Under the Patronage of His Excellency **Eng. Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen AlFadley**Minister of Environment, Water & Agriculture



# UNEP's Role in Conserving Fresh Water



29 April - 01 May 2024



Hilton Riyadh Hotel & Residences Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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#### Introduction



- UNEP was established in 1972, following the 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm.
- > The catalyst at Stockholm was the degrading state of the human environment and natural resources.
- > UNEP was the first UN agency to take on the challenge of dealing with environmental issues at the global level.
- > One of its key instruments to assist in bringing about sustainable development was the concept of the 'environmental management capacity building programme'. This involved funding training and meetings of government officials from developing countries to help them build infrastructure for implementing sustainable development plans.
- > UNEP has several roles, it provides environmental information, assessment, and early warning on international issues.
- > It also provides policy development and guidance to respond to environmental problems. This often involves legal instruments and means of evaluating progress.
- ➤ UNEP also coordinates with other organizations and countries to provide assistance to countries in need. Finally, it also plays a major role in regional activities.

## What We're Doing





#### Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and water

Water is essential to the 2030 Agenda, and we help countries meet many of its targets.



## Community Action for Fresh Water

Adopt a River for Sustainable
Development is a locally focused,
global initiative that aims to
protect, restore, and sustain
freshwater ecosystems to assist
and promote the sustainable
development of communities.



## Global Wastewater Initiative (GWWI)

The Initiative promotes good wastewater management practices and works towards having wastewater viewed as a potentially valuable resource instead of as a waste product.



#### World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) – a partnership effort

Water quality is naturally influenced by the climatological and geochemical location of the water body through temperature, rainfall, leaching, and run off of elements from the Earth's crust. We seek at Improving and assessing world water quality.



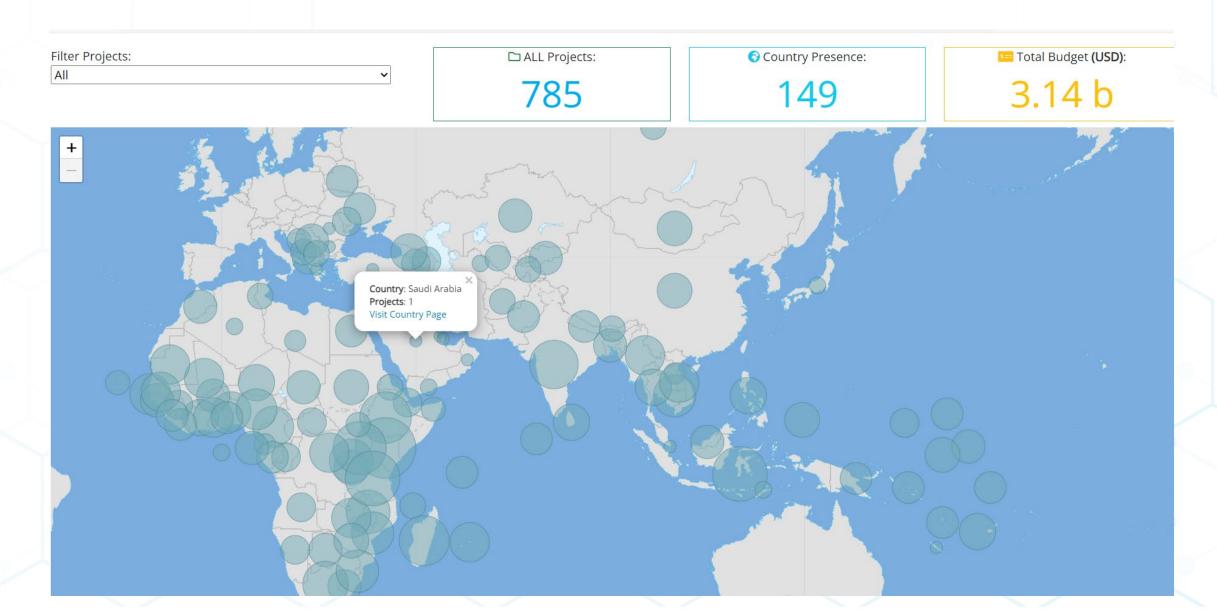
#### Monitoring water quality

We provide the global community with sound data on freshwater quality to support scientific assessments and decision-making on the subject.



## Open UN Environment Programme (unep.org)



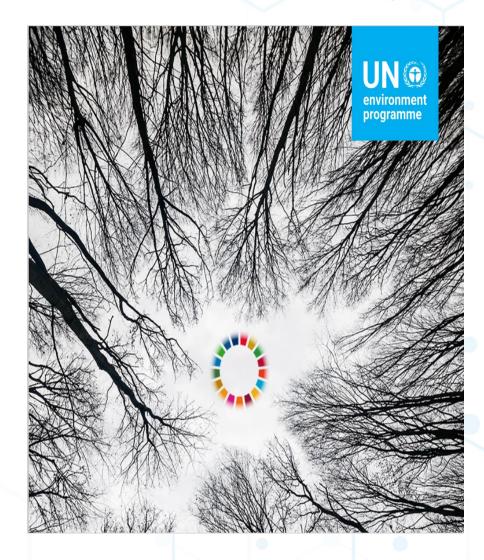


### **In Summary**

These issues are critical for tackling water quality challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of UNEP's global activities.

- 1. The importance of preserving good water quality and enough quantity to satisfy SDGs for health (SDG 3), food security (SDG 2), water security (SDG 6), and environmental preservation (SDGs 14-15).
- 2. The UN water quality policy brief to effectively address water quality challenges.
- 3. Despite its relevance, there is a significant lack of data in many places. As a result, there is a compelling need to increase data collection activities, streamline data sharing, and improve analytical skills. Strengthening national capacity for water quality monitoring through initiatives such as the GEMS/Water Programme, FAO AQUASTAT, and other international collaborations is critical. Additionally, identify places with significant levels of water pollution to guide data collection operations.





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## THANK YOU!



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