emerging environmental law issues.	[5]

Table 2: Tracking the Milestones

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
One guidance document or knowledge product to support countries advance good practices in upholding environmental rule of law developed, particularly for groups in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, women and children.	June 2023	At least five knowledge products developed to support countries advance good practices in upholding environmental rule of law. These materials include policy briefs on environmental constitutionalism in Latin America to assist Chile in its consultations on the inclusion of environmental rights and sustainability within its new Constitution (2022), the launch of the environmental rights observatory, together with UNEP and OHCHR, as a platform for sharing information on procedural environmental rights (2023), a working paper on Environmental Rule of Law and Human Rights in Asia Pacific: Supporting the Protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders (2023), an information note on the right to a healthy environment (2023), and the publication of the Environmental Human Rights Defenders Guidance directed to UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams (2023).
Two intergovernmental bodies or forums supported to undertake measures to advance or develop a sub-regional or regional framework to realize key components of environmental rule of law such as laws and institutions, civic engagement, environmental rights, and justice.	December 2023	
Two sub-regional or regional instruments or policies on procedural rights developed, strengthened or implemented through UNEP support.	June 2024	In progress (an environmental rights instrument for ASEAN region)
Two countries provided technical services to advance, strengthen, develop, or implement legislation	December 2024	At least one country (Thailand) received technical services by way of a workshop in Thailand with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, to raise awareness and capacity building

Milestones	Milestone attainment date	Overview of progress
and/or policy on key components of environmental rule of law such as laws and institutions, civic engagement, environmental rights, and justice.		for a network of community rights and environmental-responsive NGOs (February 2023).
Two dialogues, networks, forums, or platforms convened and supported at national and regional levels to support female and male rights holders to promote, respect, protect and realize the right to a healthy environment.	June 2025	<p>UNEP facilitated numerous forums/platforms focused on raising awareness of, and building capacity on, the right to a healthy environment.</p> <p>These included a training to build the capacity of human rights defenders on human rights and the environment (January 2023), a workshop on procedural environmental human rights in Bangkok (September 2023), a regional capacity building workshops for Pacific environmental human rights defenders (March 2023), environmental human rights defenders forums in LAC (September 2023) and the Asia and the Pacific (September 2023), and a symposium on climate change and human rights (with GANHRI) (December 2023)</p>
Two gender-sensitive initiatives developed to support engagement and information sharing on environmental rule of law between UNEP divisions and offices (e.g., production of newsletters, development of multimedia materials, convening of inter-branch meetings, or sharing of knowledge management tools, including through UNEP-LEAP).	December 2025	
Four partnerships developed with universities, academic/research institutions and networks or judicial training institutions and other actors to scale-up environmental law education.	June 2026	UNEP partnered with the City University of New York School of Law's Center for Urban Environmental Reform for the development of the first of a six-part graphic novella series titled, "Earth Defenders - A Graphic Novella" (2022).
Two partnerships developed with other actors (e.g., media, private sector actors, and national human rights institutions) to raise awareness and share information on environmental rule of law.	December 2026	

Cross-Cutting Area: Education and Capacity Building

Type of activity	Overview of progress
Knowledge products	<p>At least four knowledge products developed to strengthen education and capacity-building relating to environmental law. These products include the publication of the second global report on environmental rule of law (Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions)(2023), the development of the Intermediate Course on Environmental Adjudication- Upholding Environmental Justice for Judges and Lawyers in Asia and the Pacific region (2022-2023), an online course for children and youth on human rights and the environment (2022), and the launch of the “2021 Environmental Courts and Tribunals Guide for Policy Makers” (2022).</p> <p>In addition, resources in the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP) were updated/improved throughout 2022-2023.</p>
Legal support provided to countries	<p>UNEP supported at least six countries in the development, implementation, and strengthening of environmental laws (Sierra Leone, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi and Trinidad and Tobago). In addition, UNEP facilitated the training-of-trainers programme on environmental law in the Philippines (October 2022) and Cambodia (December 2022).</p>
Trainings/events/meetings	<p>UNEP participated/organized/collaborated in numerous events/trainings/meetings with the purpose of strengthening environmental rule of law.</p> <p>These include the Second and Third Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Environmental Law Conferences (April 2022 and August 2023), the 24-hour celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Montevideo Programme (May 2022), the hosting of the second annual school on environmental and human rights (June 2022), and the 2022 and 2023 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards (November 2022 and 2023).</p>

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ANNEX 2: Report of Activities

Thematic Area 1: legal responses to address the pollution crisis	
Knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023: Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation. • 2022: Guide on Policy and Legislation for Integrated Waste Management during a Pandemic. • 2022: Green Customs Guide to Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (updated version). • 2022: Upgrade of the Green Customs Initiative's website to raise awareness on trade and protection of the environment, among enforcement actors, including on pollution and human health.
Legal support to countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-2023: Jamaica - Assistance to prepare drafting instructions for review of the Natural Resources Conservation (Ambient Air Quality Standards) Regulations. • 2022-2023: Lesotho - Review of draft bill on waste and plastics management and draft regulations on plastic waste management. • 2022: Ghana - Support to draft regulations and drafting instructions on air quality management. • 2022: Mexico - Policy review for development and implementation of marine litter legislation. • 2022: Uganda - Development of regulations and guidelines for plastics, plastic products, and plastic waste management. • 2022: Sierra Leone - Support to draft regulations on air quality and pollution. • 2022-2023: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam - National Advisory Committee meetings for the Unwaste: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy (Unwaste) project and consultations on legal frameworks on waste trafficking. • 28-29 May 2023: Oman - Transboundary Waste Management Training for Omani Customs & Border Enforcement Officers, organized with the BRS secretariat, Be'ah and the Environmental Authority of Oman. • 21-25 May 2023: South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China's Peoples Republic, Iran (Islamic State of), Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) - Regional training on combatting illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities for customs and national ozone officials. • 13-18 March 2023: Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao - Peoples democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor Leste, Thailand, and Vietnam) - Regional training on combatting illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities for customs and national ozone officials.
Events/trainings/meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-8 February 2024: 18th Green Customs Initiative's (GCI) partners meeting on synergies to enhance capacities of customs and border enforcement agencies in implementing MEAs, and to promote a circular economy. • 24 and 25 January 2024: East African Community regional Green Customs Conference, organized by the secretariat of the GCI and the Kenya School of Revenue Administration (KESRA). • 22 and 23 January 2024: Experts consultations on development of a model regulatory framework on e-waste for the East-African Community. • 8 November 2023: virtual side event to the third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-3) on "The Role of Judges in Addressing Plastic Pollution", organized by UNEP together with the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Environmental Law (IUCN WCEL), the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), and the International Association of Judges (IAJ). • 25 September 2023: Regional launch of the Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation at the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Regional Conference for LAC. • 6 September 2023: An inception meeting at the Asia-Pacific Commemoration of the 4th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies to operationalize the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution Open-Ended Working Group on Air Quality Standards and Data, where UNEP presented on air quality standards in legislation, organized by UNEP and UNESCAP. • 15 August 2023: At the request of the Pollution Control Department of Thailand, organization of meeting for the Montevideo Programme regional focal points and legal experts to share global experiences for Thailand's Clean Air Act.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-16 June 2023: Regional meeting on waste trafficking and presentation on existing legal frameworks in the Southeast Asia region, under the joint United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)-UNEP Unwaste Project. • 30-31 May 2023: Two side events on strengthening ambient quality legislation and on regional cooperation to advance air quality, including the official launch of the Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation, held during the 2023 Climate and Clean Air Conference in Bangkok. • 10 May 2023: Side event on advancing a human rights-based approach to pollution for people and the planet, held during the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Conference of the Parties (COP). • 4 May 2023: Side event at the 2023 BRS COP on cooperation to combat illicit waste flows to South-East Asia: Contribution to the sound management of waste and to the implementation of Basel Convention, organized with UNODC and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). • 3 May 2023: Side event at the 2023 BRS COP on the achievements and lessons learnt from the Global Environment Facility projects in phasing out of DDT, organized with the UN Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Government of India. • 28 April 2023: Visit by the Unwaste project team to the Department of Investigation, hosted by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in Thailand, where the OAG presented their mandate, the elements of Anti-Participation in Transnational Organized Crime law in Thailand, as well as a success story of cross-border cooperation and how they can be adopted in waste crime context. • 24-25 January 2023: 17th Green Customs Initiative's partners meeting on synergies to enhance capacities of customs and border enforcement agencies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and to promote a circular economy. • 14 September 2022: Webinar on Marine Litter: Legal Tools to Address the Crisis (Latin America and the Caribbean). • 21-22 June 2022: Event on marine litter and plastic pollution, held at the sixth annual workshop on land and environmental defenders from East Africa, organized with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action. • 31 May 2022: Unwaste: First Expert Group Meeting that discussed the information gathering process related to waste trafficking and focused on specific topics: categorization and data sources, waste trafficking and waste permits, repatriation data and procedures, recycling capacity and circular economy in the Southeast Asia region. Experts from the EU and international organizations also participated. • 17 May 2022: Side event, organized with the secretariat to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, in the context of the 31st session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on the role of enforcement actors in implementing waste related MEAs. • 14 May 2022: Side event at the BRS COP on combatting illicit waste flows from the EU to South-East Asia, jointly organized with UNODC and UNITAR.
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Thematic Area 2: legal responses to combat the climate crisis	
Knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023: Global Climate Litigation Report – 2023 Status Review accompanied by dissemination activities (e.g. engagement with UNEP-FI Human rights community of practice and LAC at session on Environmental Defenders, Justice and Climate Crisis in Sept 2023) • 2022-2023: Update of the Overarching Climate Laws Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit with new taxonomy and recent examples of good practices. • 2022: Contribution to the Practical Guidance for National Human Rights Institutions on Addressing Human Rights and Climate Change.

Legal support to countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022: Djibouti - Review of a legislative proposal for a climate change bill. • 2022: Kiribati - Review of draft regulations on refrigerant management. • 2022: Timor Leste - Review of a draft Decree on the control of imports and exports of ozone depleting substances and hydrofluorocarbons under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. • 2022 Asia-Pacific Region - Training to over 60 judges within the Asia-Pacific region, including the Honourable Chief Justices - Chief Justice of Fiji, Chief Justice of PNG, Chief Justice of Vanuatu and Chief Justice of Tonga on, among others, climate law.
Events/trainings/meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 December 2023: United Arab Emirates Presidency event to the UNFCCC COP28 (Dubai, 30 November – 13 December 2023) on “Climate Change and Courts: Judicial Perspectives on Climate Litigation”, organized by UNEP and the GJIE, in partnership with the government of Brazil, IAJ, the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE), and IUCN WCEL. • 10 December 2023: a workshop entitled “A Dialogue on the Latest Scientific and Legal Developments in Climate Change Law”, organized UNEP running the secretariat of GJIE and New York University, in partnership with IAJ, IUCN WCEL, ICCEL, and EUFJE. • 26 October 2023: UNEP IPU roundtable for members of the parliament on climate legislation and technical assistance in the context of the 147th IPU Assembly Luanda, with the title “Improving climate change legislation: Informal round table on the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and IPU-UNEP technical cooperation – Opportunities for parliaments in Africa”. • 25 September 2023: Consultations on development of an options paper for legal responses to address climate change, for the Latin America and Caribbean region during the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Regional Conference for LAC. • 21-23 August 2023: Consultations on development of an options paper for legal responses to address climate change, for the Africa region during the Fifth ASSELLAU Scientific Conference in Kenya. • 16 August 2023: Consultations on development of an options paper for legal responses to address climate change, for the Asia-Pacific, West Asia and Central Asia regions during the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Regional Meeting in Thailand. • 14 March 2023: Briefing by the secretariat and OHCHR on the environment, climate change and human rights for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic’s UN staff. • 28 November - 2 December 2022: Conference with Kenya’s Environment and Land Court (ELC) and other partners, convened on the occasion of ELC’s 10th anniversary, and culminating in a joint communique on climate change among other issues. • 14-16 November 2022: Training for Indigenous youth on climate justice, as part of the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform in Chiang Mai, Thailand. • 28-30 May 2022: Regional dialogue on climate justice for children, youth and future generations for the Asia region.

Thematic Area 3: legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis	
Knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022: Training manual for the Train-the-Trainers (TTT) Program for environmental law academics in law faculties and universities in the Middle East and North Africa region (available in Arabic English and French). • 2022: Contribution to the Guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plans (NBSAPs) under the Environment Management Group – Issues Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment (EMG-IMG) (April 2023).
Legal support to countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022: Somalia - Support to develop a training module on illicit trade of unique species and implementation of related international instruments. • 2022-2023: Lao PDR, Sabah Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam - National Advisory Committee meetings for the Safety Across Asia for the Environment (SAFE) project and consultations on legal frameworks for licensing and management of wildlife facilities.
Events/trainings/meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 September 2023: Consultations on development of an options paper for legal responses to address biodiversity loss, for the Latin America and Caribbean region during the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Regional Conference for LAC. • 29-31 August 2023: Consultations on development of an options paper for legal responses to address biodiversity loss during a workshop on the Implementation of Biodiversity, Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Rwanda.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 August 2023: Consultations on development of an options paper for legal responses to address biodiversity loss, for the Asia-Pacific, West Asia and Central Asia regions during the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Regional Meeting in Thailand. • 17 July 2023: Visit by international students to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) compound, hosted by UNEP, to learn about the role of global governance processes in protecting biodiversity. • 27-28 February 2023: Organization of the Fourth Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Environmental Law and Policy Scholars' Conference, together with the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities (ASSELLMU), the Hamad Bin Khalifa University's College of Law and the University of Jordan, under the theme "Law on Biodiversity, Nature Conservation and the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the MENA region". • 6-7 December 2022: "Convergence of crimes and investigation techniques" session facilitated by the secretariat at the Thailand Maritime Stakeholder Workshop to Detect and Investigate Wildlife Trafficking in International Maritime Supply Chains – presentation of legal approaches and capacity building tools on legal approaches to address biodiversity. • 14 September 2022: Interactive Policy Dialogue on the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific, jointly organized by ESCAP and IISD in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and WHO with a focus on health risks arising from environmental factors, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable food systems. • 13 September 2022: UNODC-UNEP joint consultation meeting in Lao PDR, one of the four focus countries SAFE, with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (DoF), Ministry of Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR and other non-governmental and development stakeholders to introduce UNEP's activities under SAFE, engage directly with DoF and other relevant stakeholders, and establish a working relationship with relevant actors in the country for the purposes of SAFE implementation. • 21-22 June 2022: Sixth annual workshop for land and environmental defenders from East Africa, under the theme, "Strengthening commitments to protect land, ocean and environmental human rights defenders", together with OHCHR and the Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action. • 20- 22 April 2022: Side event on "Synergies between the Escazú Agreement, Human Rights Law and the Convention on Biological Diversity" at the margins of the first Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement, in Chile.
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Cross-Cutting Area: Access Rights	
Knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-2024: Environmental Human Rights Defenders Guidance directed to UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, in cooperation with OHCHR, UNDP and other UN entities. • 2023: Launch of the environmental rights observatory, together with UNEP and OHCHR, as a platform for sharing information on procedural environmental rights. • 2023: A working paper on Environmental Rule of Law and Human Rights in Asia Pacific: Supporting the Protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders launched. • 2023: Information note on the right to a healthy environment to introduce the development of the right to a healthy environment at the national, regional and international levels and to elaborate on the importance of the right for the protection of the environment, published with UNDP and OHCHR. • 2022: Environmental Human Rights Defenders Toolkit developed with the Asia Pacific Network on Environmental Defenders (APNED): https://apned.net/environmental-human-rights-defenders-toolkit/. • 2022: First of a six-part graphic novella series titled, "Earth Defenders - A Graphic Novella", developed in collaboration with the City University of New York School of Law's Center for Urban Environmental Reform.
Legal support to countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022: Chile - Three policy briefs on environmental constitutionalism in Latin America, to assist Chile in its consultations on the inclusion of environmental rights and environmental sustainability within its new Constitution. • 23-24 February 2023: Thailand – Workshop, with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, to raise awareness and capacity building for a network of community rights and environmental-responsive NGOs. • 24-25 January 2023: (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor Leste) - Training,

	<p>developed by Diplomacy Training International, to build the capacity of human rights defenders on human rights and the environment, as part of the 30th Annual human rights and peoples diplomacy training program.</p>
Events/trainings/meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 December 2023: Symposium on Climate change and human rights and the role of National Human Rights Institutions organized by the Global Alliance on National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), supported by UNEP, the EU and the National Human Rights Institution of the United Arab Emirates. • 26 - 28 September 2023: Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama • 22 September 2023: Workshop on procedural environmental human rights in Bangkok, including a consultation with environmental defenders on the ASEAN Environmental Rights Framework that is currently being developed. • 20-21 September 2023: Third Environmental Human Rights Defender Forum, bringing together over 200 defenders from all over Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, with the theme of, 'Strengthening Protection through Data Collection'. • 24 August 2023: A sharing and learning session on circular economy and human rights in the textile value chain in Asia-Pacific, organized with OHCHR. • 21-22 August 2023: First meeting of the ASEAN Environmental Rights Working Group, where UNEP (the secretariat) was 'requested to incorporate all feedback received to develop a "zero draft" document noting the points from the working group discussions in this two-day session'. • 28-30 March 2023: Regional capacity building workshop for Pacific EHRDs in Nadi (Fiji). • 21 September 2022: Side event on mercury, small-scale gold mining and human rights organized in the margins of the 51st session of the Human Rights Council. • 16 June 2022: Inception Workshop for a Regional Declaration on Environmental Rights in ASEAN, held with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and OHCHR, supported by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

Cross-Cutting Area: Education and Capacity Building	
Knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023: Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions Report. • 2022- 2023: Development of the Intermediate Course on Environmental Adjudication-Upholding Environmental Justice for judges and lawyers in Asia and the Pacific region, in collaboration with the Environmental Law Programme (ELP) of IUCN Oceania Regional Office • 2022 – 2024: Enhancements to UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP) through, among others, improvements to Toolkits, the overall design and updated content • 2022: Online course developed for children and youth on human rights and the environment • 2022: Launch of the "2021 Environmental Courts and Tribunals Guide for Policy Makers," that seeks to guide policymakers, judges, academics, and stakeholders on the establishment of environmental courts and tribunals with the aim of improving the adjudication of environmental disputes
Legal support to countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023: Trinidad and Tobago – Review of the Environmental Management Act of 1995 • 2022: Sierra Leone - Support to develop a training manual on compliance, enforcement processes and procedures of environmental law • 2022: Kyrgyzstan - Support to develop an environmental legislative code • 2022: Malawi - Support to develop rules the Environmental Appeals Tribunal and the terms of reference for its members • 8-9 December 2022: Cambodia - Training-of-trainers programme organized on environmental law in Cambodia, based on a model curriculum developed by the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • 27-28 October 2022: Philippines - Training-of-trainers programme organized together with the ADB and the Legal Education Board of the Philippines, for legal education professionals, on environmental law
Events/trainings/meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19-20 February 2024: Organization of the Fifth Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Environmental Law and Policy Scholars' Conference, together with the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities (ASSELLMU) to, the Sohar Faculty of Law, under the theme, Environmental Law and the 2030 Agenda for

	<p>Sustainable Development: Legislation towards a sustainable economy in the Middle East and North African (MENA) Region”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 November 2023: 2023 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards convened to recognize and encourage the achievements of environmental protectors and entities combatting transboundary crimes affecting the environment. • 15-18 August 2023: Third ASEAN Environmental Law Conference, including sessions on air pollution and climate litigation (dissemination of the findings of the 2023 climate litigation report). • 30 November 2022: 2022 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards convened to recognize and encourage the achievements of environmental protectors and entities combatting transboundary crimes affecting the environment. • 20-24 June 2022: Second annual UNEP and the Global Network for Human Rights Environment School for Human Rights and the Environment organized. • 31 May 2022: 24-hour celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Montevideo Programme, to take stock of UNEP’s achievements, reflect on the progress of environmental law, and engage diverse environmental stakeholders from all over the world to discuss topical environmental matters. • 5-7 April 2022: Second Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Environmental Law Conference, hosted with the Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law (ARIEL), ADB, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Reducing Demand for Wildlife, College of Law (Australia), and Earth Rights International.
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