

*Agreed between European Commission and UNEP on 27 April 2015*

<b>Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme</b>
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***Outline***

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1: Improving international environmental governance

CHAPTER 2: Combatting climate change

CHAPTER 3: Achieving an inclusive Green Economy, shifting to sustainable consumption and production patterns, and promoting sound management of chemicals and waste

CHAPTER 4: Protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources

CHAPTER 5: Improving disaster risk reduction, environmental security and resilience

CHAPTER 6: Improving the science policy interface and dealing with emerging issues

CHAPTER 7: Enhancing dialogue and cooperation at regional level

CHAPTER 8: Implementing principles

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
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With a view to advance the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Nairobi in June 2014, this annex identifies common areas for consolidated or enhanced dialogue and cooperation between the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ('the Partners') for the period 2015-2020, based on their respective policy priorities as identified in the policy documents listed in the Introduction to the Memorandum of Understanding and later relevant documents. Dialogue and cooperation in the common areas will in particular serve to implement the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), including in relation to strengthened UNEP regional presence, and the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development goals and targets under the Post-2015 development framework as well as the implementation of relevant resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly related to areas of common interest in line with this Annex. It will also contribute to the implementation of the future New Urban Agenda expected to be agreed in 2016 at the Habitat III conference.

As specified in paragraph 3 of the MoU, the common areas of interest identified by the partners are related to international environmental governance, climate change, green economy, biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources, disaster risk reduction and environmental security, and the science policy interface and emerging issues.

In order to develop a more efficient and coherent collaboration, the EC and UNEP aim at working together in the areas identified below and at developing tools for regularly verifying progress in this collaboration.

This annex does not entail a commitment by either side for programmatic cooperation in specific areas nor oblige implementation of specific areas detailed below through EU financial support.

## **CHAPTER 1: Improving international environmental governance**

The partners have identified the following areas for enhanced cooperation:

1. Implementation, monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be agreed in the context of the post-2015 development framework.
2. Supporting synergies among UNEP sub-programmes and the programmes of work of UNEP and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
3. Supporting better implementation of and compliance with MEAs for which UNEP provides a secretariat, including sharing more widely the knowledge and information owned by the secretariats. In particular, enhance effective synergies among MEAs in the biodiversity/ecosystems and waste/chemicals clusters, for example through the MEAs' Regional Focal Points, the Biodiversity Liaison Group, or the InforMEA (UN portal for MEAs) initiatives.
4. Strengthening environmental governance and the rule of law in the area of the environment, by developing and testing implementation-support tools, by fostering knowledge, awareness and capacity to implement amongst national authorities and the judiciary, and by supporting international cooperation in the area.
5. Supporting the development and implementation of effective legal and institutional measures to address current and emerging environmental issues of national and international concern, in particular:
  - Combating crimes with a significant impact on the environment, including illegal trafficking of waste and the illegal exploitation and trade in wildlife and forest resources including through promoting forest and wildlife law enforcement, and governance and trade policies related to these activities;
  - Strengthening institutional capacities, teaching and research in environmental law;
  - Strengthening public participation and the engagement of major groups and stakeholders in environmental agenda setting and decision-making and in fostering the implementation of existing legal frameworks at all levels;
  - Mainstreaming environmental sustainability and poverty-environment linkages in development and trade-related policy, planning and budgeting processes.

## **CHAPTER 2: Combatting climate change**

The partners have identified the following areas for enhanced cooperation:

1. Increasing awareness, knowledge and mitigation actions on short lived climate pollutants, for example through the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

2. Developing and transferring low carbon and adaptation technologies, for example through the UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre and Network hosted by UNEP and UNIDO.
3. Improving countries' readiness to access, mobilise and absorb financing related to climate change by strengthening their enabling environments.
4. Developing and implementing effective ecosystem-based adaptation approaches and action plans, and promoting their integration into national and local climate change strategies and action plans for example through the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) programme hosted by the EC.
5. Supporting international research and innovation on low carbon and climate adaptation technology, for example through the EC Research and Innovation Framework Programme Horizon 2020.
6. Improving mitigation readiness in countries through capacity-building, to develop, implement and monitor low-emission development policies, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and Nationally Determined Contributions, as well as through building resilient energy systems.
7. Reinforcing regional and national capacities to participate in climate negotiations and support the development of climate mitigation and adaptation policies, for example through global and regional climate knowledge networks such as the Global Adaptation Network and the Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Promoting renewable energy, including through policy, technology and finance options, aimed at accelerating the deployment of renewable energy and including decentralised and hybrid energy systems.
9. Implementing the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative and other initiatives that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy (including of marine origin) such as the SE4ALL Energy Efficiency Hub in Copenhagen and the SE4ALL energy efficiency accelerators, whose implementation is being led by UNEP in key sectors such as transport, lighting, appliances, buildings, and district energy.
10. Implementing the EC-led Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI) to accelerate access to sustainable and renewable energy in rural areas in developing countries by boosting private sector to yield business opportunities.
11. Promoting the implementation of the REDD<sup>+1</sup> programme, thereby ensuring that additional social and environmental benefits of REDD+ are generated, as well as adaptation to climate change, conservation of biological diversity, enhanced ecosystem services and improved livelihoods.
12. Supporting the formulation and implementation of Low Emission Development Strategies, with a focus on Africa.
13. Supporting global agreements restricting the use of ozone-depleting substances, through encouraging dialogue, cooperation and implementation under the Montreal Protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

### **CHAPTER 3: Achieving an inclusive Green Economy, shifting to sustainable consumption and production patterns, and promoting sound management of chemicals and waste**

The partners have identified the following areas for enhanced cooperation:

1. Implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) adopted at Rio +20.
2. Assisting countries interested in pursuing policies for inclusive green economy pathways and sustainable consumption and production (e.g. through the EU Switch programmes, or the UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy – PAGE), in particular through promoting:
  - environmental fiscal policy reforms ;
  - investments in more labour-intensive sources of growth; valuation of natural capital in economic decision making;
  - the Green Growth opportunities offered by trade and green global value chains;
  - The participation of stakeholders – in particular Micro Small and Medium Enterprises- in green economy policies design and implementation that encourages resource efficiency, circular economy approaches, eco-innovation and eco-entrepreneurship.
3. Promoting the availability of a knowledge base for life cycle assessments and environmental footprints to stimulate sustainable consumption and production, to encourage the inclusion of sustainability information in the reporting cycle, to improve quality-assured product information, and to better understand critical, global and complex value-chains such as agri-food.
4. Enabling cities to make long-term policy and infrastructure decisions that promote resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production patterns, for example through the Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities, launched at Rio+20 in 2012, and through the UNEP and UN Habitat Greener Cities Partnership.
5. Supporting education (formal and informal) on sustainable lifestyles, diets and change in consumer culture, through the development of consumer information tools that encourage health awareness and behavioural changes, such as labelling and certification.
6. Engaging the finance sector and regulators as enablers and facilitators of the transition to an inclusive green economy, for example through the UNEP Finance Initiative or the "Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System", assessing options for reforms of the policy and regulatory arrangements governing financial markets to assist the channelling of capital towards investments for a green economy.
7. Implementing UNEA decision 1/5 on Chemicals and waste, in particular the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention and the SAICM (Annex II, UNEA Resolution 1/5), and the coordinated developments of policies on the Strengthening of the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in the Long Term (Annex I, UNEA Resolution 1/5).

8. Supporting the implementation of and better compliance with the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, and the recently adopted Minamata Convention on Mercury.
9. Implementation of the Overall Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in accordance with the Overall Orientation and Guidance to meet the 2020 goal to be adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2015.
10. Increasing the knowledge-base and provide policy advice to mitigate the risks of endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, multi-chemicals exposure and the risks and benefits of chemicals in products for incorporation into national approaches for sound chemicals management and for the implementation of existing policies to address health issues related to chemical and hazardous substances and air pollution, both indoor and outdoor.
11. Assisting countries in waste prevention, minimisation and management, encouraging the use of waste as a resource and an investment and employment opportunity, for example through enhancing countries' capacities for the environmentally sound management of, in particular hazardous, waste, increasing the knowledge base and providing policy advice with regard a focused and strategic approach on plastic waste and its use as a resource.
12. Improving the knowledge base with regard to waste management, for example through the development of a Global Waste Management Outlook and through a strategic focus on specific areas of waste, such as food waste.
13. Supporting the implementation of an integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including mainstreaming into national budgets and development plans as well as fostering industry and private sector involvement through a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.
14. Supporting the prevention, reduction and removal of marine litter in line with the work of the Global partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), including through the implementation of UNEA resolution 1/6 on marine plastic debris and micro-plastics.
15. Implementation of UNEA resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality, in particular to undertake global, regional and sub-regional, as appropriate, assessments by 2016; to undertake strengthened capacity-building activities on air quality; to raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits of improved air quality; to explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation on air pollution within the United Nations system and to facilitate the implementation of existing UNEP-supported intergovernmental programmes relating to air quality.

<b>CHAPTER 4: Protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources</b>
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The partners have identified the following areas for enhanced cooperation:

1. In close cooperation with relevant MEAs and international organisations, improving knowledge and decision-support systems of common interest, such as The

Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), Natural Capital accounting (NCA) and the Measurement and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES)<sup>2</sup>.

2. Strengthening synergies to support the implementation of strategies and action plans and similar instruments under global and regional MEAs<sup>3</sup>, in support of universally or regionally agreed commitments such as Aichi Target number 4 under the Convention on Biodiversity.
3. Improving synergies and strengthening coordination with and among biodiversity-related MEAs in particular in the Biodiversity Liaison Group to ensure less overlapping activities and clearer work distribution, as well as achieve more coordinated communication.
4. Implementing initiatives that aim at halting biodiversity loss and to react promptly to biodiversity and ecosystem crises in developing countries, such as the EU flagship 'Biodiversity for Life' (B4Life), including improved coordination of initiatives on international wildlife trafficking, for example through the EU Strategic Approach for African Wildlife Conservation.
5. Integrating environmental information on protected areas through the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the EC's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) to support the Convention on Biological Diversity in assessing, monitoring and forecasting biodiversity and ecosystems services with a particular focus on protected areas, as well as to further deploy the underlying open access web based information systems in support of a broad range of stakeholders including policy-makers, park managers and researchers.
6. Strengthening governance and coherence in the management of transboundary natural resources and global commons, in particular with regard to ocean governance, to ensure conservation and sustainable use of oceans' natural resources and health, for example through the Regional Seas Conventions, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), including the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), and river basin organizations.
7. Implementing the commitments under the Barcelona Convention and the cooperation with the Mediterranean Action Plan to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea, in line with the EU funded Horizon 2020 initiative and in cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean.
8. Developing knowledge, tools and instruments for policy-makers and food producers, to promote biodiversity/ecosystem management as a means to improve food and water security, in cooperation with other relevant partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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<sup>2</sup> In the case of the pan-European region, NCA/TEEB/MAES approaches will be encouraged through the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform.

<sup>3</sup> Such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (and their respective protocols) and Regional Seas Conventions.

## **CHAPTER 5: Improving disaster risk reduction, environmental security and resilience**

The partners have identified the following areas for enhanced cooperation, taking into account the recommendations of the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030:

1. Building evidence and developing effective ecosystem management approaches for disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, promoting governance and integrating environmental considerations in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, and addressing ecosystem management approaches for DRR in measuring and monitoring implementation of the Sendai Framework.
2. Developing new assessment methodologies and policy measures relating to disaster and conflict risks linked to natural resources, for example by working on environmental diplomacy and mediation support to governments and other stakeholders for resource conflicts that involve significant environmental damage or contamination.
3. Mitigating security threats from climate change, for example by demonstrating how effective vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation interventions can deliver local, national and transboundary stability and cooperation.
4. Implementing and monitoring the disaster risk reduction related sustainable development goals (cities, water, etc.) by undertaking capacity-building efforts globally to address the environmental drivers of disaster risk, by leveraging new technologies, by improving preparedness of governments and communities to address environmental risks caused by natural or man-made and technological hazards as well as related environmental and technological hazards and risks, including through research and innovation; and by working to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian operations (in line with the work of the UNEP/OCHA<sup>4</sup> Environmental Unit).
5. Developing sustainable energy solutions as an immediate peace dividend in fragile States, for example through targeted off grid solar energy access programmes.
6. Supporting policy dialogue on natural resources by enhancing transparency, accountability and multi-stakeholder participation on the management of extractive resources and address environmental safeguards for extractive industries in fragile and emerging economies.

## **CHAPTER 6: Improving the science policy interface and dealing with emerging issues**

The partners have identified the following areas for enhanced cooperation, to improve the dissemination of knowledge on sustainable development and emerging issues in the areas covered by the present MoU. Cooperation will aim also to reinforce existing collaborations as well to improve synergies and coordination:

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<sup>4</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

1. Improving access to and dissemination of environmentally relevant information, including for monitoring and implementing the SDGs and existing global frameworks and actions plans (e.g. Sendai framework of action for DRR), making use of and strengthening synergies between existing platforms and initiatives such as the European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), the UNEP Live and the Global Earth Observations System of Systems.
2. Supporting interdisciplinary research and facilitate partnerships between the scientific community, political bodies, business sector and civil society, including on emerging issues, by making use of existing partnerships and collaboration such as the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability and its flagship initiative Future Earth.
3. Enhancing collaboration with mechanisms which provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance with regards to the environment, such as the International Resource Panel on the sustainable use of natural resources and their environmental impacts over the full life cycle, and contributing to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
4. Improving the knowledge base of science-policy interfaces and promoting knowledge-sharing (e.g. the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation - PROVIA), while keeping under review the world environmental situation, for example, through regular assessments, such as the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Outlook to which the 'European Environment: State and Outlook' of the European Environment Agency is the main EU contribution, or through the Global Waste Management/Biodiversity Outlooks.

## **CHAPTER 7: Enhancing dialogue and cooperation at regional level**

In accordance with paragraph 1 of the MoU, the Partners may initiate or intensify existing dialogue and cooperation in particular regions of the world, with a view to strengthen and mainstream the environmental dimension of sustainable development at regional and sub-regional level.

UNEP has a mandate to promote international environmental cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels, as set out in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2997 in 1972 and reaffirmed and strengthened at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit conference and in the Bali Strategic Plan adopted in 2005. At Rio+20, Member States decided to strengthen UNEP's regional presence in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental policies. UNEP has been given a specific mandate for action, provides secretariat and/or support to regional ministerial fora, sub-regional fora and organizations<sup>5</sup>, and contributes to the integration of environment-related considerations into the UN Development Assistance Frameworks.

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<sup>5</sup> In Africa: African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA) as well as the Africa Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA), and in line with the African Union and the Regional Economic Commissions priorities.

In Asia-Pacific: Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, the Ministerial Regional Forum on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian countries, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the South Asia Co-operative Programme (SACEP), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

In Latin America and the Caribbean: Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the sub-regional fora such as the Central American Commission on Environment and



The EU pursues, through its various policies, an ambitious cooperation with countries and regions to foster the objective of sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to help advance international measures to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, in order to ensure sustainable development.

Cooperation between the partners will build upon areas of common interest for the EU and UNEP, in line with their respective policies and priorities identified for the cooperation with third countries and regions, including with common regional partners and fora.

Specific discussions on how such joint cooperation in third countries and regions could be organised may be undertaken during the EC-UNEP High Level Meetings.

## **CHAPTER 8: Implementing principles**

This MoU Annex is intended to be a living document and can be updated when considered necessary by the High Level Meeting referred to in paragraph 4 of the MoU.

For each of the thematic chapters 1 to 6, the partners intend to cooperate through dialogues, technical cooperation, information exchange and possible joint programmes. The cooperation will be organised in full respect of the partners' respective internal arrangements for each area of interest.

The organisation of the collaboration between the partners mentioned in the MoU should be applied with the following modalities:

In accordance with paragraph 4 and 5 in the MoU, the annual High Level Meetings serve the purpose of giving strategic direction including identifying common priorities to the EC-UNEP cooperation, captured in mutually agreed conclusions.

The coordination of the cooperation between the partners may be facilitated by regular thematic meetings. Such meetings should be conducted by thematic focal points to be identified by each of the partners. They should aim at enabling and monitoring an increased efficiency, coherence, and impact of the cooperation between the partners, agreeing on means of verification and timelines for achieving the cooperation objectives.

Relevant aspects of the dialogue and cooperation as referred to above may lead to programmatic cooperation between the partners, in line with the partners' respective regulations, rules and policies as stipulated in paragraph 8 in the MoU. With the aim of

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Development (CCAD) under the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Environment of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and its Technical Subgroup 6 on Environment; the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Ibero-american Forum of Ministers and its Network of Climate Change Offices and the Council of Ministers of the Mesoamerican Strategy of Environmental Sustainability (EMSA), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN); Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

In the Pan-European region: The Environment for Europe (EfE), the European Environment and Health process (EEHP), the Central Asia Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD), the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform (PEBP); the Arctic Council and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

In West Asia: Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) environment initiative.

maximizing the impact of such cooperation, the partners should strive to make it more strategic and to prioritize a limited number of interventions.