



ENDING THE WAR ON NATURE

... by ensuring synergistic and integrated policymaking and action globally

In 2023–2024, UN DESA continued to work with Member States and other stakeholders to build capacities and partnerships, accelerating cross-sectoral implementation of global commitments on energy, climate, forests, the ocean, and water. These efforts support the 2030 Agenda and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

UN DESA...

Fostered stronger connections between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, by hosting more than 80 panel discussions at the SDG Pavilion at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28). Supported the Global Stocktaking on SDG 7, with regional consultations and a Call to Action for universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030. Led the preparatory process for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, including a workshop on the Communities of Ocean Action to exchange best practices.

Helped Member States build capacity to restore forest landscapes and conduct a midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests, charting the course to achieve the Global Forest Goals. Supported implementation of the Water Action Agenda commitments, through a follow-up survey and progress report in the lead up to the UN 2026 Water Conference. Explored the role of families as educators, consumers, and advocates in climate action, offering recommendations for local and national levels.

Global stocktaking on SDG 7 and a call to action

UN DESA brought together governments, the UN system, and civil society including youth organizations, to accelerate implementation of SDG 7 by 2030 and beyond. The outcome was a call to action urging all stakeholders to step up action towards universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030; accelerate global energy transitions and actions towards net zero emission energy systems; scale up finance and investment for developing countries; ensure that no one is left behind; and follow up on the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including through a UN conference on energy. The Global Stocktaking was convened in collaboration with UN-Energy, supported the President of the General Assembly to mark the completion of the UN Decade, in April 2024. UN DESA conducted regional and thematic consultations in preparation of the Stocktaking, meeting experts and collecting written inputs from Member States through an online survey.

The groundbreaking *First Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies* was launched in September 2023 by UN DESA and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report was pre-

follow up on the Water Action Agenda commitments, as well as achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets. UN DESA conducted the first follow-up survey on the Water Action Agenda and issued its progress report, *Mapping and Progress of the UN 2023 Water Conference Water Action Agenda*. The report identified gaps and challenges that commitment holders were facing, including financing and creating an enabling environment, nominated good practices and lessons learned, and presented the overall progress of the Water Action Agenda.

UN DESA, together with UN-Water, also developed the first-ever UN system-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation in consultation with Member States. The strategy, launched by the Secretary-General at the SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda Special Event during the 2024 HLPF, aims to enhance the coordination and delivery of water priorities across the UN system.



Building on the launch of the 2023 quadrennial *Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)* written by the Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, UN DESA brought together a wide range

EVg X'eVcih] ZVgVegzhZciVi'dc'Vi 1] Z'8VeVXfn'Wj'W'c'\L dg h] de'dc': dg'hi'AVcYhXVeZ'GZhidg/i'dc'c'K'Zi'CVb # q J C'9: H6'

To foster synergies with global efforts, UN DESA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are jointly developing open access e-learning courses on Integrated Forest Landscape Restoration. UN DESA has also been supporting a regional initiative for the establishment of a decade of afforestation and reforestation and an International Conference on Afforestation and Restoration, held in July 2024 in the Republic of Congo.

and the Paris Agreement. They highlighted the opportunities of the declaration of the Second Summit of the Three Basins, and the Belem Declaration, stressing the importance to accelerate forest-based climate actions, particularly through increasing forest finance and capacity-building for developing countries.

with their wallets for environmentally friendly products and services. Lastly, as advocates, the participants emphasized that families can demand public policies that endorse and support renewable energy usage and

sustainable physical environments in their communities and beyond. They can also demand family impact assessments of policies and practices linked to climate change.

Exploring the role of families in climate action

UN DESA explored the role of families in climate action as educators, consumers, and advocates through an expert group meeting as part of the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024, and the observance of the International Day of Families on “Families and Climate Change” on 15 May 2024. Participants recommended that as educators, families can foster environmentally-friendly behaviours among family members, and advocate for the inclusion of climate change in school curricula throughout the child's life. Likewise, as consumers, families can support renewable energy-based patterns of production, voting



At COP28 in November 2023, UN DESA focused attention on forests through a series of high-impact events. These events brought together senior officials of Member States, heads and principals of member organizations from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and other stakeholders in support of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its Global Forest Goals, the SDGs,