

development



**Trócaire**



# Goal 15: Life On Land



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development



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\* Please note: Terminologies within this pack are taken directly from UN and various other websites and not written by Development Perspectives.



## **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

# Goal 15: Life On Land

**By 2030 the UN wants to:**

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=556QXoUpjUY>

- 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.
- 15.2** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- 15.3** By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world.
- 15.4** By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

# Goal 15: Life On Land

**By 2030 the UN wants to:**

- 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.
- 15.6** Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources.
- 15.7** Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.
- 15.8** By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.
- 15.9** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-15.pdf>

# Goal 15: Life On Land

## How the UN is going to make this happen:

- **15.a** Mobilize and significantly increase from all sources financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.
- **15.b** Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.
- **15.c** Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

# Understand

## Facts and Figures

- Thirteen million hectares of forests are lost every year.
- Around 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihood. This includes some 70 million indigenous people. Forests are home to more than 80% of all terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects.
- 2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture, but 52% of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by soil degradation.
- Due to drought and desertification each year, 12 million hectares are lost (23 hectares per minute), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown.
- Of the 8,300 animal breeds known, 8% are extinct and 22% are at risk of extinction.
- As many as 80% of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant - based medicines for basic healthcare.

# Understand

## Deforestation

*“Seventy percent of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests, and many cannot survive the deforestation that destroys their homes.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdpspllWI2o>



- **National Geographic** gives an excellent overview of deforestation and why it is important to be aware of: <https://on.natgeo.com/2gNpRdr> (Video & article)
- **CNN** Special Correspondent Philippe Cousteau explains why deforestation occurs and its negative effect on the environment: <http://bit.ly/2sZApXU> (Video)
- The **effect of deforestation on wildlife**: *“Deforestation can lead to a direct loss of wildlife habitat, as well as a general degradation of their habitat. The removal of trees and other types of vegetation reduces available food, shelter, and breeding habitat.”* - <http://bit.ly/2rWZLbS> (Blog)
- Currently 10.5% of **Ireland's** land is covered by trees: <https://bit.ly/2JUzwXL> (article)

# Understand

## Biodiversity

“Biodiversity is the variety of life. It can be studied on many levels. At the highest level, you can look at all the different species on the entire Earth. On a much smaller scale, you can study biodiversity within a pond ecosystem or a neighbourhood park.” <http://bit.ly/2ti1tc9>



“What makes one ecosystem strong and another weak in the face of change?” Kim Preshoff details why the answer, to a large extent, is biodiversity. <http://bit.ly/2si75hC> (TED Ed Video)

Help to attract wildlife to your garden in Ireland: “You will be working with nature. When that happens life is easier for people, animals and plants.” <http://bit.ly/2tfUzTI> (Resource)

‘MORE THAN HONEY’: This documentary takes a piercing investigative look at the economic, political and ecological implications of the worldwide disappearance of the honeybee. <http://bit.ly/2sMCTyx> (Documentary)

What is ‘Permaculture’? Find out all you need to know about permaculture right here

– <https://bit.ly/2SvanM3> (Documentary)

# Understand

## Genetically Modified foods (GM foods)

Genetically modified (GM) foods are derived from organisms whose genetic material (DNA) has been modified in a way that does not occur naturally (WHO, 2016).

**What are GM foods?** Find out more about GM foods here – <https://bit.ly/1slbfSV> (article)

**Let's look at the advantages and disadvantages of GM foods:**

<https://bit.ly/2FINSkC> (document)

**Food For Thought** - This documentary looks at the GM debate from both a local and global context and asks if it can be a tool for positive development? <https://bit.ly/2DYUPfq> (documentary –28 minutes)

**Let's look from both perspectives:** Why we need/don't need GM foods?

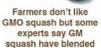
Don't need: <https://bit.ly/2BR4W4r> (article)

Need: <https://bit.ly/2PhHj8M> (article)



**GMO Foods**

For more information go to [olmag.co/gmo-foods](http://olmag.co/gmo-foods)

<b>Tomato</b>  Tomatoes have been genetically modified, but they are not being grown commercially at this time	<b>Rice</b>  GMO rice has been approved but is not yet being used commercially	<b>Sweet Corn</b>  More than 70 percent of corn grown in the United States has been genetically engineered	<b>Summer Squash</b>  Farmers don't like GMO squash but some experts say GM squash have blended with wild squash	<b>Canola Oil</b>  87% of canola grown commercially, and 80% of wild canola is GMO	<b>Yeast</b>  GMO yeast for wine has been approved
<b>Alfalfa</b>  GMO alfalfa is contaminating non-GMO alfalfa crops at a rapid rate	<b>Wheat</b>  Unapproved GMO has contaminated wheat fields, and we don't yet know the extent of it	<b>Sugar Beets</b>  90% of Sugar Beets (used to make 50% of our sugar) are GMO	<b>Salmon</b>  GMO salmon has not been approved by the FDA, but it will be very soon.	<b>Peas</b>  Peas have been genetically modified but are not approved or available	<b>Hawaiian Papaya</b>  Most Hawaiian papaya is GMO, even many organic crops are contaminated

organic lifestyle MAGAZINE

# Understand

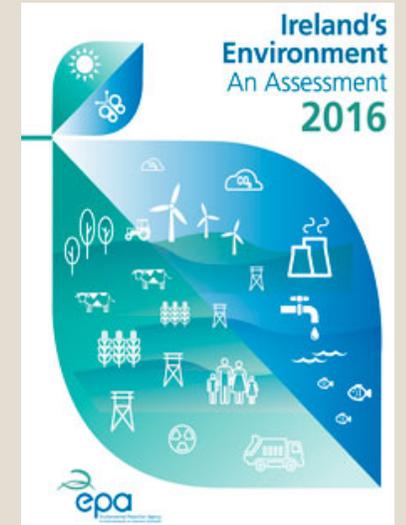
## National and Local Planning

### What reports should we be aware of?

**Ireland:** The State of Ireland Report – this report provides an integrated assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment, the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues.

**Report 1:** [http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/indicators/SoE\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/indicators/SoE_Report_2016.pdf)

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/5zz5ELRJhql>



**Europe:** The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the agricultural policy of the European Union. It implements a system of agricultural subsidies and other programmes. - [https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview_en)



**Globally:** Sustainable Livelihoods Framework: This was developed to organise and improve organisations efforts to eliminate poverty. <http://atha.se/content/sustainable-livelihoods-framework>

# Act

**Action is a key component to achieving Goal #15: Life on Land. Take one or more of the challenges below to make your contribution to the #SDGchallenge.**

**Get informed** – Engage with articles, blogs, videos and campaigns.

**Be Political** – Write to Minister Michael Creed about Ireland's current forestry plans.

**Educate** – Host a workshop, talk or discussion about Goal #15: Life On Land.

**Engage** – #WrapPack&Craic - make a sustainable swap this Christmas



# Act

## **Challenge #1: Get Informed**

We are asking you to read up about Goal #15 and to learn about the efforts being made around the world to help 'Life On Land'. You can begin this journey of learning by reading the articles or watching the videos in the 'Understand' section of this information pack.

## **Challenge #2: Get Political**

Ireland needs to review their current forestry policy and transition to form a greater focus on nature woodlands and continuous tree cover. Write to Minister Creed and ask for a shift of focus in order to achieve SDG 15: Life on Land

**Michael Creed T.D.** - Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine

Email: [forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie)

Phone: 0539163400

<http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/projectreports/cofordconnects/ccn09-env09.pdf>

# Act

## **Challenge #3: Educate**

This challenge invites you to discuss how you can help 'Life on Land' with your friends, family and colleagues. It can be an informal chat with a cuppa or an organised workshop (get in touch for outlines) where you can tackle the issues head on with a group. Be sure to share an educational activities with us using #SDGchallenge.

## **Challenge #4: #WrapPack&Craic**

Every year it is estimated that we use 6 million rolls of wrapping paper globally and throw away 227000 miles of wrapping paper. 1 kg of wrapping paper emits 2.5 kg of CO2.

This December we are asking you to think more sustainably about how you will choose to wrap your Christmas presents this year. Will you take this months challenge and wrap your Christmas presents using one of the following sustainable alternatives that won't cause damage to the earth.

1. Brown paper, newspaper or fabric instead of wrapping paper
2. Use twine instead of sellotape
3. Use recycled wrapping paper
4. Add plants or flowers to decorate.

*Happy wrapping from the #SDGchallenge.*

# Organisations making a difference

## Irish Environmental Pillar

The organisation is comprised of 26 national independent environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), who work together to represent the views of the Irish environmental sector. The Environmental Pillar was established as an independent national social partner by decision of the Government in 2009. The work of our members covers a broad range of areas including habitat conservation, wildlife protection, environmental education, sustainability, waste and energy issues, as well as environmental campaigning and lobbying. The members work towards achieving Sustainable Development, according to the [Rio Declaration](#) of 1992. These principles require the balancing of the three pillars of Sustainable Development – social, environmental, and economic.

**Website:** <https://environmentalpillar.ie>

IEN



**Irish  
Environmental  
Network**

# Share

Sharing our actions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram allows us to raise awareness about Life On Land in Ireland and around the world and about the Sustainable Development Goals.

 No matter which challenge you take, be sure to share it! Check out our Facebook Group #SDGchallenge. You can share your actions here and inspire other SDG advocates!

 Or you can Tweet us @SDGchallenge. Follow us for daily updates and interesting reads on Life On Land for the month.

 Follow us on Instagram @SDGchallenge and make sure to tag #SDGs and #globalgoals in your posts.