Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
UNECE strategy to assist member States with SDG implementation

The overall strategic orientation for UNECE to support its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda aims to:

• focus even more on UNECE core strengths; and

• use the UNECE multi-sectoral expertise to tackle SDGs in a cross-sectoral, integrated manner and through innovative ways of working.
SDG nexus areas
- high-impact areas where multiple SDGs converge
Sustainable use of natural resources

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Natural Resources

- The use has more than tripled from 1970, and continues to grow
- The use and material footprint are unevenly distributed
- Rapid growth and inefficient use of natural resources will continue to create unsustainable pressures
- Solution requires urgent and concerted action

Source: UNEP, Global Resource Outlook 2019
Natural Resources – Impact

Decoupling concept

Well-being decoupling

Global material extraction
more than doubles

Greenhouse gas emissions
increases by 43%

Area of agricultural land
increases by more than 20%

Resource decoupling

Economic activity

Well-being

Resource use
time

Global pasture land
increases by 25%

Forests
reduces by over 10%

Other natural habitat
reduces by around 20%

Impact decoupling

Environmental pressures & impacts

Source: UNEP, Global Resource Outlook 2019
Natural Resources in the UNECE Region

- the major producer, as well as consumer of natural resources
- one of the major technology providers for the resource production and consumption
- region encompasses the largest trade flows in the world
- one of the largest emitters of air pollutants and greenhouse gases
- natural resources in the UNECE region are unevenly distributed and so are their uses
UNECE vis-à-vis the Nexus

Biophysical environment

Environmental Assets / Environmental Resources
- Non-energy minerals
- Energy minerals
- Soil
- Freshwater
- Timber
- Aquatic assets
- Other biological assets
- Land
- Non-freshwater
- Atmosphere

Interconnected with:
- Forestry
- Statistics
- Energy
- Environment
- Transport
- Trade
- Housing
Major Actions

- Set up
  - Team
  - Terms of Reference of the Nexus
  - Calendar of meetings
- Flagship Publication
- Projects
  - Natural resources management in Central Asia
  - UNDA 14th proposals
- Knowledge Platform/Website
- Exchange and communication
Flagship publication & Knowledge Platform

- Introduction
- Status and Trends of Natural Resources in the ECE Region
- Challenges for the natural resources sector
- UNECE work and tools support the countries
- Conclusions

- Toolbox - UNECE’s tools relevant for sustainable management of natural resources

Source: Bleischwitz, R. et all, 2019
Sustainable Forest Management

Growth of population

Industrialization and increased demand for wood

Forest over-exploitation and deforestation

Abraham Darby I

Hans Carl von Carlowitz

https://www.intriguing-history.com/three-abraham-darbys/

Source: “Allgemeine Forstzeitschrift”
Thank you

Source: UX Collective