



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS NETWORK**  
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

# JOIN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK

In 2012, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following their adoption, we are now committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales.

We aim to accelerate joint learning and help to overcome the compartmentalization of technical and policy work by promoting integrated approaches to the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world. The SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

Learn more at: [unsdsn.org](https://unsdsn.org)

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Spanning six continents, the SDSN Networks Program currently draws upon the knowledge and educational capacity of nearly 600 member institutions. They work together to direct a multidimensional global network that attempts to address some of the world's most pressing problems.

## Why join the SDSN?

Our mission is to accelerate practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national, and global scales.

To this end, we are building a global network of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focusing on:

- Providing and mobilizing support for the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Promoting practical Solutions Initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

By joining the SDSN, you will join a unique global network of problem solvers and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. SDSN membership is free.

## What can we do together?

We work with our members on four sets of activities:

### 1. Local, National, and Regional Problem Solving for Sustainable Development

Together we will promote practical solutions to the pressing challenges of sustainable development:

- **Participate in National and Regional SDSNs:** SDSN members can participate in one or more of the National or Regional SDSNs depending on their interests and areas of activity. Active participation in these networks will enable SDSN members to propose and participate in the implementation of Solutions Initiatives, education and training efforts (including access to online education material), joint research, and policy work with governments.
- **Get involved in SDSN Solutions Initiatives:** SDSN members are invited to participate hands-on in the implementation of SDSN Solutions Initiatives. Many initiatives are already under way; others will be launched in the near future.
- **Pursue joint fundraising:** SDSN members are better positioned to mobilize resources locally and internationally through SDSN brand recognition and additional networking opportunities. The SDSN team will support member organizations in mobilizing resources for Solutions Initiatives, National or Regional SDSNs, and other efforts done under the SDSN banner.

Accelerating practical problem solving for sustainable development

## 2. Educational Initiatives for Sustainable Development

SDSN's flagship online education initiative, the SDG Academy, is training the largest-ever cohort of students of sustainable development through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

### • Design and share online educational materials and courses:

All SDSN members are invited to use the online resources developed by the SDSN and its members. Members of the SDSN Academic Advisory Committee will also help shape the network's strategy for online education, with a view towards eventually creating an online university for sustainable development.

### • Share teaching solutions for sustainable development

SDSN seeks to identify best practices, key actors, and to promote the diffusion of good practices. To this end, we will launch a survey on teaching initiatives on sustainable development that are undertaken or planned by SDSN members. The results of the survey will be disseminated to all SDSN members.

### • Partner with the Master of Development Practice (MDP) Consortium:

The MDP Consortium is pioneering integrated education for sustainable development in developed and developing countries. The SDSN and interested members will partner with the MDP to strengthen and scale up integrated education for sustainable development.

## 3. Applied Research and Communication for Sustainable Development

Problem solving for sustainable development will require more and better-applied research.

### • Engage with SDSN Thematic Networks:

SDSN members are invited to contribute actively to SDSN's Thematic Networks. This will provide access to world-leading expertise and opportunities to help shape the technical work of the SDSN.

### • Participate in the annual International Conference on Sustainable Development:

The SDSN's International Conference on Sustainable Development is held in New York each September around the UN General Assembly and showcases leading academic and programmatic work on sustainable development. While the event is free for students, professionals and faculty from SDSN member institutions receive deep discounts. SDSN members are also the first to hear about calls for abstracts and program updates.

### • Engage with the media:

The SDSN and its members are regularly approached by media outlets to provide contributions and viewpoints on sustainable development. We work with SDSN members to showcase their work.

### • Post to the SDSN blog:

The SDSN website features a blog where timely issues relating to sustainable development are discussed in a brief, essay-style format supported by visual aids. SDSN Members are invited to submit entries to the Secretariat for posting. The Secretariat maintains editorial approval and oversight of all blog posts. Due to a large volume of submissions we may not be able to post all submissions.

## 4. Global Discussions on Sustainable Development

The SDSN is deeply engaged in the global discussions on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets, and indicators. We will support members' engagement in these important debates at global, regional, and national levels.

### • Engage with the global SDSN through the SDSN Assembly:

Every SDSN member will nominate one senior representative to serve on the SDSN Assembly, which will convene twice a year through teleconference and/or virtual meetings. Through participation in the SDSN Assembly, members will receive regular updates on the SDSN and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategy and services offered by the SDSN.

### • Contribute to SDSN publications:

Members receive SDSN publications in advance and are able to submit comments, questions, and recommendations.

### • Exchange with other SDSN members via Mobilize:

SDSN has launched an online communications platform for all SDSN members to engage in discussions, seek advice, and exchange knowledge in an informal way.

### • Work with SDSN Youth:

SDSN Youth is the global youth division of SDSN and they work to amplify the tremendous energy and capabilities of youth in generating broader buy-in for the Sustainable Development Goals. Young people (aged 18-30) from SDSN member organizations are invited to participate in and play leadership roles in this organization.

## Who can join the SDSN?

Membership is open to universities (and departments/centers thereof), research centers, civil society organizations, and other knowledge centers that have deep technical expertise in sustainable development. As well as demonstrating a strong track record in projects, teaching, and/or research related to sustainable development, prospective members should share the objectives of the SDSN and be prepared to contribute actively. You may also review the Bylaws for SDSN Members for more detailed information.

The SDSN is committed to working with businesses that contribute to the design and implementation of Solutions Initiatives, participate in Thematic Networks, and contribute to National and Regional SDSNs. Interested businesses may become SDSN Business Partners.

Companies interested in working with the SDSN are invited to contact our Secretariat at [info@unsdsn.org](mailto:info@unsdsn.org).

## How can your organization join the SDSN?

Applying for SDSN membership is simple and free! Just complete the online membership application form (available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) and submit. Our Executive Committee reviews applications on a quarterly basis.

[unsdsn.org/join](https://unsdsn.org/join)

# Amazonia

Hosted by  
Fundação Amazonas Sustentável  
Manaus, Brazil

www.sdsn-amazonia.org  
@amazonia\_sdsn

The objective of [SDSN Amazonia](#) is to develop a regional network of knowledge centers from the Amazon Basin that works towards the design and implementation of regionally adapted sustainable development solutions. The network is rolling out a set of three activities, focusing on capacity building of key stakeholders (e.g. policy-makers, social leaders, development professionals, business leaders) to develop and implement transformative solutions to achieve the SDGs in the Amazon region.

This regional cooperation project aims to (i) foster local human resources (ii) develop small projects that provide solutions to the sustainable development in the Amazon region (iii) promote the exchange of solutions, knowledge and lessons learned through South-South cooperation amongst Amazonian institutions.



THEMATIC FOCUS

# Andes

Hosted by  
Yachay Tech University  
Urcuquí, Ecuador

unsdsn-andes.org

The network's education program is based on two main activities:

- The SDSN Amazon has so far organized two editions of the [Amazon Summer School](#), an intensive immersion course in which the participants learn about the Amazon rain-forest with experienced professionals, the local community, the forest, and each other. The program introduces participants to a conceptual structure for sustainable development, explains key concepts and how they apply to current issues, with the aim of understanding how global challenges are affecting the Amazon region and the complexity inherent in the Amazon system.
- The other activity, ongoing and planned to run in 2018, is the Master Degree in Sustainable Development Practices in the Amazon. This is a graduate level professional degree to develop capacities and support small grants to implement innovative solutions for SDG achievement, through a partnership of Brazilian (Amazonas Sustainable Foundation, National Institute of Amazon Researchers, Amazonas State University), Colombian (SINCHI Amazon Institute of Scientific Research) and Peruvian universities and research institutes (Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon), with students from all of the Amazonian countries.

The project is now in a planning phase and is being developed through a series of workshops. Having started in 2017, it will run for a 3-year period, in which the group of organizations leading the project, under the coordination of the SDSN Andes, will systematize available data, develop targeted scientific research to fill knowledge gaps and, in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders, define a strategy to support good governance mechanisms for effective action on conservation.

At present, the [SDSN Andes](#) is focused on an initiative on biodiversity and conservation in the Chocó region of Colombia and Ecuador. The network's activities support the achievement of SDG 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

The Mira-Mataje watershed is part of the Chocó region in the Andes, a "biodiversity hotspot," and a global conservation priority. The watershed encompasses unique environments sustaining valuable ecosystem services for both Colombia and Ecuador.

A number of socioeconomic trends threaten the integrity of these ecosystems and their services, such as the extension of the agricultural frontier, logging activities, and construction of roads.

SDSN Andes has brought together a coalition of organizations encompassing public research institutes, universities, and NGOs from Colombia and Ecuador, to work together in a multi-sectoral and binational initiative to build ecological, socio-economic, and cultural bases for the sustainable management of ecosystem services within the watershed.

This initiative falls within the framework of cooperation acknowledged in the declaration signed by the Presidents Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia) and Rafael Correa (Ecuador) at the IV Binational Cabinet in December 2015.



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# Australia/Pacific

Hosted by  
Monash University  
Melbourne, Australia

ap-unsdsn.org

SDSN Australia/Pacific is a thriving network of SDSN members in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, working on a wide range of initiatives including SDSN's [Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project](#) and [SDSN Youth](#).

In early 2013, SDSN Australia/Pacific launched one of the first ever initiatives to localize the SDGs to a subnational context, leading efforts to help stakeholders in the region understand, prepare and respond to the SDGs. This initiative has provided inspiration for global SDSN activities in this area.

In its unique position as a network of regional universities and knowledge institutions, with close ties to the Global SDSN and its sister networks in Asia, SDSN Australia/Pacific has been able to play a central role in engaging and

building partnerships with business, government, civil society, academia, the development community, and young people in the region.

Through multi-stakeholder workshops for senior leaders and decision makers, direct engagement and advice, presentations and public events, and articles and reports, SDSN Australia/Pacific has been raising awareness of the SDGs across the region, demonstrating their local relevance and potential. The network has initiated discussions on the priorities and opportunities of the SDGs for the region, the roles of different sectors in implementing them, and how different actors can work together to address interlinkages between the SDGs.

Two exciting activities that SDSN Australia/Pacific has recently undertaken as part of this initiative are:

- In partnership with peak business and civil society organizations, SDSN Australia/Pacific held the [Australian SDGs Summit](#) on 7 September 2016. The Summit brought together 150 leaders and decision-makers from across all sectors of Australia to build a common understanding of the opportunities presented by the SDGs and how they could be put into practice in Australia.
- At the Summit, the network launched the [University Commitment to the SDGs](#), to build and demonstrate university leadership in the region and highlight the important ways the sector can contribute to the SDGs. The Commitment has already been signed by the heads of five leading universities, and the network will be inviting many others to follow suit.

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11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



THEMATIC FOCUS

# Brazil

Hosted by  
Conservation International, Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Instituto Pereira Passos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

sdsnbrasil.org.br

The [Rio Sustainable Cities Initiative](#) recognizes that comprehensive sustainable urban development necessitates local and national cooperation. Holistic planning cannot be confined to local boundaries. This is particularly important as cities strive to achieve the urban sustainable development goal (SDG 11), which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Launched by [SDSN Brazil](#) and [GIZ](#), the German Cooperation for International Cooperation, the “Sustainable Development of Metropolitan Regions” works with key stakeholders across the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area (RJMA) and other metropolitan regions throughout Brazil to examine possible solutions for local implementation of the SDGs, through inclusive dialogue, establishing metropolitan cooperation structures, and supporting contextualized monitoring of the SDGs.

The goal is to help in translating the global SDGs in local action by clearly demonstrating the process of localizing the SDGs, aligning the monitoring and review framework in local structures, and systematizing local findings in a comparative framework.

The Rio Sustainable Cities Initiative has helped to spark an important discussion in Brazil between different levels of government on how to achieve sustainable development. These discussions have explored metropolitan

governance structures (both formal and informal) as a fundamental base for SDG implementation. Discussions of localizing SDG monitoring in metropolitan regions include a focus on how to institutionalize the SDGs into existing planning frameworks, the role of civil society in monitoring, and the use of data and indices to track progress towards the SDGs.

Results of the Rio Sustainable Cities Initiative are documented and cataloged in a manual, being developed in partnership with Casa Fluminense, a local Rio-based NGO. The manual aims to use the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area as a practical example to illustrate how the process of local SDG contextualization, data gathering, and monitoring can be achieved. By disseminating lessons learned from the Brazilian context, the initiative aims to serve as an inspiration to other metropolitan regions throughout Latin America, as well as to localities around the world that are facing similar challenges.

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# Caribbean

Hosted by  
University of the West  
Indies Kingston, Jamaica

@CaribbeanSDSN

The [SDSN Caribbean](#) is using the SDSN's recent [SDG Index and Dashboards](#) to launch an initiative with diverse stakeholders across the region to close data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). 10 Caribbean SIDS were missing from the 2016 report due to limited data availability. The project is in its inception, but will involve the SDSN Caribbean approaching government agencies and directly requesting data that is not currently available online through international institutions.

The SDSN Caribbean is convinced that many of these data are available, and that governments will be willing to work with the University of the West Indies to use this data for more effective assessment of sustainable development. It is hoped that this data compilation effort will help to spur SDG implementation in small Caribbean

nations. The project aims to publish the data in a regional report and develop a state-of-the-art interactive website to share data and results. Furthermore, the SDSN Caribbean will explore the possibility of expanding the project to other SDSN Networks with a large number of SIDS, such as the Australia/Pacific.

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14 LIFE BELOW  
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# Germany

Hosted by  
German Development Institute /  
Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik  
(DIE), Bonn, Germany

sdsngermany.de

In addition to leading the [Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project \(DDPP\)](#) in Germany, the network has been a very active contributor to national policy debates regarding linking the SDGs to the private sector and the role of science in Germany's sustainability architecture. [SDSN Germany](#) has been a strong advocate for making the SDGs a national priority, and has been encouraging the government to play a world-leading role in the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The network also has been calling for ambitious G7 and G20 contributions in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Germany's G7 presidency in 2015 and the current 2017 G20 presidency have and will provide important reference points for these activities, and the network draws on a vast set of local experts for holistic policy advice. The network has previously compiled scientific declarations, presenting them to leaders in order to encourage them to adopt progressive policies on sustainable development. Recent declarations stressed the importance of overcoming non-sustainable consumption and production patterns and aligning the rules of globalization with sustainability and fairness. Members and partners of SDSN Germany engage in G7/G20-related academic and think tank processes, including Think 20 (T20).

At the SDSN Germany general meeting, members and partners decided to continue and

deepen cooperation especially on sustainable consumption and production patterns, including international spill-over effects, and effects on decarbonization, another priority of the SDSN Germany.

In view of the 2017 edition of the [SDG-index](#) and the [G20 summit](#) taking place in Germany in mid-2017, these are important topics the network wants to address.

Besides those two, the network is also keen on promoting the cooperation between the SDGs and the sociocultural scene by emphasizing the many existing interlinkages .

In a working group aimed at sparking new ideas, participants discussed the role of culture and arts in giving the SDGs a positive connotation, among other topics.

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AND PRODUCTION



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# Great Lakes

Hosted by  
University of Rwanda, College of  
Business and Economics  
Kigali, Rwanda

cbe.ur.ac.rw/about-cbe/others/sdsn  
@UR\_CBE

As part of its regional inception conference on “Preparing for the Implementation of the SDGs” held in July 2015 at the University of Rwanda, [SDSN Great Lakes](#) issued a call for proposals for Solutions Initiatives; practical projects involving novel technologies, business models, institutional mechanisms, and/or policies that are promising yet unproven. The winning project, a Burundian initiative on the local production of organic fertilizer from plant and animal waste, was unanimously selected by the review panel as mature and well developed. The winning proposal was also selected for its potential for replication and broader regional impact.

It is a public private partnership led by the [University of Ngozi](#), with two community NGOs- [ADISCO](#) (Support for the integrated development and solidarity in the hills) and the

Confederation of Associations of Agricultural Producers for Development ([CAPAD](#))- and a French agro-industrial firm, [BIOPOST-COFUNA](#).

The local production of organic fertilizer will help improve sustainable agricultural production and contribute to combatting soil degradation, which are major challenges in Burundi and the entire sub-region. In this way, the project directly addresses SDG 2 on food security and sustainable agriculture, and SDG 15 on terrestrial ecosystems. There will be clear benefits towards other SDGs, including SDG 1 on poverty eradication, through the focus on improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers, and SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, since the fertilizer will be produced from recycled and reused waste products.

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



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# Indonesia

Hosted by  
Research Center for Climate Change  
Universitas Indonesia Depok, Indonesia and  
United in Diversity (UID), Jakarta, Indonesia

rccc.ui.ac.id  
@rccui

For multi-stakeholder collaboration being essential to achieving sustainable development, [SDSN Indonesia](#) engages a wide range of demographic groups, especially the youth. Here, the network is making an important case for the SDGs among future leaders and decision makers. To that end, it is rolling out specific initiatives linked to education, collaboration, sustainable solutions, and policy advocacy.

For the educational branch of the project, SDSN Indonesia has held a [Youth Dialogue Studio](#) with contributions coming from various youth organization leaders throughout Indonesia. The network aims to build a common trust and foster future collaborations among them with the help of a digital SDG-platform that is currently worked on.

With its aim of promoting collaboration, SDSN Indonesia is working closely with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, the University of Indonesia and Tsinghua University to develop a sustainable development study program. SDSN Indonesia has also hosted the SDGs Forum in Indonesia since 2013.

Together with [Climate Works Australia](#) and the private sector, the network is actively developing a series of sustainable solutions at the local level. These include a collaboration on waste management and sustainable cities with the biggest tire company in Southeast Asia. The partnership intends to develop a green belt of

creative urban parks in the city of Tangerang and has been officially endorsed by the local government.

The annual [UID-SDSN Awards](#) give prominence to outstanding practical solutions while UIDs popular [IDEAS program](#), developed together with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), honors transformational leadership. IDEAS (Innovative, Dynamic Education and Action for Sustainability) encourages local leaders across various sectors to tackle Indonesia's complex challenges of conservation, education, and business by thinking through pioneering solutions and undergoing a joint learning process. Since 2008, the importance of this work has engaged the interest and commitment of several top professionals such as Peter Senge and Otto Scharmer from the MIT.

On the policy advocacy side, SDSN Indonesia is a partner of Indonesia's National Development Planning body ([BAPPENAS](#)) and actively engages local universities to tackle local SDG-related issues.

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**We are building a  
global network of  
problem solvers.**

Join at: [unsdsn.org/join](https://unsdsn.org/join)

# Italia

Hosted by  
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)  
Milan, Venice, Viggiano, Italy

www.sdsnitalia.it  
@FEEMit

SDSN Italia, launched in March 2016, is committed to increasing awareness of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs through research, dissemination activities, and collaborations with important actors in the Italian sustainability sector.

A recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the [UN Global Compact Network Italy](#) and the [Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile \(ASviS\)](#) aims at collectively involving national institutions, civil society, academia and business. Together with [SDSN Youth](#), [AIESEC Italia](#), and [Fondazione Italiana Accenture](#), SDSN Italia specifically promotes the role of young people in the implementation process, e.g. with a contest for youth-solutions towards SDG achievement.

Also in collaboration with ASviS, the network organized the International Workshop on

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“Analytical tools and methods to evaluate the impact of public policies on the SDGs”. A wide variety of experts discussed the economic, environmental, and social impacts of public policies on sustainable development in Italy. [FEEM](#) contributed through the Assessment, Projections, and Policy of Sustainable Development Goals Project (APPS), while SDSN presented the [SDG Index and Dashboards](#).

In accordance with its focus on the SDGs 7 and 13, researchers of the network’s host institution worked on “[Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in Italy](#)”, part of SDSN’s DDPP. This concrete solution initiative to tackle climate change made the network an active contributor to the national policy debate on the decarbonization of the Italian energy system.

In addition to that, the network co-organized both the International Conference on Climate-Induced Migration and the “The Path: Environmental Migration and the Climate Challenge after COP22” Conference. The former, organized in collaboration with the EU, brought together leading experts in the field of economics, sociology, and geography to discuss links between climate change and migration, and to explore alternative adaptation strategies. The latter, inspired by the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, focused on the climate challenges in the aftermaths of COP22 negotiations in Marrakech, took place in the Vatican.

On a broader scale, SDSN Italia will contribute to SDSN’s The World in 2050 project that addresses the full spectrum of transformational challenges related to the 17 SDGs up to 2050. The integrated and systemic approach aims to focus on the potential synergies of achieving them in unison.

# Japan

Hosted by  
Keio University, supported by  
the University of Tokyo and  
UNU-IAS Tokyo, Japan

sdsnjapan.org

SDSN Japan is actively contributing to the national and regional debates on means and approaches to achieve the SDGs by mobilizing its national experts and global networks. SDSN Japan also conducts policy-relevant research and capacity building activities toward SDG localization.

In preparation for the 2016 G7 Summit, held in Ise-Shima on May 26-27, SDSN Japan developed a set of policy recommendations for mainstreaming the SDGs in the country. These were submitted to key government ministries and also made public to the global community. The recommendations were developed through intensive discussions at a workshop which brought together leaders and experts from a variety of stakeholders. To disseminate these recommendations, SDSN Japan organized a public symposium in Tokyo in April 2016 to share key messages with a broader range of stakeholders and citizens. For the policy recommendations, please visit the SDSN Japan website.

Additionally, SDSN Japan has initiated the “[SDG Dialogue Series](#)” as a platform to further discuss solutions to sustainability issues and enhance the public awareness of the SDGs. In the spirit of Goal 17 regarding partnerships, the events engage a versatile set of invited experts, researchers, and stakeholders who are invited and encouraged to share insights and ideas for achieving the SDGs in their multidimensionality.

These events are aimed to provide stakeholders with profound academic knowledge and to advance scientific and policy debates related to the 2030 Agenda. They also serve to support their efforts and to build networks in localizing and implementing the SDGs at regional and national levels. Since July 2016, a series of events has been organized, including ones on higher education, low-carbon technology diffusion and integrated landscape management.

More events on the role of regional institutions, water resilience and a sustainable future for Africa, in close collaboration with the partners of SDSN Japan, are planned throughout 2017. The outcome of these events will be widely shared through a range of publications and other outputs, including [UNU-IAS Policy Briefs](#), which will be made available on the SDSN Japan website.

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# Malaysia

Hosted by  
Malaysia Industry-Government Group for  
High Technology (MIGHT)  
Cyberjaya, Malaysia

sdsn.org.my

SDSN Malaysia, as an important actor of the country's sustainability architecture, is supporting the nation towards achieving its development goals outlined in the New Economic Model and the 11th Malaysia Plan. Both these national development plans mirror the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

In 2014, the network co-authored 'Rising to the Challenge', a publication providing a set of models of sustainable development solutions that are currently being undertaken in Malaysia.

SDSN Malaysia had previously been involved with some of the [SDSN Thematic Groups](#), working on solutions involving different public and private stakeholders. The variety of themes and scale demonstrated the broad implications of sustainable development, and laid the ground-work for future collaborations.

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Currently, the [Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia](#) (UKM), the [Universiti Teknologi Petronas](#) (UTP), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Malaysia), and SDSN Malaysia, have initiated a project to identify and map the local sustainable development (SD) and education for sustainable development (ESD) initiatives for a second volume of the publication. The project will be looking into the mainstreaming, institutionalizing, and up-scaling of these initiatives.

The [Disaster Risk Management Study on Kuala Nerang](#) is one of the initiatives highlighted in the project. Flood disaster, tropical and monsoon storms have become a common incident in Malaysia due to global climate change. To ensure proper mitigation and prevention of flood disaster, the project identifies groups that are vulnerable to floods and proposes subsequent adaptation strategies. The creation of the Students' Sustainable Club helped to organize volunteers, disseminate information, and increase public awareness on flood mitigation activities.

For a long-term impact, initiatives such as counselling, training for team rescue, handling and maintaining of rescue boats are meant to reduce their dependency on external help. The solution initiatives are envisioned to become mitigation and adaptation strategies implemented on a wider scale across the country.

The work on the second volume includes the mapping of SD and ESD best practices across the 17 SDGs and the six national development strategies, as well as the collection of relevant and recent data.

# Mediterranean

Hosted by  
University of Siena  
Siena, Italy

sdsn-mediterranean.unisi.it  
@unisienna

As underlined by the Barcelona Convention within the Regional Plan for Marine Litter (Istanbul 2013) "marine pollution knows no border, pollution in one country affects all the others."

Over a 4-year period, the [Plastic Busters Solution Initiative](#) (the flagship endeavor of the [SDSN Mediterranean](#)) will assess the amount, sources, pathways, distribution convergence areas, and effects of marine litter on biota, as well as mitigate and reduce its impact in the Mediterranean Sea. The nature and effects of plastic litter on the marine food chain, fisheries and fishing activities, as well as human health, are still largely unknown and are important issues to be investigated within this project.

A series of concrete prevention and mitigation actions and approaches (e.g. fishing for litter, removal and collection of derelict fishing gear, and establishing recycling mechanisms, e.g. "Healthy Seas initiative"; establish return/deposit systems for packaging, etc.) are intended to be developed, tested, and promoted during the project in several pilot areas in the Mediterranean basin. The project aims to adopt life cycle thinking and a circular economy approach. Over the course of four years, the SDSN Mediterranean will carry out systemic evaluations of the feasibility, reliability and sustainability of various approaches, while involving relevant stakeholders such as port authorities, fishermen, and municipalities.

The project further foresees a wide range of actions to enhance the awareness of stakeholders and catalyze change in their perceptions and attitudes towards waste.

In February 2016, the project received the unanimous endorsement by the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) (UfM), and achieved the prestigious UfM label. It qualifies the project as a viable initiative with distinct benefits for the citizens of the Euro-Mediterranean region. It also recognizes the urgency to join forces towards shared and coordinated regional approaches, actions, and solutions to this common problem.

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# Nigeria

Hosted by  
Ibadan, Nigeria, and Nnamdi Azikiwe  
University, Awka, Nigeria

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The [SDSN Nigeria](#) has recurring annual activities that engage different stakeholders interested in African implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. These activities aim to promote problem solving and practical solutions for the pressing challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria, Africa and beyond. Every summer, SDSN Nigeria co-organizes the [Annual Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit](#), a global discourse on development issues in the African context, taking place at the network's host institution, University of Ibadan. In 2016, the theme of the 7th Summit was "Making the Sustainable Development Goals Work for People in Africa", focusing on a subset of topics of special importance for countries getting started with SDG implementation. Discussion also focused on priority sectors and strategies for achievement of the SDGs. It provided a platform

to discuss common challenges and offer viable solutions, and, most importantly, to drive consciousness for the need of good research, talent hunting, empowerment and mentorship for inclusive sustainable growth that respects people and planet. More than 180 participants from academia, government, civil society and business from nine countries shared their expertise on promoting the 2030 Agenda in Africa.

The role of business in the implementation of the SDGs has been emphasized globally, and the network in November 2016 organized a workshop on "[Making the SDGs the Business of the Private Sector in Nigeria](#)". The workshop successfully raised awareness among key stakeholders and mapped out strategic collaboration potential across the country's industries and private sector, while at the same time driving widespread advocacy for the goals and rolling out a participative approach.



THEMATIC FOCUS

# Northern Europe

Hosted by  
Centre for Environment and Sustainability,  
University of Gothenburg, and Chalmers  
University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden

unsdsn-ne.org  
@SDSNNE

[SDSN Northern Europe](#) was formally launched in February 2016 in Gothenburg, Sweden, with a major public event that gathered around 400 top leaders from academia, business, finance, and politics. During the two days of the launch, high-level figures such as Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, SKF CEO Alrik Danielson or Johan Rockström, Director Stockholm Resilience Centre, emphasized the need for urgent action and the need for the Nordic network to foster cooperation with industry, science and policy-makers for the implementation of the SDGs.

"Science based transformations 2030" serves as a leading principle for SDSN Northern Europe's future work - it is an active network to identify, describe, visualize and scale up science-based sustainable solutions nationally, regionally and globally. Initial areas for concrete solutions are currently being explored in areas such as oceans, environment for development in low-income countries and academia as a host for immigrants.

So far, the network has been focused on strengthening its contacts with existing and potential members and presenting the network in various national and international forums. With participation both in the First Danish future Earth Summit, 'SDG Challenges for the Nordic Countries', the development of the pilot version of the "[Sustainability Atlas](#)", and the planning of future so-called [Solution Initiative Forums](#), the network is working along the lines of its action areas.

A key activity in 2017 will be the first Solution Initiative Forum (SIF) in support of the Swedish and Fiji Bilateral Conference on Sustainable Oceans to be held in June. The purpose of the SIF is to facilitate collaboration between entrepreneurs, investors, and other stakeholders to accelerate the scaling up of science-based sustainable solutions. In May, "Pathways Towards Sustainability Transformations" will be the theme for the network's first scientific expert event in Finland and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of SDSN, will be one of the keynote speakers. SDSN Northern Europe is also working towards the launch of its "[Sustainable Solutions platform](#)", where members will have the opportunity to present sustainable solutions that contribute to achieving the Agenda 2030.



THEMATIC FOCUS

# Philippines

Hosted by  
School of Economics, University of the  
Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines

sdsn-ph.org

In line with its thematic focus on urban development, the [SDSN Philippines](#) is organizing an "Ideas Fair" that will take place in 2017. The fair will showcase innovative technology solutions being developed by the SDSN Philippines member universities, including the Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University Manila, the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Los Banos campuses, the Visayas State University, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, the Far Eastern University and the Mapua Institute of Technology, among others.

The solutions will focus on specific areas of SDG 11, including green architecture, water sustainability, energy sustainability, sustainable mobility, urban farming, waste management, housing and other urban development concerns. It aims at applying the global sustainability

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agenda to the Asian context, as well as fostering knowledge exchange and outreach among the networks member institutions and beyond.

The different member-universities of the Filipino network got divided into working groups that are joining forces with regards to different development challenges:

The working group on water sustainability is based at the Ateneo de Manila University. It has been in dialogue with representatives of the Water Alliance, a private sector led initiative which has been organized to address issues and solutions to looming water supply problems in the country. Initial discussions have been undertaken to develop a framework to provide water solutions to cities in Mindanao, the southernmost island region in the country.

The working group on urban farming and sustainable agriculture has been assessing some of the innovations that have been developed at the University of the Philippines Los Banos, the country's premier agriculture education institution, for possible adoption by private sector groups and non-government organizations.

The working group on waste management is being handled by focal persons from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. It has focused its efforts on compiling the best waste management practices by different education institutions in order to disseminate these to interested groups.

The SDSN Philippines Leadership Council is tracking the progress of these working groups in a periodic manner, ensuring that gaps in different policy areas are being identified and the corresponding innovations and solutions are documented for their presentation at the "Ideas Fair" in 2017.

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# Russia

Hosted by  
Russian Presidential Academy of National  
Economy and Public Administration  
(RANEPA), Moscow, Russian Federation

ranepa.ru/eng/

The [SDSN Russia](#) specializes in research projects relating to decarbonization, alternative energy models, sustainable industry and innovations.

Results coming from the development of the global climate energy model aimed to assess the long-term demand for Russian energy sources. At the same time, the methodological approaches to the valuation of the economic effects of post-Kyoto agreements were used as a basis for policy advice to the public authorities in Russia.

The [Russian team of the DDPP](#) has been very active in organizing discussions on deep decarbonization with policy makers, business representatives, and experts in Russia. Consequently, some conclusions drawn from the Russian part of the DDPP project were used as a basis for arguments publicly emphasizing the advantages of the Paris Climate Agreement for Russia.

Other research results of the SDSN Russia were included in the 2030 SME strategy development for Russia. Currently, the experts of the SDSN Russia are participating in the preparation of the strategy for 2035.

Key events co-organized by the SDSN Russia included participation in the DDPP technical meetings and the last three editions of the Gaidar Forum.

In 2017, the Eighth [Gaidar Forum](#) themed "Russia and the World: Setting Priorities", and, amongst other topics, addressed sustainable development patterns as they are being defined today.

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# Sahel

Hosted by  
Université Cheikh Anita Diop, and  
Millennium Promise for West and  
Central Africa, Dakar, Senegal

www.sdsn-sahel.com

[SDSN Sahel](#) is promoting regional cooperation around the SDGs and driving prioritization and localization efforts in its six member countries Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Senegal, and Chad.

In Senegal, the network was designated to head a working group on SDGs and to integrate their work with the Scientific Committee for the National Conference on Sustainable Development, headed by a secretariat based at the Directorate of Environment and Classified Establishments in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. With the Ministry, the network has contributed to regional consultations and devised a methodology for the prioritization of SDGs. A ministerial order formalized the SDSN Sahel partnership and its support on Sustainable Development by nominating the

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SDSN Sahel Chair, Professor Ibrahim Bouna Niang, as the official rapporteur to the country's annual conference.

The government of Mali subsequently requested advice from SDSN Sahel on its national SDG strategy. The network has further supported discussions across the region through in-country planning workshops, and a regional conference held in Bamako, which provided participants with an opportunity for knowledge-sharing around sustainability methods, policies and technologies, as well as how to increase communication, cooperation and mutual learning across the region.

# South Asia

Hosted by  
TERI University, New Delhi, India and  
BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

www.teriuniversity.ac.in/sdsn  
@SdsnSouthAsia

Launched formally in July 2014, [SDSN South Asia](#) is one of the ten regional networks of SDSN across the globe. Co-hosted by TERI University, New Delhi, and BRAC University, Dhaka, it serves to strengthen sustainable development research, education and application in order to provide solutions to pressing social, economic, and environmental issues in South Asia.

Local educational institutions play a vital role as drivers of knowledge creation, human capital development, policy research, and multi-stakeholder dialogue. Therefore, it is imperative to establish a community of likeminded researchers and academics who are working to advance research on sustainable development to strengthen policies that support the SDGs and their local adaptation.

SDSN South Asia has specifically identified the need for greater research and development opportunities for the region's emerging scholars for them to become a holistically integrated part of the process.

To that end, TERI University has organized a number of activities geared towards capacity building and improving access to information about the solutions to sustainable development challenges in the region. One of them is the annual [Young Researchers' Symposium](#) on the SDGs a collaboration with SDSN South Asia and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the EU-supported SWITCH-Asia

Programme. The first symposium was held in 2015 and was followed by the 2016 edition under the specific theme of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

The symposium aims to provide high-level exposure and cultivate a community of like-minded doctoral, post-doctoral researchers, and academics sharing progressive and cutting-edge research on the SDGs in the South Asian region and connecting it to already existing research. The three-day event gave researchers the opportunity to showcase their research on the various targets of SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12). Three young researchers were presented with the 'Young South Asian Researcher on SCP Award 2016'.

In the past year, TERI University also organized two [BLISS \(Building Learning in Sustainability Science\) schools](#) on SCP. This series of five-day events to initiate dialogue and disseminate knowledge and skills on critical issues such as environmental protection, ecological security, resource efficiency were also attended by SDSN South Asia Network members from Pakistan, Nepal, and Bhutan.

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## Southeast Asia

Hosted by  
United in Diversity (UID),  
Jakarta, Indonesia

unitedindiversity.org

In the spirit of its thematic focus on SDG 17, which aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, the United in Diversity Foundation hosts and co-hosts both SDSN Indonesia and [SDSN Southeast Asia](#).

To holistically address issues of high importance for the entire region, the United in Diversity Foundation has pooled the expertise of three regional networks — SDSN Indonesia, Australia/Pacific and Southeast Asia – to host the international workshop “[Partnership for Solutions: Priorities and Pathways for Sustainable Energy and Deep Decarbonization](#).”

The workshop brought together leaders and experts from academia, government, business and civil society to discuss Indonesia’s future energy

needs and to identify how they can be met, while decarbonizing the energy system to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance sustainable development. The meeting provided an occasion to develop concrete plans for future collaborative [Solutions Initiatives](#).

The very practical approach emphasized existing and developing technologies that would be suitable for the country and region’s energy needs, while concrete ideas for collaborative research among the SDSN experts were identified and developed.

## South Korea

Hosted by  
Korea University Ojeong Eco-Resilience  
Center (OJERI)  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

www.sdsnk.or.kr  
@sdsn\_korea

Since its inception meeting in 2013, [SDSN South Korea](#) has held three conferences (2014, 2015 & 2016) on the challenges of sustainable development in order to inform and advise both the government and the public about the emerging global agenda and the SDGs, submitting a report to the government each time. To get started with the SDGs and identify South Korea’s priority challenges in a timely manner, the network is currently defining a strategy on how to engage the different actors in a series of exercises. Besides, it seeks to enhance discussion on the appropriate governance arrangement to implement the SDGs effectively, anticipating a change of the government after the presidential election at the end of 2017. A conference held in Seoul in June 2016 initiated national discussions on this topic.

SDSN Korea has also been part of the [SDSN Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project](#) for over two years, hosting its kickoff meeting in Seoul in October 2013 and directing the [Korean DDPP](#) team. Despite continuing difficulties in finding a specialized host institution for this project, the network hosted the inaugural workshop and held an international seminar to discuss a few selected DDPP reports just in time for COP21. This helped to inform the Korean community of experts about the international project. In 2016, the network and the [Green Technology Center of Korea](#) ran a DDPP/NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) Study Group to vet the initial Korea DDPP report.

This led to a conference on “Exploring Korea’s LEDS - Options for Deep Decarbonization and Implications for Low-Emissions Development Strategy”, co-organized by the [Korea Climate Change Center](#) (KCCC). The conference yielded a tripartite agreement among the network, KCCC, and the [Korea Environment Institute](#) to launch a ‘Korea LEDS Forum’ in 2017 to support the country’s participation in DDPP II. The network is preparing to publish two comprehensive reports on Korea’s green growth policies, one in Korean and one in English.

In January 2016, the [Ojeong Eco-Resilience Institute](#) (OJERI) of Korea University joined the network to become its national host.



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# Spain

Hosted by  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
Madrid, Spain

reds-sdsn.es  
@reds\_sdsn

In November 2015, [SDSN Spain/REDS](#) (Red Española para el Desarrollo Sostenible) launched a [Declaration for all political parties in Spain](#) to publicly commit to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, before the general elections were held in December. The Declaration was presented in a public arena hosted by the chair of SDSN Spain/REDS, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, and the chair of the REDS Leadership Council, Teresa Ribera. This was followed by a roundtable debate to discuss the implementation of the SDGs in Spain.

The event generated wide media coverage and all major political parties were represented, including Partido Popular, PSOE, Podemos, UPyD, Ciudadanos, Equo and Izquierda Unida.

SDSN Spain is now working with Spanish cities to conceptualize the role they can play in the implementation of the SDGs. A round of meetings with SDSN representatives and SDSN Spain experts on urban development has initiated further cooperation. In addition, the participation of Spanish representatives in the global discussion on Financing Urban Sustainable Development has been proposed. Finally, in cooperation with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, the network has organized the signing of the Declaration of Cities' Commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



THEMATIC FOCUS

# Turkey

Hosted by  
Boğaziçi University  
Istanbul, Turkey

www.boun.edu.tr/en-US/Index  
@UnsdsnTurkey

[SDSN Turkey](#), in November 2015, hosted the first [SDSN20 Conference](#) in Istanbul at Boğaziçi University, the network's host institution. Only two months after the adoption of the SDGs and one week ahead of the G20 meeting in Antalya, Turkey, this event provided a crucial opportunity to discuss the role of the G20 countries in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

With the aim of gathering national and regional networks from the G20 nations to promote the SDGs within the G20 processes, the network served as a platform for knowledge exchange and policy development. In the two-day high level workshop, international sustainability academics and experts addressed the localization of the goals in G20 countries and drew attention to the role of the SDSN in an age of sustainable development. The meeting enabled interaction among business leaders, government, NGOs and civil society at a national and international level. The outcome of the meeting was a [declaration calling on the G20](#) to take a leading role in ensuring the implementation of the SDGs. This declaration was signed by all National and Regional SDSNs covering G20 territories.



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Led by the Honorary Chair Prof. Üstün Ergüder and Executive Board President Assoc. Prof. Cemil Arkan, SDSN Turkey mainly deals with sustainable cities, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, sustainable education and MOOCs, climate change, gender equality, deep decarbonization, youth and green campuses. It also works on an assessment and strategy report illustrating Turkey's position and road map with regards to the SDGs.



