



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY

2020 | 2030





FAO. 2021. *FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2020-2030*. Rome
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4218en>

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ISBN 978-92-5-134258-9
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Infrastructure Service (CSLI)
Corporate Environmental Responsibility Team
March 2021

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Acknowledgements

This Strategy was produced under the direction of Tina Mittendorf, FAO Environmental Sustainability Management Focal Point. Guidance and support were also provided by René Castro Salazar (Assistant Director-General) and Alex Jones (Director, FAO Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships).

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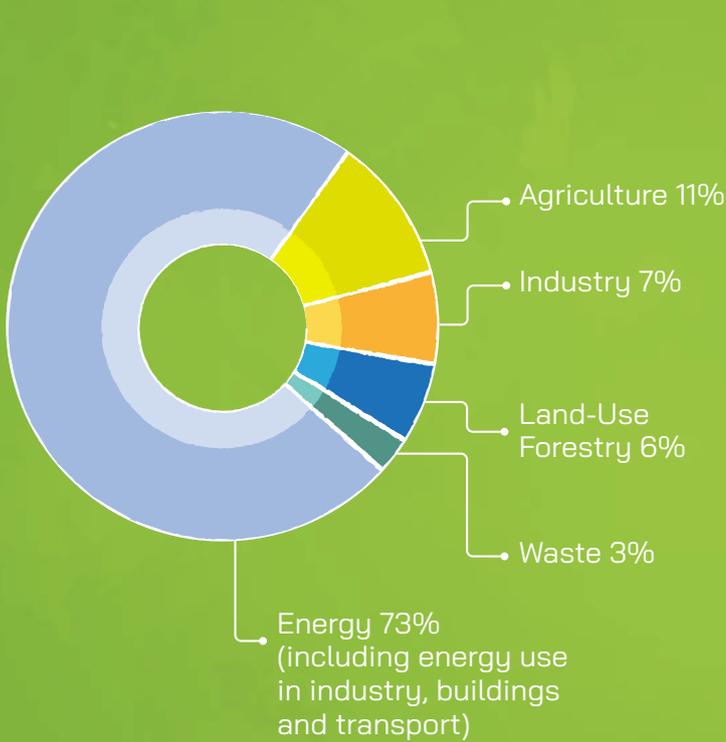
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EMISSIONS

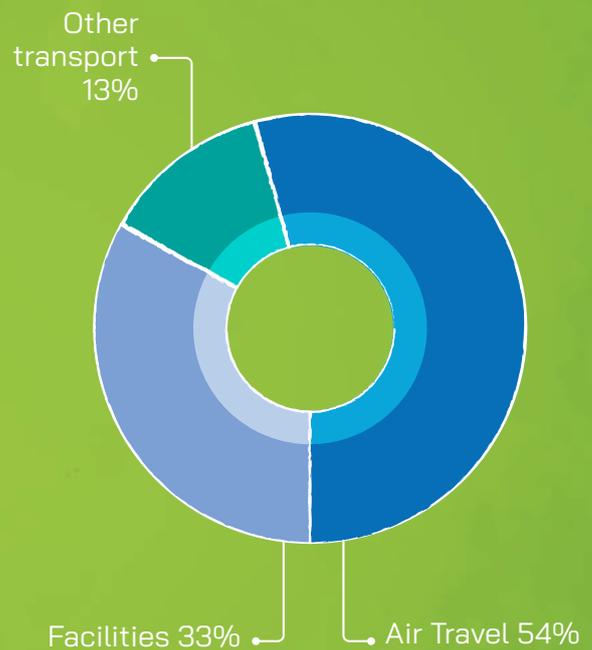
Where do our emissions come from?

WORLDWIDE EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

FAO EMISSIONS FOR 2019



Source: Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (World Resources Institute, 2019) based on global emissions data in 2014.



Source: FAO greenhouse gas inventory

“Those who fail to bet on the green economy will be living in a grey future”

António Guterres, UN Secretary General

Executive summary

Over the past ten years much progress has been made at FAO to monitor and reduce the Organization's environmental impact. The next challenge is to thoroughly integrate environmental considerations into every project and programme that the Organization implements, and into its operations and facilities both at headquarters and decentralized offices. In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General asked the United Nations to raise the level of its internal ambitions and to intensify efforts to combat climate change from within. The next decade will be critical for strengthening these environmental efforts. The FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2020–2030 serves as a framework and blueprint for action, that articulates concrete objectives and critical areas of work.

FAO is stepping up its engagement to measure, reduce, and offset its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and is committed to achieving specific environmental objectives that are in line with the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020–2030 (Phase I), which was endorsed at the 37th session of the UN High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) in April 2019.

The main focal areas of the FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2020–2030 are:

- **achieving a 45 percent reduction in total GHG emissions related to the Organization's operations by 2030 (compared to a 2018 base year);**
- **environmental mainstreaming in programmes and operations;**
- integrating considerations regarding environmental sustainability into **procurement processes, operations, and staff core competencies;**
- updating **travel policies** to significantly reduce travel-related GHG emissions;
- promoting the increased **use of renewables** and avoiding the use of diesel generators, while concurrently reducing energy needs through energy audits, **behavioural changes, and awareness campaigns;**
- improving waste management practices by undertaking activities that integrate systematic waste monitoring, minimize solid waste generation to reduce landfilling, increase waste separation, and improve **recycling schemes, circularity of goods** and take-back schemes, and phase out single-use plastics; and
- improving **water use** by enhancing efforts to monitor, measure, and report water usage while encouraging the implementation of measures to strengthen water efficiency, and improving waste water treatment to avoid pollution of air, soil, and water bodies.

Relevant institutional processes will be put in place in order to meet these goals and implement the strategy successfully, together with appropriate financial and human resources, and supported by monitoring and reporting mechanisms.



Context and vision

Under the leadership of then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the consequent endorsement of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2008, together with many other UN agencies, FAO committed to move towards climate neutrality as a part of UN Climate Neutral Strategy.¹

FAO IS COMMITTED TO CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY SINCE 2008

Since then, a great deal of ambitious work has been done. FAO's corporate commitment to sustainability is embedded in its strategic objectives and work, which are articulated in its common vision and coordinated approach towards sustainable food and agriculture.² The Organization has monitored the carbon footprint of its functional operations (facilities management and official travel), while also working on several projects to lower its overall environmental impact (including energy efficiency, information and communications technology [IT], sustainable events, and procurement). Since 2008, these projects have resulted in a cumulative reduction of over 27 million kg of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq), and savings of over USD 4 million.

KEY STRATEGIES FOR FAO PROGRAMMES

In 2015, FAO adopted *Environmental and Social Management Guidelines*,³ thereby embracing a framework through which to develop an environmental and social management system. In 2017, FAO released its *Strategy on Climate Change*.⁴ In 2019, at its 163rd Session, FAO's Council adopted the *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*, and requested FAO to prepare a draft Action Plan for its implementation in 2020.⁵ All of these developments have necessitated decisive organizational efforts, and a behavioural change that, taken together, have established a sound basis for moving forward.

IPCC REPORT AND CALL TO ACTION

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued the *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* that concluded that the global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide would need to be reduced by approximately 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C and avoid catastrophic climate disaster.⁶

¹ Find out more at: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/general/un-and-sustainability/index.html>

² *Building a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture – Principles and approaches* is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3940e.pdf>

³ *Environmental and Social Management Guidelines* are available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf>

⁴ The *FAO Strategy on Climate Change* is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7175e.pdf>

⁵ *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7722en/ca7722en.pdf>

⁶ The IPCC *Special Report on Global warming of 1.5°C* is available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Pursuant to such statements and vision, at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 the UN Secretary-General António Guterres asked the UN to raise the level of its internal ambitions and intensify its efforts to combat climate change from within. The United Nations system needs to align its own practices with the recommendations of the IPCC report to ensure that its facilities, operations, projects and programmes support the global efforts to mitigate climate change.

FAO, along with many other UN entities, already has much to show, thanks to more than ten years of collective work to measure, reduce and offset its negative impact on the environment. Nevertheless, there remain important gaps to address and ample scope to set more ambitious goals for 2030.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED

FAO is one of the few UN entities that has a *Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy*⁷ in place for its operations and facilities. Efforts are already being made at FAO headquarters and main regional and country offices to routinely integrate environmental sustainability and efficiency considerations into facilities and operations, and a solid trend of emission reduction is already visible. However, the situation in the field and project offices is, in general, more challenging. While progress has been made, and positive emission reduction results have

been exhibited in a number of projects, other aspects, such as security, logistics and short term financial considerations, are often prioritized over the environment. Monitoring environmental impact and management guidance is still limited, and other key issues include: significant problems and risks pertaining to solid waste and wastewater management; a very low overall utilization of renewable energy; and an ongoing reliance on costly and polluting diesel generators.

Despite the substantial progress made in internal environmental management systems, the Organization cannot yet claim to be systematically and holistically assessing and reducing the carbon and environmental footprint of its entire operations and programmes. Until now, there have been separate environmental sustainability processes for facilities and operations, and for FAO programmes and projects. The *FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2020-2030* seeks to mainstream environmental sustainability throughout the Organization's entire programme of work. This reflects the priorities of the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030*, which aims to align principles of environmental sustainability of UN management (facilities and operations) with environmental and social standards in UN programming.⁸ The Strategy reinforces the efforts to reduce and monitor environmental impacts from facilities and operations, as well as from projects and programmes

⁷ The *FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2017-2020* is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7526e.pdf>

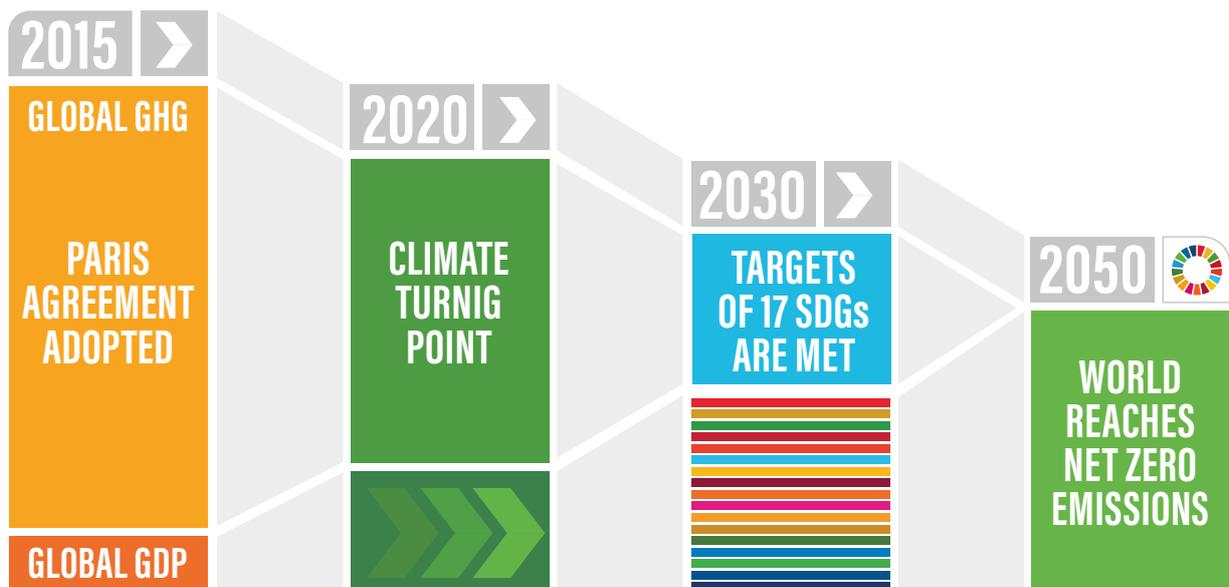
⁸ The *Strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system, 2020-2030. Phase I: Environmental sustainability in the area of management* is available at: https://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB.2019.1.Add_1%20-%20Sustainability%20Management%202020-2030_Phase%20I.pdf

by, for example, fostering the creation of frameworks for developing and enhancing environmental responsibility at FAO's decentralized offices.

Several operational principles are fundamental to this vision:

- setting objectives and targets that support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at all levels of management;

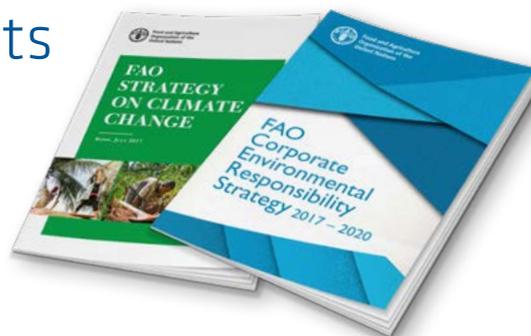
- leading by example;
- ensuring the harmonization of internal sustainability initiatives;
- managing risks;
- strengthening business resilience;
- enhancing credibility and accountability; and
- achieving financial savings through resource efficiency.





Milestones and achievements

3



In 2010, FAO joined the UN Greening the Blue initiative⁹ and started collaborating with the UN Issue Management Group (IMG) on Environmental Sustainability Management.

In 2015, FAO published its *Environmental and Social Management Guidelines* and established its Environmental and Social Management Unit.

On June 2016, FAO published its *Corporate Environmental Responsibility Policy*¹⁰ which focuses on the environmental aspects of the Organization's functional operations.

Complementary to the *Corporate Environmental Responsibility Policy*, the *FAO Strategy on Climate Change*, which was adopted **in 2017**, covers all the Organization's operations, including projects and programmes. In the *Strategy on Climate Change*, FAO focuses its work on three fronts:

- enhancing institutional and technical capacities of Member Nations;
- improving integration of food security, sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the international climate agenda; and
- strengthening internal coordination and delivery of the Organization's work.

In 2017, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in conformity with the SDGs, FAO issued its *Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2017-2020*. In the Strategy, FAO committed to:

- continue monitoring the environmental impact of its functional operations;
- improving its environmental performance and reduce its GHG emissions, both at headquarters and in decentralized offices, and continue offsetting the remaining emissions that cannot be reduced;
- embracing circular economy principles when procuring goods and services and managing waste; and
- developing environmental management systems (EMS) for offices.

The implementation of the Strategy was supported by the annual allocation of USD 100 000 within the Corporate Environmental Responsibility team of the FAO Infrastructure Service (Logistic Services), to provide minimum financial support to initiate sustainability projects and purchase the necessary certified emission reductions (CERs) to offset the Organization's unavoidable emissions.

⁹ <https://www.greeningtheblue.org/>

¹⁰ The *FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Policy* is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5690e.pdf>

THE MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED IN RECENT YEARS INCLUDE:

In facilities and operations

- **solar systems installation** at headquarters, at the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, and at FAO country offices in Djibouti, Mauritania, Nepal and Uganda;
- implementation of an EMS at headquarters and a pilot EMS system in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand;
- **lighting upgrade** at headquarters and the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana;
- the **offsetting** of all travel- and building-related carbon dioxide (CO₂equivalent) emissions since 2014;
- **GHG inventory**, monitoring, and reporting to the Greening the Blue platform¹¹;
- 32 percent **reduction in energy consumption** at headquarters since 2012;
- better waste management at headquarters by improving waste separation for recycling and composting, and
- **phasing out plastic** at headquarters and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand; and
- installing **energy meters** in 10 decentralized offices.

In projects and programmes across the organization

- adoption of Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (2015) and **establishment of a system of environmental and social management**;
- establishment of the Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU) within the Climate and Environment Division and an independent accountability mechanism to address complaints related to environmental and social management standards in programming at the Office of the Inspector General;
- **accreditation for compliance with environmental and social standards** in programming that allowed FAO to receive funds from various donor organizations such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), multilateral banks, bilateral development agencies and others;
- inclusion of **mandatory environmental and social screening into the FAO project cycle**, including mandatory certification for environmental and social risks into the FAO project approval process;
- establishment of the **FAO's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Technical Network** as a major advisory and consultative mechanism on environmental and social standards, available across the organization; and
- development of **training modules at you@fao.org**, and continuous capacity building events were delivered at headquarters and regional offices (Ankara, Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Barbados, Cairo, Nairobi, Panama City, Santiago, Tunis, Washington).

¹¹ For more information, consult the FAO page on the Greening the Blue website: <https://www.greeningtheblue.org/entities/faos>



GREENING THE BLUE

It is divided in two parts:

- *Phase I (Environmental sustainability in the area of management)* focuses on the continued reduction of environmental impacts via the systematic consideration of risks and benefits to the environment from UN activities in relevant corporate management decisions of all UN entities. This part was endorsed by the CEB in May 2019.
- *Phase II (Sustainability in programmes, projects and corporate management)*, will address the full picture of internal environmental and social sustainability in UN system policies, programming, and facilities and operations, as outlined in the Framework for advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System. This will be considered for endorsement by the CEB in 2021.

Adopted by the FAO's Council **in 2019**, the *Strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors* is organized according to four outcomes:

- support to Members to enhance their capacity to mainstream biodiversity;
- mainstreaming of Biodiversity across FAO's policies, programmes and activities;
- global recognition of the role of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services in food security and nutrition; and
- strengthened coordination and delivery of FAO's work on biodiversity.

The *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030*¹² was presented to the UN's Chief Executive Board for Coordination in 2019. The strategy, which covers the decade 2020-2030, is designed to raise the UN's ambitions on sustainability and ensure greater system-wide coherence.

¹² <https://www.unsystem.org/content/addendum-strategy-sustainability-management-united-nations-system-2020-2030>





Commitments and targets

4

Through this Strategy:

FAO is **aligning** itself with the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020–2030*, as well as the Greening the Blue platform and other UN agencies, to outline new goals and commitments for the next ten years.

FAO is renewing and upscaling its commitment to:

Measure environmental impacts by:

- strengthening the systematic measurement of impacts for all agreed environmental indicators, and the establishment of baselines and progress tracking systems;
- systematically and comprehensively measuring and publicly reporting environmental impacts through a defined platform, using performance criteria and recommended standards; and
- systematically monitoring the implementation of environmental and social management frameworks and plans.

Reduce adverse environmental impacts by:

- implementing environmental management systems in line with international best practices, including common performance criteria;
- focusing efforts on a set of specific areas for action; and
- fostering innovation, and utilizing internal and external partnerships to support the financing and efficient implementation of these measures.

Offset unavoidable GHG emissions by:

- maintaining a 100 percent climate-neutral Organization, through a combination of GHG emission reductions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and purchasing emission reduction certificates that have been approved by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for unavoidable GHG emissions.

FAO is committing to reach a **45 percent reduction in the amount of absolute GHGs emitted to the atmosphere¹³ by 2030, compared to the base year 2018.**

¹³ Related to emission boundaries where FAO has operational and/or financial control.

SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS

The quantitative target of 45 percent reduction has been set by adopting a science-based targeting methodology¹⁴ and aligning with the commitment of the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020–2030* and IPCC recommendations.¹⁵ The year 2018 has been considered as the base year, being the most recent year – at the time of writing – for which there is an acceptable quality of GHG inventory data, that is representative of the FAO GHG emissions profile and that allows for ambitious action.

EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

An initial screening has identified a list of key activities that will allow for the attainment of the 45 percent emission reduction target if implemented annually over the next decade. The list (at [Annex I](#)) is indicative and non-exhaustive, and will continue to be developed further in a collaborative process to support the implementation of the Strategy. The proposed emission reduction plan will lead to a steady decrease in annual emissions (see Figure 1) and will allow cumulative savings of more than 49 000 tonsCO₂e.

COMMITMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Further to the list of key activities, the commitment and objectives table at [Annex II](#) provides more specific qualitative and quantitative objectives and areas of work to be focused on in order to meet the global emission reduction target. The areas are grouped into environmental aspects and environmental impacts, according to environmental management systems language.¹⁶ Main sources of emissions from facilities (Scope 1 and Scope 2, according to the GHG protocol definition¹⁷) and travel (Scope 3) are targeted.

Since the climate science is constantly evolving, it is possible that the science-based targets will require further adjustment to future predictions and may eventually lead to even more significant cuts to emissions. Targets will be subject to review and discussion at the mid-term stage of the Strategy implementation (i.e. 2025) in order to take into account potentially important changes in emission scenarios and/or operational boundaries of the Organization.

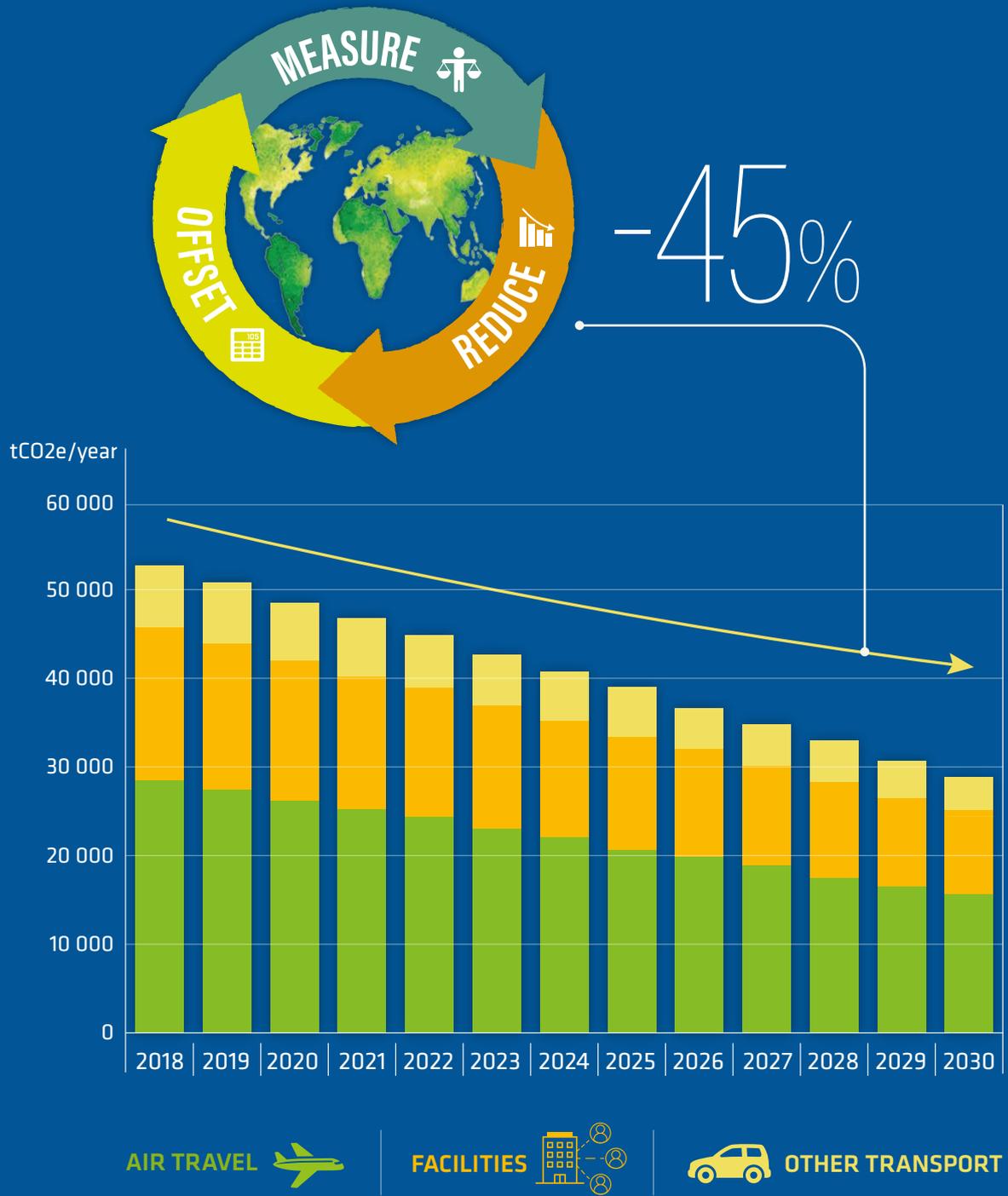
¹⁴ GHG emissions reduction targets are considered “science-based” if they are in line with what the latest climate science says is necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (*1.5°C emission scenario*). The science behind the definition of emission scenarios assesses the totality of historical emissions and projected emissions based on various economic models and climate science in order to determine what emissions equate to what average level of warming the global climate will experience.

¹⁵ Through the adoption of the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 Phase I*, approved by the CEB in 2019, the UN System has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030. This target-setting goal is based on the IPCC finding that “In model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO₂ emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile range), reaching net zero around 2050 (2045–2055 interquartile range).”

¹⁶ *ISO 14001:2015 Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use* states that **environmental aspects** are any “element of an organization’s activities, products or services that can interact with the environment”. Key aspects are environmental governance including safeguards and environmental policies, procurement, buildings, human resources, travel and transport, and events. **Environmental impacts** are “any change in the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization’s environmental aspects”. Key impacts include energy, waste and water management. *ISO 14001:2015* is available at: <https://www.iso.org/standard/60857.html>

¹⁷ <https://ghgprotocol.org/>. Scope 1: stationary combustion, refrigerant gases, and fleet. Scope 2: purchased electricity. Scope 3: official travel (air and non-air travels).

Figure 1 Projected Total GHG Emissions tCO₂e/year by emission source





Responsibilities and accountability

5

The FAO Infrastructure Service, within the Logistic Services (CSLI), will continue to be responsible for coordinating the Strategy's implementation, and monitoring progress towards the realization of environmental commitments at FAO headquarters. Regional and Country Representatives, in collaboration with and supported by headquarters, will play a similar role within their respective regions and countries.

Requirements to make this Strategy operational and achieve the desired outcomes include:

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The existing coordination units and technical support mechanisms need to be mandated, reinforced, and maintained to strengthen their capacity and authority to coordinate, support, and track the progress being made to reduce environmental impacts.

INTERNAL COORDINATION

The Strategy covers several administrative areas of the Organization: its implementation will not be possible without the creation of a committed inter-divisional and multi-disciplinary working group to support to the Corporate Environmental Responsibility team. In addition to the Corporate Environmental Responsibility focal point, the working group will include two representatives from the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment as alternate focal points, and representatives from travel, human resources, procurement, IT, and events.

ADEQUATE HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Sufficient financing is necessary to achieve the above-mentioned targets, and to ensure effective implementation of the FAO's environmental commitments in line with the Strategy. This will involve:

- increasing the CSLI Corporate Environmental Responsibility team's annual budget to provide financial support and appropriate human resources to initiate sustainability projects and purchase the necessary certified emission reductions (CERs) to offset the Organization's unavoidable emissions (minimum USD 300 000 per year, warranting further increase during the ten-year period if deemed necessary to achieve the 2030 objectives);
- creating internal funds to be used for environmental innovation and climate neutrality in decentralized offices, and exploring the potential to access unused funds from Member Nations at the end of their budget period;
- reinvesting the unspent budget from other projects (e.g. trust funds, donors) into environmental sustainability projects;
- seeking and mobilizing additional funding (such as allocations from the administrative fee, partnership with private sectors, financial support from donors or Member Nations) for ensuring compliance under projects and programmes, in coordination with the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment; and
- Considering multi-agency funding for joint initiatives.

MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISMS

Progress on the Strategy's implementation will be reported annually by FAO through existing mandated reports, such as the Corporate Environmental Responsibility Report. After

five years, the strategy will be reviewed to confirm and, if necessary, adjust the stated ambitions based on an analysis of progress and emerging factors. The efforts FAO is making in this area will continue to be reported on the UN Greening the Blue platform.

Conclusions

FAO strongly supports the fight against climate change. The Organization is committed to strengthening its efforts to achieve environmental sustainability in the next ten years, as requested by the UN Secretary-General.

In order to act as a cohesive UN, FAO is also committed to align with the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030*.

With this Strategy, FAO will continue to minimize the negative environmental impacts of its operations, facilities and programmes. In alignment with the Organization's Strategic Objectives, FAO is committed to taking effective action at all levels of management to support the achievement of the SDGs, leading by example, and contributing to limit global warming to the 1.5°C threshold championed by the IPCC.



ENERGY

Why your ACTIONS matter?

31 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions attributed to human activity come from the electricity generation sector



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



By 2030

Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.



Sustainable management of natural resources.
You have the power

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ANNEX I

Emission Reduction Plan, Key Activities 2020-2030

The table below shows an indicative list of activities and measures that, if implemented annually, would facilitate the achievement of the 45 percent science-based emission reduction target by 2030, with a steady reduction scenario. This emission reduction plan is indicative and non-exhaustive and could be changed and adapted along the ten-year period of validity of the Strategy, if needed.

Year	Activity	Unit	Annual planned absolute emissions reduction (KgCO ₂ e)	Annual energy saving - or annual avoided purchase electricity (kWh)	% CO ₂ e reduced
AII	ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES		204.107	463.595	0,44%
	HVAC multi-split upgrade (per unit)	20	1137	2274	
	A/C mono-split upgrade (per unit)	50	191	383	
	Windows upgrade (per m ²)	100	9	17	
	Roof insulation/reflective paint (per m ²)	200	4	8	
	Wall insulation/reflective paint (per m ²)	200	2	3	
	Lighting Upgrade - indoor (per unit)	400	64	128	
	Lighting Upgrade - outdoor (per unit)	200	721	1443	
	Appliances upgrade (e.g. IT, kettles etc.) (per unit)	150	185	369	
	SOLAR PV INSTALLATIONS IN DOS		240.500	494.000	0,45%
	Solar PV (per kWp)	200	650	1.300	
	Solar hybrid (per kWp ¹⁸)	150	737	1.560	
	SOLAR WATER HEATING		41.160	82.320	0,08%
	Solar Water Heating (per m ²)	100	411,6	823	
	ELECTRIC CARS FOR FLEET		2.520	-	0,01%
	Electric car (per car)	2	895	-	
	Hybrid car (per car)	2	365	-	
	BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES		134.348	268.695	0,25%
	A/C management, turning off appliances etc. (per person)	350	384	768	
	REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS FROM OFFICIAL TRAVEL (AIR TRAVEL + OTHER TRANSPORTS)		1.334.545	-	2.52%

TOTAL/year	1.984.870	1.308.610	3.75%
TOTAL absolute reduction in 2030	19.849.696	13.086.100	45%
	kgCO₂e	kWh	
Cumulative reduction by 2030	49 113 321	71 973 550	

¹⁸ Assuming one 800 Wh battery per kWp installed.

TRAVEL

Why your **ACTIONS** matter?

28 percent
of global greenhouse
as emissions
are attributed to the
transport sector.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



By 2030

Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible
and sustainable transport systems for all.



Sustainable management of natural resources.
Sustainable transport

ANNEX II

2020-2030 Commitments and Objectives

This table outlines more specific qualitative and quantitative targets and areas of work to focus on, in order to achieve the 45 percent science-based emission reduction target and the associated emission reduction plan.

Commitment area	Description	Steps	2030 FAO objectives	SDG targets ¹⁹
1 - ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE				
1.1	 ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING IN PROGRAMMES AND OPERATIONS Establishment of governance frameworks with environmental safeguards across programme activities (Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment) Implementation of environmental management systems across support functions and operations (Corporate Logistics and Operational Support Stream)	1. Adoption of the revised FAO's environmental and social standards in programming, aligned with the UN Model Approach and the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030 2. Monitoring and full compliance with FAO's environmental and social management frameworks and plans 3. Integration of harmonized environmental performance criteria into annual reporting mechanisms 4. Improve annual monitoring and reporting of initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impacts 5. Acceleration of existing efforts to implement environmental management systems in FAO offices 6. Investment in more complete annual reporting of progress on internal sustainability and environmental data analytics to support performance 7. Maintain the climate neutrality status for the organization by offsetting unavoidable building and travel-related GHG emissions through the UNFCCC platform	100% compliance	13.2 13.3 13.a 13.b
		8. Provision of sufficient financial and human resources for the implementation of environmental management and of the strategy		

¹⁹ Our commitments are in line with the scope of specific SDG targets, which are here indicated for reference and reported in full in Annex III.

Commitment area	Description	Steps	2030 FAO objectives	SDG targets	
2 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS					
2.1	WORK PLACE 	Environmental sustainability is integrated in existing FAO capacity building and accountability frameworks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness: develop mandatory training on environment in the workplace for FAO employees and invest in job-specific environmental training (e.g. facility managers, engineers, procurement officers, administrative assistants) 2. Accountability: integrate environmental improvement in senior management performance requirements 3. Attract qualified staff: integrate requirements for environmental capacities in relevant job descriptions (e.g. facilities managers, engineers, logistics experts, program managers) 4. Integrate environmental concerns into core competencies 5. Integrate environmental concerns into staff codes of conduct 6. Foster remote/flexible working mechanisms to reduce commuting 	100% compliance 75% of FAO employees trained 100% of facility managers, procurement officers, administrative assistants trained	12.8 13.3
2.2	FACILITIES 	All FAO facilities follow sustainable building standards and minimize their environmental footprint	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate environmental requirements in negotiations with landlords and host governments (including Host Country Agreements) 2. Ensure that buildings respect electrical safety standards (in compliance with minimum operating safety standards requirements) 3. Carry out environmental audits in existing buildings 4. Pilot environmental management systems in decentralized offices (i.e. develop sustainable building management plans for energy, waste and hazardous waste, including e-waste, water management and, where relevant, biodiversity management plans) 5. Install energy meters 	45 % reduction in GHG emissions from facilities ²⁰ Electrical safety standards achieved in at least 10 country offices ²¹ Environmental management system implemented in at least 5 country offices Energy meters installed in at least 40 country offices	9.1 9.4 9.a 15.1 15.5
2.3	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT 	Reconsideration of current travel policies, taking into account the need to reduce FAO GHG emissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconsider approaches for travel with the objective of reducing emissions and adapt the FAO travel policy accordingly (e.g. limit air travel only to strictly necessary flights, given the recent deployment of improved and efficient teleconferencing tools; prefer the use of selected airlines engaged in emission reduction policies; encourage travel by train when feasible and cost effective) 2. Show the flight emissions on the e-ticket/itinerary of finalized travel authorizations, and offer the option of voluntary emissions offsetting to drive cultural change in travellers 3. Review feasibility of providing divisions with 'carbon budgets' 4. Evaluate the option of including a carbon tax on purchased flights (e.g. 2% off every transaction put into a fund) or propose travelling units to back-charge CSLI once emissions information is collected and communicated 5. Apply sustainable guidance for fleet management (e.g. reducing average fleet age, improve fuel quality) 6. Encourage the use of electric and hybrid vehicles 	45 % reduction in GHG emission from official air and non-air travels Four electric/hybrid vehicles deployed per year	11.2

²⁰ Scope 1+2 emissions: stationary combustion, refrigerant gases, purchased electricity.

²¹ The term 'country office' refers to the major office hosting FAO staff in a country.

	Commitment area	Description	Steps	2030 FAO objectives	SDG targets
2 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS					
2.4	PROCUREMENT 	Systematically integrate sustainability considerations in procurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a FAO-specific sustainable procurement plan that includes circular economy considerations such as leasing, sharing of equipment among agencies and making provisions for take-back schemes 2. Develop and implement a monitoring system for all product types that allows for monitoring the number of tenders that include sustainable criteria 3. Develop a baseline on sustainable products for agriculture 4. Enhance reporting on sustainable procurement efforts 5. Integrate environmental considerations in supply chain risk evaluation and monitoring and build capacity among suppliers 6. Define a list of phase-outs in line with the objectives of the strategy (e.g. no ozone-depleting substances, persistent organic pollutants, or short-lived climate pollutants) 7. Sustainable procurement training is made mandatory for all FAO procurement staff 	100% compliance 40% of all tenders have to include sustainable criteria 80% of tenders in the administrative area must include sustainable criteria	12.7 12.a
2.5	FAO EVENTS 	All FAO large events (over 300 participants) should be sustainable and climate neutral	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate sustainability considerations in events planning (e.g. no use of single use plastic items, sustainable catering, sustainable hotels etc.) 2. Offset unavoidable emissions associated with the event (participants air travel and commuting) by purchasing certified emission reductions (CERs) 3. Encourage virtual meeting patterns and encourage remote events, given the recent deployment of improved and efficient teleconferencing tools 	100% compliance 100% of sustainable and climate neutral events over 300 participants	
2.6	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) 	Align IT functions with the ambitions of the strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring IT complies with sustainability guidelines (e.g. reduction of data centre footprint; adoption of greener solutions; use of energy-saving computers; use of network printers and the cloud; purchasing from ISO 14001 compliant businesses; and provision of an effective disposal of e-Waste or take back schemes and maintenance plans) 2. Use of IT to support sustainability (e.g. online meeting tools and specific software and analysis that ensure reliable and working equipment is available in decentralized offices to encourage online meetings and working-from-home patterns) 	100% compliance	17.7 17.8

Commitment area	Description	Steps	2030 FAO objectives	SDG targets	
3 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS					
3.1	ENERGY AND GHG EMISSIONS 	Optimization of energy consumption and switch to renewable energy sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the use of renewables through on-site self-production (solar PV systems) 2. Encourage behavioural change influencing reduction in energy demand 3. Reduce energy needs through awareness campaigns and investments in energy efficiency measures (e.g. lighting upgrades, envelope insulation, window replacement, air conditioning upgrade) 4. Reduce, minimize and avoid the use of diesel generators, and assess and re-evaluate the generator size when diesel use is unavoidable 5. Ensure business continuity in country offices by using renewable energy backup sources instead of diesel generators 6. Eliminate all ozone-depleting refrigerants from cooling systems and vehicles 7. Where available, opt for renewable energy utility contracts or Power Purchase Agreement 8. Where needed, support dedicated private sector renewable energy projects to supply the Organization 	41% renewable fraction for facilities ²² 43% reduction in electricity consumption for facilities ²³ 15% reduction in expenditure for fuels and generators ²⁴	7.1 7.2 7.3 7.a 7.b
		Reducing climate change impacts (Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. All FAO's projects and programmes consider climate and disaster risks as an integral part of environmental and social standards screening and compliance 10. Develop emission profiles for new FAO projects 11. Encourage changes in project design and implementation to address climate change 	100% of FAO projects have relevant profiles or information	13.1 13.2

²² Intended as the percentage of electricity generated by photovoltaic (PV) systems compared to total electricity demand.

²³ 25 percent reduction in electricity consumption in buildings achieved since 2012.

²⁴ USD 1 million spent in 2017 recorded by Purchase Orders (POs). This target reduction will come as consequence of hybrid PV system installation and more sustainable use of pre-existent diesel generators.

	Commitment area	Description	Steps	2030 FAO objectives	SDG targets
3 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS					
3.2	WASTE 	Reduction of landfilled solid and hazardous wastes and use of improved disposal methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement systematic waste monitoring in major offices to support solid waste management 2. Minimize solid waste through reduced and improved packaging and composting of biodegradable organics and materials 3. Increase waste separation and reduce landfilling 4. Improve recycling schemes at least in Regional and Subregional Offices 5. Improve circularity of goods (i.e. recover-recycle-reuse before disposal) 6. Innovative and more durable design and take-back schemes shall be requisite for all electronic equipment, hazardous waste and goods procurement 7. Where country regulations and facilities are in place, E-waste shall be processed using formal recycling and disposal 8. Improved supply, management, and awareness of hazardous material to reduce hazardous wastes 9. Explore and allow partnerships with local organizations to manage specific waste streams (e.g. food, IT, furniture) 	100% compliance 90% of country offices with more than 30 staff monitors and reports reliable data on waste The average recycling rate shall reach at least 50% ²⁵	11.6 12.2 12.4 12.5
		Phase out single-use plastic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out plastic audits in key locations 2. Identify key areas of intervention (e.g. packaging, catering, food distribution, plastic sheeting) 3. Establish baselines, targets and measurement systems 4. Minimize the use of single-use plastics on premises and projects through innovative solutions in procurement and behavioural change 5. Ensure the proper disposal of waste so that no plastics from FAO activities or compounds are dispersed in the environment 	At least 5 country offices will eliminate single-use plastic in catering areas 100% reduction in single use plastic at Headquarters	14.1
3.3	WATER 	Ensure water conservation by promoting sustainable water use and avoid pollution of the air, soil and water bodies by the release of untreated wastewater	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep monitoring water usage at headquarters while looking for opportunities to streamline use 2. Enhance efforts to meter and report the water used by FAO decentralized offices 3. Encourage the implementation of water efficiency measures (e.g. improved taps, leak programmes, toilet flush reduction) at least in Regional and Subregional Offices 4. Improve water treatment before discharge 5. Prohibit external dumping and outsourcing of sewage waste disposal in the absence of functional treatment facilities 6. Where applicable, invest in dedicated or communal wastewater treatment facilities to protect the health of the surrounding population 7. Monitor the quality of all internal and contracted wastewater facility outfalls 	100% compliance 90% of country offices with more than 30 staff monitors and reports reliable data on water consumption and treatment 10% reduction in per capita water consumption	6.3 6.4 6.5 6.a 6.b

²⁵ The average recycling rate in decentralised offices recorded in 2019 is 7.5 percent. The recycling rate refers to the quantity of non-landfilled waste (kg), which is assumed to be recycled, with respect to the total quantity of generated waste (kg). The global FAO average is calculated over the total number of country offices participating to the environmental inventory, and for which data are collected.

WASTE

Why your **ACTIONS** matter?



50 million tonnes of e-waste are generated each year globally, only 20% is recycled.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



By 2030

Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

©FAO/Claudia Amico



80 percent of all plastic waste ever produced has accumulated in landfills, dumps or the natural environment.

Source: Sustainable Development Goals; UN Environment.

Sustainable management of natural resources.
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

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ANNEX III

SDG TARGETS

Global framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to the current Strategy



SDG Goal	Target	Description
GOAL 6. ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL		
	6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
	6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
	6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
	6.a	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
	6.b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
	GOAL 7. ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL	
	7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
	7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
	7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
	7.a	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
	7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

SDG Goal	Target	Description
GOAL 9. BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION		
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
	9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
	9.a	Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
GOAL 11. MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE		
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
	11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
GOAL 12. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS		
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
	12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
	12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
	12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
	12.a	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
GOAL 13. TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS		
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
	13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
	13.3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
	13.a	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
	13.b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

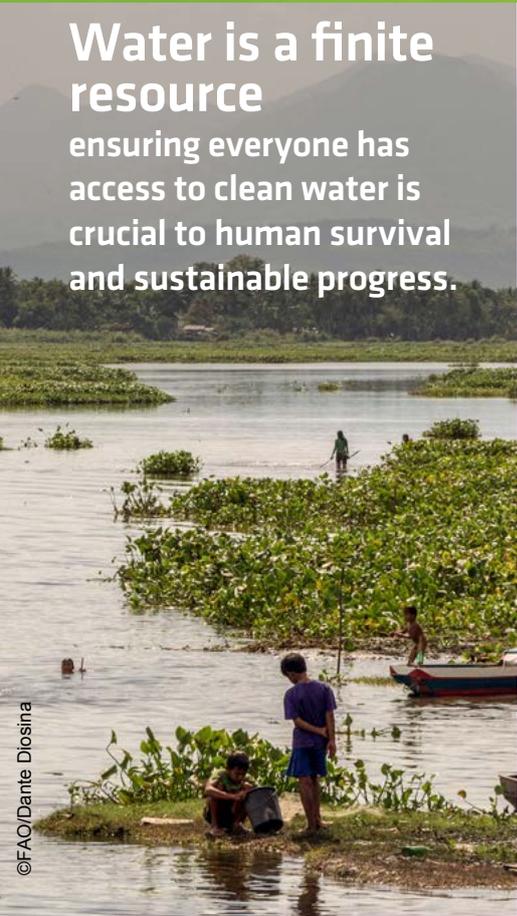
SDG Goal	Target	Description
GOAL 14. CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
	14.1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
GOAL 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		
	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
	15.5	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
GOAL 17. STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
	17.7	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
	17.8	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

WATER

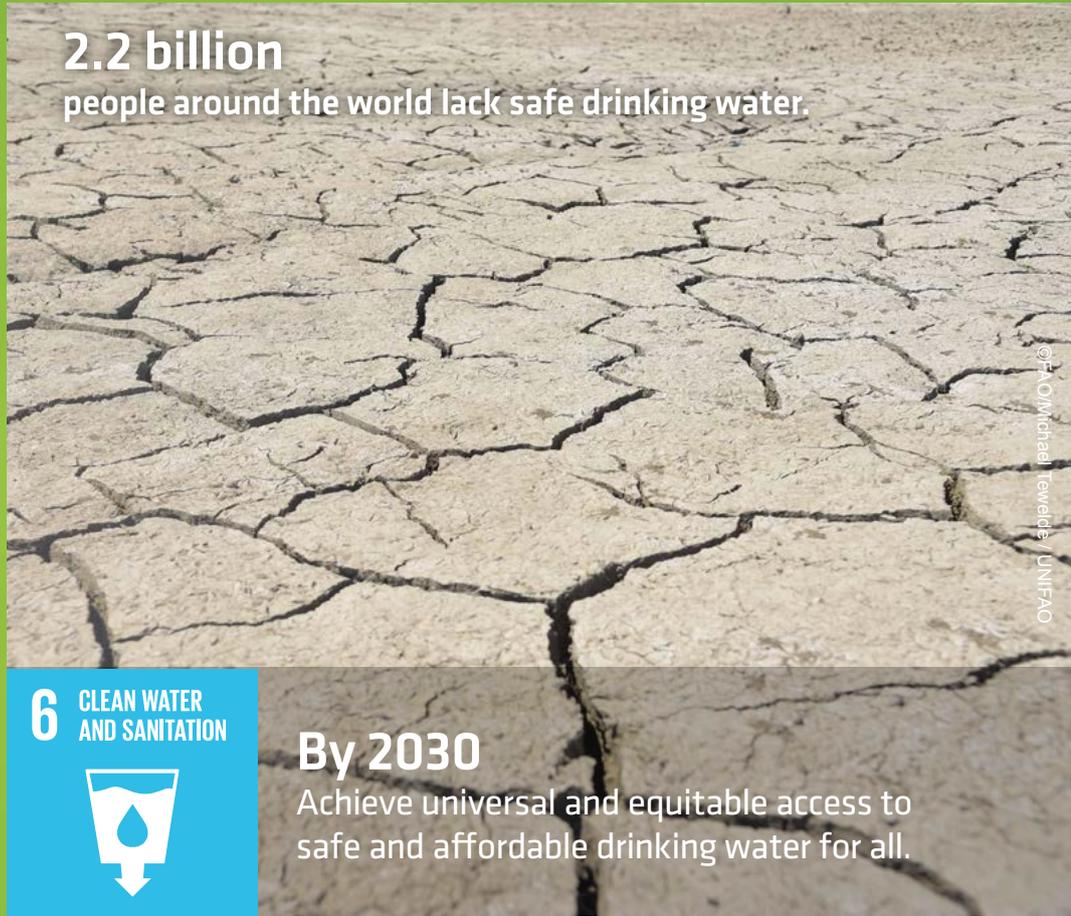
Why your **ACTIONS** matter?

Water is a finite resource

ensuring everyone has access to clean water is crucial to human survival and sustainable progress.



2.2 billion people around the world lack safe drinking water.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



By 2030

Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

The world has lost 70% of its natural wetland extent, including a significant loss of freshwater species, over the last 100 years.



Source: Sustainable Development Goals; UN Environment.

Sustainable management of natural resources.
Every drop counts

ANNEX IV

Summary of past Corporate Environmental Responsibility activities

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects and initiatives related to Corporate Environmental Responsibility that have been undertaken at FAO headquarters and decentralized offices since 2010.

Although not displayed here, figures on environmental impacts and financial savings have been collected where possible. Efforts will continue to be made to quantify these impacts and savings to further capture the relationship between the financial and environmental dividends of these investments.

Year	Headquarters	Decentralized offices
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of desk bins to encourage recycling and improve waste differentiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar hybrid PV system in the FAO country office in Mauritania Solar PV system in the FAO country office in Togo Solar PV system in the FAO country office in Uganda Solar PV system in the FAO Sub Regional office for Southern Africa in Zimbabwe
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of bio-cups and plastic bottles from bars and cafeteria Removal of non-bio takeaway tableware in all catering areas Environmental specifications included in the catering tender for the cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar PV system in the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana Single-use plastics ban in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separation of glass from plastic waste Installation of more efficient vending machines Replacement of 1172 windows Installation of a solar water heating system for the cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting upgrade in the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra Implementation of an environmental management system in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok Solar PV system in the FAO country office in Djibouti Solar PV system installed in the UN House in Nepal Installation of energy monitoring system in 10 country offices
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of 19 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units Upgrade of external perimeter lighting Data centre energy reduction project Commissary closure Increase bio/seasonal/Km0 food in bars and cafeteria Use of refrigerant gases with a lower global warming potential 	
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of a solar PV system (donated by the Government of Germany) for the roof of the Plenary Hall Installation of LED lighting and motion sensor technology in the corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor lighting upgrade in Gambia

Year	Headquarters	Decentralized offices
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of light sensors in all restrooms • Increased percentage of eco-friendly stationary • Collaboration with Sustainable United Nations (SUN) facility and the European Union on sustainable events • Installation of water sensors in newly renovated restrooms • Installation of light sensors in large marble-stairs area 	
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of ozone-depleting refrigerants • Addition of 50 new parking spaces for bicycles • Implement waste diversification and collection centre for better waste separation and monitoring • Substitution of 13 elevators with energy-regenerative elevators • Installation of automatic hand-dryers in restrooms to replace paper towels • Sustainable procurement training tutorial mandatory for all procurement staff 	
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitution of six chillers • Installation of organic waste compactor • Training of catering staff on proper separation of waste • Integration of eco-label cleaning products into the cleaning contract • Implementation of an energy monitoring system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper recycling programme at the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of environmental criteria in furniture purchases (procurement agreements with companies that are ISO-14001) 	
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of 53 water dispensers in corridors and cafeterias to help reduce the purchase of plastic bottles • Installation of 174 flow reducers on washroom faucets • Implementation of the 'workstation hibernation' policy 	



