

UNEP
and
partners
united
to combat
climate
change



UNEP

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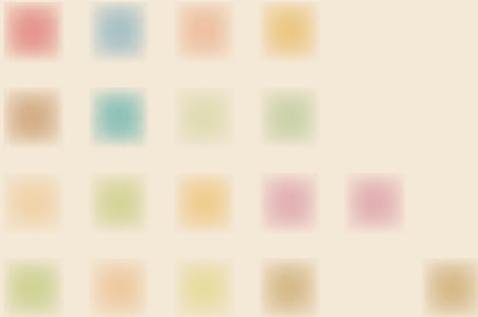
UNEP AND PARTNERS: UNITED TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE





UNITE TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change, as the United Nations Secretary-General has said, is “the defining challenge of our generation.” The potential consequences for economic and social well-being are so profound that, for too long, many have preferred to simply avoid imagining the unimaginable. But there comes a time when denial is no longer an option. That time is now.



The campaign theme for the run-up to the crucial negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009, 'Unite to combat climate change,' says that we are all part of the solution. The goal: an inclusive, comprehensive and ratifiable deal that will address the challenges and harness the opportunities that climate change presents.

The silver – indeed gilt-edged – lining to the climate change cloud is that many solutions already exist or are in the pipeline. Furthermore, it is clear that many of them provide answers to other generational challenges: including reducing society's inefficient resource use, improving food security, health and livelihoods for the world's poorest citizens, employment opportunities for 1.3 billion people, and even re-energizing a stagnant global economy.

These are not some whimsical Nirvana but real opportunities to deliver a Green Economy. UNEP is working to develop and implement them, along with governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and other United Nations entities. This booklet shows how we are building partnerships and momentum to combat climate change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Achim Steiner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'S'.

Achim Steiner

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

OVERVIEW



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PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

UNEP has more than twenty years of experience working on climate change. UNEP helped establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the 1980s and conducted assessments of the scientific understanding of climate change in preparation for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. UNEP also supported the negotiation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which entered into force in 1994.

Beyond its support for science and legal mechanisms, UNEP's work has concentrated on efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly by promoting renewable energy and improved energy efficiency and spurring development of a carbon market. UNEP has also been active in efforts to reduce the risks of and improve society's resilience to climate change, notably through its support to the development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action. Many of UNEP's activities, while not driven solely by climate concerns, have had positive mitigation or adaptation impacts.

Given its longstanding experience and mandate, UNEP is well positioned to step up its support to governments, the private sector and civil society to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the consequences of a changed climate.

UNEP's climate change programme builds on the organization's areas of distinctiveness which include:

- a broad environmental perspective and expertise in linking climate change to other environment and development issues in an integrated manner
- a global environmental mandate that allows UNEP to work with developed and developing countries on normative frameworks and undertake projects in developing countries
- scientific expertise and a science-based approach that is strongly supported by a wide network of world-class scientific institutions and UNEP collaborating centres
- convening power and proven track record of working on issues through multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approaches, including strong relationships with the private sector
- considerable experience of raising public awareness on environmental and climate change issues.

UNEP's work on climate change is guided by its Medium Term Strategy 2010–2013, a Government-approved tool for formulating the programmes of work and budgets from 2010 to 2013. Climate change is one of the six cross-cutting thematic priorities in UNEP's Medium Term Strategy around which the organization will focus its activities as it becomes a more effective, efficient and results-focused entity.

These thematic priorities are:

- Climate change
- Disasters and conflicts
- Ecosystems management
- Environmental governance
- Harmful substances and hazardous waste
- Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production

DELIVERING AS ONE

Many other organizations and other parts of the UN system are now addressing climate change at the international level, or seeking to do so. The Secretary-General has identified five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas around which the UN will coordinate its climate change activities, with UN organizations with significant programmes and mandates in each of these nine areas playing a convening role. UNEP has been assigned a convening role in four areas: capacity building (with UNDP – the UN Development Programme); reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNDP); public awareness (with the UN Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change); and working towards a climate neutral UN.

The UN Chief Executives Board adopted the UN Climate Neutral Strategy in October 2007. It commits all UN organizations, funds and programmes to establish greenhouse gas inventories, to start reducing emissions, and to analyze the implications of purchasing offsets for remaining emissions. Each UN organization is obliged to meet these three requirements by December 2009. The implementation of the strategy is coordinated by the Environmental Management Group (EMG) secretariat and supported by the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) facility, both hosted by UNEP. The SUN facility provides tools, methodologies and advisory services to UN and other public organizations to help them reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Focus areas include buildings and facilities, procurement, travel, use of information and communication technology, and organizational culture change.

UNEP is a strong supporter of UN Energy and other UN efforts to mitigate climate change, cooperating with agencies such as UNDP and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to facilitate a range of climate change projects and activities. UNEP will also complement the activities of the other UN agencies working on climate change. UNEP has held consultations on its climate change strategy with a number of key UN players including the UNFCCC Secretariat in order to seek complementarities and appropriate division of labour with other UN entities. In most instances UNEP is already working with these partners on climate change issues, so agreements on expanded or new areas of cooperation are an evolution of existing arrangements.

UNEP AND UNFCCC

The UNFCCC Secretariat is the conduit for UN system inputs into the intergovernmental negotiation process. UNEP will focus its activities on the provision of substantive work that will help inform and support the negotiation process. Key areas of cooperation that have been agreed with the UNFCCC Secretariat in a joint work programme for 2008–2009 include:

- strategic communications
- utilizing UNEP's analytical capacity to support the negotiations process
- assisting developing countries in the international negotiations, including capacity building and the provision of targeted analysis, such as the role of public finance institutions in spurring low carbon investment.

UNEP and UNFCCC are also working closely on supporting UNFCCC work streams, especially the work of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, efforts on financing climate investments and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD). A similar joint work programme will be developed for 2010–11.





WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE

UNEP's history with climate change science dates from the late 1980s when UNEP helped to establish the IPCC with WMO to assess the scientific understanding of climate change in preparation for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report, released in 2007, closed the case on questions about human influence on our changing climate. For this and its other work over the past 20 years, the IPCC was the joint winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

With the World Glacier Monitoring Service, UNEP released the *Global Glacier Changes: Facts and Figures* report in 2008, presenting the latest data on fluctuations of glaciers and ice caps. The report confirms that the average annual melting rate of glaciers appears to have doubled since the turn of the millennium. As the trend continues, it is likely that glaciers – and their irreplaceable water supplies – will completely disappear from many mountain ranges in this century.

The *UNEP Year Book 2009* presents an overview the most recent research on continuing ice-loss from ice sheets and glaciers, new predictions of accelerating sea level rise, the implications of declining rainforests for climate in the tropics, as well as the continuing controversy about the future trends for major tropical storms (regionally known as hurricanes, cyclones or typhoons) and monsoon seasons. It asks whether we are approaching tipping points in Earth systems that are influenced by climate change.

INFORMATION FOR DECISION MAKING

With diverse collaborating partners, UNEP facilitates the development of better climate data and improved scientific methods and assessment tools for determining possible impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs related to long-term climate change and short-term increased variability. UNEP also helps track trends in emissions from industrialization, deforestation and the alteration of natural carbon sinks.



UNEP activities in improving the quality and reach of climate change science include the Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change (AIACC) project, developed with the IPCC and the Global Environment Facility, which has enhanced scientific understanding and the capacity of developing countries to assess climate change vulnerabilities, adaptation needs and development options, and to generate and disseminate relevant information for planning and action. The second phase of AIACC is under development with UNEP sponsorship.

UNEP supports the production of protected area, biodiversity and sequestered carbon overlay maps for site selection and monitoring by the UN programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD). UNEP also supports REDD through baseline assessments related to ecosystem services, biodiversity, opportunity costs, socio-economic data, deforestation reference levels, and carbon stock analysis.

UNEP also provides scientific expertise to The Many Strong Voices Programme, which links people in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in assessing climate change vulnerability, developing adaptation strategies and communicating the need for deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.





BUILDING RESILIENCE

UNEP's comparative advantage on climate change adaptation is rooted in its global environmental leadership mandate and its convening power. Highlights include initiatives such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global Environment Outlook, the Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change initiative (AIACC), and UNEP's work on National Adaptation Programmes of Action, Integrated Water Resource Management and Regional Seas programmes.

These activities have laid the foundation for UNEP's credibility in



capacity building, ecosystem management and knowledge dissemination for adaptation at global, regional and national levels.

UNEP's climate change adaptation strategy focuses on building the resilience of ecosystems and economies that are most vulnerable to climate change in developing countries. This is supported through technical, policy and financial interventions in three mutually supportive areas:

- building adaptive capacity in the developing world
- increasing ecosystem resilience
- mobilizing and managing knowledge for adaptation policy and planning.

In the coming three years (2009–2011) UNEP's work on adaptation will primarily focus on Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and mega deltas, and within these areas, on ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change, in particular low lying coasts and drylands. These activities will be supported by global and regional adaptation networks.

UNEP's main contribution to the overall adaptation portfolio in the UN system covers the following types of actions:

- assessments of ecosystem vulnerabilities and adaptation services
- adaptation measures to increase the resilience of key ecosystems
- helping support and strengthen policies, knowledge and institutional capacity
- development of national economic, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks



- integrating climate change adaptation into national development planning
- providing technical, analytical and policy support to major climate change financing mechanisms.

FOCUSING ON THE MOST VULNERABLE

Among UNEP's key priority areas is promoting adaptation measures in Africa that address climate change-induced water stress related to both water scarcity and flooding. Scenario analysis and the design and piloting of adaptation actions are contributing to disaster risk reduction and solutions for the inevitable displacement of large numbers of people due to water scarcity. The key target is to help the 75–250 million people who will suffer increased water scarcity by 2020.

UNEP is also building institutional capacity and providing climate-proofing options for the millions of people living in SIDS and low-lying coastal areas and mega deltas in Asia and Africa. Policy guidance, the development of tools, technologies and best practices, and their integration in management processes is addressing the threat of sea level rise.

In the Himalayas, the Highland-Lowland Partnership for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction will enhance the adaptive capacity of Himalayan communities and their governments through knowledge management and technology and policy support to prepare for and reduce

the risks of short-term climate change-related disasters, such as glacier lake outburst floods and landslides, and to support adaption to the long-term projected decrease in water supply.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION NETWORK

UNEP is facilitating an international process for the development of a Global Climate Change Adaptation Network to build the adaptive capacity of developing countries. The Network will provide coherence in mobilizing the resources of relevant ground stations, regional centres and international technical institutions to enhance key scientific, technical and institutional adaptation capacity. Information and knowledge bases will be improved and made more accessible, and policy making, planning and adaptation practices will be strengthened.

The ongoing first phase up to the end of 2009 includes the elaboration of the Network initiative and the piloting of Network components and functions in regions, starting with Africa and Asia-Pacific. This will include the identification, initiation and enhancement of pilot regional networks, building on existing facilities and centres. An overall implementation plan for the Network will be developed at the same time through international and regional consultations. The consultative process was initiated in October 2008, in Changwon, Republic of Korea, and regional consultations will continue through 2009.

RESPONDING TO OPPORTUNITY

Helping governments and the finance sector mainstream investment in sustainable energy and remove market distortions is a main focus of UNEP's work in the area of climate change mitigation. UNEP's Energy Branch works on cleaner energy policy, technology and finance to create an enabling environment for sustainable energy – one which promotes reduced greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency and renewable energy use.



UNEP activities facilitate access to energy markets and accelerate the development and dissemination of affordable clean energy technologies and processes. The link between good policies and adequate finance is essential to drive the transfer of technologies that can mitigate climate change. Supported and complemented by a number of collaborating centres, and through hands-on involvement in groundbreaking international networking efforts, UNEP has become a main player in efforts to support climate change mitigation.

CLEAN ENERGY POLICY

Climate change and other environmental and development issues are strongly interlinked, and therefore offer opportunity for progress in several areas. With its focus on striking a balance between environmental and socio-economic concerns, UNEP's bioenergy programme is a case in point. Activities include technical support to the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels and the Global Bioenergy Partnership, which fosters sound bioenergy planning and policy frameworks which are conducive to small agribusiness development. In addition, UNEP participates in the BioTop Project, which seeks to identify technical opportunities and research needs for Latin America, against a background of growth in the European biofuel sector.

A Global Environment Facility-sponsored project, the Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment was a five year effort launched in 2001 with the aim of developing information tools to stimulate renewable energy development. It

covered major areas of 13 developing countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Ultimately the project supported informed decision making and helped increase investor confidence in renewable energy projects.

Building on the success of the project, UNEP is expanding its work in this area to provide information on renewable energy potential, analyses of renewable energy policy effectiveness, information in support of risk management related to renewable energy project development, and project-specific information on solar and wind energy technologies.

UNEP is also building institutional capacity on energy efficiency policy in developing countries. For example, some of the centres in the joint UNIDO-UNEP network of National Cleaner Production Centres successfully tested a programme to improve industrial energy efficiency. The effort has not been limited to governmental agencies, with UNEP also working with private sector stakeholders in the building and construction industry to promote more energy efficient buildings, and with car manufacturers, oil companies and local authorities to promote more efficient transport policies.

CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

UNEP's efforts to promote technology transfer in support of UNFCCC objectives include a programme on environmental technology assessment, work focused on increasing trade in environmental technologies and services, and local project development in transition economies aimed at developing



clean energy funds and energy service companies. All of these efforts are different, yet they rely on similar mechanisms to achieve their goals: notably UNEP's convening power and proven ability to work in a multi-stakeholder environment, including with the private sector.

Building on the capacity strengthening and networking experience gained in the context of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, UNEP is extending this approach to the realm of climate change mitigation. Experience shows that networks can play a strong role in assisting developing country officials to acquire knowledge that allows them to do their jobs more efficiently and with greater confidence and speed.

CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE

UNEP is aiming to increase investment in clean energy projects both internationally and in specific target countries. To this end UNEP looks for niches, such as the finance sector, where small efforts can leverage much larger changes. UNEP's innovative bank loan programmes, for example, allow banks to offer credit facilities that help consumers finance the purchase of solar electric systems and water heating.

Through the Indian Solar Loan Programme, UNEP partnered with two of India's largest banks over three years to finance more than 20,000 solar lighting systems through more than 2,000 participating bank branches. The programme helped more than 100,000 people access clean renewable energy

and prompted 20 other Indian banks to develop similar credit programmes. In 2007 the programme won the Energy Globe Award and in 2008 it received a UN21 award from the UN Secretary-General.

A second bank partnership programme in Tunisia, PROSOL, has helped 35,000 families finance the installation of solar water heaters, increasing the national market for this clean technology eight-fold in three years. Similar programmes are now in operation in Morocco and Egypt, with new programmes planned for Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Mexico and Chile.

At the interface of development and finance, UNEP is helping develop markets for clean energy in rural areas. By providing enterprise development services and early stage seed finance, the Rural Energy Enterprise Development Initiative (REED) has nurtured more than 50 new clean energy enterprises in developing countries, providing better energy services to more than 400,000 people. Building on this experience, the Seed Capital Assistance Facility, jointly implemented with the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank, will help close the gap between investment returns offered by early stage sustainable energy entrepreneurs and those required by the investment community.

UNEP complements its consumer and seed finance country-level activities with efforts to support broader financier engagement in the new climate mitigation sectors. Notable among this effort is the Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative (SEFI), which fosters investment in sustainable energy by providing financiers with tools, support and information, such as the 2008 *Global Trends*



in Sustainable Energy Investment. SEFI has also launched the SEF Alliance, a network of public finance institutions, and is working with the UNFCCC to examine how public finance mechanisms could form part of a future climate agreement. UNEP is also working with the insurance industry to develop products that mitigate risks for sustainable energy projects, such as when a wind farm produces less electricity than envisaged.

Also with a focus on the poorest countries, and through its Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (URC), UNEP provides technical and financial support to developing countries so they can participate in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other international efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development. The CD4CDM and related projects are helping 32 developing countries participate in the CDM. URC also facilitates developing countries' participation in the dynamic developing carbon market. URC's Energy and Carbon Finance Programme continuously analyzes market barriers, the actions needed to overcome them, and ways to strengthen emerging CDM sectors.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Harnessing the abilities of complementary organizations and initiatives through targeted networking efforts has proven a powerful mechanism to catalyze change at a scale which would not otherwise be possible, given UNEP's limited resources. UNEP is strongly involved in the operations of two such networking efforts: the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), co-hosted with the German technical cooperation enterprise GTZ.

GNESD is a collaboration of more than 20 centres of excellence in both developing and industrialized countries noted for their work on energy, development and environmental issues. A new GNESD study has just examined in detail the links between energy and the Millennium Development Goals.

REN21 supports policy development and decision making at the local, national and international levels to facilitate a rapid expansion of renewable energy. REN21's annual *Global Status Report* has become an industry standard.

Efforts by UNEP to improve energy efficiency in the building and transport sectors also feature a strong networking component, working with key stakeholders from the building and construction industry, as well as with car manufacturers, oil companies and local authorities.



WIN WIN WIN

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) is now widely recognized as a critical issue for climate change mitigation. However, many questions remain regarding the social and environmental risks and benefits to countries and communities. UNEP, primarily through the joint UNEP-UNDP-FAO UN-REDD Programme, is supporting capacity development, analysis and policy dialogue at country and international levels to find answers to these fundamental questions and ensure the environmental integrity of emerging REDD schemes.

REDD



The UN-REDD programme seeks to ensure international coherence in the REDD debate, increase understanding of the options for including a REDD mechanism in a post-2012 climate regime and build confidence in their feasibility. It is also helping build capacity in developing countries to design and implement REDD measures, strategies and mechanisms, and is supporting the development of solutions and approaches based on sound science for a REDD instrument under the UNFCCC. The programme works closely with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, as well as with other initiatives, such as the Global Environment Facility Tropical Forest Account, Australia's International Forest Carbon Initiative and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Associated with the UN-REDD Programme, UNEP is also working with a wide range of partners to implement pilot projects in Africa and Southeast Asia to test and gain experience in implementing REDD options. The REDD++ project is designed to support countries to develop best practices for avoided deforestation and forest carbon stock retention initiatives. It focuses on achieving multiple benefits and encouraging environmental and social safeguards through improving community livelihoods, conserving biodiversity and protecting water resources.

In UNEP's host country, Kenya, the Community-based Integrated Forest Resources Conservation and Management project is exploring ways of generating alternative incomes for forest communities through carbon credit revenues from REDD activities. The project works with communities surrounding the ecologically and economically important Masai Mau Forest in Kenya to promote sustainable land management supported by forest conservation, payment for ecosystem services and income generation.

LAND USE CHANGE

Linked to REDD, but with a broader scope, the Carbon Finance for Agriculture, Silviculture, Conservation and Action against Deforestation (CASCADe) programme focuses on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) activities in sub-Saharan Africa. The project is trying to strengthen capacity of local carbon experts, co-financiers and governmental authorities in seven target countries to engage in CDM LULUCF projects.

MOBILIZING ACTION

'Unite to combat climate change' is the rallying call for the UN system on the road to the crucial UNFCCC climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009. UNEP has been given the communications lead for this campaign by the UN Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change. UNEP's message is clear: we urgently need a definitive long-term agreement that will slow down climate change and help the most vulnerable countries and sectors to adapt to inevitable changes. We believe that investment in ecosystem services, renewable energy and energy efficiency can not only address the climate challenge but help to alleviate the current global economic crisis.



The campaign was launched in October 2008 with the Paint for the Planet exhibit and auction of children's art on climate change, and will feature prominently in UNEP's outreach up to Copenhagen. Prominent vehicles for messaging will include events such as World Environment Day – with the theme, 'Your Planet Needs You!' – Earth Day and Clean Up the World, and programmes such as the Billion Tree Campaign and the UNEP Climate Neutral Network (CN Net), an interactive online platform for participants to present their strategies and exchange information on climate neutrality. The CN Net includes countries, cities, major international companies, UN and nongovernmental organizations.

INFLUENCING CHANGE

UNEP is also working with the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team to forge a partnership with the International Association of Advertisers (IAA) to create a global groundswell of opinion that will maintain and increase the momentum for action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy encompasses outreach to governments and the business community highlighting the opportunities provided by combating climate change for addressing a range of sustainability issues, including the current global economic slowdown. It also provides a focus on youth as a demographic that represents 50 per cent of the global population.

UNEP will highlight climate change as a defining issue at a children's conference in the Republic of Korea, in August 2009, a global youth conference in Dubai in September 2009, and a joint conference for youth organized with UNICEF just prior to the Copenhagen UNFCCC meeting. UNEP has a strategic agreement with UNICEF on climate change that capitalizes on UNEP's children and youth networks and programming and UNICEF's social networking and outreach capacity.

Raising awareness among young people is also part of UNEP's responsibilities as the UN system lead agency on climate change outreach under Article 6 of the UNFCCC New Delhi Work Programme (Education, Training and Public Awareness). Since 2002, UNEP has supported the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties through national climate outreach programmes in 15 countries, awareness raising, including for the media and the private sector, and a variety of information materials and graphic presentations, including simplified guides to the IPCC Third and Fourth Assessment Reports.

TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY

When climate change negotiators meet in late 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, it is essential that they come up with an agreement that is inclusive, comprehensive and – most importantly – ratifiable. For governments to sign up to a new deal they will have to understand and be able to clearly demonstrate that it will benefit and not harm national economies, company balance sheets and the well-being of citizens in developed and developing countries alike.

In the current era of economic uncertainty, many may be tempted to put on hold their plans to pursue

the many low-carbon and clean energy solutions that are coming on stream. This would be a mistake, not just in terms of the imperative to diminish the economic, social and environmental perils of climate change, but because it would be overlooking a massive market opportunity.

Recently UNEP launched a Green Economy initiative with the support of top economists and governments, including Germany and Norway and the European Commission. The premise is simple: as a society, we need to adopt new ways of thinking to dig ourselves out of the economic and environmental hole in which we find ourselves.

In the 1930s, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was faced with an economic and employment emergency. He intervened with a series of programmes, dubbed the New Deal, which steered the economy back to stability. Today we face an even more disturbing scenario. In the foreground, financial markets are in turmoil, food and fuel prices are volatile, and there is a real threat of global depression. In the background: the threat of environmental bankruptcy from decades of profligate spending of our natural capital.

It is clear that business as usual is not producing the results we need. Wherever we look, we see market failures. Climate change – with costs to society and economies beyond calculation – is the most dramatic and threatening failure, but it is not the only one. Annual losses in goods and ecosystem services due to deforestation are estimated at US\$ 2.5 trillion, commercial fish stocks may run out in decades or less, fertile agricultural land is heading in the same direction, and the ranks of environmental refugees are swelling daily.



A GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL

UNEP's proposal is a Green New Deal that will steer the global economy in an environmentally and financially sustainable direction. Climate change solutions, such as renewable energy, are at the core, but the Green New Deal is not just about climate change. It addresses a broad range of economic, social and sustainability challenges by focusing on areas, such as energy efficient buildings, sustainable transport and renewable energy, that have the potential to both create large numbers of jobs and reduce environmental risks. Other promising win-win areas include investments in rural energy, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, especially with regard to water security, and the management and re-use of industrial and household wastes, some of which are highly dangerous and environmentally harmful.

Each of these areas represents a world of opportunity. UNEP's role is to help our partners seize those opportunities: by presenting the science on which decisions can be made; facilitating the collaborations and initiatives that translate good ideas into reality; and publicizing outstanding achievements so they can be reproduced around the world.

The momentum for the Green Economy is already significant. Together with our partners in the UN system, the private sector and civil society, UNEP is working to make it unstoppable. We believe the transition to a Green Economy is not a fantasy but a realistic way of powering the world out of its current economic and environmental malaise.





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