



## United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - [www.unep.org/](http://www.unep.org/)

By Patricia Braña – HOPE researcher Cuba (December 2021)

### Main Aims:

The mission of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) 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.

### Current campaigns:

UNEP raises awareness and advocates for effective actions on pressing environmental challenges. Some of UNEP campaigns are:

Through the **Clean Seas** platform, UNEP is connecting and rallying individuals, civil society groups, industry and governments for catalyzing change and transforming habits, practices, standards and policies around the globe to dramatically reduce marine litter and its negative impacts. The Clean Seas campaign contributes to the goals of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, a voluntary open-ended partnership to cooperate and innovate on tackling marine litter and plastic pollution.



**BreatheLife** is a campaign that mobilizes cities and individuals to protect our health and our planet from the effects of air pollution. Combining public health and climate expertise with guidance on implementing solutions to air pollution in support of global development goals.

UNEP North America also supports the **UN #ActNow** campaign, a global call to adjust behaviors for climate change. In addition to promoting individual climate action, the campaign encourages young people to become Climate Action Superheroes through a series of environmental missions.

### Current projects:

**UNEP's North America Office** is working to address our most pressing environmental challenges. Some of the region initiatives relate to promoting a **sustainable lifestyle**. **Greening the Entertainment Industry**<sup>1</sup> takes part in this initiative, due to the large environmental footprint the industry has with concerts, films, and performances consuming enormous amounts of energy and producing large amounts of waste. UNEP North America partners with REVERB a nonprofit organization founded on the belief that music has the ability to make people feel, care, and act. They take practical and impactful steps to green the industry from eliminating single-use water bottles at live music events to sourcing local food and sustainable biodiesel.

The Resource Efficiency sub-programme in **West Asia** provides services to achieve the transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and finance, sustainable trade and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns. SwitchMed is an initiative that supports sustainable consumption and production practice for a circular economy, and has developed activities for industries in the Blue Economy. As part of this initiative the project "Improving the sustainability of the seafood, fish and aquaculture value chain in Tunisia and Morocco"<sup>2</sup> has been developed. The principal objectives of this project are: share best practices and solutions, promoting business partnerships and investments to improve the environmental and economic performance of the aquaculture industry; and demonstrate the business case for resource efficiency in the fish/seafood processing industry using the UNIDO TEST methodology.



In **Asia Pacific**, UN Environment works at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. Promoting gender equality and the environment is one of the initiatives this region has taken. It is necessary to understand these inequalities, different needs, vulnerabilities, roles and capacities of men and women in order to have more inclusive environmentally sustainable solutions for the people in the region.

**Myanmar Gender Community Assessment** is one of the projects that UNEP is working. As part of the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Initiative, UN Environment and UN-Habitat are assisting the government to recognize the different adaptation perspectives of men and women through conducting gender vulnerability assessments in communities.



In the **European** region, environmental challenges range from cross-border management of common environmental resources such as the Caspian Sea, boosting resource-efficiency in cities and the impact of climate change in the Carpathian Mountains. Emerging the **Environmental cooperation for the Caspian Sea** is a program focused on the protection of the Caspian Sea and its marine environment. The challenge is based on the unique ecological system the Caspian host and its oil and gas richness. The Sea's marine environment suffers from an enormous burden of pollution from oil extraction and refining, offshore oil fields, and huge volumes of untreated sewage and industrial waste, introduced mainly via the Volga River.



**UNEP's Latin America and the Caribbean Office** is working to build more resilient livelihoods through healthy ecosystems. Political engagement is essential for UNEP to enhance preparedness for environmental disasters and mainstream the environment in response and recovery efforts. **The Regional Environment and Emergency Preparedness Network** is a project created to raise awareness of the response services UNEP can provide, facilitate capacity building for preparedness and risk reduction, create synergies, exchange best practices and avoid duplications by incorporating countries civil protection and disaster management agencies.

**UNEP's Africa Office** supports the continent on its journey towards sustainable development. For that the UNEP is developing *National Adaptation Plans (NAPS) readiness project*: countries are being supported to put in place structures and plans of action for dynamic adaptation planning that takes into account the dynamic nature of adaptation needs in context of their national development priorities, vulnerabilities and NDCs implementation prioritization.

## Resources

<sup>1</sup>[www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/greening-entertainment-industry-music-our-ears](http://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/greening-entertainment-industry-music-our-ears)

<sup>2</sup>[www.switchmed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Blue-Economy-Industries\\_EN-.pdf](http://www.switchmed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Blue-Economy-Industries_EN-.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>[www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/against-all-odds-rural-women-myanmar-cope-natural-disasters-and-climate](http://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/against-all-odds-rural-women-myanmar-cope-natural-disasters-and-climate)

For further information about the "Clean Seas" campaign visit: [www.cleansseas.org](http://www.cleansseas.org)

[www.breathelife2030.org](http://www.breathelife2030.org) Visit the site for more information about the BREATHELIFE campaign.

UNEP Disasters and Conflicts Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office. Mid-Year Activity Report July 2020  
[www.spark.adobe.com/page/2c8MRfK1dWJTe/](http://www.spark.adobe.com/page/2c8MRfK1dWJTe/)

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