



What are the Sustainable Development Goals and why do they matter for trees?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 ambitious commitments that a group of countries called the United Nations have agreed should be focussed on.

The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The 17 goals highlight different important issues, from ensuring decent work and economic growth to improving access to education, but recognise how all the issues are closely interlinked. They also recognise that climate change and biodiversity loss will affect every other goal.

Why do the SDGs matter for trees?

The SDGs recognise the central importance of trees and forests to restoring our planet's biodiversity. Goal 15, 'Life on Land' states that we must:

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

However, protecting trees and forests may have a positive impact on achieving other goals. For example, access to pleasant green spaces is important to good health and wellbeing (goal 3), and planting and protecting trees can help us reduce our carbon emissions to tackle climate change (goal 13).

What is the United Nations (UN)?

A body of states who work together to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations and work together on matters of international importance, such as health, peace and economics. The term also refers to the diplomatic organisation, based in Geneva, Switzerland, which co-ordinate the member states and UN activities.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



To find out more visit the [UN SDGs website](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/).