



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG

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Environment Management Group work plan 2021- 2022

Introduction

This information note presents a work plan for the Environment Management Group (EMG) for 2021-2022 approved by the 27th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials on 7th October 2020. The work plan captures activities planned between November 2021 to September 2022 and has three main expected outcomes which pertain to programmatic, operational and management issues, as well as overall policy dialogue and information exchange. The workplan activities are driven from the Terms of Reference of the Issue Management Groups and Consultative processes and support the implementation of the action points approved by the Senior Officials.

The work plan remains un-costed as there is no common budget for EMG activities. The workplan will be implemented subject to the availability of financial resources and in-kind contributions of member entities.

Environment Management Group work plan for 2021-2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
I. Enhanced coherence in programming	1. Issue Management Group on Biodiversity	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Facilitate the establishment and management of the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity in support of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity.- Source, develop and share existing technical guidance, knowledge products and training/communications materials.- Explore and enhance collaboration on the post-2020 biodiversity and the beyond 2020 chemicals and waste agendas including considerations to pollution.- Facilitate and scale-up UN system-wide response to the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).- Propose a number of measurable targets and related indicators to include in the QCPR Monitoring framework.	October 2021- September 2022

¹ Subject to approval by the 27th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials

	- Produce a reporting framework for the Common Approach to biodiversity.	
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Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
I. Enhanced coherence in programming	2. Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present results of the EMG Marine Litter and Microplastics report to relevant stakeholders in interagency and international fora in 2021 and 2022, such as the UNEA 5 and the UN Oceans Conference. - Continue awareness raising activities in the UN System through targeted webinars on specific topics of mutual interest among UN members. - Serve as an interagency resource experts group supporting the mainstreaming of marine litter and microplastics reduction efforts in relevant ongoing processes in the UN System. - Establish a digital inventory of UN EMG members marine litter and microplastics activities and initiatives (as provided in the EMG report). 	October 2021 - September 2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
I. Enhanced coherence in programming	3. Consultative Process on Sustainable Infrastructure	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver a revised second edition of the Sustainable Infrastructure Principles as an output for the second part of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2). - In partnership with UNU, undertake analysis of barriers to support the Principles, as a means of identifying priority areas for support. - Facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Infrastructure Principles. 	February 2022 October 2021 - September 2022 January - September 2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
I. Enhanced coherence in programming	4. Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop common narrative on human rights and the environment in a development context and guidance on NDCs, NBSAPs and NPAs, as well as support to piloting and using of these. -Engage at the COPs of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), the Convention on Biodiversity (COP 15) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 15). - Organize two 'deep dive' training sessions on environment and human rights issues. 	September 2021-Q1/Q2 2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
II. Enhanced coherence in programming	5. Consultative Process on Pollution Free Planet	
	- Facilitate the establishment of a Consultative Process on Pollution Free Planet to strengthen the coordination of UN-system support to Member States in this area of work.	October 2021-Q1/Q2 2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
III. Enhanced coherence in programming	6. Task Team on contribution to Stockholm+50 high-level meeting	
	- Facilitate the establishment of a Task Team on Stockholm+50. - Prepare the EMG contribution in the form of a UN system-wide report to the Stockholm+50 meeting.	October 2021- June 2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
II. Enhanced coherence in advancing environmental and social sustainability of the UN system	7. Consultative Process on Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the United Nations System	
	<p>i. Guide the implementation of <i>Sustainability Strategy II</i> (in coordination with the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitate the establishment of a steering committee, composed of representatives of UN entities wishing to lead the implementation of <i>Sustainability Strategy II</i> - guide the development of monitoring tools for <i>Sustainability Strategy II</i> - facilitate knowledge exchange on sustainability management. <p>ii. Promote the adoption of the <i>Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - facilitate the exchange of experiences amongst UN entities on the application of environmental and social standards in programming - provide guidance to the UN system on the application of the Model Approach at country level. 	October 2021- September 2022

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
II. Enhanced coherence in advancing environmental and social sustainability of the UN system	8. Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch 'Greening the Blue' report in November 2021 prior to COP26 UN Climate Change Conference. - Collect and analyse data for UN 2021 environmental footprint in view of the 2022 Greening the Blue report. Provide analysis of 2 years of alternative working modalities and highlight opportunities for long term emissions reductions. 	<p>November 2021</p> <p>January September 2022</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with the Development Cooperation Office to accelerate efforts to integrate the Sustainability Strategy Phase I objectives and indicators into the UN Reforms' Business Operation Strategies and reduce their climate and environmental footprint. - Promote utilization of the new Greening the Blue tutorial for UN personnel. - Commission a study on the feasibility of including Scope 3 emissions from procurement (Sustainable Procurement) into Greening the Blue report. - Continue work on UN sustainability in procurement via the HLCM Procurement Network and deliver to the IMG a "map supply chains and procurement and produce recommendations to improve circularity". - Collaborate with the Common Approach on biodiversity IMG to deliver hands on guidance for the integration of biodiversity considerations in UN operations. 	<p>October 2021 - September 2022</p>

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
III. Enhanced dialogue, policy and information exchange for implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs	9. UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment (SWFS)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare the third edition of the SWFS Report benefiting from a systemic approach and methodology in data collection, analysis and reporting on the environmental aspects of the SDGs by the UN System. 	<p>October 2021-June 2022</p>

Expected outcome	Activities	Schedule
II. Enhanced dialogue, policy and information exchange for implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs	10. Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize at least 6 nexus dialogues on the environmental aspects of SDGs. 	<p>October 2021 - September 2022</p>

	Themes: Stockholm+50; programmatic consequences of climate change; environmental sustainability and digital transformation.	
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