



Making Peace with Nature: UNEP Report

Why in News

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the '**Making Peace with Nature**' report, **ahead of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5)**.

- The Report explains how **climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution add up to three self-inflicted planetary emergencies** that are closely interconnected and put the well-being of current and future generations at unacceptable risk.

Key Points

▪ Findings:

◦ Planetary Emergencies:

- **Climate Change:** Climate change is **increasing the chances of the [Arctic Ocean](#) being ice-free** in summer, further disrupting ocean circulation and Arctic ecosystems.
 - Climate change **drives changes in [wildfires](#)** and water stress and combines with biodiversity loss to **degrade land and enhance drought** in some regions.
- **Biodiversity Loss:**
 - More than one million of the estimated 8 million plant and animal species are increasingly at risk of extinction.
 - **[Coral reefs](#) are particularly vulnerable to climate change** and are projected to decline to 10-30% of their former cover at 1.5°C of warming and to less than 1% at 2°C of warming, compromising food provision, tourism and coastal protection.
- **Pollution:**
 - Every year, nine million people die prematurely due to pollution.
 - Up to **400 million tons of heavy metals**, solvents, toxic sludge and other industrial wastes enter the world's waters annually.

◦ Widening Inequalities:

- Human prosperity is strained by widening inequalities, whereby the **burden of environmental decline weighs heaviest on the poor and vulnerable** and looms even larger over **today's youth and future generations**.
- **Inequity in economic growth has left 1.3 billion people poor.**

◦ Performance over SDGs:

- Current and projected changes in climate, biodiversity loss and pollution make achieving the **[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)** even more challenging.
- The current mode of development **degrades the Earth's finite capacity** to

sustain human well-being.

- **Performance over Different Targets:**

- Society is **failing to meet most of its commitments to limit environmental damage.**
- Society is not on course to achieve [land degradation neutrality](#), [Aichi Targets](#) and targets of the [Paris Agreement](#).

- **Suggestions:**

- **Human knowledge, ingenuity, technology and cooperation** can transform societies and economies and secure a sustainable future.
- Given the interconnected nature of climate change, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, and air and water pollution, it is essential that these problems are **tackled together**.
- Governments must **scale up and accelerate** action to meet the **Paris Agreement** goals and limit dangerous climate change.
- **Economic and financial systems** can and must be transformed to lead and power the shift toward sustainability.
- **Moving to circular economic systems** that reuse resources, reduce emissions and weed out the chemicals and toxins that are causing millions of premature deaths - all while creating jobs.

United Nations Environment Programme

- **About:** The UNEP is a leading global environmental authority established on 5th June 1972.
- **Functions:** It sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the sustainable development within the [United Nations](#) system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for global environment protection.
- **Major Reports:** [Emission Gap Report](#), [Adaptation Gap Report](#), [Global Environment Outlook](#), Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.
- **Major Campaigns:** Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wild for Life.
- **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya.

United Nations Environment Assembly

- The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the **governing body of the UN Environment Programme**.
- It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.
- It **meets biennially** to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law.
- It was **created in June 2012**, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

[Source: DTE](#)