

Advancing Clean Air in Asia and the Pacific: UNEP's Work

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UNEP's Mandate on Air Quality



UNEA resolution 6/10: Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally

- ✓ Acknowledges progress made so far
- ✓ Encourages Member States and their partners to accelerate efforts
- ✓ Invites further regional cooperation, financing and goal-setting
- ✓ Requests UNEP to support these efforts, including by establishing a cooperation network and online knowledge sharing platform



AQMx



First Global Network Meeting Report



UNEA-7 Associated Event Report

2024

2022

UNGA Resolution 76/300 The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

2019

UNGA Resolution 74/212
International Day of Clean Air for blue skies

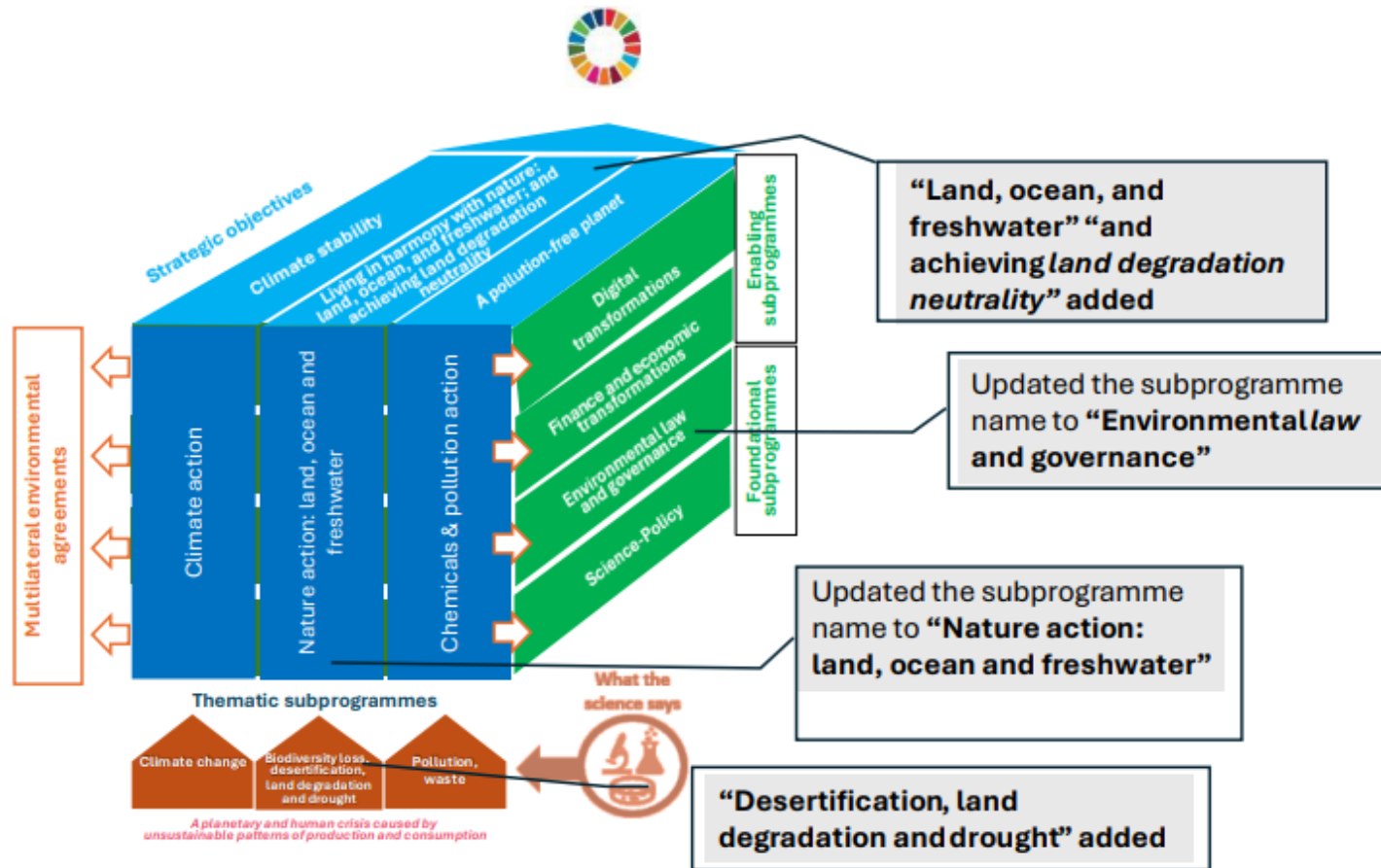
2018

UNEA Resolution 3/8
Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally

2014

UNEA Resolution 1/7
Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in promoting air quality

UNEP's New Medium-Term Strategy (2026-2029)



- New UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2026 – 2029 and Programme of Work (PoW) 2026 – 2027 were **adopted by Member States at UNEA-7**.
- Strategic Objective 3 of the MTS aims to **reduce pollution in air, soil and water and enhance environmental quality and health for people and the planet**.
- Through the Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme, UNEP will **promote the uptake of solutions to improve air quality and reduce source-to-sea pollution**.

GEO-7 Key Messages

The Challenges

Globally, **six out of the top ten countries** with the worst air pollution levels are from the Asia-Pacific region

The average pollution-induced productivity loss is **eight times higher in the region's developing countries** than in its developed counterparts

The Solutions

Strengthening regional cooperation in the AP region is vital to achieve transformative solutions through knowledge-sharing, technology transfer, and international partnerships

Mobilizing green and climate-aligned finance is essential to cut air pollution and deliver clean-air gains across the Asia-Pacific region.

A future we choose

Why investing in Earth now can lead to a trillion-dollar benefit for all



Download the Report

The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)



Established in 2001: focus on **regional cooperation** on atmospheric deposition & **air pollution**.

Expanded scope (2021) incl. broader atmospheric substances + **Project Fund mechanism**.

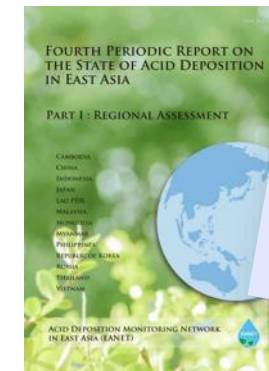
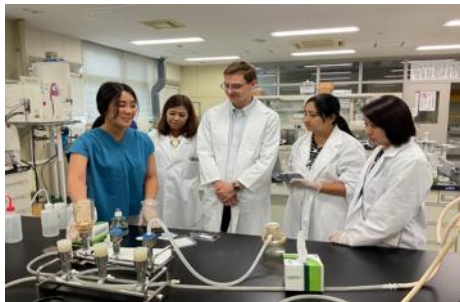
13 Member States; robust monitoring network (wet/dry deposition, ecosystems).

High-quality 25-year datasets in Open Access: results show SO₂ declines; PM & O₃ remain concerns.



40+ EANET Projects (from 2022-2026) on various issues such as **Nitrogen management**, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), **low-cost sensors, capacity building, policy support**, with nearly USD1.8 million budget for Project Fund Activities

Flagship Reports Periodic Report on the State of Atmospheric Environment; Guidelines for Establishing Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN).



EANET

Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP)



APCAP Activities (Phase 3, 2026–2027)

- A **synergistic approach** to climate mitigation and air pollution reduction
 - **Climate finance** mobilization
 - Design climate actions with **built-in air quality and health co-benefits**, aligned with NDCs
 - Prioritize high-impact sectors: **Transport, Agriculture, Forest Management (incl. wildfires)**
 - Focus on **JCM partner countries** (e.g. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka), with expansion to **Bangladesh and Nepal**
- Science-Policy Interface, Technical support, capacity building, financing and partnership
 - Co-benefits of integrated approach towards air quality management and climate action

Asia Pacific Forum on Health and Environment



Currently active **Thematic Working Groups**

1. TWG on Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
2. TWG on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)
3. TWG on Air Quality and Health (AQH)
4. TWG on Chemical, Waste, and Health (CWH)
5. TWG on Climate Change and Health (CCH)
6. TWG on One Health

- Established in 2004 as a voluntary regional platform for Southeast and East Asian nations to collaborate on health and environmental issues.
- Since its repositioning in 2016, the APRFHE has expanded to include broader Asia-Pacific representation, welcoming members from WHO SEARO, WHO WPRO, and UNEP ROAP.
- The Forum aims to bolster cooperation among member states to address **priority health and environmental challenges**, exchange **knowledge and best practices**, enhance **policy and regulatory frameworks**, and support sustainable development across the region.
- Currently the Secretariat (Who and UNEP) are managing the activities till the new Chair is selected.

Advancing Evidence Base - Emissions Inventory



- **Emissions Inventory Training Workshop** (online sessions in July, in-person session 9-12 September 2025)
- The training programme was designed for mid- to senior-level professionals directly involved in air quality management, emission inventory development, or environmental data analysis at the national or sub-national level in developing Asian countries.
- In 2026, the training is taking place in September in Seoul.

- **Digital Innovation for Clean Air and Climate Action: Developing Clean AirPolicy Support System Framework in Cambodia**
- UNEP is cooperating with the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia and the National Air Emission Inventory and Research Center (NAIR) of the MCEE Republic of Korea to strengthen capacity of Cambodia to respond to air pollution through increased understanding of how to detect and quantify air pollutant emissions from high emitting impact sectors.



Other UNEP Activities in the Region

- **CCAC Supper Pollutant Accelerator - Cambodia and Indonesia**
- At COP30, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition launched the Super Pollutant Country Action Accelerator, a new 3-year, programme to help governments to drive deep and sustained reductions in super pollutant emissions.
- The Accelerator enables countries to embed dedicated coordination teams within participating governments and support them through 4 to 5 tailored technical assistance projects, enabling coordinated national delivery across at least three super pollutant sectors.

- **Vehicle Emission and Fuel Quality Standards**
- The project supports the implementation of vehicle emission and fuel quality standards, focusing on preparation of technical guidelines, ministerial instruments, and capacity-building for vehicle inspection, enforcement, and fuel quality monitoring.

- **Open Burning**
- UNEP is providing support to the ASEAN countries on addressing the air pollution including transboundary air pollution due to the open burning of waste agricultural biomass and forest residue.

- **Legal support for governments** (Thailand for its Clean Air Act)

- **Health Impact Assessment**
- UNEP also provided support to to assess air pollution impact on health —particularly **PM2.5, PM10, and ozone** poses significant risks to human health.

Identifying Good Practices and Facilitating Knowledge Sharing & Exchange of Solutions

Engagement across government, research, civil society, and the private sector, strengthening a regional movement for clean air.

Momentum for regional cooperation for shared data, harmonized standards, and coordinated action.

Proven solutions highlighted and **Financing identified** as a key enabler.

