

UNODC's inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General *"Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21"*

I. Introduction

II. Promoting sustainable consumption patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21

A. Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

B. Sustainable Consumption and Production

United Nations Development Systems' support for the implementation of SDG 12.

In various countries around the world, including Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Peru, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continues to support sustainable food production systems and food security objectives as part of its alternative development interventions, implemented to decrease the dependence of local farmers and communities on drug crop cultivation and other illicit economies. In 2023, in Afghanistan, for instance, UNODC supported 19,575 households in four provinces, of which 30 per cent were female-headed households. It involved the supply of agricultural inputs for wheat, maize, saffron and vegetable production, the rehabilitation of fruit orchards, training on best agricultural practices, as well as the provision of inputs for backyard poultry farming, animal husbandry and dairy processing.

In Colombia, alternative development was enhanced by strengthening the dairy chain of small and medium-sized producers and the productive and organizational capacities of small and medium rice producers. Farmer field schools on planting, crop maintenance and post-harvest management were also implemented, supporting the overall goals of improving rural living conditions, conserving natural resources, producing high-quality and ecologically valuable products, achieving market competitiveness and promoting fair trade. Further, with UNODC support, the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF in Spanish) recently reformulated its 'Bienestarina' - a high-value nutritional supplement delivered to vulnerable populations – to include sacha inchi. With the new formula, ICBF is seeking to replace wheat flour and linseed oil (both of which are imported products) with all 490 hectares of sacha inchi from the alternative development programme in Putumayo, together with 4,112 hectares of cassava. The initiative will, therefore, not only improve nutrition among vulnerable populations but also provide a guaranteed market and income for communities in Putumayo.

Moreover, in Myanmar, UNODC continued to support 1,000 farmers with stable incomes and sustainable livelihoods through the Green Gold Cooperative (GGC), which was formed in 2015 to support coffee farmers in accessing international markets and securing reliable income. GGC achieved a gross income of \$1.3 million in 2023, sparking further agricultural innovation among local communities with new initiatives for tea and avocados. Private sector partnerships have also been strengthened around sustainable food chains. The partnership with the French coffee roaster Malongo was expanded from Bolivia, Myanmar and Lao PDR to Colombia and Peru. At the same

time, new companies are starting to support alternative development, such as the Colombian chocolate company Lök Foods.

Furthermore, the safe and environmentally responsible handling, storage and disposal of seized chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture present unique challenges to law enforcement and regulatory authorities and threaten the achievement of SDG Target 12.4. In this regard, for example, UNODC provides technical expertise to Latin America and the Caribbean countries to safely dispose of seized drugs and precursor chemicals used for their illicit manufacture through its Solutions, Training, and Advice for Narcotic Disposal (STAND) Programme. It emphasizes science-based solutions for final disposal and fostering public-private partnerships, alongside multi-stakeholder, cross-disciplinary collaborations, to responsibly manage and dispose of these substances. One of the key initiatives under this programme is the environmentally sound disposal of large quantities of cocaine. Innovative methods, such as encapsulation, have been adopted in the region, with Ecuador and Peru leading the way through legal reforms. Between 2023 and 2024, Ecuador has successfully disposed of over 500 tons of cocaine using encapsulation.

In addition, through its Passenger and Cargo Border Team (PCBT), UNODC equips units and task forces based at key border points with vital equipment for the detection of chemicals, including precursor chemicals for the production of drugs and explosives. The Office also delivers specialized training at the UNODC Laboratory in Vienna to frontline customs and other law enforcement officers to enhance their expertise on drug and precursor identification tools and the safe handling and disposal of chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture. In 2023, UNODC PCBT's assistance to units and task forces resulted in the seizure of 339.5 tonnes of precursor chemicals.

The attainment of SDG 12 is also threatened by crimes that affect the environment, as they cause a range of harmful impacts on the environment, habitats, human and animal life, Indigenous communities and their livelihoods, public health, economies, development and the rule of law. In line with its mission to assist Member States in confronting the threats and challenges posed by crimes that affect the environment, UNODC has developed legislative guides on waste trafficking,¹ illegal mining and trafficking in metals and minerals² and crimes in the fisheries sector³ supporting Governments in adopting or amending legislation related to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of these crimes. These tools include model provisions and guidance which States can adapt to fit local conditions, constitutional principles, legal culture and structures, as well as existing enforcement arrangements.

Well-managed, sustainable and legal use and trade of wild resources provide important livelihood opportunities for local communities that may also rely on wild resources for food and medicine, among others. Wildlife crime undermines such opportunities and has detrimental impacts on the ecosystems. UNODC has been supporting efforts to address wildlife crime, including through the release of the 2024 World Wildlife Crime Report⁴, which probes recent trends in the illicit trafficking of protected species of wild fauna and flora to inform regulatory, enforcement and

¹ Available at: https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/uploads/pdf/Combating_Waste_Trafficking_-_Guide_on_Good_Legislative_Practices_-_EN.pdf

² Available at: https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/uploads/pdf/Illegal_Mining_and_Trafficking_in_Metals_and_Minerals_E.pdf

³ Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/tools_and_publications/Legislative_Guide_Crimes_in_the_Fisheries_Sector.pdf

⁴ Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wildlife.html>

criminal justice approaches and interventions along the trade chain from source to consumption based on the best available data and evidence.

Particularly on waste trafficking, UNODC, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has been leading the *Unwaste* project, funded by the European Union. Aimed at fighting trafficking in waste between the European Union (EU) and Southeast Asia, this project promotes enhanced partnership between the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States in support of ongoing efforts towards the circular economy transition. In this context, UNODC developed a series of publications that explore illegal waste traffic trends, links with the legal trade, and criminal actors' modus operandi. Particularly, the publication “Turning the Tide: A Look Into the European Union-to-Southeast Asia Waste Trafficking Wave”⁵ highlights the role of the current linear economic model of unsustainable production and consumption as a root cause of waste trafficking.

Moreover, since 2021, through the UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) project “Countering illegal hazardous waste trafficking through the Container Control Programme (CCP),” the Office has been building the capacity of customs and other law enforcement officers in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to detect and suppress illicit trade in hazardous waste (such as low-value mixed plastic, e-waste and chemicals) thus contributing to the achievement of SDG targets 12.4 and 12.5. These efforts have led to the identification of over 100,000 tonnes of plastic and other hazardous waste by CCP-supported Port Control Units (PCUs) in the five countries and, during 2022–2023, the repatriation of 35,000 tonnes of plastic, household, metal and electronic hazardous waste.

Regarding trafficking in precious metals, UNODC, in partnership with INTERPOL and the WCO, has contributed to strengthening regional efforts against gold and mineral trafficking in West and Central Africa- particularly trafficking of illicit gold by air- through the Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP). For example, through a series of trainings and exchange visits for Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) of Togo and Cote d’Ivoire on illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals, customs and other law enforcement officers based in airports, have gained key insights into profiling, freight control, post and mail control as well as risk analysis related to the detection, prevention and interception of gold smuggling. As of 2023, JAITFs have seized a total of 173 kg of gold and 20 kg of silver in airports.

Lastly, as guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC is providing guidance to public institutions responsible for the management of natural resources in implementing corruption risk management processes in furtherance of SDG 12.2. These processes enhance institutional efficiency by preventing corruption and allowing for human and financial resources to be channeled effectively in order to manage resources sustainably. Mitigation strategies implemented under these processes include the implementation of complaint intake and corruption reporting systems, codes of conduct, and standard operating procedures for issuing licenses and permits.

D. Financing for Development

E. Strengthening Science-Policy Interface

⁵ Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/bmb/environmental-crime/FINAL_for_printing_-_Turning_the_tide.pdf

F. Partnerships for Sustainable Development

III. Conclusions