



UNEP

**Protecting Biodiversity
Beyond National
Jurisdictions in the Face of
Global Warming**

I. Committee Background

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is one of the official bodies in the United Nations, being the leading global environmental authority. Established in December of 1972 by the UN General assembly, it first served as a means to supervise the environment's state and to create and plan out responses to some of the major environmental issues currently. As of 2026, all 193 UN member states are a part of UNEP, as well as serving as significant donors and contribute a large amount to the core fund and Environment Fund. UNEP collaborates with other initiatives run by the UN such as the UN Environmental Management Group and Quadripartite Alliance on One Health to further extend it's reach.

UNEP's main objective is to coordinate and accelerate action with aiding the environment and to come up with and promote solutions to problems such as climate change, loss of biodiversity in nature, pollution, and other major issues in regards with the environment. In addition to such, it strives to help us create and maintain climate stability and shoot for a cleaner future free of pollution via policy support, scientific studies – such as the Emissions Gap Report –, public advocacy, and intergovernmental coordination. UNEP also advocates using many global communication campaigns such as UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Clean Seas, and even having lead World Environment Day since 1973 to recognize and celebrate the nature that surrounds us. The work done by UNEP is also vital in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals -- such as SDG 13 - "Climate Action" and SDG 15 - "Life on Land".

II. Introduction to topic

Nowadays, human activities act as a catalyst, allowing global warming to be more destructive. The combustion of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas for energy as well as deforestation and industrial operations are encouraging the release of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane. This creates the greenhouse effect, these gases trap heat from sun inside the atmosphere, heating up the planet. As heat is being trapped inside the Earth, temperatures are rising. The average temperature of the Earth's surface is now about 1.44°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s prior to the Industrial Revolution and warmer than at any time in the last 100,000 years. This causes multiple extreme weather and damage like wildfires and droughts as forests and soils are being dried out every single day, creating severe living conditions for the wildlife. The heat also triggers the melting of icebergs in Antarctica, resulting in sea level rising. Moreover, the melting of icebergs also destroys the living habitat of the polar animals as it will be shrunk or disappear completely. In addition, studies estimates that one third to one half of the Earth's corals have been lost, due in part to the warming ocean. When the ocean temperatures rise just 1°C, the coral become stressed and expel the symbiotic algae that make their food, resulting in the appearance of white coral (coral bleaching). This creates a huge issue for marine life as corals support about 25% of all life in the ocean. Hence, threatens marine ecosystems that depends on reefs as shelters.

As temperatures are rising, a universal redistribution of life on Earth occur, pushing many animals (especially marine life) out of their comfort living zone, which are areas beyond the National Jurisdiction. Land and sea temperatures increase leading to natural habitats becoming too

warm for native species to survive. [Marine and some terrestrial animals naturally move closer to the pole to reach areas where conditions remain cool enough for survival.](#) Marine and some terrestrial animals naturally move closer to the pole to reach areas where conditions remain

cool enough for survival. Higher ocean and river temperatures are stressing Atlantic salmon (could be found in the North Atlantic Ocean)

because they are cold water fish. This forces the salmons to swim farther to find food and lay eggs, causing mass depopulation of the species. Additionally, the living habitats of the Arctic marine mammals such as Walruses and Narwhals are being destroyed as sea ice is rapidly melting.

III. Essential Questions / Key issues

1. How can countries come together and help protect biodiversity beyond the National Jurisdiction in the face of Global Warming?
2. Which countries are most responsible for the international water?
3. Which international law could be straightened or changed in order to protect biodiversity beyond the National Jurisdiction?
4. How can countries protect the animals beyond National Jurisdiction without damaging the economy?
5. How to rescue and prevent mass depopulation for species in each habitat?

6. How can countries come together to prevent Global Warming and restore natural habitats?
7. Which countries should be mostly supported by other countries to help prevent global warming and protect species outside the National Jurisdiction?
8. How can countries reduce overfishing?
9. What rules should be create and enforces in order to prevent overfishing?

IV. Countries list

1. Australia
2. New Zealand
3. Fiji
4. Marshall Islands
5. Seychelles
6. United States of America
7. China
8. France
9. Canada
10. Japan
11. Norway
12. Iceland
13. Peru
14. Chile
15. Argentina
16. Indonesia
17. Philippines
18. Brazil
19. Mexico

20. South Africa
21. Germany
22. United Kingdom
23. India
24. Kenya
25. Nigeria

V. Sources

Clarke, Tom. “Wildlife Migration | Climate Change Resources - Page 2.” *Climate Change Resources* |, 3 Dec. 2021, <https://climatechangeresources.org/learn-more/migration/wildlife-migration/page/2/>.

Collins, Catherine, and Douglas Frantz. “Warming Waters Challenge Atlantic Salmon, Both Wild and Farmed.” *Yale E360*, 15 Sept. 2022, <https://e360.yale.edu/features/salmon-farming-climate-change>.

Dumont, Killian. “Climate Explained: Impacts on Wildlife.” *Save the Sound*, 18 Nov. 2023, <https://www.savethesound.org/stay-informed/blog/climate-explained-impacts-on-wildlife/>.

Environment, U. N. “Partnering With Member States.” *UNEP - UN Environment Programme*, 1 Dec. 2017, <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/funding-and-partnerships/partnering-member-states>.

Huch, Ronald K., and Karen N. Kähler. “United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).” *Research Starters*, EBSCO, 2013, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/environmental-sciences/united-nations-environment-programme-unep/>.

“Marine Species on the Move: Climate-Driven Migration Patterns • Climate Change Academy.” *Climate Change Academy*, 9 Jan. 2025, <https://climatechange.academy/impacts-of-climate-change/marine-species-climate-migration/>.

The Associated Press. “Satellites Show Earth Lost More Than 12 Trillion Tons of Ice From Greenland, Antarctica in 47 Years.” *NBC News*, 16 Sept. 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/climate-change/satellites-show-earth-lost-12-trillion-tons-ice-greenland-antarctica-rcna598084>.

UCAR. "Effects of Climate Change on Ecology | UCAR Center for Science Education."

Scied.Ucar.Edu, 2024, <https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/climate-change-impacts/ecology>.

UNEP. "About the United Nations Environment Programme." *UNEP - UN Environment Programme*,

2024, <https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/about-us>.

———. "Frequently Asked Questions." *UNEP - UN Environment Programme*,

<https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/frequently-asked-questions>.

United Nations. "The 17 Sustainable Development Goals." *United Nations*, 2015,

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

———. "What Is Climate Change?" *United Nations*, 2025,

United Nations (2025). What is Climate Change? [online] United Nations. Available at:

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change> [Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>.

Satellites show Earth lost more than 12 trillion tons of ice from Greenland, Antarctica in 47 years

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/climate-change/satellites-show-earth-lost-12-trillion-tons-ice-greenland-antarctica-rcna598084>

UCAR (2024). Effects of Climate Change on Ecology | UCAR Center for Science Education. [online]

scied.ucar.edu. Available at: <https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/climate-change-impacts/ecology> [Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

Dumont, K. (2023). Climate Explained: Impacts on Wildlife. [online] Save the Sound. Available at:

<https://www.savethesound.org/stay-informed/blog/climate-explained-impacts-on-wildlife/>
[Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

Clarke, T. (2021). Wildlife Migration | Climate Change Resources - Page 2. [online] Climate Change

Resources |. Available at: <https://climatechangeresources.org/learn-more/migration/wildlife-migration/page/2/> [Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

Collins, C. and Frantz, D. (2022). Warming Waters Challenge Atlantic Salmon, Both Wild and Farmed.

[online] Yale E360. Available at: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/salmon-farming-climate-change>

[Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

Climate Change Academy. (2025). Marine Species on the Move: Climate-Driven Migration Patterns •

Climate Change Academy. [online] Available at: <https://climatechange.academy/impacts-of-climate-change/marine-species-climate-migration/>

[Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

Huch, R.K. and Kähler, K.N. (2013). United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In: Research

Starters. [online] EBSCO. Available at: <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/environmental-sciences/united-nations-environment-programme-unep/>

[Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

UNEP (n.d.). Frequently Asked Questions. [online] UNEP - UN Environment Programme. Available at:

<https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/frequently-asked-questions> [Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

United Nations (2015). The 17 sustainable development goals. [online] United Nations. Available at:

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals> [Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

UNEP (2024). About the United Nations Environment Programme. [online] UNEP - UN Environment

Programme. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/who-we-are/about-us> [Accessed 25 Sept.

2026].

Environment, U.N. (2017). Partnering with Member States. [online] UNEP - UN Environment

Programme. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/funding-and-partnerships/partnering-member-states>

[Accessed 25 Sept. 2026].

