

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

THE FACTS:Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty. Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less,” and involves different stakeholders, including business, consumers, policy makers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media, and development cooperation agencies, among others.

THE FIGURES

- Each year, an estimated one third of all food produced ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices
- More than 1 billion people still do not have access to fresh water.
- Water is free from nature but the infrastructure needed to deliver it is expensive.
- 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year while almost 1 billion people go undernourished and another 1 billion hungry.
- Land degradation, declining soil fertility, overfishing and marine environment degradation are all lessening the ability of the natural resource base to supply food.

WANEP notes that conflicts arising from the mismanagement of natural resources has resulted in wars and conflicts leading to gross impoverishment of local communities. WANEP opines that the concept of Social Contract theory suggests an understanding between the people and its government where the resources of the state is held in trust by the government for the good of all of its citizens. It is our belief that democracy and governance with a Human Security Face is key to dealing with underlying structural factors/Relative Deprivation. In this wise, we call on African governments to enhance transparency, inclusion of affected communities and judicious management of resources including land, minerals and other natural resources as well as the incomes derived from them.

