

Sustainable Development Goals and Environment Statistics



UN
environment
programme



E A R L Y W A R N I N G A N D D A T A A N A L Y T I C S

Transforming the lives of People, Places and Planet

Introduction

The SDG and Environment Statistics Unit is responsible for improving the availability of and access to data and statistics related to biodiversity, climate change and disasters, environment-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and circular economy.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the Custodian Agency of 25 SDG indicators. The General Assembly resolution mandates Custodian Agencies “... to provide the methodologies used to harmonize country data for international comparability and produce estimates through transparent mechanisms ...” as well as “... to intensify their support for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity-building, including capacity-building that strengthens coordination among national statistical offices ...”.

The Unit contributes to the mandate through development of indicator methodologies, high-quality monitoring and reporting, capacity building, as well as promotion of environment statistics and analysis.

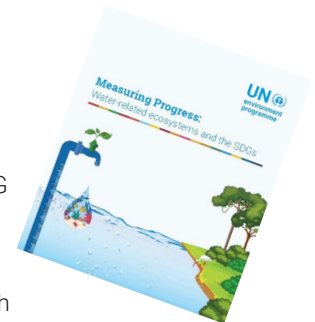
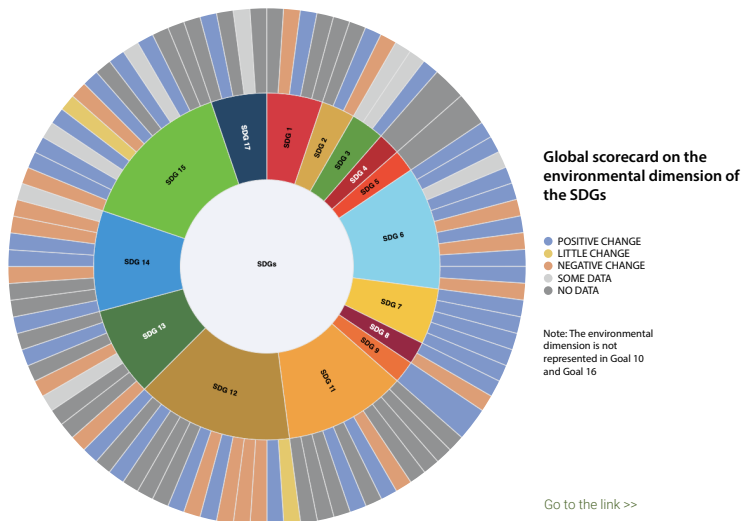
The mandate is realized by numerous partnerships within UNEP and the UN Statistical System as a whole, as well as in collaboration with academic and governmental institutions and other intergovernmental and private international organizations.

The SDG and Environment Statistics Unit actively works with various partners to promote coordination and harmonized approaches in strengthening countries' capacity in environment statistics and SDGs, with the aim of “delivering as one”.

Functions of the Unit

Developing statistical methodologies and delivering high-quality monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development to relevant international bodies.

Providing data and analysis for the High-Level Political Forum report on the SDGs, and the global SDG database.



Promoting environmental analysis in the SDGs through publications such as the Measuring Progress reports, which allows a better understanding on how to achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development through analysis of progress and interlinkages.

Delivering tools and training for capacity building in the countries, as well as direct country support, enabling them to measure, monitor and report on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Integrating the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the national action plans of the countries that the UN country teams and UN regional commissions are working in.

UNEP and UN System Engagements

Work on the SDG indicators under UNEP custodianship and environment statistics is carried out in collaboration with internal UNEP partners, as well as various working groups including academic, intergovernmental, governmental institutions, and United Nations agencies.

UNEP-wide Engagements

Internally, the SDG and Environment Statistics Unit collaborates with the all divisions of UNEP, as well as various MEAs, including the Basel Convention; the Rotterdam Convention; the Stockholm Convention; the Montreal Protocol; the Minamata Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Regional Seas, and collaborating centers such as the World Conservation and Monitoring Center (WCMC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the International Resource Panel (IRP).

UN-wide Engagements

The SDG and Environment Statistics Unit actively participates in various initiatives with other UN agencies, including:

- Development and continuous improvement of data collection quality and statistical methodology in collaboration with agencies such as UNSD, UNCTAD, UNITAR, FAO, UNESCO.
- Contribution to global reporting through the Sustainable Development Goals Report, coordinated by UN DESA in collaboration with the entire UN Statistical System.
- Collaboration with UNITAR and UN SIAP to develop training programs for professionals in environmental data management.
- Capacity building activities on various environment-related SDG indicators and environment statistics, including climate change and disasters, in collaboration with UNSD, UNDRR, UNODC, UN Regional Commissions.



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Partnerships

- Conducting training workshops and providing resources to National Statistics Offices to enhance their capacity in collecting, analyzing, and reporting environmental data, thereby strengthening national statistical systems, and improving data quality.
- Collaborating with line ministries to develop relevant environmental indicators for monitoring progress on specific goals and targets within the SDGs. These initiatives help track progress and identify areas where further action is needed.
- Joining forces with Google, NASA, ESA, and the EU Joint Research Centre to collect remote sensing data on water-related ecosystems.
- Partnering with the global citizen science community to incorporate citizen science into measuring beach litter.
- Collaborating with the OECD and Eurostat through a working group dedicated to the development and improvement of statistical indicators related to recycling and domestic material consumption, as well as circular economy indicators.
- Collaborating with CSIRO on the various activities related to the Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts.
- Engaging in academic partnerships with institutions such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences and UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources.
- Collaborating with organizations such as GEO Blue Planet, NOAA, ESRI.



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