



# UNECE

## Environment and



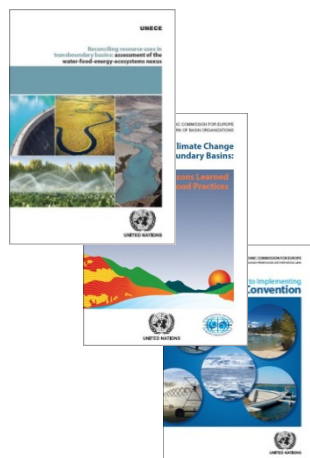
### SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

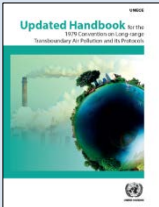



Targets relevant to the *UNECE Environment subprogramme*:

- 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

Target	Measures	Resources (hyperlinks)	Results	Partners
<b>15.1</b> <b>15.3</b>	<p>Implement the UNECE Water Convention, under which the conservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecosystems is a specific obligation</p> <p>Employ payments for ecosystem services in water resources management</p> <p>Join the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change under the UNECE Water Convention and implement natural adaptation measures, such as afforestation and ecosystem restoration</p> <p>Assess the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</p>	<p><a href="#">Guide to implementing the Water Convention</a></p> <p><a href="#">Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus</a></p>	<p>Improved conservation and sustainable use of inland freshwater ecosystems</p> <p>Strengthened natural resilience to climate change</p> <p>Identification of solutions to protect ecosystems with benefits for other sectors</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE Sustainable Energy</li> <li>• Ramsar Convention</li> <li>• IUCN</li> <li>• International Network of Basin Organizations.</li> <li>• OSCE</li> <li>• UNDP</li> <li>• Global Water Partnership</li> <li>• FAO</li> <li>• Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm</li> </ul>



Target	Measures	Resources (hyperlinks)	Results	Partners
15.4 15.5	<p>Implement the UNECE Air Convention's targets for emissions of various air pollutants</p> <p>Use the Convention's work on air pollution effects on forests to get an overview periodically of the condition of forest ecosystems in terms of health, productivity, diversity and nutrition</p> <p>Use also the Convention's work on air pollution effects on rivers and lakes to determine the degree and geographical extent of acidification of surface waters</p>	<p>Updated Handbook for the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols</p> <p>International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes</p> <p>International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests</p> 	<p>Reduced pollution effects on ecosystems and biodiversity</p> <p>Less degradation of natural habitats</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on Biological Diversity</li> <li>• National environment agencies and institutes</li> </ul>
15.6	<p>Implement the UNECE Aarhus Convention and ratify its amendment on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to facilitate effective public participation in decisions on the deliberate release and placing on the market of GMOs.</p>	<p>Key Guidance Material on the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol</p>  <p>Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy</p>	<p>Improved transparency and public participation in decision-making on GMOs</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on Biological Diversity</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• OSCE</li> <li>• Aarhus Centres</li> <li>• Regional Environmental Centres</li> </ul>

## Cross-cutting measures

Implement the [UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) to contribute to protecting biodiversity and natural habitats, by ensuring that environmental concerns are thoroughly taken into account in the planning of land-use and sectoral activities.



## Other UNECE subprogrammes

The Sustainable Energy subprogramme supports the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus carried out under the Environment subprogramme.

