



Global Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution

[Source: UNEP](#)

Why in News?

The **Global Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution** has been established at **Punta del Este, Uruguay**, under the [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#).

What is the Global Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution?

- **About:** This panel complements the [IPCC](#) (climate change) and [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) (biodiversity), forming a **trifecta of intergovernmental science-policy bodies** that address the [triple planetary crisis](#) (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution).
 - It fills a key gap in global environmental governance by focusing specifically on pollution and waste.
- **Objective:** It aims to **strengthen global efforts** in tackling **pollution, managing hazardous chemicals and waste, and safeguarding environmental and human health** through evidence-based policymaking.
- **Key Functions:**
 - Provide **independent, policy-relevant scientific advice** on chemicals, waste, and pollution.
 - Conduct **scientific assessments**, identify **research gaps**, and support **evidence-based policymaking**.
 - Promote **capacity building** for developing countries to implement effective pollution control measures.
 - Engage in **horizon scanning** to detect emerging threats and guide preventive action.
 - Foster collaboration between **scientists and policymakers** to ensure informed decision-making.
- **Significance:**
 - Rising and unregulated **chemical use** in daily life has increased health and ecological risks.
 - **Municipal solid waste** is projected to grow from **2.1 billion tonnes in 2023** to **3.8 billion tonnes by 2050**.
 - **Pollution-related deaths** have surged by **66%** over the past two decades.

IPCC

- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is the **United Nations (UN)** body for assessing **science related to climate change**.
- Established in **1988** by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, it provides **regular scientific assessments** on the causes, impacts, and risks of climate change, along with options for **adaptation and mitigation**.

- Its reports guide **global climate policy** and are key inputs in **international climate negotiations**.
- The **IPCC** publishes comprehensive **Assessment Reports** every 6–7 years (e.g., **AR6, 2021–2023**) through three Working Groups and a Synthesis Report.
 - It also releases **Special Reports** (e.g., on **1.5°C, Land, Cryosphere**) and **Methodology Reports** for GHG inventories (e.g., 2006 Guidelines, updated 2019).

IPBES

- **IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)**, established in **2012**, is an **independent intergovernmental body** with nearly **150 member countries**, including **India**.
- It provides **scientific assessments** on **biodiversity, ecosystems, and their contributions to people**, along with tools for their **sustainable use and protection**.
- Though **not a United Nations body**, it is supported by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, which hosts its **secretariat in Bonn, Germany**.
 - **UNEP** also hosts the secretariats of key international chemicals agreements, including the **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**, the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**, and the **Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)**.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

- UNEP, established in **1972** and headquartered in **Nairobi**, is the **UN's leading agency on environmental issues**.
- Governed by the **UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)**, it supports global action on **climate, ecosystem restoration, clean seas, and SDGs**, and publishes key reports like the **Emissions Gap Report** and **Global Environment Outlook**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q1. Which of the following can be threats to the biodiversity of a geographical area? (2012)

1. Global warming
2. Fragmentation of habitat
3. Invasion of alien species
4. Promotion of vegetarianism

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (a)

Q2. Biodiversity forms the basis for human existence in the following ways: (2011)

1. Soil formation
2. Prevention of soil erosion
3. Recycling of waste
4. Pollination of crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (d)

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