

## 2023 Champions of the Earth Award

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### 2023 Champions of the Earth Award

The United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) has recently announced the **5 winners** of the **2023 Champions of the Earth Award**.

- This has been done ahead of the **3<sup>rd</sup> session** of the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee**.



[ref-opportunities forum]

### **About the Champions of the Earth Award:**

- The Champions of the Earth Award is the **UN's highest environmental honour** that recognises pioneering leaders from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector for their transformative impacts on the natural world.
- It was established in **2005** by the UNEP and has been since then awarded **annually**.
- Generally, **5-7 laureates** are selected annually and are given a trophy.
  - **No financial** awards are conferred.
- In **2017**, the program was expanded to include **Young Champions of the Earth** that rewards talented young innovators (**age 18-30**), who demonstrate outstanding potential to create **positive environmental** impact.

### **About the 2023 Champions of the Earth Award:**

- It was given in **4 categories**- (i) Policy Leadership (ii) Inspiration and Action (iii) Entrepreneurial Vision (iv) Science and Innovation.
- The **2023 awards** honoured **innovators** and **initiatives** that are helping to tackle **plastic pollution**.

### **About the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):**

- The UNEP was formed in **1972** to provide leadership, deliver **science** and develop **solutions** on a wide range of **issues**, including **climate change**, management of **marine** and **terrestrial** ecosystems, and **green economic** development.
- It is **headquartered** in Nairobi, Kenya
- **193 States** are its member including **India**.
- Its **6 areas of concentration** include- (i) Climate change (ii) Post-conflict & Disaster management

(iii) Ecosystem management (iv) Environmental governance, (v) Harmful substances (vi) Sustainable consumption & production.

- **Major Reports** published by UNEP includes- Emission Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet
- Its **major campaigns** include- Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wild for Life.

### **Other key facts:**

- The **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee** is developing a **legally binding international** instrument to end **plastic pollution**.
- Each year, **19-23 million tonnes** of **plastic** waste leaks into **aquatic ecosystems**, polluting **lakes, rivers** and **seas**.