

2022 FACTSHEET



WHERE WE STAND

- **Continued global deforestation, land and ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss** pose major risks to human survival and sustainable development.
- The world's forest area continues to decrease, primarily due to **agricultural expansion**, but at a **slightly slower rate** compared to previous decades.
- Even as efforts are made in sustainable forest and natural resource management, **commitments and instruments designed to protect, restore and sustainably use forests and biodiversity need to be urgently carried out** to ensure healthy, resilient societies.



[CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2022.](#)

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG15 is one of the five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under in-depth review at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), held under the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



FACTS AND FIGURES

- The proportion of forest area fell from **31.9 per cent** of total land area in **2000** to **31.2 per cent** in **2020**.
- Between **2010** and **2020**, the share of forests under certification schemes, the proportion of forest within a protected area and the proportion of forests under a long-term management plan **increased globally**.
- **Nearly half** of freshwater, terrestrial and mountain key biodiversity areas are protected in **2021** (up from **a quarter** in **2000**). Despite this encouraging trend, the growth of coverage has slowed in recent years.
- Species extinction is **increasing at a rate unprecedented** in human history. The Red List Index shows continuing deterioration (**0.80 in 2000 to 0.72 in 2022**) in species extinction risk around the world, based on assessments of about **25,000** species. The prevalence and rate of extinction risk is particularly severe in **Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and Southeast Asia, and in SIDS**.
- As of February 2022, **129 countries** had committed to set their voluntary targets for achieving land degradation neutrality. Overall, commitments to land restoration are estimated at **1 billion** hectares, out of which over **450 million** hectares are committed through land degradation neutrality targets.
- Nearly all countries (**98 per cent**) have adopted national legislation relevant to the prevention or control of invasive alien species, although there is wide variation in the coverage of this legislation across sectors.
- There has been a **steady upward trend** in the number of countries incorporating biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems. Most countries have established national targets in relation to **Aichi Biodiversity Target 2**. However, only about **a third** of countries are reporting that they are on track to reach or exceed their national targets.
- As of March 2022, **89 countries** and territories had implemented the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) to make nature count in policies and build back better through accounts for natural resources and/or ecosystems.
- In 2021, a total of **234** biodiversity-relevant taxes are in force, spanning **62 countries**.

2022 FACTSHEET



SPOTLIGHT

Rehabilitation of degraded land

Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry lands (ACSAD) | Egypt

Within the framework of the League of Arab States, the ACSAD has supported efforts in agricultural development in the Arab region.

ACSAD is committed to addressing the challenges facing arid and semi-arid areas in the region, especially the effects of desertification, drought and land degradation.

ACSAD engages in the development of scientific research and project implementation including action programs, monitoring, assessment and training activities towards the promotion of the sustainable management of natural resources.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit UNDESA's relevant databases below to learn more about actions, initiatives and partnerships that advance the SDGs:

- [SDG Good Practices Database](#)
- [SDG Acceleration Actions Database](#)
- [UN System SDG Implementation Database](#)
- [Voluntary National Reviews Database](#)



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- Elaborated by a High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) task team through an inclusive and participatory process, which included **27 UN system entities** and was co-led by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), **the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity** was endorsed by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in May 2021. By leveraging the expertise, collaboration potential and convening power of the UN system, it will contribute to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.
- Building on the convening capacity and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNDP and UNEP, **United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)** is the UN knowledge and advisory platform on the forest solutions to the climate crisis. It continues to help its 65 partner countries to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement, particularly Articles 5 and 6, in order to reduce deforestation, promote sustainable land uses, advance international cooperative approaches to climate mitigation and mobilise climate finance to turn the tide on tropical deforestation. It supports nationally led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in the implementation of REDD+ activities agreed under the UNFCCC.
- UNDP elevates integrated support across climate action, blue economy and digital transformation to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through **'Rising Up for SIDS'**, with access to sustainable finance as the key enabler. Action is well under way, from the Maldives safeguarding freshwater through integrated water solutions, to Suriname investing in mangrove ecosystems to secure food and coastal protection, and Papua New Guinea boosting climate action and livelihoods through sustainable land management.
- In partnership with the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, and the Governments of Germany and Luxembourg, UNEP launched **the Restoration Seed Capital Facility** to promote investment in forest landscape restoration.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) **Secretariat** supported the negotiation among Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which advanced a global plan to bend the curve on biodiversity loss, expected to be adopted in Montreal, Canada in December 2022.