Introduction to the SDSN’s Networks Program

The paramount challenge of our time is balancing very real and urgent human needs, such as the eradication of hunger and poverty, with the equally urgent need to protect the climate and natural ecosystems from further harm, and to do so in a way that is equitable and fair to all people. In 2015, at the United Nations, 193 countries adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, both for people and the planet, now and into the future.

The transformation that is needed to make this vision a reality is enormous in scale and complicated. However, in countries around the globe, universities are well-positioned to support this transition. They develop new technologies, business models, and governance frameworks; train future leaders to be globally-conscious and innovative; and have a proven track record working with diverse stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes the world’s academic and research institutes and leverages their strengths to help realize the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. It has operated under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General since 2012. The SDSN pursues its mission by working with over 1,200 member institutions in more than 100 countries, organized into 33 networks at the national and regional level. This expertise is channeled into multi-stakeholder events, pilot projects and SDG implementation in the field, and reports, including the SDG Index and Dashboards and the World Happiness Report, which have been downloaded millions of times.

In their respective countries and regions, SDSN’s networks of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focus on:
- Providing support to the implementation of the SDGs;
- Promoting practical Solutions Initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

This report presents our unique global network of problem solvers and their contributions to addressing the world’s most pressing problems.

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, SDSN
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Our National and Regional Networks

SDSN’s National and Regional Networks promote the localization and implementation of the SDGs, develop long-term transformation pathways, provide education for sustainable development, and launch Solutions Initiatives to address challenges. Each network focuses on distinct projects and priorities in line with their local contexts and challenges.
Venezuela currently faces the greatest challenge in achieving the SDGs. Amazonian countries are struggling to achieve SDG 10, with no country in the region performing well.

Brazil has performed well on SDG 7, however, increasing deforestation directly threatens SDG 13 and SDG 15.

“In just a few hectares of this vast forest world laboratory one can find more species of native trees than in all of North America, and on just one of these trees are more species of ants than can be found in all of England.”

Gabriel García Márquez, Prologue, La Amazônia Sin Mitos
The SDSN Amazônia network coordinates action on the 2030 Agenda across the Amazon Basin region, aiming to mobilize local knowledge in the search for solutions and good practices in line with the SDGs, while respecting local contexts.

Amazônia Education Program
One of SDSN Amazônia’s main goals is to promote education and capacity building for Amazonian leaders. In this context, Amazônia-edu was launched to train change agents for sustainable development through experiential education. This is accomplished through two key activities:

I. The Amazon Summer School is a 21-day intensive program focused on capacity building to understand, reflect on, and take action in the field of sustainable development. Participants learn from local community leaders, sustainability practitioners, the forest, and each other. Through a collective learning process, the group builds their experience together based on shared purpose, work, and values.

II. From the Ground Up: Managing and Preserving Our Terrestrial Ecosystems is a massive open online course (MOOC) produced in 2017 in partnership with the SDG Academy and supported by UN-Environment. This MOOC, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, aims to disseminate knowledge about sustainable development of terrestrial ecosystems at the postgraduate level and to make knowledge a tool in the fight against climate change.

Amazon Solutions Platform
The Amazon Solutions Platform, developed by SDSN Amazônia and supported by UN-Environment, is a georeferenced database of SDG solution projects from around the Amazon. The solutions included come from a diverse set of institutions and are in different stages of development, from concept to implementation and scaling up. The platform is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to facilitate exchange of information.

SDG Ambassador
SDG Ambassador is a three-module project, led by SDSN Youth Amazônia, focused on capacity building among riverine youth to understand and take action on the SDGs. The modules were designed to focus on specific issues including geopolitics, participatory planning, leadership, networking, and activism. The initiative currently operates in two of the Amazon’s Protected Areas, Juma and Uatumã.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Amazônia is working to facilitate better communication and knowledge exchange between Amazon-based institutions. In the coming months, the network will consolidate partnerships with local organizations and financial institutions to accelerate and disseminate the networks’ tools and projects.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK
Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE
- Amazon Summer School – www.amazonsummerschool.com

Fundação Amazonas Sustentável / Sustainable Amazonas Foundation (FAS)
The Sustainable Amazonas Foundation (FAS) is a Brazilian non-governmental organization that has helped over 9,597 families, benefiting 40,230 people living in 16 Conservation Units (UC) across Brazil’s Amazonas state. FAS, founded in 2007, promotes sustainable development of the Amazon Basin, including environmental conservation, improvements to the quality of life of riverine communities, and the inclusion of stakeholders in decision-making processes.
Two landmark reports by the world’s leading scientists have warned of twin emergencies: climate change and biodiversity loss. A major transformation is required in the way we produce and use energy, farm and use soils, protect coastal ecosystems and treat our forests. Scientists and universities can significantly contribute to inform policymaking to address both challenges simultaneously. This is an urgent priority in the Andean region, which is rich in biodiversity but highly vulnerable to climate change.”

Emma Torres, Associate Director, Head of New York Office, SDSN
Hosted by Yachay Tech
Urcuquí Imbabura, Ecuador

The SDSN Andes currently works on four thematic areas, 1. Biodiversity protection and sustainable management of ecosystem services, 2. Sustainable and resilient human settlements, 3. Sustainable production and consumption, and 4. Data management and monitoring of the SDGs; in seven countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela.

Spillover Effects on SDG Implementation
SDSN Andes and the Bariloche Foundation, together with Argentina’s National Institute of Agricultural Technology, Argentine non-profit FOCO, and the Integrated Sustainability Analysis Group at the University of Sydney, along with experts from a number of invited organizations, developed the project “The Role of Spillovers on SDG Implementation: An impact assessment of Argentine soybean commodities throughout their value chain”. A six-month project financed by GIZ, it analyzes how international consumption of soybean commodities is linked to economic, social, and environmental effects that impact Argentina’s implementation of the SDGs; combined with an analysis of the implications of the different paths that Argentina could take. The project generated policy-relevant information for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Local SDG Monitoring
A notable project from one of the SDSN Andes members’ initiatives, the “ODS Territorio Ecuador”, implemented by Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano and Grupo FARO, and co-financed by the European Union, seeks to monitor the implementation of the SDGs at the subnational level and its impact on public policy. The three-year project is being developed in five Ecuadorian provinces and includes three components: a) multi-sector spaces for dialogue, b) citizen SDG-observatories, and c) capacity development for working towards the SDGs. The initiative has established strong alliances among academia, civil society, public and private sector organizations, and continuously hosts a Strategic National Dialogue Group on the SDGs with the presence of high-level decision-makers for the implementation of the SDGs in Ecuador.

SDSN Andes will continue leading the “Biodiversity Conservation in the Binational Mira-Mataje River Basins” project, in the watershed shared by Colombia and Ecuador, and hosting stakeholder events in both countries. It will also continue developing projects to assess SDG-spillover effects under its initiative as a way to advance local implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Andes will continue leading the “Biodiversity Conservation in the Binational Mira-Mataje River Basins” project, in the watershed shared by Colombia and Ecuador, and hosting stakeholder events in both countries. It will also continue developing projects to assess SDG-spillover effects under its initiative as a way to advance local implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE
• On the role of spillovers in SDG implementation & Biodiversity Conservation in the Binational Mira-Mataje River Basins – www.unsdsn-andes.org (see projects)
• On ODS Territorio Ecuador – www.odsterritorioecuador.ec
Knowledge institutions can only solve complex challenges through collaboration. It is research not just involving researchers, but also government, business, civil society, and communities. It is about listening to what people’s problems are and ensuring that those people are part of defining both the problem and the solution. 

John Thwaites, Chairman, Monash Sustainable Development Institute & ClimateWorks Australia, Chair, SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific
SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific

The SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific focuses on four main areas: fostering cross-sectoral action to support SDG localization, mobilizing university action on the SDGs, supporting the activities of SDSN Youth in the region, and supporting regional contributions to global SDSN Solutions Initiatives.

Empowering Universities to Address the SDGs
In October 2018, the network co-organized a workshop with Future Earth Australia on integration across the SDGs and the role of research aimed at early career researchers and practitioners. In 2019, it joined with the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) to launch the Accelerating SDG Practice online forum series. The forums aim to raise the collective capacity of our members on the SDGs by providing a place for member institutions to share and discuss their experiences and learnings on different aspects of SDG implementation.

A Voice for National Action
The network provided significant input to the Australian Senate Inquiry on the SDGs through written submissions and a public hearing on the importance of the SDGs for Australia and the key role of the university sector in supporting their implementation. The Inquiry’s final report makes many references to this input and echoes many of the network’s recommendations. Ahead of the Australian elections in May 2018, the network joined with other co-hosts of the Australian SDGs Summit 2018 to issue a call for all parties to support national SDG implementation.

Supporting Global Projects
In October, SDSN Director Jeffrey Sachs helped launch the Land Use Futures project, part of the SDN’s Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) Consortium. Led by ClimateWorks Australia, with CSIRO and Deakin University, the project is working with a cross-sector coalition of organizations to develop pathways and build a roadmap to a sustainable food and land use system for Australia.

LOOKING AHEAD
The network is currently working with the SDSN Secretariat to develop a global guide to learning and teaching the SDGs at universities, building on the guide “Getting Started with the SDGs in Universities” which was launched in 2017.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK

FIND OUT MORE
- Accelerating SDG Practice Forum Series – ap-unsdsn.org
- SDSN Youth – sdsnyouth.org

Monash Sustainable Development Institute
One of the world’s preeminent interdisciplinary research and education institutes for sustainable development, the Monash Sustainable Development Institute finds real solutions to the most significant challenges facing our world today. The institute sits within Monash University, a leading Australian university ranked in the top 100 globally.
Partnerships are essential to achieve the SDGs. We all need to work together: universities, authorities, and businesses. Also experts from different disciplines need to work together, bridging engineering, sociology, economics, and natural sciences. Only through cooperation can we find solutions that work.”

Prof. Dr. Silvia Lenaerts, Chair of SDSN Belgium
SDSN Belgium was launched in November 2018 and is localizing the SDGs in the country focusing on educating and engaging students as well as the general public on topics of sustainable development. At the core of SDSN Belgium’s work is the understanding that partnerships between universities and university colleges, research centers, companies, citizens, and authorities around sustainable development are crucial. The network focuses on the following four main thematic areas:

- The translation of SDGs into organizational processes
- Climate action and sustainable energy
- Education for sustainable development
- Sustainable chemistry

In addition to this work, the network seeks to prove that chemistry can and needs to be a solution for sustainable development, not only a problem. Through education, research, doctoral tracks, and academic chairs of the host institutions, SDSN Belgium is leveraging its network to develop solutions that can inform the chemical industry in Belgium on the available avenues for sustainable development.

At the global level, the network is currently developing a workstream on innovative and integrated technological solutions for the SDGs, to be showcased at the upcoming Global Sustainable Technology & Innovation Conferences (G-STIC). The annual conference, launched in 2018 and organized by the partners of SDSN Belgium, serves as an important national and international platform for the network and its activities.

In SDG education related activities, the network is working to advance the adoption of sustainable development in higher education, by compiling a report of best practices in sustainable development tailored specifically for Belgian higher education institutions. Additionally, in the framework of the European association for Education Law and Policy, alongside the head office in Antwerp, workshops have been organized on innovative and technological solutions for teacher training, personalized education, vocational training, education for refugees, migrants and displaced persons.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, the network will be building on the aforementioned workstreams to establish itself as a thought leader in Belgium for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development – University of Antwerp**

The University of Antwerp is a young, dynamic and forward-thinking university. More than 20,000 students are enrolled, of which 20% international students. Ecology and sustainable development are some of the frontline research domains. Specifically, SDSN Belgium is hosted by the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO). IMDO offers multidisciplinary research and education programs that aim to support the complex challenges of society, industry, and authorities on sustainability questions.

**Université Catholique de Louvain**

The Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain) is Belgium’s largest French-speaking university. It welcomes more than 30,000 students in seven locations in Brussels and Wallonia. The university offers courses in all disciplines, from bachelor’s degree to doctoral degree level, as well as many lifelong learning programmes. It is also a pioneer in the creation of massive open online courses (MOOCs), and the first French-speaking university in Europe to offer online courses on the edX platform. UCLouvain is amongst the top 1% universities worldwide.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Throughout 2019 and 2020, the network will be building on the aforementioned workstreams to establish itself as a thought leader in Belgium for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**FIND OUT MORE**

Trade is a key factor for economic development in the Black Sea Region, but needs to follow sustainable patterns to not threaten its environment.

88.4 is the average spillover score among Black Sea countries.

7/11 Black Sea countries exceed their average region performance score on the SDGs.

96.9 is the average score on SDG 1 for all SDSN Black Sea countries.

There is an imminent need to mobilize the broad base of excellent universities in the Black Sea Region towards a collaborative effort for the Sustainable Development Goals, as the implementation of sustainable tactics is crucial for the fragile ecosystem of the Black Sea and for the improvement of the everyday lives of its people.”

Prof. Nicolaos Theodossiou, Chair of SDSN Black Sea

Dolphins are the largest marine inhabitants of the Black Sea and are suffering under the unsustainable activities in their habitat.
SDSN Black Sea officially launched on October 25, 2018, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). Its vision is to unite the people in the wider Black Sea region under the goal of sustainable development. Typically, the Black Sea Region has been characterized by its cultural diversity and countries which have historically been in direct or indirect conflict. In view of this, the network aims to unite the people of the region to join forces to improve their lives while ensuring a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future for all. In addition, the network aims to protect and preserve the region’s vulnerable ecosystem and build work programs around economic transformation, youth unemployment, innovation, and sustainable tourism.

Raising Regional Awareness around the Network
On March 16-17, 2019, SDSN Black Sea participated in the 7th Global Baku Forum, a high-level international conference hosted by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC). The network, together with important regional partners, co-hosted a side event to highlight global leadership issues with a special emphasis on the SDGs. Participants explored the essential qualities, strategies, and initiatives needed for effective leadership by universities to address the critical challenges confronting the region. All stakeholders in attendance agreed to cooperate on the implementation of the SDGs in the region via SDSN Black Sea. In April 2019, the network also participated in the annual conference of the Balkan Universities Association (BUA), jointly hosted by the BUA and the AUTH. Topics under discussion included the impact of universities on local and regional economies, sustainable development through earth observation data, and European academic and research networks. Aside from being an informative conference on issues relating to sustainable development, the event also served as an opportunity to advertise the aims and aspirations of the network and provide a platform to reach out to potential new members and partners.

Collaboration for Sustainable Development
SDSN Black Sea believes that the main factor for the successful implementation of the SDGs is cooperation. In view of this, the network is participating in collaborative projects such as the European Sustainable Development Report and the establishment of the “Three Seas Project” (Mediterranean – Black Sea – Caspian Sea), which focuses on common environmental and socio-economic issues facing the three regions, and encourages cooperation between the Danubian countries and the Black Sea region.

LOOKING AHEAD
Together with the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), SDSN Black Sea will co-host a conference on the “Implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region” in October 2019, in Romania. The event aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas, best practices, and knowledge to identify new directions for policies addressing SDG implementation in the Black Sea. Additionally, SDSN Black Sea Youth is expected to be launched during the Autumn of 2019.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK
Albania, Armenia, Azerbajian, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

FIND OUT MORE
- SDSN Black Sea Launch
  (watch the video on Youtube)
Although there are traces of modernity in the Bolivian Altiplano, production methods have barely changed over the last several hundred years.

Labor productivity in Bolivia is less than half the world’s average: We need to make sure that Bolivians can be as productive, constructive, and creative within Bolivia as they are outside Bolivia.”

Carlos Iturralde, Chair of SDSN Bolivia

80% of all municipalities in Bolivia have deforestation rates that are below the national average of 0.4% per year.

92.2% Potable water reaches 92.2% at the national level, however, access varies between 8.8% and 99.9% at the municipal level.

Less than half of Bolivians use the Internet, but the share is increasing steadily.

A child collecting water from a pond in Tipuani, Bolivia, June 2019.
The overarching objective of SDSN Bolivia is to promote sustainable visions and solutions for long-term development in Bolivia. The network works in one of the least developed countries in South America with the constantly lowest GDP per capita in the region since 1977 and ranking 118th in the United Nations Development Program’s 2018 Human Development Index. The network aims at bringing academia, government institutions, the private sector, philanthropic efforts, and civil society together to tackle the most pressing issues in the country. Most importantly, it focuses on finding practical and effective solutions to improve the very low levels of labor productivity, a transversal issue cutting across all the SDGs.

**The Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia**
SDSN Bolivia has embarked on the task of producing a Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia, which aims to reflect the state of progress in the implementation of the 17 SDGs in all 339 municipalities. Producing information at the sub-national level is important because, for most SDG indicators, the variation between municipalities within Bolivia is as large as between the countries of the world. The data used to develop several of the indicators are collected with novel methodologies relying on big data. For example, the electricity consumption of each household in Bolivia is taken into account to measure poverty, inequality, human mobility, and others. The Municipal Atlas, together with its corresponding interactive website, will be launched in March of 2020.

**Working with Children**
Children develop new habits and mindsets easier than adults do, which is why one of SDSN Bolivia’s target groups are children aged 6 to 12. As a first step in supporting children develop new habits and perspectives regarding sustainable development, the network supported the interactive children’s museum “Pipiripi” in the city of La Paz. There, in April 2019, SDSN Bolivia sponsored permanent installations, such as water fountains for children to hydrate while they play, and solar panels for learning about renewable energy while charging cell phones, along with a series of interactive SDG workshops for children. Biologist and artist Ninostka Burgoa facilitated workshops where she explained the important roles that each local species plays in their respective ecosystems while children produced their own stuffed animals representing different threatened species in Bolivia. Other workshops focused on water, energy, and gender, and one even used yoga to raise awareness about social and ecological issues.

**LOOKING AHEAD**
The network will officially launch in March 2020 where it will present the Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia as well as the upcoming work plan for the network.

**FIND OUT MORE**

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Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB)
The Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB) is one of the top universities in Bolivia and Latin America. According to América Economía, UPB is among the 23 best business schools in Latin America and is the only Bolivian university to be included in this prestigious ranking. Headquartered in Cochabamba, UPB also has a campus and post graduate center in La Paz, and a new campus is being built in Santa Cruz.

Fundación Solidaridad y Desarrollo Productivo Sostenible
Fundación SOLYDES is a foundation based in La Paz, which was established in 1987 with the sole purpose of fighting poverty in Bolivia by supporting innovative initiatives. Since then, Fundación SOLYDES has been a central actor in the development and consolidation of the microfinance sector in Bolivia and has strengthened productive entrepreneurship with positive social impacts.
The challenges of sustainable development and achieving the SDGs are very evident in Brazil, but also the opportunities for innovative, equitable solutions. SDSN Brazil is working towards shedding light on these solutions, and to scale them up across the country.

Luiz Felipe Guanães Rego, Director Interdisciplinary Center of Environment (NIMA) at PUC-Rio

In Rio de Janeiro, the management of natural ecosystems in the urban context is a priority.
SDSN Brasil is newly hosted by the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) which is eager to lead the network in achieving the 2030 Agenda in Latin America’s largest county. As a first priority, the network aims to localize the SDGs within the Brazilian context and engage in a wide array of projects and partnerships, largely focusing on the theme of cities.

The Challenge of Sustainable Cities

Ever since its inception in 2014, SDSN Brasil has focused its work on sustainable urban development. With the network being based in Rio de Janeiro, the second-most populous municipality in Brazil, addressing the sustainable development challenges of the country’s cities is seen as a necessity. The network aims to address issues around sustainable integrated and participative governance of the metropolitan territory, urban agriculture and resilience to climate change by bringing together experts from the academic, scientific, and professional community. To this end, the network has hosted several debates, lectures, round tables, and workshops to enhance dialogue around SDG 11, promoting solutions that are directly or indirectly related to urban challenges.

Additionally, together with its long-standing partners Casa Fluminense and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the network published “SDGs in the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area and in Brazil”. The report showcases experiences of localization, monitoring, and advocacy for the SDGs in Brazil, highlighting opportunities and challenges for scaling across the country.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Brasil will continue to engage and activate its members, partners, and other stakeholders to address the country’s pressing sustainable development challenges. To leverage this work, the network will identify more universities for cooperation and support the development of educational initiatives with members. The network is also setting out to further explore avenues of partnership with the environment and sustainability network of the Jesuit universities association of Latin America alongside the Interdisciplinary Center of Environment (NIMA) of PUC-Rio who will be responsible for coordinating the initiative.

FIND OUT MORE

• SDGs in the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area and in Brazil – https://issuu.com/casafluminense/docs/caderno_ingles
• Interdisciplinary Center of Environment (NIMA) – http://www.nima.puc-rio.br/cgi/cgitua.exe/sys/start.htm?tpl=home

Photo: ©ckturistando on Unsplash
We all know that Canada faces many of the greatest impacts of climate change because of our northern latitudes and that it affects our indigenous communities disproportionately. We also know that we have to confront the energy transition. We play a role internationally when it comes to migration and resettlement, international aid, and we need to continue to focus on those things. Canada has the opportunity here to rise to be the nation of the future.

Jean Andrey, Chair of SDSN Canada and Dean of the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo
SDSN Canada officially launched in May 2018 at the University of Waterloo. In its first year, the network has seen tremendous growth and support for the SDGs throughout Canada. The network has developed collaborative partnerships with other national SDG organizations (e.g. Alliance 2030) and has consulted closely with the Government of Canada’s newly established SDG Unit. In particular, SDSN Canada is focused on developing an SDG research agenda for Canada, cultivating high-quality SDG education, and galvanizing support throughout the country to achieve the SDGs. It achieves its results with a focus on four initial thematic areas:
1. Education and Training for Sustainable Development
2. Sustainable and Inclusive Cities
3. Canada’s Energy-Climate Nexus
4. Doing Justice to Life on Land and Below Water

SDG Cities Index
The network is developing a set of indicators and benchmarking system for Canadian municipalities to track their SDG performance. The Index is planned to launch in November 2019, and the network wants to use this work to develop a deeper assessment on SDG data gaps for Canadian municipalities.

Student Engagement
SDSN Canada recognises the value of students on university and college campuses and has been working with members to identify how their students can play an active role in implementing the SDGs on campus, in their communities, and across the country. The results from initial engagements clearly show that Canadian students are confident that achieving the SDGs will lead to a better future for their generation. The results also directly informed the Government of Canada’s National Strategy on SDG Implementation.

SDG Researchers Database
The network is developing a public database highlighting Canadian researchers and their research links to the SDGs. The objective is to identify the areas of SDG research strength in Canada and what gaps exist that the network should be aware of and pursue funding to support.

SDGs and First Nations Treaties
In recognition of Canada’s First Nations, the network is scoping modern and historical treaties between Canada and First Nations, using comparative legal research methods to uncover whether and how these accords respond to the global SDGs and what new research questions can support the realization of key rights.

LOOKING AHEAD
The network has several initiatives planned, including:

- Working with municipalities across the country to pilot the creation of Voluntary Local Reviews that align the SDGs with municipal plans.
- Convening an inclusive pan-Canadian SDG gathering for academia, civil society, business, youth, and government to advance implementation and collaboration on the SDGs.
- Establishing a French language stream of SDSN’s activities with its francophone members in Canada and throughout the global SDSN.
- Working with student clubs on member campuses to establish ‘SDG Alliances’, bringing together sustainability-oriented student groups to work collaboratively.

University of Waterloo in partnership with the Waterloo Global Science Initiative
The University of Waterloo is home to Canada’s largest Faculty of Environment and has researchers and institutes across campus working on every facet of sustainability and social justice. Consistently ranked Canada’s most innovative university, the University of Waterloo is home to advanced research and teaching in science and engineering, mathematics and computer science, health, environment, arts and social sciences. Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSI) has been catalyzing collective action since 2009. The conversations they host bring people with diverse viewpoints together, prompting multi-disciplinary, inclusive collaboration to address sustainable development challenges. By combining the results of these cross-cutting conversations with the science and technology of today, WGSI and their network take answers from paper to the real world, addressing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals in sectors such as energy, education, and beyond.

FIND OUT MORE
- SDSN Canada Student Engagement – www.sdsn.ca
- Alliance 2030 – www.alliance2030.ca
The Booth of Vision 2030 Jamaica at the Youth SDG Engagement Campaign Launch, Mona Campus Jamaica

Jamaica is naturally and irrevocably aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals and at every opportunity we reaffirm our commitment to achieving them. Furthermore, Jamaica will play its part in regional and international fora to promote attainment. ”

Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica
The SDSN Caribbean network prioritized youth engagement this past year, with the aim of positioning and empowering young people to become change agents for the SDGs.

Regional Youth Forum on Climate Action
The Regional Youth Forum on Climate Action, entitled Climate Change Impacts to the Caribbean and the Attainment of the SDGs: The Importance of Involving Youth, was organized by students from the University of the West Indies Student Today Alumni Tomorrow (The UWI STAT) Corps. It linked youth from the different UWI campuses and the region more broadly to outline solutions for SDG 13: Climate Action and related SDGs.

Free Environmentally Friendly Shopping Bags
The SDSN Youth Caribbean distributed over one hundred environmentally-friendly shopping bags to people in the Papine Square, Jamaica, and engaged shoppers in discussions about the SDGs and priority actions for the Caribbean.

SDG Youth Engagement Campaign Launch
Vision 2030 Jamaica partnered with a Social Marketing class at the UWI to engage students and staff on leveraging the university to support and initiate SDG solutions across the region. Vision 2030 Jamaica set up a booth at the launch event, organized with support from the United Nations Development Programme Jamaica. The main speaker was Peisha Bryan, Social Sector Specialist of Vision 2030 Jamaica. Other speakers included Chukwuemeka Nwokocha, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, who spoke on health and wellness, and Javaughn Keyes, SDG Youth Ambassador, who chaired the launch and encouraged young people to become engaged in this critical transformation process. The students selected SDGs 3, 4, 6, 13, 14, and 15 as regional priorities. They highlighted the importance of the inclusion of mental health under SDG 3, and called for this area to be given greater attention as the incidence of mental illness among young people is rapidly increasing.

Canada & Caribbean Emerging Leaders Dialogue on Blue and Green Economy
The University of the West Indies participated in the Canada & Caribbean Dialogues for Emerging Leaders Conference in Jamaica. The main topic of this event was blue and green economies.

LOOKING AHEAD
Over 2019 and 2020, SDSN Caribbean will be promoting regional solutions sourced from the network and presented at SDSN’s first Global Solutions Forum, held in New York in September 2019.

Established in 1948, UWI is the largest and longest-standing institute of higher education in the English-speaking Caribbean. UWI enrolls over 45,000 students, and their impressive network of alumni includes more than 18 current and former heads of state, one Nobel Laureate, and dozens of Rhodes Scholars.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK
Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States Virgin Islands, Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE
• Caribbean Action 2030 – www.caribbeanaction2030.com

Students from the Social Marketing SDG and Youth Engagement Campaign Team, Mona Campus, Jamaica
If the institutional and network dynamics are already triggered in France, it is now a matter of changing scale, and moving from experimentation to scaling of good practices on key topics in the achievement of the SDGs.”

Concept Note, “Establishing an SDSN network for France”
In November 2018, SDSN France was launched to federate and mobilize scientists and experts who focus on practical solutions to reach the SDGs. Three working groups have been prioritized: education, sustainable finance, and media.

Education
As a first step, the working group decided to focus on the development and deployment of the Sulitest (Sustainability Literacy Test), a tool developed by a team out of the Kedge Business School. A hackathon was organized to identify the key issues that all French university students should master on the topics of the SDGs. These elements will be reflected in the new French module of the Sulitest questionnaire. The group also developed an educational interface on the Sulitest collaborative platform. This interface will be available for professors around the world and will offer both an IT interface and “turnkey” animation kits allowing integration into different teaching scenarios. In parallel, PSL piloted the first “European School on Positive Impact and Responsibility” – a two-week transdisciplinary summer program for students in July 2019.

Sustainable Finance
The flagship initiative for this working group is a series in the journal Sustainability on “Finance and the 2030 Agenda: building momentum for systemic change.” This new collection, which will run through 2020, will permit the consolidation and unification of existing research, the further development of a new research agenda in sustainable finance, and give visibility to high-quality research that is usually difficult to publish in mainstream finance journals.

The second project is the publication of a new comprehensive financial economics textbook covering four themes: the financial and monetary system, asset and risk management, corporate finance and governance, and accounting systems. The third project is to bring researchers, academia, and practitioners together to found a new Mediterranean Institute for Social and Ecological Finance.

Media and the SDGs
How can the mainstream press learn about and take ownership of the 2030 Agenda? How can the media provide news through the lens of the SDGs? How can we support journalists in understanding the issues of the 2030 Agenda? The working group on media and the SDGs is organized in partnership with the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) and the Elyx Foundation and focuses on three areas: 1) training and raising awareness of the media ecosystem (not just journalists but also editors), 2) providing plug-and-play content for journalists, and 3) supporting experts to become “SDG ambassadors” when they deal with the media.

LOOKING AHEAD
Over the coming months, SDSN France will focus on consolidating its organization and communications.

A conference, planned in January 2020 in Paris, will allow this young network to present the first tangible results of the working groups as well as to highlight good practices of its members.

FIND OUT MORE
- Sulitest – https://www.sulitest.org/fr/
- Elyx Foundation – http://elyx.net/
In Germany, 81% of fish is caught by trawling.

Germany’s greenhouse gas emissions fell by around 51 million tons compared to 2017.

1/4 of all people working in science and engineering are women.

The window of time for climate action and sustainable development is shrinking. We have to act now for a holistic transformation, which addresses all dimensions of life: the social, the economic, and the ecological.

Prof. Dr. Dirk Messner, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Co-Chair of SDSN Germany
Founded by leading knowledge actors, SDSN Germany pools the knowledge, experience, and capacity of German academia as well as other relevant stakeholders from civil society to the private sector in support of sustainable development. Through dialogue and cooperation, the network aims at promoting the SDGs as a guiding framework for action in politics, business, and society at the national and international level.

**Sustainable Development in Times of Rising Populism**

Against the backdrop of rising populism in Europe and across the globe, the network has made a consolidated effort to bring together experts from the fields of populism and sustainable development to bridge the gap between both disciplines, creating interdisciplinary constellations of actors. In events such as the German SDSN Summit, the extended Leadership Council Meeting, and an expert workshop, SDSN Germany connected with experts from academia, business, and civil society to analyze the causes, effects, and solutions that go beyond political ideologies.

**Dialogue of Scientific Advisory Councils**

Since May 2018, representatives from the Scientific Advisory Councils of the German federal government as well as from various federal ministries have been meeting regularly to discuss current challenges for policy-making. The most recent event in May 2019 was organized by the Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpn 2030), co-chaired by SDSN Germany. Wpn 2030 identifies national priorities such as mobility, global commons, finance, trade, and consumption, and organizes public discussions with relevant stakeholders to define solutions for SDG achievement. During the 2019 meeting, Scientific Advisory Councils were invited to share their positions on the German Sustainability Strategy, last updated in November 2018.

**Momentum 2019: The SDGs and the Future of the EU**

In the context of the 2019 European Parliament elections, the new EU Commission, and the next EU Budget, SDSN Germany organized several activities to strengthen the narrative in the public discussion on the future of sustainable development in the EU. Building on this, the network initiated an event series and started a dialogue on pressing societal challenges in the EU while taking into account the role of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The events brought together representatives from academia, civil society, as well as political parties and contributed significantly to the 2030 Agenda gaining momentum in the German society.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network will continue to engage in discourse at the national, European, and international level to contribute to the revision of the German Sustainability Strategy in 2020, the new European Commission, and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Additionally, SDSN Germany is looking to engage in the field of digitalization and sustainable development as well as actively support European initiatives for SDG achievement.

**FIND OUT MORE**

Great Lakes countries perform best on SDGs 12 & 13

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires not only the efforts of governments but also the active involvement of NGOs, the private sector, and most importantly academia. It is imperative for universities in their role as agents of change to put in place mechanisms that will support the surrounding communities to achieve sustainable development. Universities should not be bystanders and no longer represent isolated ivory towers in a hostile environment, but a part of a society, which aims for a sustainable future.”

Dr. Faustin Gasheja, Chair of SDSN Great Lakes

Rank 12/52
Among Great Lakes countries, Rwanda leads in the 2019 Africa Index and Dashboard Report

Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have already ratified the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), which aims to leverage structural transformation towards sustainable development.

Queen Elizabeth National Park, Rubirizi, Uganda
SDSN Great Lakes strives to promote the implementation of the SDGs in the complex region of Central and Eastern Africa. Through its activities, it takes the lead in mobilizing universities, research centers, and civil society in the region to take action and get involved.

Local Solutions Conference
The SDSN Great Lakes flagship initiative is an annual conference focusing on local solutions to achieve the SDGs. Since 2015, the conferences have brought together hundreds of researchers and academics from the region to present innovative and practical projects that can help change the lives of people in the region for the better. Each year, the network selects one or more themes, related to particular SDG challenges faced by its citizens. SDSN Great Lakes plans to hold its 2019 regional conference in December on the role of universities in implementing SDGs. In addition to its annual conference, the network is planning to collaborate with SDSN Youth on a regional event that aims to sensitize local youth to prioritize and contribute to the global movement of finding solutions and pathways for achieving the SDGs.

Public Lecture Series
In 2018, the network launched a public lecture series to raise awareness of the SDGs and share new research and innovation from its member institutions. In an effort to boost membership engagement, the public lecture series is organized on a rotational basis between all network members. This year’s overall focus will be on the role that universities can play towards SDGs implementation, and the strides they have made towards this goal in the last three years. At the quarterly event, each member chooses a topic and organizes a lecture relevant to their core expertise and research agenda. In particular, SDSN Great Lakes focuses on the following goals: Quality Education, Clean Water and Sanitation, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Climate Action.

LOOKING AHEAD
The next local solutions conference is planned at the end of 2019 and the public lecture series will continue in the coming year as well. The network is also developing its governance structure, including expanding its Leadership Council, comprised of members from academia, the private sector, and civil society, to guide and support the activities moving forward.

UR College of Business and Economics
The College of Business and Economics (CBE) is one of the six colleges composing the University of Rwanda (UR), the largest public university in Rwanda. The UR’s vision is to be a leading university that develops highly enterprising graduates prepared and dedicated to building a more just and sustainable society locally, nationally, and globally, with appropriate innovations that advance the quality of life. The UR’s mission is to support the development of Rwanda by discovering and advancing knowledge, and being committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, where students are prepared for lives of service, leadership, and transforming communities through finding solutions.
SDSN Greece is joining forces with EIT Climate-KIC Greece, as well as with many universities and research institutions in the country and abroad to produce social and technological innovations that accelerate the urgently needed sustainability transition!"

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri,
Co-Chair SDSN Greece
SDSN Greece focuses on three cross-cutting themes: natural capital valuation, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, and supporting sustainable development in times of crisis. It also has five thematic priorities: sustainable shipping and marine resources management, sustainable energy and energy security, sustainable tourism and biodiversity, education and training courses on sustainable development, and sustainability at the nexus of water, food, and energy.

New partnership: Climate KIC Greece
SDSN Greece established a strategic partnership with the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT). The Climate KIC Greece Hub is part of the EIT’s Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC). This organization aims to build prosperous, inclusive, and climate-resilient societies founded on circular, zero-carbon economies. Current programs include Accelerator, the core program of Climate KIC, which offers European start-ups opportunities to provide science-based solutions for the new climate economy, along with other initiatives such as Pioneers into Practice, Climathon, and the Launchpad Competition.

A Mediterranean Perspective on Food Systems
The network is collaborating with SDSN Mediterranean to promote a joint massive open online course (MOOC) for the SDG Academy, entitled Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective (launched in 2018) in which Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Co-Chair of SDSN Greece, lectures. The course discusses the challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean basin, summarizes global-to-local challenges related to SDG achievement and highlights emerging opportunities linked to innovation and sustainability in the sector.

Engaging with European Research Projects
SDSN Greece is engaged in several EU-funded Horizon 2020 projects focusing on sustainable development: SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas), seeks to advance the understanding and support of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry, and rural development. BRIGAID (Bridging the Gap for Innovations in Disaster Resilience), aims to provide structural and ongoing support for innovations in climate adaptation by developing standardized methodologies and tools to support innovative approaches to climate adaptation. Additionally, the network is partaking in COASTAL, a unique multi-actor collaboration aimed at improving coastal-rural synergy to foster rural and coastal development while preserving the environment.

LOOKING AHEAD
Together with The Economist Events, SDSN Greece is co-organizing the Third Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean in Greece. The event will host several distinguished personalities and will be the starting point for intra-regional collaboration between SDSNs in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, and the Caspian Sea region on a Blue Growth Initiative. Heads of state will join academics, business representatives, and policymakers to share their knowledge and experience on science-driven solutions for the urgently needed sustainability transition for the region.

The International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8)
ICRE8 is a nonprofit, private institution dedicated to interdisciplinary research on sustainable development and management of the environment, energy, economy, and eco-innovations.

The Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab (PESD)
The PESD Lab of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is devoted to the political economy dimension of sustainable development. In other words, it focuses on how institutions, the political environment, and the economy interact and influence each other and thus form the underlying conditions that allow or prevent sustainable development.
Tai Kwun—Centre for Heritage and Arts. Since opening in May 2018, the heritage site has come alive with heritage and arts exhibitions, musical performances, film shows, docent tours and more, and received some 3.4 million visitors from all walks of life.

Hong Kong has a large waste load compared to neighbouring cities at a similar level of development.

10th Hong Kong’s ecological footprint ranks 10th globally.

4.2 planets If everyone in the world lived the lifestyle that Hong Kong people lead, we would need 4.2 planets as large as the Earth to supply people with the necessary resources.

“For the SDGs to be reached, everyone needs to do their part, including the private sector, civil society, and people. We believe that knowledge transfer, sharing experience, support, and future collaboration opportunities with different members of the SDSN network can help focus and increase the effectiveness of the SDG-related efforts in Hong Kong.”

Leong Cheung, Network Co-Chair, and Executive Director, Charities and Community, The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Launch ceremony of SDSN Youth Hong Kong, held at the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change of the Chinese University of Hong Kong
SDSN Hong Kong

SDSN Hong Kong focuses its resources on actionable and solution-based goals that lead to tangible, sustainable deliverables. The network’s priorities include public education related to sustainable development, climate action, clean energy, and responsible consumption. The network also appreciates the significant role of youth in sustainable development. In December 2018, a local branch of SDSN Youth was established to empower young people to champion the SDGs in the community.

SDG Localization
In the past year, SDSN Hong Kong organized and assisted a wide range of activities and projects in support of the SDGs in the region. These include ‘Beyond 60°S’, an exhibition on the Antarctic’s resources; a public survey on Hong Kong young people’s perspective on SDGs; an SDG-related education project by UNESCO; several seminars and forums under the SDG Forum Series; a distinguished lecture on sustainable development open to the public; a seminar for foundations; a two-day sustainable development fair, ‘Green Family Day’, and many more.

SDG Action Fund
In December 2018, the Chinese University of Hong Kong launched an SDG Action Fund to encourage staff and students to become agents of positive change and develop innovative projects that actively respond to the SDGs. One of the funded projects is ‘Egg-maxtree’, an egg carton upcycling and education project, initiated by a group of architecture students. In 2018, the project engaged 150 underprivileged children and transformed 400 egg cartons into a giant Christmas tree.

Philanthropy for Better Cities Forum
Over 1,400 delegates attended the Philanthropy for Better Cities Forum, convened by HKJCCT, in September 2018. The Forum provided a platform for over 60 renowned speakers including Nobel laureates, academics, philanthropists, thought leaders, social entrepreneurs, and policy-makers from around the world to share views on sustainable development-related themes from health and well-being to youth and creativity. Chandrika Bahadur, President of the SDSN Association, moderated the panel discussion on “Attaining Sustainable Development Goals in Cities”.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Hong Kong will continue to support SDG localization in the city and engage with knowledge institutions and NGOs in Hong Kong to expand its membership. The network is also focused on organizing the International Conference on Sustainable Development in Belt and Road Countries (January 9-10 2020, Hong Kong). Details will be released through the network’s website.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT)
Founded in 1884, the Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of our society. The Club has a unique integrated business model, comprising racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charity and community contribution. Its Charities Trust is one of the world’s top ten charity donors, and its supported projects between 2010 to 2016 cover 13 SDGs with a total donation of over US$1.7 billion. ‘Tai Kwun’ is an excellent example of the project for revitalizing monuments into the “Centre of Heritage and Arts”.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Founded in 1963, CUHK is a forward-looking comprehensive research university with a global vision and a mission to combine tradition with modernity, and to bring together China and the West. Dedicated to research and education excellence as well as the advancement of sustainable development, the University houses several world-renowned, productive research centres, including the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability and the Institute of Future Cities.

FIND OUT MORE
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong – http://cuhk.edu.hk/
Photo session with Indonesia Minister of National Development Planning Agency, Co-Chairs of SDSN Indonesia, President of Indonesian Academy of Sciences (AIPI), Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of University of Indonesia, and keynote speakers from Griffith University in Australia, and University of British Columbia in Canada.

Indonesia ranks **102 out of 162** countries in 2019 Sustainable Development Report. Indonesia’s index score is **2.3% less** than regional average.

**Belantara supports the government of Indonesia in developing livelihoods for forest dwelling communities while adapting and mitigating the impact of climate change.**

Sri Mariati, Executive Director, Belantara Foundation
Indonesia is an archipelago country with over 17,000 islands and hundreds of different languages and cultures. These unique geographic and socioeconomic characteristics make implementing the SDGs a challenge. The region is rich in natural resources and has a growing population of young people. With this richness comes great opportunity to lead on the SDGs. The President of Indonesia is a strong supporter of the SDGs and is committed to addressing challenges around global climate change.

**Sustainability Science and Solutions**

In Indonesia, the term sustainability is still commonly associated with environmental sustainability, although it also encompasses economic and social factors. The symposium hosted at the University of Indonesia (UI) in April 2019 promoted sustainability science as a holistic approach to key development issues. The symposium was hosted in cooperation with several partners, including Indonesia’s Academy of Science and the Ministry of National Development Planning. The UI’s “SDG Hub” was launched at the symposium to foster the participation of academics, think-tanks, and students in the global SDG process and the SDSN network.

During this event, the Indonesia Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) and the Minister of Planning provided a thorough history of how Indonesia has integrated the SDGs into its National Planning strategies. Looking ahead, the Minister emphasized the role of industry in Indonesia’s future (SDG 9) and showed how the SDGs could be used to ensure that growth within the industrial and manufacturing sectors can be achieved more sustainably when all the SDGs are considered in that planning.

**Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development**

As part of the network’s involvement in the regional SDG initiatives, SDSN Indonesia participated in the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) hosted in March 2019 in Thailand. The delegates of the Republic of Indonesia briefed attendees on Indonesia’s progress in SDG implementation. Achievements have been made through allocation of domestic resources for implementing poverty eradication programs, increasing health coverage for workers, strengthening the quality of teachers at all levels, upgrading facilities for schools, and providing access to technology for all to ensure ease of doing business.

This is in line with the research done by SDSN in the SDG Index which mentioned that Indonesia has made significant progress on reducing poverty and improving innovation and technology deployment. In the effort to combat climate change, Indonesia has also marked progress by reducing deforestation and forest fire areas by strengthening cooperation with stakeholders.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network is currently determining how the SDG Hub can be leveraged to build momentum around sustainability. There is a great opportunity for further public-private-partnerships in Indonesia and the network is seeking to unlock the role of academia to foster them. Thanks to the ongoing generous support from the Belantara Foundation, the network hopes to get more involved with their community development and forest conservation projects underway. Additionally, the network is working closely with local SDSN Youth to develop a program of work to engage young people in innovative solutions and new business models.

**FIND OUT MORE**


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**Universitas Indonesia (UI)**

Universitas Indonesia (UI) is known as a modern and green campus consisting of 320 hectares with 6 natural lakes. UI was initially established in 1849 as the Indonesian School of Medicine. Currently UI has 13 faculties that cover wide arrays of scientific disciplines with 291 degree and non-degree programs of study. UI aims to become an independent university that can resolve national and global challenges, particularly those that impact the Southeast Asia region.

**United in Diversity (UID)**

United in Diversity (UID) is a non-profit organization established with Indonesian leaders from business, government, and civil society. Founded in 2003, UID has invited leaders from all sectors to come together, start a new dialogue of responsibility, and agree on concrete actions that address root-causes of both Indonesia’s problems, as well as regional and world challenges.

Photo: © Gerakan Indonesia Diet Kantong Plastik (GIDKP)

Participants from SDSN Youth at the end of the workshop
The contribution of every citizen is crucial for a more sustainable future: let all of us actively participate to the ASviS call to action #mettiamomanoalfuturo, which in English means Let’s lend our hands to the future.”

Sabina Ratti, Chair of SDSN Italia and Senior Advisor ASviS

We, as humanity, need to start giving real answers that make the difference: we have to start now so as not to leave the burden on those who will come after us. The future generations will be the next decision makers but it is now, together with them, that we have to build a critical consciousness.”

Paolo Carnevale, Executive Director, FEEM

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Paolo Carnevale, Executive Director, FEEM
SDSN Italia

Hosted by Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and the Santa Chiara Lab
> Milan and Siena, Italy

SDSN Italia aims at mobilizing Italian society to achieve the SDGs which is only possible if the Agenda 2030 has the full support of institutions, the private and public sectors, research, and young people.

Localizing the SDGs

SDSN Italia is deeply engaged in building tools for policy dissemination. At the end of 2018, SDSN Italia and FEEM produced a report titled “Per un’Italia sostenibile: SDSN Italia SDGs Cities Index”. The publication aims to increase local public awareness of sustainable development. The report has been disseminated widely and has prompted important discussions during side events and presentations at the Sustainable Development Festival promoted by ASviS (L’Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile).

Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development

A strong understanding of issues relating to sustainable development is fundamental to implement the 2030 Agenda and to achieve the SDGs. For that reason, in 2018 SDSN Mediterranean and SDSN Italia launched the Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development with ASviS and the University of Siena, with the support of the ENEL Foundation and Leonardo, and the involvement of the Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS). The school hosts intensive courses focused on teaching and training theories and practices on sustainable development.

Agenda 2030 and Young People

SDSN Italia believes that youth play an indispensable role in building a sustainable future. For the third year in a row, the network collaborates with Fondazione Accenture and Fondazione Feltrinelli on the “Youth in Action for SDGs” contest calling for sustainable solutions for Italy. Moreover, the network also works with university students to spread knowledge on the 2030 Agenda and instill a culture of sustainable development among high school students through various initiatives.

Promoting Partnerships for the Goals

SDSN Italia aims to work with a variety of stakeholders to ensure that the SDGs are being pioneered at all levels of society. To that end, SDSN Italia also works closely with private sector partners who can have a key impact on championing solutions for sustainable development. Throughout 2019, the network has partnered with FEEM, Ericsson Italia, Livorno Port, and CNIT (National, Inter-University Consortium for Telecommunications) to develop a model and assess the relationship and impact of a smart port (a port being enhanced by digital transformation) and the surrounding urban area in which it operates.

LOOKING AHEAD

Throughout 2020, SDSN Italia will continue its existing research activities and working to localize the 2030 Agenda by further developing tools for the dissemination of the SDGs, creating awareness of SDG challenges and developing solutions.

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), founded in 1989, is a non-profit, policy-oriented, international research center and think-tank producing high quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research on sustainable development which contributes to the quality of decision-making in public and private spheres. Thanks to its international network, FEEM integrates its activities with those of the best academic institutions and think tanks around the world.

Santa Chiara Lab

The Santa Chiara Lab is the multidisciplinary centre at the University of Siena focused on research support and promotion, innovation and teaching. The Santa Chiara Lab is an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development including SDSN Mediterranean, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) and the PRIMA Observatory on Innovation.

FIND OUT MORE

• Siena Summer School – [http://santachiaralab.unisi.it/siena-summer-school-on-sustainable-development-2019/]
• Youth in Action for SDGs – [https://youthinactionforsdg.ideatre60.it/]
• Sustainable Development Festival – [www.festivalsvilupposostenibile.it]
Urban city street in Japan.

“A wide range of actions have been already taken by the countries in the region, and it is expected for cities to play a leading role in achieving the SDGs.”

Kazuhiko Takemoto, Director of UNU-IAS and Secretary-General, SDSN Japan


Japan has one of the top-ranked education systems in the world so it’s not surprising to see their continued progress toward achieving SDG 4.
SDSN Japan conducts policy-relevant research and capacity-building activities to help mainstream the SDGs into national and sub-national policies. The network brings together policy leaders and experts from a variety of stakeholder groups, conveying key messages and recommendations to government ministries and a broader public audience.

**Implementing the SDGs in Japan and beyond**

Members of SDSN Japan have actively contributed to the Japanese Government’s adoption and implementation of the “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles”, the country’s strategy to address the major challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These Principles also helped raise public debates over the Principles in partnership with other stakeholders like the Japan Civil Society Network on the SDGs.

Additionally, the host of SDSN Japan, UNU-IAS, jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), developed the ‘Guidelines for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) to Implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific’. As a concrete example, UNU-IAS and ESCAP helped the Government of Indonesia to develop and publish Indonesian MSP Guidelines in May 2019 to provide practical guidance and to support the capacity building for localizing the SDGs.

**SDG Dialogue Series**

SDSN Japan has developed the “SDG Dialogue Series”, an event series designed to discuss solutions and enhance public awareness of the SDGs. Recently, it co-organized a symposium on “Future Outlook on “The World in 2050” Initiative (TWI2050)’ together with UNU-IAS, the Japan Committee of IIASA, the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan (NIES), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The event concluded that both a science-based, long-term vision, and a shared understanding among multi-stakeholders are required. Participants also acknowledged the need to strengthen collaboration in the science community.

**SDG Future Cities**

The members of SDSN Japan are looking to pivot to sub-national SDG implementation by contributing to a project developed by the Japanese Government on “SDGs Future Cities”. The project is working on SDG implementation with 29 local governments selected in 2018 and an additional 31 selected in 2019. It also established the SDGs Platform of Public and Private Partnership for Local Vitalization in July 2018. Cities participating in the project will develop their own action plans, and strengthen their governance through SDGs internalization and multi-stakeholder partnership.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

In September 2018, several core members of SDSN Japan assisted the Government of Japan in collaborating on SDG localization with other countries in the Asia Pacific region, including presenting cities’ leading roles in the SDGs in ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme Inception. Over 2019-2020 the network will seek to be involved in more international fora to share lessons-learned from the Cities work.

**FIND OUT MORE**

- United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) – https://ias.unu.edu/en/research
- Guidelines Link – http://collections.unu.edu/ueiu/UNU-6459

**United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)**

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is a leading research and teaching institute based in Tokyo, Japan. UNU-IAS’ mission is to advance efforts towards a more sustainable future through policy-oriented research and capacity development focused on sustainability and its social, economic and environmental dimensions around the world.
Books cover more than 50% of Malaysia's land, but are under threat with a 2% annual decline.

With high prevalence of stunting, wasting and obesity, the underlying causes of poor nutrition in Malaysia need to be addressed.

Malaysia has achieved universal access to energy and fuel, but the energy system remains carbon intensive.

“Realizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is not the responsibility of governments alone. It requires the commitment of all sectors of society – the private sector, academia, civil society, and, of course, every single individual. We are all in this together.”

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah AO, Chair of SDSN Malaysia, Founder and Chairman, Sunway Group.
SDSN Malaysia was established in 2013 with the aim of mobilizing a community of experts and influencers to translate ideas and expertise into practical action towards the sustainable development for the country.

Stunting in Malaysia
SDSN Malaysia launched a research program based on the results from the 2018 SDG Index and Dashboards report, focusing on areas of critical concern for the country. The first paper, published in May 2019, addresses SDG 2 and calls on the government to make childhood stunting an immediate national priority. Malaysia’s stunting prevalence of 20.7% is currently far worse than that of less developed nations and is comparable to that of Iraq (22.6%). The paper argues that the government must pay more attention to the underlying causes of stunting highlighting that gaps exist in terms of household access to: (i) food security; (ii) adequate care and feeding practices; (iii) health services; and (iv) a healthy environment.

Fighting Chemical Dumping
In March 2019, the National Disaster Management Agency detected toxic chemicals released by a used tire processing factory, which caused serious pollution, poisoned more than a thousand people, and led to the closing of 111 schools and 64 preschools in the vicinity. This disastrous incident triggered a public outcry calling for industrial firms to properly manage chemical waste. The Institute for Environment and Development at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, a member institution of SDSN Malaysia, collaborated with the Chemical Industries Council of Malaysia to study the effectiveness of adoption and implementation of a voluntary Responsible Care initiative in chemical companies. The outcome of the project is a simplified and integrated management system for quality and environmental health and safety aspects of production and operations to ensure more responsibility and long term sustainability of businesses as well as the environment in which they operate.

Sustainable City for the Developing World
Sunway City is a model sustainable city that is driven by the private sector and based on partnership with the community, civil society, and local government with the aim of: improving the quality of life and well-being of citizens, fostering inclusive communities, and taking advantage of smart technologies to improve the efficiency of infrastructure and provide citizens with better services. The Sunway City model is intended to inspire urban development solutions that are scalable across other cities and townships in Malaysia and other parts of the developing world that are striving for greater wellbeing while coping with a growing urban population.

LOOKING AHEAD
Building on the success of the inaugural ASEAN Ministers Workshop, which JSC organized in 2017, the ASEAN Sustainable Development Summit in November 2019 will focus on topics such as cooperation between ASEAN countries in bringing about responsible action, the impact of the digital economy, and the opportunities and imperatives presented by urbanization. In collaboration with Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI), this one-day event will bring together ministers, policymakers, industry practitioners, civil society, and other experts to address shared challenges to sustainable development in the region.

FIND OUT MORE
• The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) – http://jeffreysachs.center/
• Simplified and Integrated Management System for Responsible Care in Chemical Industries – https://doi.org/10.1108/MEQ-07-2018-0126
Partnerships are crucial for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region. Research and innovation lead organizations, institutions, and the civil society for the achievement of common goals and proposing solutions to big challenges.

Angelo Riccaboni, Chair of SDSN Mediterranean, Chair of the PRIMA Foundation
SDSN Mediterranean

Hosted by the University of Siena – Santa Chiara Lab

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SDSN Mediterranean is a regional network that aims to boost awareness of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the Mediterranean region, promoting collaborative research, innovative teaching, youth leadership, and engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships. Additionally, SDSN Mediterranean is part of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for the Sustainable Development of the UN Environmental Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP).

PRIMA – Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

Initiated by the SDSN Mediterranean, PRIMA began as a partnership of 19 countries from the Med Region in 2017. It has since developed into a 10-year European Programme funding research and innovation projects in sustainable water and agriculture while incorporating the food value chain as a driver of regional and local development. To date, PRIMA is the most ambitious Mediterranean-wide program thanks to its unique approach which combines both science and cultural diplomacy towards sustainable development. The first round of calls in 2018 funded 36 projects promoted by 249 research organizations (including universities, research centers, enterprises, and NGOs) from 18 Mediterranean Countries (10 EU and 8 non-EU Member states).

PRIMA Observatory on Innovation (POI)

POI is a digital platform collecting, sharing, and promoting best research, innovation, and education practices in the Agri-Food sector. It highlights new concrete solutions for communities and enterprises and new partnerships among Euro Mediterranean researchers, innovators, businesses, and stakeholders and disseminates positive and remarkable stories of innovation, using traditional media and social networks.

LOOKING AHEAD

The network will collaborate with SDSN Black Sea on a “Three Seas Project”, which will focus on the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Black Sea, and will establish a cluster of Mediterranean Centers of Excellence for Food alongside SDSN Greece and (upcoming) SDSN Cyprus to stimulate rapid development and tackle common regional challenges.

COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Gibraltar, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

FIND OUT MORE

• PRIMA – www.prima-med.org
• Plastic Busters – http://plasticbusters.unisi.it
• POI – https://primoobservatory.unisi.it/en/homepage

University of Siena

Founded in 1240, the University of Siena is one of the world’s oldest universities in Italy. With a campus of about 15,000 students, it is actively involved in numerous international projects of education, research, mobility and training on sustainable development. In particular, the Santa Chiara Lab serves as an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development including SDSN Mediterranean, PRIMA, and POI.

Education for Sustainable Development

The network and its partners collaborate to promote innovative and quality teaching methods as essential tools for achieving the SDGs at the regional level. In just one year, the MOOC “Sustainable Food Systems (SFS): a Mediterranean Perspective”, developed in collaboration with the Barilla Foundation and the SDG Academy, has reached over 2600 learners and serves as a powerful tool for spreading scientific knowledge. In 2018, the MOOC received an award for “Best Practice” in the field of Innovative Teaching of Italian Public Administration and has since been adopted by the European Commission as a case study in an Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange funded project. Additionally, the network annually hosts the Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development, an intensive course for selected students focused on teaching and training sustainable development theories and practices.

COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Gibraltar, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

FIND OUT MORE

• PRIMA – www.prima-med.org
• Plastic Busters – http://plasticbusters.unisi.it
• POI – https://primoobservatory.unisi.it/en/homepage
High-level representatives during the inauguration of SDSN Mexico in Mexico City

The SDGs could not be implemented in Mexico without supporting research from academia and the vision of the next generation. Through SDSN Mexico, the government and the academic sector will generate solutions for the 2030 Agenda in a collaboration which seeks a country with social justice.

Alfonso Romo, Head of Office of the President

Main challenges facing the country are corruption, crime and the increase of social inequality

Gender parity achieved in Mexico’s Parliament

36% of adults in Mexico have access to a bank account
SDSN Mexico promotes and strengthens collaboration between academia, public and private sector, civil society, and nonprofit organizations and raises awareness of the 2030 Agenda. In order to achieve a greater impact, SDSN Mexico focuses on issues that promote social, economic, and institutional capacity development, highlighting the value of ecosystem services and integrating sustainable technologies. Additionally, the network’s mission is to generate innovative and practical solutions to achieve the SDGs that involve young people, harness innovation, and capitalize on qualified individuals in the field of sustainable development.

**Official Launch of SDSN Mexico**

SDSN Mexico was launched in March 2019 in Mexico City. The event was attended by more than 600 participants and boasted high-level participation from government, academia, and civil society, who all pointed towards the urgency to act in Mexico given the country’s severe environmental, social, and economic challenges to achieving most of the SDGs. The event featured a panel where experts discussed successes and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico. In his keynote speech, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs provided a detailed snapshot of the current sustainable development challenges in Mexico, pointing out the big opportunities the country has for solving them, particularly in renewable energy.

**Engaging with National Policymakers**

Since its inception, SDSN Mexico has made it a high priority to collaborate with a wide array of stakeholders in the country, including policymakers at the highest level. The network actively collaborates with the Office of the President to contribute and transfer top-notch academic knowledge to the design of public policies for the achievement of the Agenda 2030 in Mexico. In June 2019, the network and the federal government co-organized a meeting between Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus and Mexican students and social entrepreneurs. This event took place during the launch of the Agenda 2030 National Council, a designated entity for SDG coordination. Its objective is to promote public policies to enhance social enterprise and solve social and environmental challenges in Mexico. Additionally, members of the network participated in the meetings of the State Councils of the 2030 Agenda to contribute to the design of local policies for sustainable development.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network will soon launch an open-access platform to disseminate contributions, good practices, provide visibility and lessons learned from projects that help achieve the 2030 Agenda in Mexico. Additionally, the network has been working on a youth ambassador program that will develop projects related to the SDGs in collaboration with local governments which will launch at the end of 2019.

**FIND OUT MORE**

- SDSN Mexico brochure – [https://sdsnmexico.mx/brochure/](https://sdsnmexico.mx/brochure/)
The mean years of schooling in Nigeria is 6.2 years. Only 0.2% of wastewater is treated in Nigeria. The proportion of women in ministerial positions in Nigeria is only 8%.

“The SDGs offer us an opportunity to rediscover ourselves in an unprecedented manner that will enable us to recreate a common prosperous and sustainable present and future.”

Labode Popoola
Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University
Chair, SDSN Nigeria
SDSN Nigeria is a consortium of Nigerian universities and other academic tertiary institutions. The network’s vision is to be the vanguard of the national sustainable development efforts and the custodian of science, knowledge, and innovation for the sustainable development agenda.

Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS)
For the past ten years every August, SDSN Nigeria has co-organized the Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS), the premier academic forum on sustainable development issues in Nigeria and Africa at large. The summit has recorded remarkable milestones, including the localization of the SDGs in the Nigerian national context, the development of six local Solutions Initiatives, and the creation of strategic partnerships with members of business, civil society, non-profits, religious bodies, and government departments. Nearly 500 participants from academia, government, civil society, and business from all over Nigeria and the continent come together annually to share their expertise.

Role of Universities
Member universities have designed programs to help achieve the SDGs on campuses and in surrounding communities. The SDGs4Universities workshop was held in May 2019 at the Federal University of Technology, Owerri. The workshop was a collaborative effort with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor (Imo State) on SDGs and the International Climate Change Development Initiatives (ICCDI). The network also finalized the development of a national curriculum for SDGs at all levels of education.

Awareness Campaigns
The network partnered with the Sustainable Agriculture Intervention Network (SAINT) and the Coalition for Accelerating Sustainable Development in Africa (CASDA) on an initiative aimed at achieving SDGs 1 and 2. The goal of SAINT is to smallholder farmers to achieve sustainable livelihoods by transitioning from subsistence farming to climate-smart and commercial agriculture. Jointly, they met with farmers and community leaders in Tede, a community in Oyo State in April 2019. On Children’s Day, in May 2019, SDSN Youth Nigeria organized an awareness-raising walk on child literacy.

Capacity Building
In June 2019, the network launched the first workshop in a planned series of capacity-building trainings. This inaugural workshop, held in Abuja, was on research and grantsmanship for the SDGs. The purpose was to teach skills for successful research grant proposal writing and to share information on funding opportunities for SDG-related research. Grant implementation and reporting, research ethics, and other important topics of research design were also addressed.

LOOKING AHEAD
With the joint focus on sustainable agriculture and Land Governance, SDSN Nigeria will strengthen its collaboration with the two SDSN thematic networks on Extractives and Land Governance as well as Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems.

University of Ibadan
The University of Ibadan Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) was established in 2010 as a demonstration of the University’s commitment to sustainable development. It was based on the need to provide an intellectual platform for identification of issues germane to sustainable development, critically analyze them, and provide leadership in finding enduring solutions that will enhance sustainable development.

FIND OUT MORE
• Centre for Sustainable Development – https://cesdev.ui.edu.ng/
• University of Ibadan – www.ui.edu.ng

SDGs4Uni Workshop
The SDG Impact Assessment Tool in use

In order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we need to work smart and identify, apply, and scale up good solutions.”

Prof. Jan Pettersson, Head of the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development and Co-chair of SDSN Northern Europe

In Finland, a Citizens’ Panel for Sustainable Development assessed national indicators and identified Finnish sustainability challenges

Nordic countries – Denmark, Sweden and Finland – top the 2019 Sustainable Development Report

Nordic countries still face major challenges in implementing SDGs 12, 13, 14 & 15

SDSN Northern Europe’s co-chair Katherine Richardson (right) and UN DESA’s Shantanu Mukherjee (left) at the SDG Conference Bergen
SDSN Northern Europe

Hosted by the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development at Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg

Gothenburg, Sweden

SDSN Northern Europe is an action-oriented network focusing on mobilizing Nordic scientific and technological expertise to create a more sustainable society. Through a wide set of activities and initiatives, its members from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland link knowledge to action to implement the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

A new website for SDG impact assessments

The SDGs not only represent a framework for sustainable development for national governments, but also a framework that can be applied to almost any activity. At the same time, assessing the impact of policies and activities on the SDGs is a complex task that requires holistic, multidisciplinary thinking. Hence, tools that employ a structured approach towards such tasks are essential. In view of this, SDSN Northern Europe and Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development have developed and launched the SDG Impact Assessment Tool. The free online self-assessment tool displays how an activity, organization, or innovation impacts the SDGs. It aims to enhance its users’ understanding of the SDGs, the complexity of sustainable development and how different activities in society impact the SDGs. The tool provides a simple and structured approach and outputs a graphical visualization of an SDG Impact Assessment. This tool has already been used by the network in the context of its annual Solutions Initiative Forums (e.g. see Solutions Initiative Forum – Air) to evaluate how solutions featured at the event are impacting the SDGs.

Promoting Solutions to Air Pollution to improve Air Quality

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution causes 8 million deaths as well as another 7 million premature deaths globally every year. More than 90% of the world population lives in areas where the WHO guideline values for air pollution are exceeded. Air pollution is also linked to climate change and contamination of the environment. No doubt, this challenge is pivotal for sustainable development. As joint problems require joint solutions, SDSN Northern Europe and the Gothenburg Air and Climate Network arranged the “Solutions Initiative Forum – Air” on the 28th of August 2019, an action-oriented event where entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, businesses, civil society, policy makers, and academia came together to promote solutions for the challenge of air pollution. At the event, the Air Solutions Report was launched, describing the challenge and presenting 20 transformative, scalable, and holistic solutions.

LOOKING AHEAD

The network aims to further develop the SDG Impact Assessment Tool into a more flexible platform that includes more functions. It also seeks to enhance the collaboration with innovation offices among its member universities and advance the concept of their Solutions Initiative Forum.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway

FIND OUT MORE

• SDG Impact Assessment Tool – https://sdgimpactassessmenttool.org/

Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development

The University of Gothenburg and the Chalmers University of Technology share the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development (GMV). GMV promotes education, research, innovation and stakeholder communication in sustainable development and aims to increase interdisciplinary knowledge on the SDGs among the public and experts.

Photo: ©Per Petersson, modified by Nina Silow

Solutions Initiative Forum Air

Photo: ©Per Petersson, modified by Nina Silow

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Siquijor, Philippines

Global ranking dropped from 85 to 97/162 in the 2019 Sustainable Development Report

Stagnating trends and major challenges in achieving SDG 6

On track to achieving SDG 1

For our institutions to find sustainable development solutions, we need not only to understand how natural and human systems work, but also to recognize key roles and perspectives of a range of stakeholders. Universities are in a unique position to connect people of different viewpoints and to become a marketplace for solutions.”

Dr. Assunta Cuyegkeng,
Chair, Leadership Council,
SDSN Philippines
DSN Philippines is geared towards engaging higher education institutions (HEI) in promoting and achieving the SDGs, as well as connecting the needs of business groups and other stakeholders with actions and solutions that can advance sustainable development in the country.

Collaborating with Universities
In 2017, Dr. Assunta Cuyegkeng, Chair of the SDSN Philippines Leadership Council and Director of Ateneo de Manila University’s Institute of Sustainability (AIS), brought together faculty members from across disciplines for an Interdisciplinary Technical Working Group on Water. Two years on, the team consisting of experts from economics, environmental science, sociology and anthropology, political science, and computer engineering, is concluding its framework to assess the supply and demand of water in several urban poor communities in Pandi, Bulacan, a municipality north of Metro Manila. Alongside this, a team from the De La Salle University, another major Philippine university, is also concluding its study using the same methodology to define water issues in two municipalities in Bulacan, and Quezon, located in the southeast of Metropolitan Manila.

Strengthening Partnerships for Addressing the SDGs
SDSN Philippines, with assistance from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, is conducting a series of workshops co-hosted by member-universities around the country. The workshops are crafted to foster collaborations across sectors by providing a platform for various stakeholders from small and medium enterprises (SMEs), academia, and local government to come together and align their initiatives with sustainable development challenges that they identify within their local contexts. Aside from promoting and raising awareness of the SDGs, which the modules are based on, the workshops also aim to localize and contextualize methods of interdisciplinary problem-solving. The workshop facilitators will be from the various host universities where they will be trained beforehand to be able to conduct the workshops themselves even after the project is completed.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Philippines is working on a partnership with the International Center for Innovation, the Transformation and Excellence in Governance, and the Global Compact Philippines for the Forum on Sustainable Development with the Club of Madrid in the country. The objective of this activity is to organize a broad discussion on the SDGs among different stakeholders, including business, academia, and civil society, in order to urge the government to act on the country’s pressing needs.

University of the Philippines
Founded in 1908, the University of the Philippines is the country’s national university and is the premier institution for tertiary education. It was established to provide advanced training in literature, philosophy, the sciences and arts, and to give professional and technical training to students regardless of age, sex, nationality, religious belief, and political affiliation.

FIND OUT MORE
- Ateneo Institute of Sustainability (AIS) – http://www.ateneo.edu/ais
SDSN Russia is located in Moscow but mobilizes academia all around the country.

Russia is on track. A Voluntary National Review is being prepared, and several very solid working groups for each of the SDGs have been gathered. Sustainable development issues are reflected in national plans, and, in particular, new energy security strategies. SDSN Russia is making valuable contributions to it.”

Alexey Kokorin, Climate Change Officer, WWF Russia
SDSN Russia translates the SDGs to the Russian context by providing top-notch research, boosting youth leadership, and engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships to prepare the country for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Engaging Russian Society
SDSN Russia promotes the SDGs through conferences and scientific seminars, working with multiple local and international stakeholders, state and municipal authorities, business, academia, and students. In 2018 and 2019, the network hosted roundtables and presented reports on the SDGs in Moscow and several other Russian cities. In February 2019, SDSN Russia organized a public event themed “Sustainable Development of Cities”, bringing together urbanists, activists, and practitioners in order to popularize the concept of sustainable development. In June 2019, the network invited the global coordinator of SDSN Youth to give a lecture as an advocate for the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement and participate in a panel discussion at the ECOCUP Green Talks.

Localizing the SDGs in Strategic Programs and Plans for Russia
Following its vision to provide high-level government support for SDG implementation, a number of experts from SDSN Russia have taken part in developing regional and municipal strategies for SDG localization in Kursk, Bryansk, and Togliatti. In addition, SDSN Russia experts moderated a session on “Strategic planning in the cities and regions of Russia” during the XVII Strategic Forum Stakeholders of the Future 2018, in St. Petersburg aimed at shedding light on the sustainable urban transition in the country.

Conducting high-level Scientific Research
The network specializes in transforming research projects into policy action at the highest level. This year, the network’s research has focused on the following topics:
- Joint achievement of SDG subsets using structural equation modeling (SEM)
- Quantitative analysis of investment barriers in low-carbon technologies, and the deterioration of the country’s investment climate, using the RU-TIMES model
- Economic policy mechanisms and tools to support the development of renewable energy in Russia and in the world
- Basic emission scenarios in comparison to Russia’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), and the role of renewable energy in achieving declared commitments
- Modern practices to improve municipal solid waste management

Additionally, SDSN Russia is working on a Sustainable Development Report for Russia and recently published several papers on this topic.

Looking Ahead
SDSN Russia aims to provide further expertise to the government and to take part in developing several national projects, including on environmental protection, small and medium enterprise (SME) development, and other themes. SDSN Russia will also participate in the development of Russia’s Voluntary National Review which will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2020.

Find Out More
- ECOCUP Green Talks festival panel discussion “How to save the world and become a millionaire: sustainable development and renewable energy”
- www.ranepa.ru/eng/sdsn/
sdsn-russia
- Preliminary research on an SDG Index for Russia – https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330970254_Inkluzivnyj_rast_i_ustojcivost_regionov Rossi

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)
RANEPA was founded in 1946 as a public administration school for civil servants. Today, RANEPA is one of the most well-known universities in Russia, hosting a very prestigious business school, and considered a national educational leader in public administration. Its think tank provides top-notch expertise to government officials and its regional campuses spread across 53 Russian regions.
Think of Africa, and the first images that come to mind are of war, poverty, famine, and flies. How many of us really know anything at all about the truly great ancient African civilizations, which in their day, were just as splendid and glorious as any on the face of the earth?"

Henry Louis Gates Jr., Wonders of the African World
A cross the region, SDSN Sahel is working to raise awareness and promote solutions for the SDGs.

**Partnership with ONE**
SDSN Sahel and the ONE Campaign have teamed up to promote and raise awareness of the SDGs in Senegal. In November 2018, a membership drive was organized at UCAD. On International Women’s Day, a panel was organized to discuss the problem of keeping girls in school. Finally, SDSN Sahel participated in the training workshop for the “ONE Champions”, a group of dynamic young volunteers who are passionate about sustainable development and support ONE Africa’s advocacy work.

**Localizing SDG Data**
Senegal faces substantial data gaps and lags for monitoring the SDGs. The network has promoted a territorial information system based on the SDGs, involving local and regional authorities as a way to improve data coverage and ensure good coherence between local and national planning. The aim of this system is to create a harmonized database that can be used by all development actors and policy makers operating in various sectors and at different levels. In support of this project, the network partnered with SDSN TReNDS to bring together data experts from the Local Data Action program to share experiences on building sub-national data systems that contribute to national SDG monitoring. Held in Dakar in April 2019, the workshop covered the state of the implementation of the SDGs in Senegal (data issues), lessons, and best practices from the local data action solutions initiative experts, and presented new tools and technology for monitoring SDGs. The network collaborated with the Senegalese National Statistical and Demographic Agency, the Directorate General of Planning and Economic Policies, the National Assembly, Association of Local Elected Representatives, and the Africa Governance Institute.

**Women Deliver 2019**
SDSN Sahel was a part of the Senegalese delegation of the Deliver for Good campaign that attended the Women Deliver conference (WD 2019) in Vancouver, Canada. WD 2019 is the largest international conference of the twenty-first century devoted to gender equality and health, as well as the rights and well-being of girls and women.

**LOOKING AHEAD**
SDSN Sahel is in the process of establishing a new partnership with UNDP and the ONE Campaign to achieve multiple objectives, including building up local data systems, documenting good practices in implementation, advocating for multi-source financing, and raising awareness of local actors. In addition, the network is putting in place a fundraising strategy based on advocacy and domestic resource mobilization to finance innovative projects on data.

**COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK**
Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal

**FIND OUT MORE**
- Cheikh Anta Diop University – [www.ucad.sn](http://www.ucad.sn)
- ONE Campaign – [https://www.one.org/africa/](https://www.one.org/africa/)
- Women Deliver 2019: [https://wd2019.org](https://wd2019.org)
India accounts for 7.8% of the global achievement gap for SDG 1. Bangladesh and India are the only two governments which have conducted an estimate of incremental financing needs to implement the SDGs.

Afghanistan is the lowest-performing South Asian country on the SDGs according to the 2019 Sustainable Development Report.

The SDG targets are emerging as tangible goals to measure national and state-level development efforts in India. SDSN South Asia will engage in various activities to capture its progress in the coming year. One step in this direction is the creation of the Food and Land Use Coalition which counts TERI, WRI, CEEW & IIM-A as active participants.

Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI & Director General, TERI, and Chair, SDSN South Asia
SDSN South Asia was established in 2014 to bring together academic and policy institutions from the region to focus on the SDGs. The SDSN South Asia boasts a strong member-base comprised of over 50 research institutions, universities, and think tanks. The network’s current focus areas include poverty reduction, food security, energy, education, sustainable consumption and production, health, climate change, urbanization, air and water pollution, and building partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs.

South Asia as a region grapples with innumerable challenges from poverty to energy and water scarcity, to basic healthcare and sanitation. Yet the region is making concerted efforts to address sustainable development. According to the 2019 Sustainable Development Report, India is the only country reported to have conducted a preliminary evaluation of financing needs to achieve the SDGs. All South Asian countries have shown significant progress in achieving SDGs in the past year.

Network Outreach
The SDSN South Asia was represented by TERI SAS and SDSN Youth at the 2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York from April 8-9, 2019. A report reviewing SDSN Youth activities for the year 2018-19 was also launched at the same time. The Youth network coordinated and engaged in various seminars, conferences, school activities, sensitization and awareness programs around the SDGs and their implementation. The SDG coordinators from TERI SAS & from Kathmandu University represented the network in various programmes and initiatives. Additionally, in April 2019, SDSN South Asia presented a paper by Ranjula Bali Swain, Professor at Misum, Stockholm School of Economics and Södertörn University, Sweden, on “Modeling Interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goals Using Network Analysis”.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN South Asia plans to conduct a seminar series in the coming years focused on specific SDGs and their implementation approaches in India and the region. TERI is also partnering with World Resources Institute (WRI) India, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) on a new project on “Sustainable Food and Land Use Systems in India” sponsored by the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). The project seeks to address the important development, climate, environment, biodiversity and health/nutrition challenges that India will face in the coming decades within the framework of the Food and Land Use System.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
Established in 1974, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a not-for-profit research organization committed to every aspect of sustainable development, and focuses on finding innovative solutions to pressing global issues through research and practice. TERI works on a range of issues including energy access, sustainable lifestyles, water resources, biotechnology and agriculture, energy efficiency, and sustainable development of mineral resources, climate change, natural resource conservation, and transport.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

FIND OUT MORE
• The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) – www.teriin.org/
Indonesia’s President Joko Widodo during his keynote remarks at the Blended Finance Conference

Singapore ranked as the happiest country in Southeast Asia Region

49.8% of the population in Southeast Asia is urban

The Sustainable Development Goals have been translated into national development agendas by most of the Southeast Asian countries. SDSN Southeast Asia engages governments of the region to share best practices and lessons learned on SDG implementation across academic, public, and private sectors, thereby bringing about real change with this comprehensive agenda.

Cherie Nursalim, Chair, SDSN Southeast Asia
Following the adoption of the SDGs, SDSN Southeast Asia mobilized efforts to achieve the 2030 in the region. As the network assessed the 17 goals, they reflected on how the roots of the local culture and spiritual philosophy impacted their implementation. One of the most well-known of such philosophies in this region is the Balinese Philosophy of Tri Hita Karana, or the Three Ways to Happiness.

**Happiness Festival 2019**

For the second year in a row, the network co-organized the SDG Happiness Festival in Jakarta with support from the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Project Semesta, and United in Diversity (UID). The festival is inspired by the SDG Pyramid to Happiness, an initiative led by UID which frames the 17 SDGs according to the three pathways to happiness rooted in Balinese belief, Tri Hita Karana. This traditional philosophy emphasizes harmony of people with each other (SDGs 1-10), harmony of people with nature (SDGs 11-15), and harmony of people with their spirituality (SDGs 16-17). The Happiness Festival aims to encourage every level of society and stakeholders to actively participate and take action in fulfilling the SDGs and solve the disharmony of social, ecological, and spiritual relationships occurring in Indonesia.

**Blended Finance and Innovation**

The second Tri Hita Karana Forum (THK Forum) for Sustainable Development was held in Bali in October 2018 around the IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings and was endorsed by the President of Indonesia. Organized around the theme “Blended Finance and Innovation for Better Business Better World”, the THK forum aimed to align global action for the SDGs with a particular focus on mobilizing private capital and innovation for the SDGs in Indonesia and the region. The THK Forum succeeded in raising awareness by launching over 30 high-impact initiatives and mobilizing close to USD 10 billion for priority SDG sectors.

Amongst the notable initiatives that included green infrastructure, sustainable land use, oceans, eco-tourism, health, women, and innovation, one key highlight was the Indonesia project – a first-of-its-kind integrated blended finance platform launched by Indonesia’s national infrastructure financial institution, PT SMI. The platform has already achieved USD 2.46 billion in commitment of its target of USD 4 billion, and will support large-scale sustainable infrastructure in Indonesia.

Equally significant was the launch of the Bali Tri Hita Karana Roadmap for Blended Finance – an initiative led by the Indonesian government and facilitated by the OECD with commitment from major partners to embrace a shared blended finance value system and actions to mobilize private funds for the delivery of the SDGs.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Moving forward, the network will focus on the concept of Blended Finance and apply it to practical problems across Indonesia and scale it with the support of the national government and with investments from major international partners.

**COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK**

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

**FIND OUT MORE**

- Happiness Festival – [https://www.happinessfestival.id/](https://www.happinessfestival.id/)
The government developed an USD 84 billion five-year green growth project that aims to boost energy efficiency and green technology.

Acid rain, sulfur oxides, and annual yellow dust storms are huge air quality challenges.

We should address our national fine dust crisis from the SDGs perspective. When checked against the SDGs, this crisis is seen as not just a health issue but multifaceted issues facing society today in which public health, energy, industry, climate change, growth and employment, even poverty, inequalities, and education are intertwined. Solutions must explore the intersecting concerns of the various stakeholders involved."

Soogil Young, Chairman, SDSN Korea
SDSN South Korea mobilizes high-level support and public interest to promote a governance framework to mainstream the SDGs in their national policy agenda. To achieve this, the network positions itself as the convener of national-level thought leaders on sustainable development issues, conducts research projects, and organizes public discussions to rethink the meaning of the nation’s ultimate goal ‘development’ to be aligned with the SDGs, which serve as an integrative ‘scorecard’.

**SDSN Korea Sustainable Development Forum**

The network is expanding the Korea Sustainable Development Forum. This dialogue platform was launched in 2018 as a public forum for participation by all interested experts. The aim is to demonstrate the value of the SDGs as a means to identify harmonious solutions for gridlocked political issues and, by doing so, to prompt political leaders to take the still-pending legislative steps to mainstream the SDGs in national governance. In 2019, the Forum will address the following issues:

- Korea’s progress in sustainable development under the SDGs and the happiness metrics;
- The state of legislating the institutional framework for implementation of the SDGs;
- Exploring fundamental solutions to the fine dust crisis – the SDGs perspective;
- Localizing the SDGs and the social market economy as a pillar of local solutions;
- North Korea’s reform priorities for sustainable development and the efficacy of international assistance;
- Low-income developing countries’ take-away from the Korean Economic Miracle: a critical assessment for their sustainable development.

**Diversified Research**

The network continued its third year of steering the Mid-Latitude Region Network (MLRN). The MLRN is a thematic international network for monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs implementation based on spatio-temporal information. It had published its Expert Group Meeting report in 2018 and is now carrying out three related projects including one on “Developing Earth Observation Data-Sharing System of Monitoring, Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptive Pathways for the Food-Water-Ecosystem Nexus in MLRN”. The outputs from this initiative will feed into the SDSN’s FABLE program.

The network also conducted research on South Korea’s early development experiences to identify translatable lessons for sustainable development of today’s low-income developing countries as well as research on North Korea’s approach to harnessing the SDGs for road-mapping its reform agenda to jumpstart its sustainable development.

**Education**

The network has been engaging universities in blending courses with the SDG Academy MOOCs. In the last year, the KDI School of Public Policy and Management opened a MOOC on “The Korean Story: Secrets of An Economic Miracle” on the SDG Academy platform, also publishing a collection of articles under the same title to support the course.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Later this year, the network will work with the SDSN Academy to help Korean Universities to incorporate sustainable development into their classrooms by offering to help draw modularly on relevant SDG Academy MOOCs. Additionally, SDSN Korea will launch a nation-wide campaign to spread university education on sustainable development, by publicizing opportunities for collaboration with the SDG Academy in 2019, building on its efforts of the last two years. Additionally, the network will continue to build momentum within the MLRN and looks to identify synergies with the global FABLE program.

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**Ojeong Eco-Resilience Institute (OJERI) at Korea University**

Understanding ecosystem resilience is a central concept of Korea University’s founding philosophy and corresponds with humanity’s ideal of improving the quality of life and using a limited amount of natural resources. The university’s Ojeong Eco-Resilience Institute, through its fundamental and applied research on ecosystem resilience, is prepared to contribute to the attainment of a sustainable society.

Honorary Chairman: Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General
Chairman: Prof. Soogil Young, State University of New York (SUNY) Korea
Director: Prof. Woo-Kyun Lee, Korea University

**FIND OUT MORE**

Three years have passed since adopting the SDGs – now is the time to accelerate action. As SDSN Spain, we have managed to position the SDGs on the national agenda and have invited many different actors to join the national conversation. The focus of the network moving forward is to continue in this spirit, cultivating and supporting projects that accelerate the impact of its work so far.’’

Leire Pajín, Chair, SDSN Spain

The Mayors of Vitoria, Malaga, Madrid and Soria at the Urban SDG Report Launch in 2018 held at the Spanish Federation of Municipalities, Madrid, October 2018.

According to the ‘Urban SDG Report’, Spanish cities perform well in SDG 3 & SDG 16

Almost 40% of parliamentarians in Spain are women

First meeting of the Sustainable Development National Council in Spain, February 2019
SDSN Spain, also known as REDS (Red Española para el Desarrollo Sostenible), has been actively engaging different levels of government to promote the implementation of the SDGs.

**Mobilizing stakeholders through SDG Awareness**

The Spanish network works with various levels of government to ensure widespread awareness and action on the SDGs, organizing, among other events, an Annual Meeting to discuss the progress of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. At the national level, the network has been collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation since 2017 on the implementation and communication of the SDGs. To this end, the network has participated in meetings with the parliament to discuss recommendations on the role of parliamentary commissions in achieving the 2030 Agenda. In July 2019, the network organized the first-ever ‘Multistakeholder SDG Forum’, an expert workshop with 100 relevant participants from civil society, academia, politics, and the private sector to contribute to the new National Strategy for Sustainable Development; and also, a high-level roundtable to discuss results for Spain in SDSN’s 2019 Sustainable Development Report.

The network also aims to leverage art and culture as a communications tool for sustainable development and to help align these institutions with the SDGs. REDS has already organized three editions of the Seminar on Arts and Sustainable Development in 2017, 2018, and 2019, while also developing the first website in Spain on culture and sustainable development, ‘CulturaSostenible.org’.

**Education for Sustainable Development**

In 2018 the Spanish version of the guide “Getting started with the SDGs in Universities” was produced in collaboration with various academic members of REDS and it’s being widely used as a road map by many Spanish-speaking universities. In addition to its previous engagement on launching “Sustainable Food Systems: a Mediterranean Perspective” alongside SDSN Mediterranean and the SDG Academy, the network has actively contributed to the development of a new MOOC, in partnership with the SDG Academy and the Inter-American Development Bank on “Strategic Alliances to Achieve the SDGs”. This MOOC, entirely in Spanish, will be launched in the fall of 2019. Also, in 2019, REDS launched the report “From Environmental Education to Education in Sustainability” in collaboration with the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, and has fostered a participative process to develop a new national strategy for environmental education in Spain, which will conclude in 2020.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

REDS is looking to launch several projects over 2019-2020 including several reports: SDGs and Tourism Report (September 2019), a Guide to SDGs in universities: best practices in Spain (November 2019), and the 2020 edition of the Urban SDG Report in 100 Spanish cities (June 2020). Additionally, the network will host the Seminar on Arts & Sustainability (January 2020), launch a White Paper on Environmental Education in Spain (2020), and organize meeting entitled “SDGs Breakfasts: mobilizing the private sector around the 2030 Agenda” (2019-2020).

**FIND OUT MORE**

- Accelerate 2030 – www.accelera2030.org
- Seminar on Culture and Sustainable Development – reds-sdsn.es/conclusiones-sostenibilidad-cultura
- Cultura Sostenible – www.culturasostenible.org

Hosted by Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)

> Madrid, Spain

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)
The REDS Association is hosted in partnership with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). The UAM has earned itself a prestigious reputation as a state-of-the-art public university in view of the high-quality teaching and research activities on offer. Guided by their vocation to serve society, the academic and social values of its centers and services are reflected in their activities which aim to enhance solidarity, cooperation, and the overall health of people and the environment.
Science is very clear, we are facing an existential climate and biodiversity crisis, which makes it impossible to reach the SDGs by 2030 as the window to act is closing rapidly. Therefore, it’s essential to be united across generations, break down silos in all sectors, and begin acting boldly with a transformative mindset alongside SDSN Switzerland.”

Marie-Claire Graf, Youth Advocate and Change Maker for Sustainable Development, President of Swiss Association of Student Organizations for Sustainability
SDSN Switzerland brings together world-class science, impact-oriented civil society, and responsible and innovative businesses to co-create and implement transformative solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland and beyond.

**Innovative Solutions to Raise Awareness**

As broad-based cultural and educational institutions, libraries are relevant actors for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. SDSN Switzerland recognizes the importance of libraries as engines of local development in Switzerland. For this reason, the network collaborates with Swiss libraries on the project "Biblio 2030" which aims to encourage awareness around the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation through informational events, courses for the library staff, posters, and media compilations.

Moreover, the network successfully organized with Impact Hub, GERG-EPFL, and collaboratio helvetica the project "Circular Resources Lab – Beyond Waste", a social laboratory to explore the potential of ecosystem awareness and facilitate the co-creation of circular economy solutions in the Swiss Canton of Vaud. The participants worked in teams to develop ideas such as a training program to educate about circular economy opportunities in the construction sector or a service to collect spent mushroom substrate and repurpose it as an organic soil fertilizer and distributing it to farmers to address the problem of decaying soils in Switzerland.

**Mobilizing all Stakeholders for the Transformation towards Sustainability**

For its 2019 conference (held in May) entitled “The Sustainability Transformation: A Joint Task for Our Society” the network aimed at triggering local debate around sustainable development and inspire calls to action to accelerate the sustainable development transition in the region.

As part of the conference, the network organized ‘Learning Journeys’ to explore different industries, such as textile and mobility as well as social issues, like gender and migration, and analyzed their respective sustainable development challenges. Throughout the Learning Journeys, participants from multiple backgrounds made real-life experiences and encounters, met experts and shared insights. As a result, the participants crafted specific calls to action to shape the implementation of the SDGs in Switzerland.

Moreover, Learning Journeys, participants from multiple backgrounds made real-life experiences and encounters, met experts and shared insights. As a result, the participants crafted specific calls to action to shape the implementation of the SDGs in Switzerland. In the afternoon, a panel with representatives of government, science, business, and civil society discussed and shared ideas on how stakeholders can collaborate more successfully towards the sustainable future of Switzerland.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Together with its members, SDSN Switzerland will continue its work to link sectors which will be informed by its study of interdependencies between SDGs and national targets in Switzerland and shaped by dialogues and calls to action initiated at the 2019 conference. Through its Solutions Initiatives, the network will engage and enable partners to upscale and disseminate innovative solutions for sustainable development. Additionally, the network is also positioned to be actively engaged in providing its input to the upcoming political debates.

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**Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern**

CDE is Switzerland’s center of excellence for sustainable development. One of the University of Bern’s strategic research centers tasked with mainstreaming sustainability throughout the university’s research and teaching. Its aim is to chart pathways to sustainable development and to initiate transformations in line with the Agenda 2030.

**Biovision – Foundation for Ecological Development**

Founded in 1998, Biovision combats hunger and poverty at their roots. Through its active participation in the negotiations, Biovision captures the transformative power of the Agenda 2030 and the political processes that will support such a transformation. In Switzerland and internationally, Biovision is known for conducting a constructive dialogue with different stakeholders groups.

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**FIND OUT MORE**

- Sign up for the bi-monthly newsletter – [www.sdsn.ch/contact](http://www.sdsn.ch/contact)
Together with WWF and others, SDSN Turkey engages in a project to reduce plastic pollution.

**SDSN Turkey is a driving force in the country for positive change around the SDGs. Working together, even over a short period of time, to address plastic pollution in the region has already led to notable progress and we are very thrilled to have them as strong partners in our efforts to raise environmental awareness in Turkey and beyond.**

Aslı Durukan Pasinli, General Manager of WWF Turkey
SDSN Turkey aims to work with all levels of Turkish society to build local capacity around the SDGs through raising awareness and engaging stakeholders in Turkey and beyond.

**Education for Sustainable Development**

The network presents SDG Academy courses to companies, institutions, and governmental organizations. To further this work, the network has also organized workshops in Enka High School (Istinye, Kocaeli, Adapazari), FMV İşik Schools, Istanbul Aydın University, Middle East Technical University, and Abdullah Gül University, on how they could better integrate the SDGs into their curriculum and policies. SDSN Turkey has contributed to REC (the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe) Turkey and Boğaziçi University’s Lifelong Learning Center (BUYEM) via the SDG Academy on themes such as Sustainable Cities, Water, Climate Change, and How to Achieve SDGs with Technology.

**Mitigating Plastic Pollution**

In 2018, SDSN Turkey organized a summit which led to the formation of a group of local and regional stakeholders dedicated to defining solutions for plastic pollution. Through workshops and discussions, the group agreed to develop a research project aimed at redefining plastic use in Turkey. The project is ongoing with the active participation of WWF Turkey, Boston Consulting Group, and other industry pioneers who are passionate about eliminating the harmful impact of plastics. In the same spirit, the network is collaborating with Istanbul’s PTwist Project to develop and present innovative strategies to enhance the circular economy of industrial plastics. The network also organized a workshop in June 2019 to present innovative strategies and test sustainable approaches on the plastic value chain with participants from the central government, municipalities, private sector, NGOs, and academia.

**Working with Youth**

SDSN Turkey sees great value in engaging Turkey’s youth on the SDGs and is a strong collaborator with SDSN Youth and other youth-led initiatives. Activities over the last year include participating in the Global Festival of Action (May 2019), promoting SDSN Youth’s Global School Program and developing an “SDG4 Kids Play Cards and Board Game”. Additionally, the network organized a 2nd Youth Festival in May 2019, in collaboration with WWF Turkey, to raise awareness on SDGs among local youth. Forty projects based on solutions to SDGs were presented as part of the “Nature Heros Project Competition”. The top solutions won the chance to visit a WWF Marine Research Boat and participate in BUYEM-SDSN Turkey Talent Camps.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network will continue to contextualize SDG Academy courses for Turkish stakeholders by translating education materials into Turkish. The network will also continue its work on plastics to establish a platform where plastic producers, users, and consumers can openly discuss and form policies via experimentation for the responsible use of plastic and develop “tokeneconomics”. The network also has the ambition to launch an SDSN Turkey SDG Festival which will highlight and reward the best SDG related projects in Turkey.

**FIND OUT MORE**

- Boğaziçi University – www.boun.edu.tr/en-US/Index
- PTwist Istanbul – http://www.tages.biz/plastictwistanbul/
- WWF Turkey – https://www.wwf.org.tr/
We’re here to help promote the SDGs and sustainable development more generally in the United States through a nationwide alliance of universities that is also connected to a global network. The network can help to lead the SDGs in the US by educating and training our students for sustainable development leadership, by teaming up to develop national-scale solutions via a 50-state network of universities, and bringing government, business, civil society, and the public together for brainstorming, deliberation, and action.

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of SDSN and Co-Chair of SDSN USA
SDSN USA’s activities are centered on a common belief in deep, transformative change, practical systems for measuring progress, the importance of localization and community engagement, and the power of connecting across disciplines and sectors, with universities and research institutions leading the way.

**Launch of SDSN USA**

The SDSN USA was launched on December 4, 2018 at Columbia University in the City of New York. The launch was attended by over 100 people from over 80 institutions in 35 US States. Attendees were motivated by a common mission to build pathways for the achievement of the SDGs in the US by mobilizing research, outreach, and collective action.

**US Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (US-DDPP)**

SDSN is working with partners to contribute to a much-needed energy transformation in the US to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. An effort is underway to publish two decarbonization studies focused on the US Southeast and Midwest regions. These studies will leverage DDPP modeling to develop region-specific infrastructure strategies, clarify technology choices and investment options, and identify issues and uncertainties that are important for each of these regions. The reports will be published in late 2019.

**Network Engagement**

In early 2019, SDSN USA presented on the SDGs in the US context at conferences across the country, including in Portland, Maine; at Penn State College in Pennsylvania; in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Additional presentations are planned at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference & Expo in the fall of 2019.

SDSN USA also hosted a dialogue on the Built Environment in April 2019, bringing together a group of 30 planners, architects, designers, community organizers, and academics at the Faculty House of Columbia University in New York to discuss the built environment and SDG 11.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

SDSN USA members have expressed interest in initiatives focused on decarbonization; agriculture, food, water, and land use; cities, communities and the built environment; data; curriculum; and the Leave No One Behind Agenda. The network aims to build out a SDSN Youth program to support and activate these projects.

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**Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development**

The Center of Sustainable Development (CSD) mobilizes the scientific expertise of the Earth Institute and its partners to provide policy support – as requested by governments and development organizations – in order to address the challenges of sustainable development in a global society.

**Yale University**

Since its founding in 1701, Yale has been dedicated to expanding and sharing knowledge, inspiring innovation, and preserving cultural and scientific information for future generations.

**University of California, San Diego**

UC San Diego is transforming California and a diverse global society by educating, by generating and disseminating knowledge and creative works, and by engaging in public service.

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**FIND OUT MORE**

- SDSN USA Launch – [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR5mk4gtu_R](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR5mk4gtu_R)
Upcoming Networks

Chile
While Chile is considered one of the most economically stable economies in South America, it faces high-income inequality. Given its leadership in hosting the 3rd meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in April 2019, as well as the UNFCCC COP25 in December 2019, the country is well-positioned to host a national SDSN, potentially between the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Universidad de Concepción.

Colombia
In March 2018, SDSN joined Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia to announce the launch of the SDG Center for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Center will also host a national SDSN Colombia network, focusing explicitly on mobilizing the academic community in Colombia to support the commitments of the Government of Colombia, an early and proud adopter of the SDGs. With support from the Inter-American Development Bank and many others, the Center and Network will be officially operational and begin their ambitious work program in 2020.

Cyprus
Cyprus lags behind the rest of Europe when it comes to implementing the SDGs. The country ranks 61st out of 162 countries in the 2019 Sustainable Development Report, lower than any other EU country. According to its Voluntary National Review, Cyprus has particular deficits in stakeholder participation as well as in the monitoring and review process of SDG achievement. A national SDSN in the country is ready to tackle these challenges, and will be spearheaded by the Cyprus Institute.

Ghana
Ghana has shown a great deal of leadership on the SDGs and President Akufo-Addo is a co-Chair of the SDG Advocates. SDSN is in discussions with several universities in the country to set up a National SDSN.

Kenya
42% of Kenya’s 44 million people live below the poverty line with limited access to education, health, and other critical services. However, Kenya is also home to some of the continent’s top universities. Kenya’s academic institutions are pioneering innovative solutions to achieve the SDGs in low-resource settings, and learning lessons that can benefit other countries facing similar challenges. Moi University and the University of Nairobi have led academic engagement on the SDGs and are ready to launch a national network.

South Africa
South Africa has a strong academic sector with deep expertise. At the same time, the country faces challenges such as unsustainable use of land and water resources, and high inequality. The University of Pretoria has developed the South Africa SDG Hub, which connects policymakers with the research and innovations needed to implement the SDGs, and would like to coordinate a new national network.

Uganda
The 2030 Agenda was adopted under Uganda’s Presidency of the UN General Assembly. Despite some progress, Uganda still faces significant challenges, namely continued pressure on forest cover because of limited access to modern forms of energy; high inequality and vulnerability; and the need for deeper and broader economic diversification and integration. Makerere University will host a new national network.

Western Balkans
The Western Balkans have been the scene of several of Europe’s most recent conflicts, aggravating the need for economic, social, and environmental development in the region and leading to a politically charged setting for regional cooperation. Still, the region is united by its wish to join the European Union and implement the SDGs. This network would cover Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.
Our Thematic Networks

SDSN’s Thematic Networks support SDG advocacy and implementation in key areas. Each network has one or more institutional hosts and a roster of expert members from around the world. Thematic Networks act as knowledge hubs, sharing new developments in research, policy, and program development, as well as educational materials, including through the SDG Academy. They also support the National and Regional SDSNs on advocacy for the SDGs and operationalizing the goals in each country. SDSN currently has a dozen Thematic Networks across the full range of sustainable development areas. Four are featured in this report as they exemplify how Thematic Networks can collaborate with National and Regional SDSNs.
Extractive industry and land investments contribute to many states’ economies, but also often burden the environments and communities near project sites. The SDSN Thematic Network on the Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources looks at how to improve resource use, including land, for sustainable development.

As stewards of their resources, governments have a responsibility to effectively manage and regulate extractive and land investments, to leverage natural resources to provide sustained prosperity for both current and future generations and protect the rights of people within their borders. Governments, but also companies, must respect individual and, where applicable, community rights, and comply with high international standards on environmental, social, and human rights.

Working Across the SDSN
This network works with National and Regional SDSN Networks to promote good governance worldwide, with an emphasis on transparent and participatory practices. It comprises an expanded network of experts and practitioners focused on this cross-cutting area, including experts from SDSN’s National and Regional networks. The group has published numerous reports and policy briefs, organized workshops and events, and developed a MOOC on natural resource governance.

Mapping Renewables to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Atlas
The network released a report to map the many ways that renewable energy companies can affect the SDGs in June 2019. It aims to help companies maximize positive impacts, such as addressing climate change and ensuring all people have access to modern energy services while reducing or eliminating negative impacts, such as the displacement of communities.

Looking Ahead
This network will continue to develop resources for businesses to support the achievement of the SDGs in the coming months, and continue to offer its massive, open online course (MOOC) through the SDG Academy.

Find Out More
- Blog Series: Global and Local Perspectives on Land and the SDGs – https://landportal.org/blogs/sdgs
The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Thematic Network aims to connect experts and practitioners to turn knowledge into practice for SDG 2. To achieve this goal, the network has organized e-conferences, launched an online community, hosted a MOOC, and continued its work on the Missing Middle project.

E-Conference Series
In October 2018, the network organized an e-conference entitled “Responding to Fall Armyworm in Africa.” This fully online event attracted over 500 participants, 70% of whom were from Africa. Topics that were discussed included fall armyworm identification, monitoring of infestation levels, recommended responses, future responses, and apps for farmers. A follow-up event will explore the introduction of this maize pest to Asia.

In June 2019, the network organized an e-conference entitled “The Latest Evidence on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture.” This e-conference attracted over 950 participants from around the world who discussed the links between smallholder production and dietary diversity, market challenges and solutions to nutritious food access, and women’s empowerment for better nutrition.

Online community
During the Fall Armyworm e-conference, the network launched an online platform to allow participants to interact as they would in a ‘normal’ conference, e.g. asking questions, discussing their work, and making new connections. This platform continues to host the Fall Armyworm community as well as the forums for the whole e-conference series. The discussion includes 1450 academics, policy-makers, NGOs, extensionists, and farmers.

MOOC Feeding a Hungry Planet
In February and March 2019, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled “Feeding a Hungry Planet” ran for the third time, setting a new record for the course with over 3600 enrollments. The course features video lectures, readings, homework assignments, and live sessions with faculty which have attracted over 2,600 views on YouTube.

The Missing Middle project
The network’s research project on the Missing Middle (the gap between production and consumption, and that between global goals and local contexts) aims to develop food system transformation pathways in Tanzania and Vietnam. In May 2019, a workshop was organized in Tanzania where stakeholders performed value chain mapping and stakeholder analysis of three interrelated value chains (maize, soybean, and chicken) in the southern highlands. Stakeholder workshops will also be organized in Vietnam later this year for pork and vegetable value chains around Hanoi.

LOOKING AHEAD
In addition to the e-conference mentioned above on Fall Armyworm in Asia, an additional virtual event will look at solutions for soil nutrient management.

FIND OUT MORE
- Online community on Fall Armyworm and Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture – https://e-conference.mobilize.io/registrations/groups/31876

Photo: © Friday Phiri/IPS
Urbanization is a defining development trend and the dynamism of cities represent a major sustainable development opportunity. Today, about 55% of the world’s 7.6 billion people live in cities, and, by 2050, this will rise to 70%. Roughly 75% of global economic activity occurs in urban areas. At the same time, cities are home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation with one billion people living in slums.

The SDSN Cities Network aims to support the global urban community with knowledge creation, education, and data and monitoring in support of the implementation of the SDGs within urban environments. It has at its core a network of 125 universities and knowledge institutions across multiple geographies and themes, with specialist expertise in urban sustainable development, policy, and planning. To this are added representatives of key institutional groups that have an urban focus or interest: UN agencies, urban movements, and scientific and social science networks from across the global north and south.

The network has developed tools such as the urban SDG Handbook, a compendium USA SDG handbook, briefs and educational curricula on sustainable urban development, and manuals concerning the collection of sustainable development data. Most recently, the network has run a collaborative project with SDSN TReNDS and a range of national and regional networks (such as SDSN Sahel and the forthcoming SDSN Colombia) to better understand how local urban data is driving action on the SDGs.

LOOKING AHEAD
The network’s ambition is to grow the pool of experts around the world to create a global network of sustainable urban development researchers and practitioners who can translate SDG-related research and science into policy-relevant tools, using a wide variety of media. This includes peer-reviewed literature as well as wider and more participative forms of engagement like MOOCs and webinars. SDSN will also be working closely with the Global Covenant of Mayors in support of Innovate for Cities, a new science-policy-practice urban coalition. Innovate for Cities will host a major science-policy conference in 2020, following the highly successful Edmonton Cities IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) meeting.

FIND OUT MORE

- SDG Academy online course on Sustainable Cities – https://courses.sdgacademy.org
- Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities – http://unsdsn.org/resources
- 2018 and U.S. Cities SDG Index – http://unsdsn.org/resources
Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS)

Hosted by the SDSN Secretariat
› New York, USA

SDSN’s Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS) convenes cross-sector technical and policy knowledge from across the global scientific, development, public, and private sector data communities. Its members are leaders whose expertise spans the spectrum of global and national data policies, standards, and processes that guide data production, access, and use. TReNDS also provides members with unique peer exchange at the highest level. TReNDS operates independently from, but in concert with, the formal UN system (notably the UN Statistics Division) and partners such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Open Data Watch.

SDSN TReNDS catalyzes learning and investment in the data revolution for development. Specifically, it aims to:
› Help Strengthen the Data Ecosystem: Generate and curate ideas on how to strengthen local, national, and global statistical systems and governance to harness the data revolution to achieve the SDGs. TReNDS also produces seminal reports integrating lessons from SDSN’s network and TReNDS members, notably from the Counting on the World series (2017 and 2019).
› Improve Learning on Data Sharing: Incubate technical coalitions to establish practice standards for new data approaches being pursued by a wide range of stakeholders. For example, the POPGRID initiative aims to establish standards for high-resolution population estimation. We also analyze policies, conditions, and investments that enable data sharing success to generate more frequent and disaggregated data.
› Inform Investment in the Emerging Data Opportunities: Support policy-relevant research for advocacy; for example, by estimating the scale of investment required to establish robust data systems for SDG monitoring.

LOOKING AHEAD
In 2019-2020, TReNDS will focus its work around four themes identified in seminal works (e.g. Counting on the World and Counting on the World to Act) and, foundationally, the Cape Town Global Action Plan. These themes are data governance and financing; how new technologies can improve the quality, frequency, and detail of existing official statistics; data sharing and collaboration, and specifically understanding the legal and institutional factors holding back these collaborations; and global trends and risks that may affect the progress of the data revolution for sustainable development.

FIND OUT MORE
• Counting on the World report series – sdsntrends.org/countingon
• Local Data Action Solutions Initiative – sdsntrends.org/local-data-action
• Contracts for Data Collaboration – contractsfordatacollaboration.org
• POPGRID – popgrid.org
• Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data – data4sdgs.org/
• Open Data Watch – opendatawatch.com/

TReNDS’ expert group hails from a diverse set of institutions worldwide.
2 ZERO HUNGER
Unique Opportunities for Our Networks
SDG Academy

The SDG Academy is the SDSN’s online education platform. It creates and curates free educational resources on sustainable development and offers them as a global public good. This includes 30 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) covering each of the 17 SDGs and a multitude of related interdisciplinary topics.

University Partnership Program

The SDG Academy’s University Partnership Program (UPP) works with universities, academic institutions, and education programs to integrate SDG Academy course material into existing and new programs on sustainable development around the world. Institutions that are part of the UPP receive privileged access to SDG Academy materials in a format suitable to the needs of the institution, as well as pedagogical and technical support from the SDG Academy team in the implementation of the material in a blended learning program. Program participants receive group and one-on-one consultations with SDG Academy staff during various key stages of course development and delivery. Resources such as teaching guides, tool kits, and best practice manuals are made available to participants. Applications are open to all SDSN member universities.

Course Creation Partnerships

The SDG Academy collaborates with network partners to co-create online courses. For example, “Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective” was created in partnership with the SDSN Mediterranean Network. This course discusses the challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean basin. It summarizes global-to-local challenges related to achieving the SDGs; outlines the history and culture of agriculture and its main characteristics with a focus on the “Mediterranean diet”; explains agricultural data with a focus on rural development models and value creation; explores EU policy frameworks and international agreements related to food and agriculture in the Mediterranean; and highlights emerging opportunities linked to innovation and sustainability in the sector.

Open Call For Translations

The SDG Academy endeavors to present translations of its courses in as many languages as possible and seeks collaboration opportunities with network members.

FIND OUT MORE

• SDG Academy – https://sdgacademy.org/
• MOOC: Sustainable Food Systems a Mediterranean Perspective – https://sdgacademy.org/course/sustainable-food-systems-a-mediterranean-perspective/
• University Partnership Program (UPP) – http://unsdsn.org/what-we-do/education-initiatives/university-partnership-program/
SDSN Youth

Launched in 2015, SDSN Youth is the global youth program of the SDSN, and was established to empower young people globally to create sustainable development solutions.

SDSN Youth comprises a network of 650+ member organizations from more than 85 countries. SDSN Youth has more than 140 core team members (staff, volunteers, and interns) working in more than 35 different countries across 20 Regional and National Networks. In addition, SDSN Youth also leads global initiatives and programs including the Youth Solutions Program, the Global Schools Program, the SDG Students Program, the Local Pathways Fellowship, Arts Twenty Thirty, Youth, Peace & Security, the #KnowYourGoals campaign, SDG Zone, and other projects.

Membership in SDSN Youth is free and open to student associations, youth-led, and youth-focused organizations, and other institutions dedicated to youth empowerment and the implementation of the SDGs. Member organizations should have the expertise or be active in one or more areas related to sustainable development and commit a substantial amount of their own work towards finding and/or implementing solutions for sustainable development. Additionally, SDSN Youth's SDG Students Program aims to ensure all students at SDSN Member Universities and institutions are aware of the SDGs, understand their importance to the wider community, and have opportunities to take action towards their implementation during their studies and after they graduate.

To support this mandate, SDSN Youth annually recruits ‘SDG Coordinators’ who are representatives of SDSN Youth at their university and who work to foster the student community around the SDGs and implement the SDGs in the university’s operations, culture, and aspects of learning and teaching. Additionally, the network regularly puts out calls for talented and motivated students at member universities between the ages of 18-30 with an interest and drive for sustainable development to join the SDSN Youth community.

FIND OUT MORE

- SDSN Youth Member Organizations [https://sdsnyouth.org/member-organizations/](https://sdsnyouth.org/member-organizations/)
- Global Schools Program [http://www.globalschools.info/](http://www.globalschools.info/)
- SDG Students Program – [http://sdgstudent.org](http://sdgstudent.org)
- #KnowYourGoals [http://sdsnyouth.org/knowyourgoals/](http://sdsnyouth.org/knowyourgoals/)
- SDG Zone – [http://sdgzone.com](http://sdgzone.com)
The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) Pathways Consortium

FABLE is a collaborative initiative, operating as part of the Food and Land-Use Coalition (FOLU), to understand how countries can transition towards sustainable land-use and food systems. In particular, FABLE asks how countries can collectively meet associated SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The Consortium aims to meet these objectives by enabling its country teams – to develop long-term transformational pathways towards sustainable land-use and food systems.

Thus far, several SDSN national networks contribute their technical expertise to this initiative and are part of the FABLE country teams. Each country team develops the data and modeling infrastructure to promote ambitious, integrated strategies towards sustainable land-use and food systems. Overall, a critical focus of the Consortium is to strengthen the country teams’ capacity to advise their governments on the design and implementation of long-term strategies towards sustainable land-use. For more information please visit: https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/

Participants of the FABLE Consortium Meeting at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

Map of FABLE country teams and FOLU countries
Network Manager Training

The SDSN Secretariat hosts regular in-person training programs and workshops for SDSN Network Managers. The first workshop was held in Paris in 2015 and since then, thanks to the generous support of GIZ, has been held around the SDSN’s biannual Leadership Council meetings. The 7th edition of the workshop was held in September 2019, in New York. The agenda usually spans one to five days and covers a wide array of important themes, identified by both the Secretariat and Managers themselves. These training sessions offer an opportunity for SDSN Network Managers and Secretariat members alike to present initiatives and share lessons learned and knowledge regarding managing their individual networks and projects. To date, the workshops have trained up to 30 different managers covering a range of topics including SDSN member engagement, fundraising, developing Solutions Initiatives, community management, and much more. In addition to building capacity and developing skills amongst the diverse global team, these workshops also help facilitate discussions and build rapport between networks.

SDSN Mobilize

SDSN Mobilize is SDSN’s exclusive internal communications platform for all 1000+ SDSN member organizations around the world. Its aim is to help turn thoughts into action, provide inspiration, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise within our global network of problem solvers. The platform facilitates a direct line of communication between members, geographic and thematic networks, and the SDSN Secretariat.

As part of the SDSN online community, SDSN members can identify and connect with peers, increase the outreach of their projects and activities, position their organization as leaders in their field, find new prospects for collaboration, ask questions and draw upon the community’s ever-growing expertise. To date, SDSN Mobilize boasts around 2,500 individuals a one-of-a-kind pool of sustainable development experts. The platform also features exclusive content like a comprehensive compilation of weekly funding opportunities in sustainable development. The platform also enables SDSN Members to jointly apply for grants, also help our members apply for grants, participate in conferences, identify fellowships, publish research, and much more.

SDSN Mobilize invites all faculty and researchers at SDSN member institutions to join and actively participate.
Participation in Global Initiatives

To advance global processes on the SDGs, SDSN facilitates member and network engagement in global initiatives which touch on important themes relating to fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Below we highlight several initiatives, organized by SDSN and by other institutions which help advance global policy work in these areas:

**ICSD – International Conference on Sustainable Development**
The International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) is an annual event hosted by the SDSN and The Earth Institute, Columbia University, held every September since 2013 during the UN General Assembly in New York, USA. SDSN Managers and SDSN Members receive deep discounts to the event and SDSN encourages their participation. This high-level event brings together more than 1,300 participants to hear the latest research on the SDGs and features keynote addresses from heads of state, senior UN officials, CEOs, and global thought leaders. For more information visit [http://ic-sd.org/](http://ic-sd.org/).

**LESC – Low-Emissions Solutions Conference**
SDSN hosts an annual Low-Emissions Solutions Conferences (LESC) as a direct follow-up to key commitments in the Paris agreement. COP22 was the first time that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP) hosted a large-scale technical-solutions conference for country delegations, placing innovative technological solutions at the heart of the meeting. Following a successful execution of several different LESC events at COP22, COP23 and COP24, the conference continues into its fourth year in the hopes of playing an active role in bringing together different sectors and stakeholders to implement the Paris Agreement. LESC provides a platform of dialogue and a match-making function between countries, cities, companies, and sector experts on innovative technology and policy solutions to implement the Paris Agreement. This forum serves as an opportunity for SDSN members to influence critical national discussions on decarbonization and the future pathway to a net zero world. The conference is organized jointly by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the SDSN, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). For more information visit [http://lowemissions.solutions/](http://lowemissions.solutions/).

**Partners for Review (P4R)**
Partners for Review (P4R) is a transnational multi-stakeholder network for government representatives and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, and academia involved in the national SDG review processes. Hosted by GIZ, the network brings together members from around the world to facilitate the preparation of appealing and engaging presentations at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and to offer support on integrating recommendations into national level processes. The biannual network meetings facilitate dialogue and peer learning, and provide space to explore best practices and lessons learned and to share expertise on issues related to national monitoring and review. SDSN contributes expertise on developing a robust global review and accountability mechanism for achieving the SDGs and mobilizes stakeholders from the networks to participate in the network meetings. For more information, visit [http://www.partners-for-review.de/](http://www.partners-for-review.de/).
SDG Costing Group

The SDSN Secretariat has founded the SDG Costing Group, a working group of 60+ members that it co-chairs with the IMF, OECD, and World Bank. The working group’s primary aim is to identify and mobilize best SDG costing practices and tools to align relevant financing resources with low- and emerging-income countries’ greatest SDG financing needs, by sector, in order to optimize revenue allocation planning and accelerate SDG spending. The group’s work informed the recent pioneering work of several expert institutions that examine a range of SDG sectoral costs, including for healthcare, education, infrastructure, social protections, biodiversity, agriculture and food security.

The costing group’s work has been undertaken to support the work of the UN’s leadership and General Assembly towards the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for SDG Financing. It welcomes the participation of individuals and institutions that are focused on assessing the total resource spending and needs for key SDG sectors to better inform estimations of the SDG financing gap for lower-income countries.

Mr. Vitor Gaspar, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF & Co-Chair of SDSN’s SDG Costing Group, presenting on the panel Leveling the Playing Field: Costing and Financing Core SDGs at the Move Humanity Conference, Copenhagen, March 2019.

Sustainable Development Report

The Sustainable Development Report 2019 including the SDG Index and Dashboards presents new evidence and research that call for major transformations of public policies and business practices to achieve the Agenda 2030 and SDGs adopted by all UN member states in 2015. The report contains analytical as well as policy-oriented sections, and detailed information on the performance of 193 UN member states on each of the 17 SDGs. The report benefits from extensive contributions from the networks. Network and local managers are involved in the collection and validation of data that informs the section on government efforts for the SDGs. They also play an active role in the dissemination of the reports’ findings. Also, networks lead and contribute to the production of regional editions (Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean) and subnational editions (European Cities, Italy, Spain, U.S. Cities, U.S. States) of the SDG Index and Dashboards.

For more information visit www.sdgindex.org
Join the SDSN!

SDSN is looking to expand its global network of sustainable development problem solvers to enhance national and regional capacity to address sustainable development challenges.

As a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, your institution will be part of a unique global network of experts and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development. Together, we work towards supporting the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement in four main areas:

1. Providing and mobilizing support for the Sustainable Development Goals
2. Promoting practical Solutions Initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development
3. Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development
4. Supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development

SDSN Membership is FREE and open to any university, research institute, civil society organization, science-oriented foundation, or any institution that has deep expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development.

Applying for SDSN membership is simple – the online membership application form is available on our website http://networks.unsdsn.org/join/ and is available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Government entities and private sector institutions are not eligible for membership within the network but are welcome to join as partners. Universities can join at the level of the university or an individual department/institute.

Please contact info@unsdsn.org for more information.
SDSN Member Organizations

Afghanistan
- Kateb University
- American University of Afghanistan

Albania
- Kolegi Fama
- University ‘Kadri Zeka’

Argentina
- Engineering Without Borders Argentina
- INENCO – Instituto de Investigaciones en Energía no Convenicional
- Institut for the Participation and the Development
- National Technology University Regional Faculty - Office of Institutional and University Social Responsibility
- Nuestras Huellas
- Patagonian Friends Association
- USB (Unión de Industriales para Saneamiento Cuencas Matanza)

Aruba
- Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF)

Australia
- Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)
- Australian National University
- Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council
- Canberra Urban and Regional Futures, University of Canberra
- Centre for Policy Development
- Centre for Responsible Citizenship and Sustainability
- ClimateWorks Australia
- Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP)
- Deakin University
- Family Planning NSW (operating as ‘Family Planning Australia’ overseas)
- Global Ideas
- Griffith Business School
- James Cook University
- Monash University
- Mullion Institute for Environment, Farming and Society
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- University of Adelaide
- University of Melbourne
- University of Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Western Australia , Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)
- The University of New South Wales
- Western Sydney University

Austria
- Global Forum on Sustainable Energy
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis – IIASA
- Montanuniversität Leoben

Azerbaijan
- Khazar Universitet
- Western University

Bangladesh
- Aid Organization
- Bangladesh NGOs network for Radio and Communication
- BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University
- Center for Human Development
- Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
- Dnet
- Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO)
- GreenTech Foundation Bangladesh
- Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance (IPAG)
- Socio-Economic Rural Advancement Committee (SERAC)

Belgium
- Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences
- Université Catholique de Louvain
- University of Antwerp

Belize
- Belize Association of Planners

Benin
- Laboratory of Public Economics – University of Abomey-Calavi
- Université D’Abomey–Calavi (UAC)

Bhutan
- Bhutan Institute of Himalayan Studies
- Royal University of Bhutan

Bolivia
- Fundación Aru
- Bolivian Center of Economic Studies
- Bolivian Private University
- Center for human development and employability
- Center for Sustainable Human Development and Participation (CEPAD)
- Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF)
- Fundación Alternativas
- Fundación Solidaridad y Desarrollo Productivo Sostenible (SOLYDEES)
- Human development and employability center
- Fundación del Instituto de Asistencia Social Económica y Tecnológica (INASET Foundation)
- INESAD Foundation (Institute for Advanced Development Studies)
- Innovation for Social Entrepreneurship
- Padi Lab
- PROFIN (productive and financial development) Foundation
- Salesian University of Bolivia
- Social Research Center
- Socio-Economic Research Institute (HSEE)
- Universidad Privada Boliviana
- Wildlife Conservation Society.
- Bolivia Program

Bosnia and Herzegovina
- University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Agriculture, Department for Agricultural Economics and Rural Development

Botswana
- University of Botswana

Brazil
- Amazon Regional Network
- Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS)
- Associação Brasileira de Arquitetos Paisagistas (ABAP)
- Bolsa Verde do Rio de Janeiro – BVRio
- Brazilian Cyclists’ Union
- Casa Fuminense
- Casal-UFRGS (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul)
- CEBDS Brazil – Brazilian Business Council on Sustainable Development
- Centro de Estudos em Sustentabilidade (GVces) da Escola de Administração de Empresas da Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EAESP)
- Centro de Operações Rio
- Centro Universitário Newton Paiva
- ChildFund Brasil
- Cities Alliance (Latin America and Caribbean office)
- Comité das Agendas 21
- Comité para a Democratização da Informática (CDI)
- Conservation International (CI-Brazil)
- Desafio Baanko
- Diálogo Instituto
- EMBARG Brasil
- Empresa de Obras Publicas-EMOP
- Enactus Brasil
- Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Research Centre (Greens)
- EVELA
- Federal University of Paraíba (Centre for Public Policies and Sustainable Development)
- Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity
- Fundação Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável
- Fundação Vitória Amazônica
- Fundo Brasileiro de Biodiversidade – FUNBIO
- Gerência de Mudanças Climáticas e Desenvolvimento Sustentável da Secretaria Municipal de Meio Ambiente da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro
- Global Urban Development (GUD)
- Grupo de Institutos, Fundações e Empresas (GIFE)
- INPA – Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia
- Institution for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
- Instituto Akatu
- Instituto de Estudos do Trabalho e Sociedade
- Instituto Ethos
- Instituto Internacional para Sustentabilidade
- Instituto Pereira Passos
- Instituto Um Pê de Biblioteca (A Public Library Institution)
- Instituto-E
- Marama Institute for Sustainable Development – MIED
- Observatório de Favelas do Rio De Janeiro
- ODS_O Mundo Que Queremos
- Peabiru Institute
- Perene Institute
- Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUCSP)
- Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)
- Programa Social Crescer e Viver
- Puxirum Institute of Sustainability and Energy Efficiency
- Quadangle Institute
- Rede de Ação Política pela Sustentabilidade
- Rede Global de Aprendizagem para o Desenvolvimento
- Redes da Maré – Associação Redes de Desenvolvimento da Maré
- Roberto Marinho Foundation
- Sebrae-RJ – Serviço de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais na Agricultura Familiar (SINTRAF-SJR) de São Joaquim e Região
- Sistema B
- UN-Habitat – Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Universidade Nilton Lins – Manaus
- Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
- Vida em ação
- Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte
- Universidade Rural Federal do Rio de Janeiro (URF RJ)
- University Center Federal District
- University of International Integration of the Afro-Brazilian Luxophony (UNILAB)
- Yoshimura Foundation

Burundi
- University of Ngozi

Cambodia
- University of Cambodia
Colombia
• Catholic University of Colombia (CATUC, Banderas)
• Institut National de Cartographie (INC)
• International Center for Environmental Education & Community Development (ICENEDU)
• Laboratoire des Sciences Sociales et Environnementales
• University of Buea, Department of Geography

Canada
• 4-H Foundation of Alberta
• Brock University
• Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health
• Carleton University
• Center of interdisciplinary research in sustainability operationalization
• Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)
• College of Business and Economics, University of Guelph
• Colleges and Institutes Canada
• Dalhousie University
• Department of Civil Engineering
• Department of Community Development, Acadia University
• Energy Mix Productions
• Environmental Sustainability Research Centre
• Faculty of Land & Food Systems
• Greenhouse – St. Paul’s University College
• Guelph Institute of Development Studies
• Helos Centre
• Humber Institute of Technology & Advance Learning
• INRS – Institut national de la recherche scientifique
• International City Leaders (ICL)
• Littoral et vie Research Group
• Master’s in Development Practice: Indigenous Development
• McGill University
• McMaster Health Forum | Forum+ 
• Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Continuing & Professional Learning
• Seneca College School of Fashion
• Simon Fraser University, Centre for Sustainable Development
• Sir Sandford Fleming College
• St. Jerome’s University
• University of Laval, Quebec, Canada
• University of Calgary
• University of Saskatchewan
• University of Waterloo
• Vancouver Island University
• Wilfrid Laurier University
• Windfall Ecology Centre

Chile
• Centre on Public Policy Analysis, Institute on Public Affairs, University of Chile
• Observa Bludio foundation
• Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (CLAPES UC)

China
• China SUC Institute
• ICARE – Institute for Clean And Renewable Energy
• Institute for Sustainable Development Goals, Tsinghua University (TUSDG)
• Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (IRAD), Chinese Academy of Sciences
• New York University – Shanghai School of Geographic Science, East China Normal University
• Shanghai institute for National Economy (SHINE)
• Amazon Research Institute of Colombia
• Asociación Colombiana de Desarrollo Sostenible y Ecología Industrial (ADSEII)
• Centre for Research on Sustainable Agriculture & CIRAV
• Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Sostenible Colombia (CODECO)
• Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepel)
• Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences
• Eafit University
• Fundacion Pazi2
• Fundacionbanco Foundation
• Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies and Strategic Action for Development – IDEAD
• Klimaforum Latinoamérica Network
• OpenStreetMap Colombia Foundation
• Institute for Sustainable Development at Universidad del Norte
• Universidad Atlantico
• Universidad de Los Andes
• Universidad de Nariño
• Universidad Tecnologica del Choco
• Diego Luis Córdoba
• University Foundation of Health Sciences
• Academy of Cosmetic Science
• University of Atlantic – Research Team TMAD
• Universidad de Cartagena
• University of Magdalena

Comoros
• National Institute of Statistics, for surveys studies and demographics

Congo, Democratic Republic
• Université Du Moyen Lualaba
• Université Mwene Ditu
• Université Simon Kimbangu

Costa Rica
• Centro de Estudios sobre Desarrollo Sostenible (EARTH)
• Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica
• Universidad Estatal a Distancia
• Universidad Veritas

Cuba
• Environment Project for Sustainable Development

Cyprus
• Cyprus Institute
• Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)
• Neapolis University Pafos

Denmark
• Aalborg University, Department of Planning
• Copenhagen Business School – Department of Management, Society and Communication
• Global Citizen
• Riga Stradina University/European Studies Faculty/Regional Economy & Business Dept.
• ScanBalt
• University of Copenhagen Sustainability Science Centre

Dominican Republic
• Asociación Dominicana de las Naciones Unidas (ANU-RD)
• Red Nacional de Apoyo Empresarial a la Protección Ambiental (ECORED)
• Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE)
• Instituto de Desarrollo de la Economía Asociativa (IDEAC)
• Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI)
• PROPLIDER
• Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE)

Ecuador
• Center for Energy Studies
• Coporacion Grupo Randi
• FDS-Consulting-Alliance
• Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA)
• Fundación para el Avance de las Reformas y Oportunidades- Grupo FARO
• Governing Council of the Galapagos / Production and Human Development Department
• Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad del Ecuador
• Life Science Faculty at The Superior Polytechnic School of Litoral
• National Institute of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (INER)
• National University of Education
• Universidad de Investigacion de la Tecnologia Experimental (Yachay Tech)
• Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Office for Innovation and Sustainability
• Universidad de Otavalo
• University of the Amazon – IKIAM
• Equator Technological University (UTE)

El Salvador
• Pedagogical University of El Salvador

Ethiopia
• Adama Science and Technology University
• African Climate Policy Centre
• Aksum University
• Ambo University
• Haramaya University
• Jimma University
• Mekelle University
• Organisation for Social Science Research Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)
• University of Gondar
• Wollega University
• Wolof University

Fiji
• Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE- SD), University of the South Pacific

Finland
• University of Eastern Finland
• University of Helsinki
• University of Oulu
• University of Turku

France
• Économie du Développement Durable et de l’Énergie – PACTE-EDDEN
• FEMISE – The Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences
• Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI)
• Joseph Wresinski Centre for Poverty Research and History
• KEDGE Business School
• Laboratoire d’Excellence OT-Med
• Sciences Po
• Université de Cergy-Pontoise (UCP)
• Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)

Georgia
• Institute of Economics by Paata Gugushvili at Tbilisi State University (TSU)
• Ivane Jakavhashvili Tbilisi State University

Germany
• Adelphi
• Berlin School of Sustainable Futures, University of Applied Sciences
• Bertelsmann Stiftung Sustainable Governance Indicators
• Bonn International Center for Conversion
• Center for Development Research
• Chair of Development Economics (Jurieprofessor) at the University of Göttingen
• Chair of International Urbanism, Institute for Urban Planning and Design, University of Stuttgart
• DesertNet International
• Deutches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung
• European Business Ethics Network Germany – E Ben Germany
• german climate foundation
• German Development Institute
• Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungsprogramm (DIE)
• Germanwatch
• Humboldt – Vladlena Governance Platform, gGmbH
• International Centre for Sustainable Development, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (BRSU)
• International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
• Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC)
• Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
• Rainer Leine Institute gGmbH
• United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development
• Universitaet Hamburg, Center for a Sustainable University
• Wuppertal Institut for Climate, Environment and Energy

Ghana
• African Health Economics and Policy Association
• Alliance for Development
• Eliza Relief Foundation
• Ghana Christian University College
• University for Development Studies

Greece
• American College of Greece
• Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
• Centre for Research and Technology Hellas – Institute of Applied Biosciences
• Hellenic Pasteur Institute
• International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (CIRE)

Honduras
• University of the South Pacific

Guatemala
• Universidad Galileo

Guinea
• Université Kofi Annan de Guinée

Haiti
• PAODES-University

Honduras
• Zamorano University
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Graphic design and layout by Philippe Dabasse.

For any inquiries, please contact info@unsdsn.org.

Note: the list of member institutions is up to date as of 1 August 2019.