SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Which targets are on track for 2030 in the regions?

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

For informed debate on sustainable development, it is essential to know which targets are on track to be achieved in the world regions by 2030. In the following pages, this question is addressed for the Sustainable Development Goals 4 – Quality education, 5 – Gender equality, 14 – Life below water, and 15 – Life on land.

The five regional commissions of the United Nations present the progress assessment that relies on data on their member countries in the United Nations Global SDG Indicators Database. They use a common methodology that identifies the SDG targets that are on track for 2030, targets where progress has to accelerate and targets where the trend has to be reversed.

The present summary is prepared to support discussions at the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 5–15 July).

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AFRICA
WHICH TARGETS ARE ON TRACK FOR 2030?

	Maintain progress to achieve SDG target	**Accelerate** progress to achieve SDG target	**Reverse** progress to achieve SDG target
4 QUALITY EDUCATION **6 targets measured out of 10**	4.b Scholarships **17%**	4.1 Effective learning outcomes 4.2 Early childhood development 4.5 Equal access to education 4.a Education facilities 4.c Qualified teachers **83%**	**-**
5 GENDER EQUALITY **1 targets measured out of 9**	**-**	5.5 Women in leadership **100%**	**-**
14 LIFE BELOW WATER **3 targets measured out of 10**	14.5 Conservation of coastal areas **33%**	14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs **33%**	14.1 Marine pollution **33%**
15 LIFE ON LAND **6 targets measured out of 12**	**-**	15.2 Sustainable forests management 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems 15.b Resources for forests management **67%**	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems 15.5 Loss of biodiversity **33%**

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- School completion rate has been being rising over the last 20 years.
- Building and upgrading school facilities remain a challenge on the continent (drinking water, electricity, computer and internet).

5 GENDER EQUALITY
- One fourth of seats in national parliaments were held by women in 2021. Disparities are however high among countries, only 12 countries reported more than 30% of seats held by women in national parliaments.
- Gender gap in managerial positions is gradually closing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- Since 2000, the continent has more than doubled its protected area coverage of marine Key Biodiversity Areas.
- The main challenge under this goal relates to marine pollution in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

15 LIFE ON LAND
- The continent has lost more than 3.5 million of hectares of forest per year over the last 2 decades where Africa contributed to more than 70% of the global forest loss.
- The red list index has deteriorated over the last 2 decades.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
WHICH TARGETS ARE ON TRACK FOR 2030?

	Maintain progress to achieve SDG target	**Accelerate** progress to achieve SDG target	**Reverse** progress to achieve SDG target
4 QUALITY EDUCATION **9 targets measured out of 10**	**-**	4.1 Effective learning outcomes 4.2 Early childhood development 4.3 TVET & tertiary education 4.4 Skills for Employment 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy 4.a Education facilities 4.b Scholarships 4.c Qualified teachers **89%**	**11%**
5 GENDER EQUALITY **2 targets measured out of 9**	**-**	5.1 Discrimination against women and girls 5.5 Women in leadership **100%**	**-**
14 LIFE BELOW WATER **3 targets measured out of 10**	**-**	14.1 Marine pollution 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas **67%**	14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs **33%**
15 LIFE ON LAND **7 targets measured out of 12**	15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems 15.b Resources for forest management **29%**	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems 15.2 Sustainable forests management 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems 15.8 Invasive alien species **57%**	15.5 Loss of biodiversity **14%**

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- Education outcomes are deteriorating and inequality in access to education is widening in Asia-Pacific region.
- Much more must be done to ensure all schools everywhere have basic services, such as electricity, computers and single-sex basic sanitation infrastructure, and to ensure that all girls and boys complete at least primary and secondary education.

5 GENDER EQUALITY
- Despite some progress on proportion of leadership and decision-making roles held by women, there is still a wide gender gap in access to employment and education.
- Lack of data prevents us from providing an accurate picture of progress.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- The region is regressing on the value added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as share of GDP, and progress must be accelerated in reducing marine pollution and conservation of coastal and marine areas.
- Much more investment is needed to fill data gaps for assessing life below water in Asia-Pacific.

15 LIFE ON LAND
- Significant progress made in mobilizing resources for forest management, biodiversity and ecosystem.
- However, progress is stagnant on the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, sustainable forest management and conservation of mountain ecosystems. The region also needs to take urgent action to halt biodiversity loss.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
WHICH TARGETS ARE ON TRACK FOR 2030?

	Maintain progress to achieve SDG target	**Accelerate** progress to achieve SDG target	**Reverse** progress to achieve SDG target
4 QUALITY EDUCATION — 8 targets measured out of 10	4.3 TVET & tertiary education 4.5 Equal access to education 4.b Scholarship **18%**	4.1 Effective learning outcomes 4.2 Early childhood development 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy 4.a Education facilities **50%**	4.c Qualified teachers **13%**
5 GENDER EQUALITY — 3 targets measured out of 9	**-**	5.2 Violence against women and girls 5.3 Early marriage 5.5 Women in leadership **100%**	**-**
14 LIFE BELOW WATER — 4 targets measured out of 10	14.5 Conservation of coastal areas **25%**	14.1 Marine pollution 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs **75%**	**-**
15 LIFE ON LAND — 7 targets measured out of 12	15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems 15.b Resources for forests management **43%**	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems 15.2 Sustainable forests management 15.6 Utilization of genetic resource **43%**	15.5 Loss of biodiversity **14%**

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- Children's access to early childhood education services and adult literacy rates have slightly improved since 2000, however more efforts need to be done.
- Despite progress, there has been a slowdown in the advancement of secondary education completion rate, with significant inequalities according to income level, territory and ethnic-racial condition, among others.

5 GENDER EQUALITY
- Femicide and the prevalence of violence continue to be a serious problem despite advances in policies in some countries and the pressure exerted by women's social movements.
- Although the presence of women in the legislative bodies has gradually increased in recent years, these positions are still mostly held by men.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- Although the region has doubled the target for 2020 of proportion of marine protected areas, most of the countries have less than 10%, including areas with high nutrient and plastic pollution.
- Major challenges remain in sustainable fisheries. Global elimination or reformulation of harmful fisheries subsidies (5% of global subsidies) would be beneficial.

15 LIFE ON LAND
- Despite progress in some targets, goal will not be achieved unless much greater effort is implemented. In the last 20 years, deforestation dropped by almost half. Indigenous peoples' territories have well-protected forests but have received almost no support.
- The challenge is to consolidate socio-environmental policies to halt deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

ARAB REGION
WHICH TARGETS ARE ON TRACK FOR 2030?

	Maintain progress to achieve SDG target	**Accelerate** progress to achieve SDG target	**Reverse** progress to achieve SDG target
4 QUALITY EDUCATION — 6 targets measured out of 10	4.2 Early childhood development 4.4 Skills for employment 4.c Qualified teachers **50%**	4.1 Effective learning outcomes 4.a Education facilities **33%**	4.1 Equal access to education **17%**
5 GENDER EQUALITY — 2 targets measured out of 9	5.5 Women in leadership 5.b Technology for women empowerment **100%**	**-**	**-**
14 LIFE BELOW WATER — 1 target measured out of 10	14.5 Conservation of coastal areas **100%**	**-**	**-**
15 LIFE ON LAND — 6 targets measured out of 12	15.6 Utilization of genetic resource 15.8 Invasive alien species **33%**	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems **33%**	15.2 Sustainable forests management 15.5 Loss of biodiversity **33%**

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- Since 2000, secondary school enrolment has increased from 52% to 64%, with girls' enrolment slightly outpacing that of boys.
- High proportion of children out of school, weak learning outcomes and resilience of school systems remain as challenges. An estimated 40% of students in the region were unable to participate in distance education programs during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

5 GENDER EQUALITY
- Women in the Arab region are deeply underrepresented in leadership positions, with only 20% of seats in national parliaments and just 9% of managerial positions.
- Female labour force participation is the lowest among the world regions, and women's unemployment rate is substantially higher than the rate for men. Violence against women is high and has increased in the pandemic.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- Several countries in the region have made substantial investments in aquaculture development. Fish stocks suffer from overfishing, with only 38% of stocks in the Mediterranean within biologically sustainable levels.
- Waste management strategies are insufficient. The region's beaches have litter more than 3 times the world average.

15 LIFE ON LAND
- A fifth of the region's forests are managed with biodiversity as a primary objective.
- Land degradation and desertification have resulted in biodiversity loss, reduction of ecosystem services, and an increased risk of sand and dust storms. Conflicts have led to increased contamination of key ecosystems and the loss of resources to maintain them.

WHICH TARGETS ARE ON TRACK FOR 2030?

	Maintain progress to achieve SDG target	**Accelerate** progress to achieve SDG target	**Reverse** progress to achieve SDG target
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 7 targets measured out of 10	4.2 Early childhood development 4.a Education facilities 4.c Qualified teachers **43%**	4.1 Effective learning outcomes 4.3 TVET & tertiary education 4.4 Skills for employment 4.5 Equal access to education **57%**	**-**
5 GENDER EQUALITY 4 targets measured out of 9	5.b Technology for women empowerment **25%**	5.1 Discrimination against women and girls 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work 5.5 Women in leadership **75%**	**-**
14 LIFE BELOW WATER 6 targets measured out of 10	14.2 Marine pollution 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas 14.5 Fisheries subsidies **50%**	14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing **17%**	14.7 Marine resources 14.a Research capacity & marine technology **33%**
15 LIFE ON LAND 7 targets measured out of 12	**-**	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems 15.6 Utilization of genetic resource 15.8 Invasive alien species 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems **71%**	15.2 Sustainable forests management 15.5 Loss of biodiversity **29%**

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

- At current trends, the region will achieve near universal access to early childhood education, have schools well equipped and staffed with well qualified teachers.
- Improvements on effective learning outcomes, equal access to education, and skills for employment have to accelerate. Achievement gaps between disadvantaged and wealthy students persist in all countries with data.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

- The region is on track on the use of technology to promote the empowerment of women, but not on the other gender equality targets.
- Efforts must be accelerated to reduce disparities between women and men around unpaid care and domestic work and achieve gender parity in political and economic leadership.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

- If the current pace of progress is maintained, the region is on track to achieve targets on reducing marine pollution, conserving coastal areas and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- The region needs to reverse trends around sustainable fishing, and on research and development on marine technology.

15 LIFE ON LAND

- Progress must accelerate on the conservation, sustainable use of ecosystems and in providing resources for this. Regulation of the use of genetic resources, and management of invasive alien species would also have to improve to be on track for 2030.
- The region needs to reverse trends around deforestation and biodiversity.

TECHNICAL NOTE

The presented assessment relies on the Anticipated Progress Index, which measures whether a target value of an SDG indicator will be achieved by 2030 based on the observed rate of change. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development defines target values for many indicators. For others, a "champion area" approach is used to define the indicator's target value in the region. In aggregating the results from the indicator level to the level of SDG target, each measured indicator has an equal weight under the corresponding target. The methodology is described at *https://data.unescap.org/resource-guides/progress-assessment-methodology*

Full results on all SDGs and further details are available in the latest regional progress reports, available at the web sites of regional commissions as follows:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
https://ecastats.uneca.org/unsdgsafrica/SDGs/SDG-progress

Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
https://data.unescap.org

Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47746-decade-action-change-era-fifth-report-regional-progress-and-challenges-relation

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
https://www.unescwa.org/publications/annual-sdg-review-2022

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
https://w3.unece.org/sdg2022