

GOAL 15: Life on Land- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

THE FACTS:This Goal involves the sustainable management of forests, combating desertification, as well as halting land degradation and biodiversity loss. Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihood. Plant life provides 80 percent of our human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resource and means of development. Today we are seeing unprecedented land degradation, and the loss of arable land at 30 to 35 times the historical rate. Drought and desertification is also on the rise each year, amounting to the loss of 12 million hectares and affects poor communities globally.

THE FIGURES:

- Around 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihood. This includes some 70 million indigenous people
- 2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture, but 52 per cent of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by soil degradation
- As of 2008, land degradation affected 1.5 billion people globally
- 74 per cent of the poor are directly affected by land degradation globally
- As many as 80 per cent of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant-based medicines for basic

Statistics show that the aim of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to conserve and

restore the use of terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, dry lands and mountains by 2020. WANEP national offices collaborate with key stakeholders in their localities to promote the sustainable management of forests and halting deforestations through tree planting campaigns as part of efforts towards mitigating the impact of climate change. We join the global call for urgent action to be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage. WANEP reechoes that conserving forests and other ecosystems should be a priority of governments and relevant stakeholders if we must achieve sustainable development.