



**SDGs in
Practice**

by **UN DESA
& UNITAR**

Session

Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution

10 July 2024
03:00 PM – 05:00 PM (EDT)
Held virtually

Organized by **UN Department of
Economic and Social Affairs, UN
Office for Disaster Risk Reduction,
and UN Environment Programme**

CONCEPT NOTE



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution

10 July 2024, 03.00 PM – 05.00 PM (EDT), virtual

Organized by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and UN Environment Programme

Background

The world faces an unprecedented triple planetary crisis characterized by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. This crisis is intricately linked to the SDGs due to the interdependent nature of environmental health and wellbeing. Climate change affects poverty,¹ hunger,² health,³ water,⁴ and sustainable cities,⁵ while it is directly addressed by SDG13. Climate change is also increasing the frequency and intensity of hazards, and the exposure and vulnerability of communities and individuals. Moreover, it is undermining the ability to achieve key global goals including those in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Biodiversity is critical for food security,⁶ health,⁷ clean water,⁸ and ecosystems, and is the focus of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that strives to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030.⁹ Pollution harms health,¹⁰ water quality,¹¹ and ecosystems¹² and is linked to responsible consumption and production.¹³ Addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution is essential for fostering a resilient and inclusive economy¹⁴ that provides decent work for all, while preserving the natural resources and ecosystems upon which economies depend.

Driving action to address global environmental problems and deliver the SDGs relies on a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. However, many challenges remain. The integration of science in policy making is still insufficient. Despite multilateral environmental agreements and new scientific assessments, countries at times fall short in adopting the bold language needed to curb global emissions and environmental degradation. When science fails to engage with the spectrum of concerns that shape the law, this points to the heart of the issue: a culture plagued by weak political will and governance, limiting inclusive civil society engagement and financial contributions in addressing the triple planetary crisis. Integrating environmental considerations and scientific evidence into governance and institutional frameworks, partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, local governments, organizations and the private sector, and improving communication and cooperation between and within communities are crucial for addressing the interconnected nature of environmental challenges and advancing the 2030 Agenda.

1 SDG1

2 SDG2

3 SDG3

4 SDG6

5 SDG11

6 SDG2

7 SDG3

8 SDG6

9 SDGs 14 and 15

10 SDG3

11 SDG6

12 SDGs 14 and 15

13 SDG12

14 SDG8

Challenge and objective

The challenges to sustainable development posed by the triple planetary crisis are significant and interconnected. However, tools, comprising policy measures, technological innovation, economic instruments, conservation and restoration efforts, education, and collaborative partnerships, are being explored across all regions. By integrating these tools into sustainable development and disaster risk reduction strategies, it is possible to mitigate the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and fast steam the achievement the SDGs.

The objective of this session is to discuss progress, learnings, and challenges towards addressing the triple planetary crisis and present innovative resources from multi-dimensional perspectives. It will facilitate knowledge sharing and good practices among participants, as well as collaboration with diverse stakeholders to leverage resources towards addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The session will also address the role of local and regional governments in implementing the SDGs, and the challenges, including those posed by the triple planetary crisis, that are hampering their capacities to deliver on their development mandate.

Solutions

The session will explore four multifaceted tools at local, national, regional and global levels. The session will feature the DESA Guidance Portal for Sustainable, Green and Resilient Recovery & Transitions which provides information through guidance modules on how the process and content of a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) can help support green transitions at the local level, including via climate neutrality and the circular economy. It also provides guidance for how VLRs can help support resilience at the community level, including through natural assets and nature-based solutions and via disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. At the national level, UNEP's Common Framework of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies helps Latin and America and Caribbean (LAC) nations advance sustainable finance implementation through principles that strengthen regional cooperation, transparency and interoperability alongside private sector green and social investment. The session will also incorporate tools from UNDRR such as the "Words into Action: Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction" and the "Comprehensive Disaster and Climate Risk Management" frameworks which can help enhance disaster resilience and integrate climate risk management into broader development strategies.

Format and audience

The 2-hour session will be held fully online and will comprise an introduction (scene-setting remarks) and series of presentations or short lectures which will include interactive elements such as videos and quizzes, or breakout sessions to enhance learning and collaboration.

The intended audience is a mixed group of participants representing governments, CSOs and academia, legal stakeholders, and private sector. It is open to all participants taking part in HLPF, as well as others who may not be registered for HLPF.

Resources

- [UNEP: Building a scientific foundation for action on biodiversity](#)
- [UNEP: Improving the science-policy interface to address ongoing planetary crises](#)

- UNEP: National Adaptation Plans UNEP FI 2023 Report: Scaling Private Capital Mobilization: Call to action to heads of state, policymakers and multilateral development bank officials
- UNEP 2023 Report: State of Finance for Nature
- Enhanced VLR Guidance Portal for Supporting Green and Resilient Recovery & Transitions at the Local Level
- UNDESA Global Guiding Elements for VLRs
- UN-Habitat's comprehensive approach to SDG localization
- UCLG training of trainers' course: Localizing the SDGs
- UNDESA and UNITAR E-course on Integrated Recovery Planning and Policy Coherence Towards the SDGs
- UCLG UN Habitat UNDRR resilience modules 1 and 2
- UNDRR Comprehensive Disaster and Risk Management
- Thought Leadership Course: Synergizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- Policy Brief: Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change
- Words into Action: Using Traditional and Indigenous Knowledges for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Words into Action: Nature Based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction

More and registration

For more information and to sign up to attend, please visit:
<https://sdgs.un.org/2024/SDGsinPractice>

Contact

For any questions, please contact the session organizer Ms. Angela Kariuki (angela.kariuki@un.org)

SDGs in Practice

The SDG Learning, Training and Practice (or **SDGs in Practice** for short) is a series of capacity-building and knowledge-learning training sessions focused on essential topics related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held annually as a Special Event in the margins of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The training sessions are facilitated by the New York Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

The SDG in Practice aims to:

- Facilitate the acquisition by a wide range of practitioners of knowledge and skills needed for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Foster networking opportunities, encouraging the sharing of experiences and collaboration among peers.
- Provide insights into practical actions, tools, and innovative solutions for SDG implementation.