

## In pursuit of the SDGs, MGA advocates:

A rights-based approach,  
through justice and development  
for all People and the Earth



[www.google.ie/search?q=free+images+of+SDG+15](http://www.google.ie/search?q=free+images+of+SDG+15)

## To Achieve Goal 15 MGA will:

- i. **Advocate** and work for the protection of Earth and the rights of nature.
- ii. **Lobby** governments to ensure protection of eco-systems and halt loss of biodiversity in all government planning.
- iii. **Support** agencies in their efforts to combat the poaching and trafficking of protected species of animals.
- iv. **Take action** to reduce degradation of natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity - flora and fauna species at risk.

## MGA is committed to:

- (a) Work to implement the SDGs, to ensure 'no-one is left behind'.
- (b) Incorporate the ideas of those at the centre of sustainable development initiatives.
- (c) Model a rights-based and person-centred approach, in all our Mercy ministries.

## MGA will continue to...

- ✓ Promote a development model that is just for both Peoples and the Earth.
- ✓ Work with civil society to secure justice for all citizens for a peaceful society.
- ✓ Highlight the dangers associated with the privatization of the SDGs.



**Links:** UN SDGs: <https://un.org/sdgs>  
Mercy World: [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)  
Pixabay: [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)  
[www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/)

Prepared by MIA-Global Action, April 2018

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## MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION GLOBAL ACTION

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## GOAL 15

### Protect, restore and promote sustainable land use...



*"Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another...."*

Pope Francis Laudato Si

## WHAT ARE THE SDGS?

The UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), supported by all countries, came into force 1st January 2016, to run through to 2030.

The SDGs address poverty, sustainable development, protection of ecosystems, inequality and climate change. MIA Global Action (MGA) is producing a series of pamphlets to inform and encourage members, to monitor the progress of the SDGs in their countries



**SDG 15 is the focus of this pamphlet: Protect and restore sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.**

**Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth in all its forms and interactions. It is the most complex feature of our planet and it is the most vital. "To tell the story of a single particle we must tell the full story of the Universe." Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, 'The Universe Story'**

## GLOBAL FACTS...

**Deforestation:** Every minute, the equivalent to 36 football fields worth of trees is destroyed.

**Desertification:** Annually, 12 million hectares of land becomes desert, affecting 1.5 billion people living in tropical areas.



(Image: Pixabay.com)

**Biodiversity:** Between 1970 - 2010 the planet lost 52 percent of its biodiversity! During this period, the human population doubled.

**Water** connects every aspect of life, yet 1 in 9 people lack access to safe water and 1 in 3 people have no access to a toilet.

### **AIM of UN 2030 SDG Agenda is to:**

Redress the above through conservation, restoration and sustainable use of land and freshwater.

**The protection of ecosystems in mountains, forests and land areas near deserts is critical. Governments must honour their obligations under international agreements.**

## COLLECTIVE ACTION....

**Go Green** Buy products that are fair trade and environment-friendly.

**Reduce, Re-use, Recycle** reflecting the Circular Economy, which mirrors nature.

**Raise Awareness** about the degradation of land and water in your area or country.

**Report Activities** like dumping waste in rivers / seas, or on land and burning plastic.

**Grow trees and plants** wherever possible in public spaces. Protect these spaces from commercial purchase for exploration.

## PERSONAL ACTION.....

**Grow** flowers and herbs even in containers when space is limited.

**Don't buy goods** manufactured in ways that pollute and degrade the environment.

**Join neighbourhood 'clean ups'** of common areas like rivers, road edges, and sea coast.

**Work towards** eliminating plastic items especially one-use e.g. straws, coffee cups, packaging.

