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Why does UN Environment matter?

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

Our mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, we work through our divisions as well as our regional, liaison and out-posted offices and a growing network of collaborating centres of excellence. We also host several environmental conventions, secretariats and inter-agency coordinating bodies. UN Environment is led by our Executive Director Erik Solheim and Deputy Executive Director.

We categorize our work into seven broad thematic areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, and environment under review. In all of our work, we maintain our overarching commitment to sustainability.

Every year, we honour and celebrate individuals and institutions that are doing outstanding work on behalf of the environment.

We also host the secretariats of many critical multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies, bringing together nations and the environmental community to tackle the greatest challenges of our time. These include the following:

The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol

The Convention on Migratory Species

The Carpathian Convention

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The Tehran Convention

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Did you know?

Tree

Every dollar spent restoring degraded forests can result in \$30 in economic benefits.

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