



# Study Guide

United Nations development program

Promotion of sustainable tourism

Human footprint

Sustainable Development Goals and  
North-South divide

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## The United Nations Development Program

UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

The organization has really come into the spotlight over the past 25 years, particularly with the Millennium Declaration and the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These were a set of targets meant to be completed by the end of 2015. The eight goals included achieving universal primary education, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting gender equality, and reducing the impact of disease. Though ambitious, these aims have seen incredible progress and many are nearly completed. Between 1990 and 2015 extreme poverty in developing countries fell from 47% to 14%, primary school enrollment in Sub-Saharan Africa has risen from 52% to 80%, child mortality rates have been cut in half, and the HIV infection rate fell by 40%, along with other encouraging statistics.

UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:

- Sustainable development
- Democratic governance and peacebuilding
- Climate and disaster resilience<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about\\_us.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us.html)

## Sustainable tourism

### Topic introduction

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries and is a major source of income for many countries. Being a people-oriented industry, tourism also provides many jobs, which have helped, revitalize local economies.

However, like other forms of development, tourism can also cause its share of problems, such as social dislocation, loss of cultural heritage, economic dependence and ecological degradation. Learning about the impacts of tourism has led many people to seek more responsible holidays. These include various forms of alternative or sustainable tourism such as: 'nature-based tourism', 'ecotourism' and 'cultural tourism'. Sustainable tourism is becoming so popular that some say that what we presently call 'alternative' will be the 'mainstream' in a decade.

All tourism activities of whatever motivation – holidays, business travel, conferences, adventure travel and ecotourism – need to be sustainable. Sustainable tourism is defined as “tourism that respects both local people and the traveler, cultural heritage and the environment”. It seeks to provide people with an exciting and educational holiday that is also of benefit to the people of the host country.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/mods/theme\\_c/mod16.html](http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/mods/theme_c/mod16.html)

## **History of sustainable tourism**

3-14 June 1992: UN Conference on Environment and Development: In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-marked the beginning of the international recognition of the need for sustainable development.

27-28 April 1995: First World Conference on Tourism: The conference produced the charter for sustainable tourism, which outlines what was encompassed by sustainable tourism development and the eighteen points that were fundamental to sustainable tourism.

6-8 March 1997: International Conference of Environment Ministers on Biodiversity and Tourism: The conference was proposed as a means to drafting the “Berlin Declaration” which was to be the first international ministerial declaration on sustainable tourism in order to promote a global agreement on sustainable development. The two main goals of the conference were: first, to define requirements for environmentally compatible forms of tourism that ran parallel to the guiding principles of sustainable development that had been proclaimed at the Earth Summit in 1992; second: sustainable tourism would be mainstreamed in order to preserve nature, landscapes, and cultural heritage by taking into account the requirements of nature and landscape conservation and environmental protection as well as the protection of cultural identity and the interests of local populations

22 May 1997: The Manila Declaration: The Manila Declaration identifies ten sustainable tourism principles, which helped gain the endorsement of the international community on the notion of sustainable tourism

October 1998: Conference on Sustainable Tourism: The conference exhibited how careful planning and control of tourism could produce real benefits and minimized negative impacts of tourism for SIDS especially in areas of environmental protection and socio-economic development. This was the first conference on sustainable tourism that recognized fully the effects that negative tourism practices have on SIDS and the vulnerability they face with the proliferation of tourism.

January 1999: Commission on Sustainable Development Seventh Session: The session aimed to create dialogue between government and social representatives and to identify policy strategy to increase the positive impact of tourism on development. This resulted in the adoption of an international work program on sustainable development especially focused on developing countries.

1 October 1999: The World Tourism Organization Summit: The World Tourism Organization Summit was held in Santiago, Chile, where the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism was consolidated and reinforced positive recommendations and declarations on sustainable tourism.

24 August- 4 September 2002: Rio+10: In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, or Rio+10, World Summit helped to establish new goals for the future of sustainable development and in turn helped to create new goals in the future of sustainable tourism practices.

2002 to Present: Update of Status: Inspired by numerous environmental moments in the last two decades the concept of sustainable development is relatively new. In particular, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992 was a major international meeting that helped to conceptualize sustainable development. Sustainable tourism, therefore, is also a new term for international organizations, governments, and individuals to understand.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.idia.net/Files/ConferenceCommitteeTopicFiles/240/PDFFile/U08-UNWTO-PromotionofSustainableTourism.pdf>

## Explanation of the issue

Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with this use within the acceptable limits of change.

Tourism development can put pressure on natural resources when it increases consumption in areas where resources are already scarce.

**Water resources-**The tourism industry generally overuses water resources for hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and personal use of water by tourists. This can result in water shortages and degradation of water supplies, as well as generating a greater volume of wastewater.

**Land degradation-** Important land resources include minerals, fossil fuels, fertile soil, forests, wetland and wildlife. Increased construction of tourism and recreational facilities has increased the pressure on these resources and on scenic landscapes. Direct impact on natural resources, both renewable and nonrenewable, in the provision of tourist facilities can be caused by the use of land for accommodation and other infrastructure provision, and the use of building materials.

**Pollution-** Tourism can cause the same forms of pollution as any other industry: air emissions, noise, solid waste and littering, releases of sewage, oil and chemicals, even architectural/visual pollution.<sup>4</sup>

**Social-cultural impact-** Visitor behavior can have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the host community. For example, crowding and congestion, drugs and alcohol problems, prostitution and increased crime levels can occur. Tourism can even infringe on human rights, with locals being displaced from their land to make way for new hotels or barred from beaches. Interaction with tourists can also lead to an erosion of traditional cultures and values.<sup>5</sup> At least 25 million people spread over 52 countries are displaced by violence, persecution and/or disasters – tourism receipts in every country are affected by this.

In order to show the importance of the issue we present you the examples of problems facing sustainable tourism development in the OIC countries.

Given their significant and diverse natural, geographical, historical and cultural heritage assets, the OIC countries have vast potential for the development of a sustainable tourism sector. However, considering their modest share in the world tourism market, it seems that this inherent potential has not yet manifested itself in desirable levels of tourism development in many of them and in the OIC region as a whole.

The problems facing tourism and the development of a sustainable tourism sector in the OIC countries are diverse as each country has its own touristic features, level of development, and national development priorities and policies. However, these problems, *inter alia*, can be summarized as follows:

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/envi/one.html>

<sup>5</sup><http://traveltips.usatoday.com/positive-negative-effects-tourism-63336.html>

**Lack of inherent tourism potential** (natural, historical, cultural, etc.). In some countries, the development of tourism is impeded by their lack of inherent natural, historical or cultural tourism resources. However, as mentioned earlier, though it's a crucial factor, tourism heritage assets alone cannot make a successful tourism industry.

**Lack of knowledge and awareness.** In some countries, there still is a fundamental lack of basic cognizance of the economic importance of tourism as an industry and its positive impact as a potential source of foreign exchange and employment.

**Lack of technical know-how and weak promotional activity.** Even when that fundamental awareness is there, in many cases there is generally a lack of tourism knowledge and professionals. Tourism, as a modern industry, is recent in the world. It is also a new and unfamiliar activity in many OIC countries. Another related problem is the absent or weak publicity promotion and mass media exposure due, in many cases, to the limited technological services available.

**Lack of tourism-related infrastructures.** Many OIC countries lack the sufficient infrastructures necessary for the development of a successful tourism sector. Primary amongst these are hotels and lodging services, transportation and communication, safety and security and tourism information services. This makes it difficult to provide the standards of facilities and services which tourists require.

**Lack of tourism investments.** While investments in services is a well-established economic activity in the developed countries, it is still lagging behind in developing ones. Investment in service-oriented projects, particularly tourism, in developing countries is often regarded as a high-risk task. Accordingly, though they may have a natural tourism potential, it is very difficult for many poor and least developed OIC countries to gain access to reasonable financing for their touristic projects even when they manage to tackle the problems or project identification in planning.

**Lack of consistent tourism strategies and policies.** In many OIC countries, there are still difficulties in getting integrated tourism policy-making due, in general, to policy conflict between the government departments and the tourism private agencies. This is coupled in many cases with the lack of effective administration, regulation and institutional frameworks of touristic activity.

**Lack of tourism diversification.** For many years, international tourism has been characterized by its concentration in coastal or watercourse areas, and in summer for rest, relaxation and leisure. However, modern touristic activity has shown a growing tendency towards diversification and change. This makes it difficult for many OIC countries, including those with relatively developed tourism sector, to keep pace with the rapidly changing and complex requirements of tourists. In a highly competitive international tourism market, and considering the emergence of new touristic destinations, improvement of the conditions that foster modern tourism development is not an easy process.

**Lack of tourism safety.** The safety of touristic is among the primary factors of any successful tourism industry, should, thus, be one of the basic objectives of tourism planning, and provisions. Safety-related tourism problems, whether real or perceived, exert a negative impact on the reputation of host countries. In this regard, negative perceptions appear to play a detrimental role in the prospects of tourism in many OIC countries. Even such factors as rumors may cause great damage to complete tourist seasons.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <http://wavw.sesrtcic.org/files/article/127.pdf>

## **Possible solutions**

### **Policy recommendations and actions for cooperation**

Despite the diverse problems facing tourism in the OIC countries and their modest share in the world tourism market, there still is a wide scope for the development of modern and sustainable tourism industry and intra-OIC cooperation in this important field. Overall, this calls for the adoption of articulate long-term strategies as well as medium to short-term plans and programs at the national level that would be accompanied by the process of creating a supportive OIC cooperation environment at the regional level.

In this regard, the broad objectives and programs of action defined under the chapter of 'Tourism' in the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member Countries of the OIC could be a source of the wide range of policy recommendations that can be proposed at both the national and OIC cooperation levels as follows:

#### **At the national level**

Objectives and programs of action for the sustainable development of the tourism industry are to be outlined specifically in the national development plans and strategies and formulated in consultation with the relevant local stakeholders. This is to be accompanied by the developing new resources in facilities as well as raising public awareness of inherent natural and cultural resources.

The new focus of sustainable development and management of tourism should be on the promotion of economic incentives and environmental education and on local capacity building rather than merely on the establishment of rules and regulations, which proved to be largely ineffective.

Developing and raising tourism-oriented education. This will help change people's perceptions regarding tourism and raise their awareness of the opportunities and challenges involved in tourism. This should be accompanied by making efficient use of the mass media and other promotional facilities to publicize and promote existing attractions and available resources.

Providing training and education programs on different aspects of tourism, particularly to the people and personnel directly engaged in the sector activities. They should be cover a broad range of subjects such as foreign languages, business and tourism techniques, the environmental and socio- cultural impacts of tourism, history, culture, local and national flora and fauna, etc. To facilitate those programs, steps must be taken to provide local communities with financial and technical backing, a field in which governments and NGOs have a key role to play.

Physical planning and strengthening the sustainability of tourism destinations, in general, and ecotourism products in particular, in order to preserve the environmental and cultural quality of those destinations. Planning of the tourism sector should be based on international

standards and regulations. These should underpin the integration of regional proposals and joint marketing activities.

Improving the quality and efficiency of the basic tourism-related infrastructures and services such as hotels, roads, public amenities transportation and communication to provide world-class services to visitors and tourists. These also include tourism information, immigration and visa, and police services. In this regard, the necessary laws and regulations should be put into place to control the quality of the services provided to tourists.

Tourism is a business in primarily an area for private sector activity. Thus, efforts should be made to encourage and promote expensive private sector involvement in tourism development. In this regard, endeavors should be made to establish an atmosphere that raises confidence and encourages private sector investment in tourism projects and establishing joint venture particularly in the areas of capacity building and improving the quality of tourism services.

Efforts should be made to find and obtain access to funding for tourism projects. Steps must be taken to improve and optimize a broad range of funding resources, including the public and private sectors, and other sources such as NGOs, academic institutions and international foundations.

Strengthening public-private sector cooperation with a view to establishing policies, strategies and regulations relative to sustainable tourism development and strengthening institutional tourism management.

Diversifying tourism product (tourism supply) by the inclusion of socio- cultural programs in traditional activities involving local communities. In this regard, efforts should be made to improve planning, management and marketing of ecotourism not only as a sector with a great potential for economic development - especially in remote areas where few other possibilities exist - but also as a significant tool for conservation of the natural environment.

Improving banking and financial services, particularly those facilitating the transfer of money. In this regard, a safe and efficient system of money transfer is among the main factors of successful tourism industry.

Enhancing cooperation and benefiting from the opportunities available in OIC countries and countries in other regions as well as in the relevant international institutions. In this context, efforts should be made to establish joint action at the bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen and expand tourism activities. In this regard, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank has developed a special program for tourism development. OIC countries should make use of these resources and others to help identify plant and fund touristic activities.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <http://waww.sesrtcic.org/files/article/127.pdf>

Thus, sustainable tourism should:

- 1) Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.
- 2) Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
- 3) Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.

**Questions to think about:**

1. What is your country's stand towards the promotion of sustainable tourism?
2. What is the most effective and acceptable way for sustainable tourism?
3. What kind of problems of sustainable tourism does your country face with?

**Further reading:**

<http://sdt.unwto.org/content/about-us-5>

<http://www.sustainabletourism.net/sustainable-tourism>

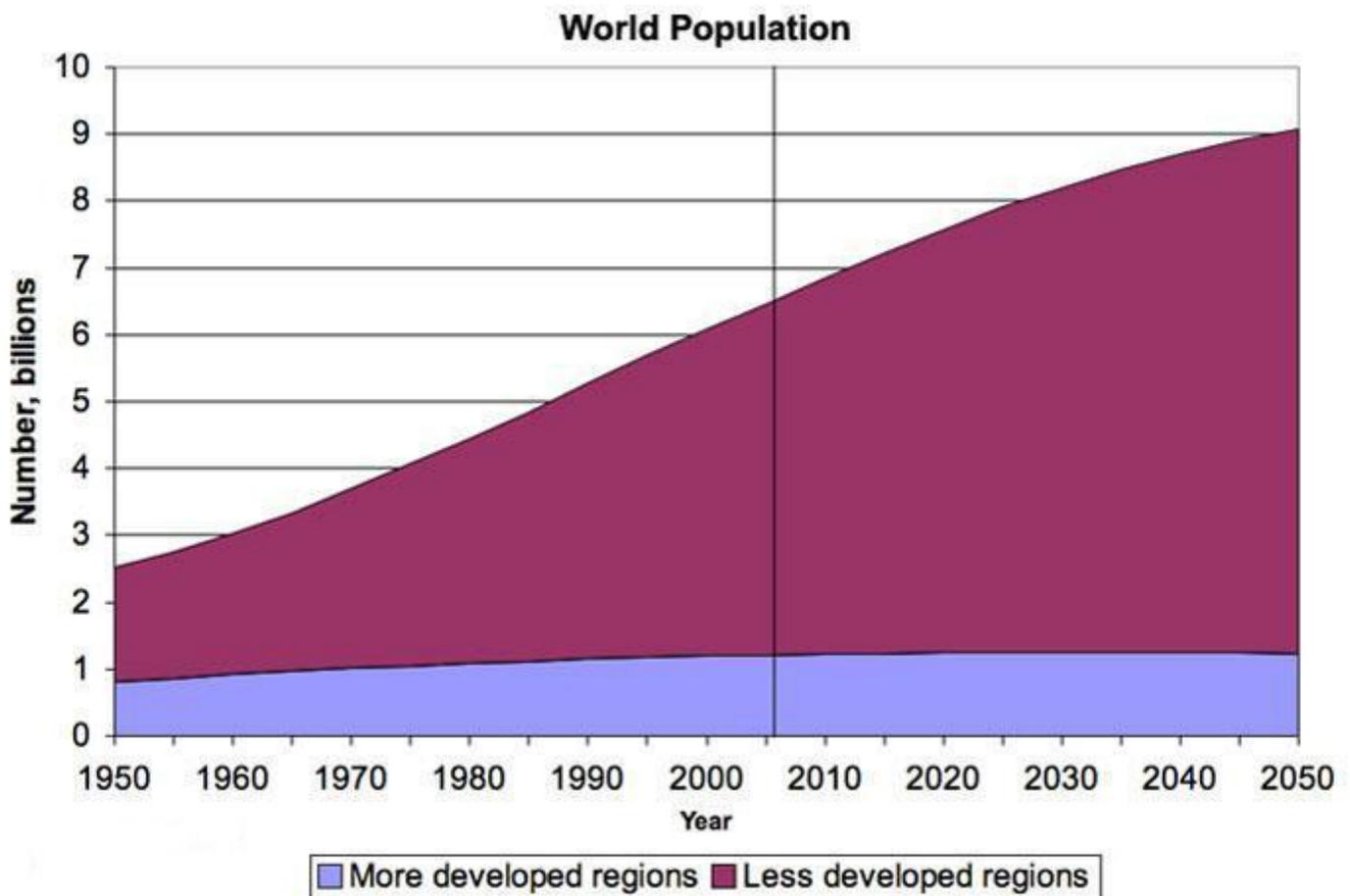
<http://www.sustainabletourism.net/>

## Human footprint

### Topic introduction

Every human produces an individual ecological footprint that is determined largely by the wealth and level of development in the country they live in—more developed countries have a larger footprint on average—but the choices we make in our daily lives also contribute. Driving a car, running clothes through a dryer, turning on the air conditioning—these are activities that add up to a larger footprint.<sup>8</sup>

In addition, the human footprint is not your literal footprint but the impact we as humans have on our environment. Human influence on earth can be positive or negative, benign or catastrophic. Recognizing this responsibility in the first step each of us can take to transform the human footprint and save the last of the wild. However, we do not realize how much of an impact we have in a normal day.



<sup>8</sup> <http://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/the-human-footprint>

## Explanation of the issue

The study of ecological footprint tries to help humanity and nation by nation to avoid ecological bankruptcy. Nowadays the ecological bankruptcy is a serious concern and is far more serious than the financial one, because out of the financial bankruptcy you can move out again later, but the ecological bankruptcy is hard to move out because the ecological assets are the fundamental wealth on which any other wealth depends.

Humanity use 25% more ecologically productive space that is available that means ecology is rapidly drained by humanity without possibility to regenerate. How can it be possible to use more than we have? The answer is that it is possible for the short period because we deplete our assets.<sup>9</sup>

Let's consider some problems of human footprint:

**Pollution-** Most people leave a horrible footprint full of pollution behind them. Pollution is the introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment. Several different things cause this. When cars are driven, they release harmful gasses and even more carbon dioxide into the Earth. Factories and anything-using fossil fuels is harmful to the environment and the atmosphere. There is a lot pollution can do to the environment and to us. Pollution will harm our health when we breathe in dust, carbon dioxide and other gases such as methane caused by us. It will cause marine life to be destroyed wherever there is water pollution. It will also threaten our sources of water for most of them would be contaminated and polluted. Air pollution will result in global warming, where the Sun's heat is trapped in our atmosphere because of an excess of carbon dioxide, resulting in an increase in temperature. This will cause polar ice to melt and sea levels to rise, flooding cities and submerging little islands.<sup>10</sup>

**People waste a lot of paper, plastic, and food.** It is simply because people use too many different kinds of plastics everyday life. Moreover, those plastics are not able to be decomposed, and some of them are toxic to our environment. So some of our garbage is dumped into the ocean, and some of them are burnt and buried under the ground.

**Technology-** Though technology is making lives of humans easier and comfortable. It poses a great threat to the environment. The threat is due to pollution, radiation hazards, exploitation of natural resources etc.

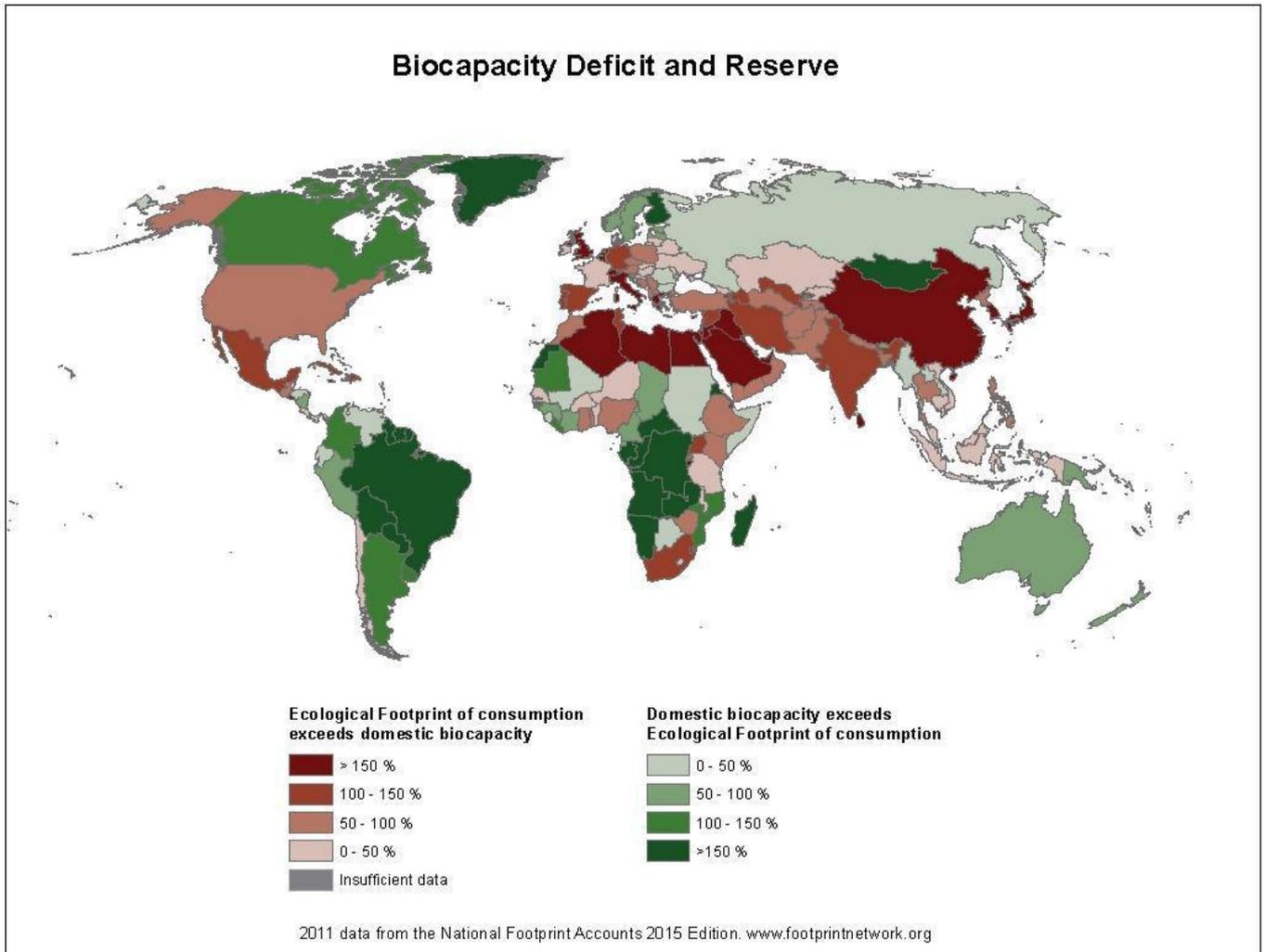
**Deforestation-** deforestation and widespread destruction of plants in the name of expansion and urbanization drastically affects the environment around. Even we can see that there are some companies building resorts as a means of holiday trip into the deepest woods in the world. Thus, we are exploiting the nature and environment beyond the safe limits. Hence, we can see wild animals getting into villages and attacking humans. Deforestation is decreasing the forest area and endangering the lives of wild animals.

**Excess usage of commodities-** we use many commodities out of fantasy than required. We tend to own hundred pairs of leather shoes, purses, belts etc. All of them are made of skin and hides of animals. Many animals like cows, buffaloes, ox, and pig are killed for their skin

<sup>9</sup><http://www.fewresources.org/ecological-footprints--human-impact-factors.html>

<sup>10</sup>[http://www.teenink.com/hot\\_topics/environment/article/659767/The-Human-Footprint/](http://www.teenink.com/hot_topics/environment/article/659767/The-Human-Footprint/)

though not for food. This way the unlimited desire for commodities is in fact causing a great pain and suffering to the normal animals. Even the tigers, elephants are killed in large numbers for their hide, nails and tusks in the name of decorative items. Thus, the human's greed for more is causing them to be extinct in few more years.<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mindcontroversy.com/how-do-humans-affect-the-environment/>

## Possible solution

Not using car so much. You can carpool with co-workers or ride the bus instead of going solo. Also, if your destination is very close, walk or ride a bike instead of driving. This helps because you won't be releasing harmful gasses into the environment.

Turn off the lights or TV when you aren't using it and stop the sink running when you aren't using it.

Using water efficiently at home, at school, and at the office helps protect freshwater resources. Using water more efficiently not only saves water, it can also lower greenhouse gas emissions – public water systems require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households.

Reduce, reuse, recycle, and refuse. Don't forget to recycle your cardboard, plastic, paper, newspapers, and glass. Check with your local recycling center to see what materials they recycle.<sup>12</sup>

All things considered, we want to show that a strategy for fixing environmental problems involves restraining economic growth, reducing the human footprint on the environment by using less of the natural world. In many cases, this can be accomplished without reducing the quality of human life. For example, many ways to conserve water or electricity do not sacrifice quality of life. However, preserving the environment is unlikely to happen simply at the expense of economic development. Economic development leads to better quality of life for people all over the world; it raises people up from desperate poverty and gives our societies the capacity to fix many of the environmental challenges. So how can we increase the quality of human life, encourage economic development, and still protect the environment as human appropriation of the natural world becomes greater and greater? The answer may involve new technology. In some cases, new technologies allow us to reduce our environmental footprint while still providing the goods and services we need, allowing our economic well-being to flourish. A good example is the catalytic converter on automobiles that reduced air pollution, improving human health but still allowing us to drive our cars. New technology may not be a panacea for all environmental problems, but it can help societies balance their needs for economic development with their goals for protecting the environment.<sup>13</sup>

## Questions to think about:

1. What kind of human footprint problems does your country face with?
2. What kind of organization exist in your countries in order to combat with these problems?
3. What actions should we accept for saving our planet?

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.wikihow.com/Have-a-Smaller-Ecological-Footprint>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/unit/text.php?unit=13&secNum=2#top>

**Further reading:**

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/the-human-footprint>

<http://www.greencontributor.com/index.php/human-foot-print.html>

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/footprint/>

<http://education.nationalgeographic.org/interactive/human-footprint-interactive/>

## Sustainable Development Goals

### Topic introduction

General assembly of the United Nations on September 25th 2015, adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. This concept is known as «**sustainable development agenda**». Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Here are those goals, which are incorporated in sustainable development:<sup>14</sup>



### History

In September 2000, leaders of 189 countries gathered at the United Nations headquarters and signed the historic Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to achieving a set of eight measurable goals that range from halving extreme poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality, by the target date of 2015. The MDGs were revolutionary in providing a common language to reach global agreement. The eight goals were realistic and easy to communicate, with a clear measurement/monitoring mechanism.

Substantial progress has been made regarding the MDGs. The world has already realized the first MDG of halving the extreme poverty rate by 2015. However, the achievements have been uneven. The MDGs are set to expire in 2015 and the discussion of a post-2015 agenda continues. The focus is now on building a sustainable world where environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and economic development are equally valued.

The MDG Fund contributed directly and indirectly to the achievement of the MDGs. It adopted an inclusive and comprehensive approach to the MDGs. The Millennium Declaration and its emphasis on development as a right guided the approach, with targeted attention directed towards traditionally marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities,

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

indigenous groups, and women. The Global Consultation of Sustainable Development Goals.

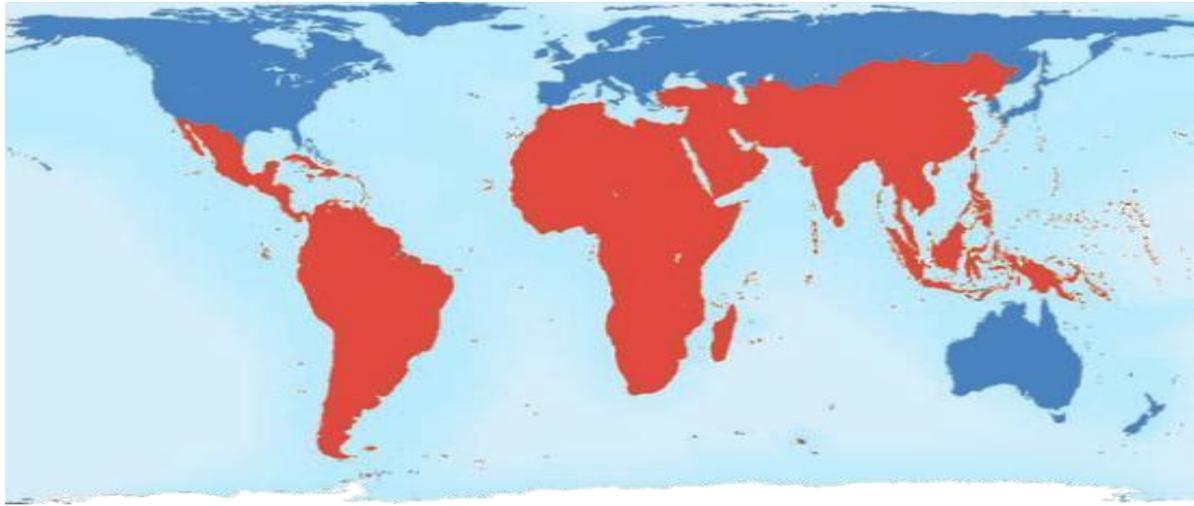
The Rio+20 conference (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012, galvanized a process to develop a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will carry on the momentum generated by the MDGs and fit into a global development framework beyond 2015.

Despite very significant development gains globally, which have raised many millions of people out of absolute poverty, there is substantial evidence that inequality between the world's richest and poorest countries is widening. In 1820, Western Europe's per capita income was three times bigger than Africa's but by 2000 it was thirteen times as big. In addition, in 2013, Oxfam reported that the richest 85 people in the world owned the same amount of wealth as the poorest half of the world's population. Today the world is much more complex than the Brandt Line depicts as many poorer countries have experienced significant economic and social development. However, inequality within countries has also been growing and some commentators now talk of a 'Global North' and a 'Global South' referring respectively to richer or poorer communities, which are found both within and between countries. For example, whilst India is still home to the largest concentration of poor people in a single nation it also has a very sizable middle class and very rich elite. There are many causes for these inequalities including the availability of natural resources; different levels of health and education; the nature of a country's economy and its industrial sectors; international trading policies and access to markets; how countries are governed and international relationships between countries; conflict within and between countries; and a country's vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.<sup>15</sup>

In order to reduce this gap between rich and poor countries on 19 July 2014, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forwarded a proposal for the SDGs to the Assembly. The proposal contained 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. These included ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.rgs.org/NR/rdonlyres/6AFE1B7F-9141-472A-95C1-52AA291AA679/0/60sGlobalNorthSouthDivide.pdf>  
<sup>16</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable\\_Development\\_Goals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goals)



### **Explanation of the issue of Sustainable Development Goals**

It is undoubted that in today's world, the gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider. With the way of people's life today, which are becoming consumptive and prioritizing social pride, the rich are able to use their money to meet the social needs. While the poor are struggling, trying to tell with the rich. Therefore, differences are becoming more obvious:

First, rich nations have been known as having high technology, which allows them to upgrade their productivities in several fields quicker than poor nations. For example, most agriculture in Asia regions has been practiced through human power rather using machines unlike developing countries. In comparison of these two factors, it shows that developed countries are in great advantage to step up ahead of those who apply traditional habits for their daily routines.

Secondary, education is considered as one of many causes for this discrepancy due to the facts that education is a basic background in developing and growing for any nations. While rich nations have a plenty of modern educational materials in helping them to accelerate their growing in a short time, poor nations only have books and minor equipment to rely on for their learning process. It is noticeable that having additional items or equipment such as computer does help to make the great improvements in education.

Thirdly, capital is a vital resource in fast growing. It can be used to certain purposes such as expanding knowledge, development or investments. It is hard to imagine that poor nations can grow without financial resources to operate their activities successfully.<sup>17</sup>

People aren't getting excited about the SDGs because they know that business as usual isn't going to deliver the new economy we so desperately need. In this sense, the goals are not only a missed opportunity, they are actively dangerous: they lock in the global development agenda for the next 15 years around a failing economic model that requires urgent and deep

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.essayforum.com/writing/inequality-rich-poor-nations-minimizing-gap-41185/>

structural changes, and they kick the hard challenge of real transformation down the road for the next generation to deal with – by which time it may be too late.<sup>18</sup>

### **Possible solution**

The developed countries should invest in the developing countries in order to eliminate escalation of the conflict. Let's consider the low scale example when the same principle has been already applied on individual level in developed countries when homeless or poor person get a payment from a government and is able to live more or less on the level where he does not need to turn into criminal and rob people. By paying compensation to lowest class of their citizens, developed countries stabilize situation with criminal activities through feeding those who can potentially cause problems to the rest of society. Those people are not turning in criminals because they do not want to lose their monthly compensation fees from government. People even get promoted into higher class of society through self education and will to live better.

Returning to the initial idea, we should consider that the problem could be solved through following the same principle on the large scale. If the developed countries invest in poor countries then citizens of poor countries will not emigrate there anymore because they will have their own budget.

In order to reduce the gap between rich and poor countries developed nations should provide supports both financially and technically to developing countries via non-profit organizations (NGOs) or loans with or without minor interests. If those supports are applied, poor nations have chance of both learning and growing independently in the future once those supports are withdrawn. Along with that, developed countries can provide technical assistances related to agriculture, business or other fields, which are useful for poor nations to grow sustainably.<sup>19</sup>

### **Questions to think about:**

1. How does your country help poor countries/get cash benefit from rich countries?
2. Do you think that rich countries should help poor countries or poor countries should solve their problems by themselves?
3. What goals of sustainable development does your country succeed with?

### **Further reading:**

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2015/09/23/five-reasons-to-think-twice-about-the-uns-sustainable-development-goals/>

[http://ieet.org/index.php/tpwiki/North-South Divide](http://ieet.org/index.php/tpwiki/North-South_Divide)

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<sup>18</sup> <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2015/09/23/five-reasons-to-think-twice-about-the-uns-sustainable-development-goals/>  
<sup>19</sup><http://www.essayforum.com/writing/inequality-rich-poor-nations-minimizing-gap-41185/>