
Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Series Editor

Walter Leal Filho

The problems related to the process of industrialization such as biodiversity depletion, climate change, and a worsening of health and living conditions, especially but not only in developing countries, intensify. Therefore, there is also an increasing need to search for integrated solutions to make development more sustainable. The current model of economic growth used by many countries is heavily based on the exploitation of natural resources, which is not viable. Evidence shows that a more careful, that is, a more sustainable, approach to the use of our limited resources is needed.

The United Nations has acknowledged the problem, and among other measures, it produced a set of documents at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012. In 2015, the UN General Assembly approved the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

On January 1, 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda officially came into force. These goals cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

There are to date no comprehensive publications addressing the SDGs in an integrated way. Therefore, the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is being published. It encompasses 17 volumes, each devoted to one of the 17 SDGs.

More information about this series at <https://www.springer.com/series/15893>

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Gender Equality

With 46 Figures and 78 Tables

 Springer

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Series Preface

The United Nations General Assembly agreed and approved in September 2015 the document “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which contains a set of measures aiming to balance economic progress and protection of the environment, while at the same time remain aware of the need to address the many disparities still seen between industrialized and developing countries.

The Agenda document consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. The 17 SDGs are:

- SDG 1, placing an emphasis on ending all forms of extreme poverty.
- SDG 2, which aims to end hunger and achieve food security with improved nutrition
- SDG 3, focusing on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all
- SDG 4, touches on one of the most important areas, namely inclusive and quality education
- SDG 5, focusing on gender equality
- SDG 6, which emphasizes the need for clean water and sanitation
- SDG 7, advocates the need for affordable and clean energy
- SDG 8, sustaining inclusive and sustainable economic growth with productive and decent working conditions for all
- SDG 9, which intends to foster industry, innovation, and infrastructure
- SDG 10, being about reducing inequalities among countries
- SDG 11, an attempt to ensure that human settlements and cities are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
- SDG 12, with a focus on sustainable consumption and production patterns
- SDG 13, with an emphasis on the need for climate action
- SDG 14, raises the need to preserve life below water, especially rivers and oceans
- SDG 15, draws attention about the need for a greater care about life on land
- SDG 16, which advocates peace, justice, and strong institutions
- SDG 17, a cross-SDGs effort to foster the partnership for the goals and their delivery

The SDGs and their specific objectives are very complex. The mandate of the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is, therefore, to

clarify and explain a wide range of terms associated with each SDG. It does so by gathering and presenting inputs provided by experts from across all areas of knowledge and from round the world, who explain each term and their implications, drawing also from the latest literature.

With 17 volumes and involving in excess of 1,500 authors and contributors, the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is the largest editorial project on sustainable development ever undertaken. We hope that this publication will be helpful in fostering a broader understanding of the SDGs, and that this process may inspire and support a wide range of initiatives aimed at their implementation, thus realizing the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

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Volume Preface

The pursuit of a sustainable, that is, environmentally sound, socially correct, economically adequate, and ethically acceptable development is a matter of concern to both individuals and nations alike. It is also a complex process, where science needs to be complemented by political decisions and practical actions, so as to yield the expected benefits.

One of the fundamental aspects of sustainable development is gender equality. Therefore, this volume on SDG5 Gender Equality is a timely one. The quest for Gender Equality is based on a number of needs, for instance:

- (i) UN figures based on data from 87 countries suggest that one in five women and girls under the age of 50 will have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner within the last 12 months.
- (ii) Harmful practices, such as child marriage, are still widely spread and affect around 15 million girls under age 18 every year.
- (iii) Nearly 50 countries still do not have legislation in place which may protect women from domestic violence.
- (iv) In many countries, discrimination against women still exists and negatively affects their professional prospects, both in the private and public sectors.

Moreover, gender inequalities are also seen in the industrialized world. One example is the fact that there are still significant pay gaps between male and female workers, even though the levels of responsibility between men and women are the same.

Since ending all types of discrimination against women and girls and empowering them is not only the right thing to do but may also help economic growth and development, it is important to intensify efforts to foster a greater gender equality.

Therefore, it is important that due emphasis is given toward understanding and addressing the elements that drive and sustain gender inequality, with a view to changing current trends.

With this volume, we attempt to emphasize and also showcase the diversity of perspectives related to gender equality, at the same time illustrating the many challenges associated with it. In addition, this volume hopes to show the many ways via which women and girls may be empowered, how their sexual and reproductive health and rights may be defended, and how to eliminate gender-based discrimination in all areas of social, political, and economic life.

It is time to end the social discriminations faced by women in various dimensions be they within the family and household context, in relation to physical integrity, access to financial resources, or within the political and civil spheres.

We also hope that the contributions in this volume will provide a timely support toward the implementation of SDG 5 and will foster the global efforts toward reducing the current gender gaps.

January 2021

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About the Editors



Walter Leal Filho (B.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Phil., D.L., D.Litt., D.Ed.) is Professor and Director of the European School of Sustainability Science and Research, whose Headquarters are at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany. He also holds the Chair of Environment and Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. He is Founding Editor of the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education* and heads the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), the world's largest network of universities engaged on sustainable development research. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the World Sustainable Development series with Springer. Prof. Walter Leal serves on the editorial board of various journals. He has in excess of 400 publications to his credit, among which are groundbreaking books such as *Universities as Living Labs for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, *Social Responsibility and Sustainability*, and *Handbook of Sustainability Science and Research*. He has nearly 30 years of field experience in project management and has a particular interest in the connections between sustainability, climate change adaptation, and human behavior.



Anabela Marisa Azul is a Researcher at the Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology (CNC) and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Coimbra (III-UC, Portugal). She graduated in Biology at the UC, where she completed her Ph.D. degree in Biology, specialization in Ecology, with collaboration from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU, München, Germany). Anabela became an Associate Researcher (Ciência 2009) at the Centre for Functional Ecology (CFE-UC), where she remained until 2014. There, she developed a holistic approach for advancing translational research that combined the sustainable development with innovation in food production and public scientific awareness (from early childhood). She currently is interested in functional attributes of fungi in the domain of metabolism, aging, and disease and approaches for knowledge coproduction in metabolism and sustainability research. She has coauthored over 40 scientific publications and book chapters, four books for children, two comics, and an animation.



Luciana Brandli Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the University of Passo Fundo, Brazil, working in the Ph.D. Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Her current research interests include sustainability in higher education and green campus, management of urban infrastructure and sustainable cities, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. She supervises a number of master's and doctoral students on engineering, environment, and sustainability issues and has in excess of 300 publications, including books, book chapters, and papers in refereed journals.



Amanda Lange Salvia has a degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Passo Fundo, Brazil, and graduate studies focused on sustainable cities and universities. Her work centers on the Sustainable Development Goals, the role of universities towards sustainability, and the impacts of climate change. Amanda has experience with international studies assessing aspects related to the 2030 Agenda and sustainability in higher education. She is a reviewer for various journals and is also a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.



Tony Wall is Founder and Head of the International Centre for Thriving, a global-scale collaboration between business, arts, health, and education to deliver sustainable transformation for the common good. He is passionate about *thriving* and has published 200+ works, including articles in quartile 1 journals such as *The International Journal of Human Resource Management and Vocations and Learning* as well as global policy reports for the *European Mentoring & Coaching Council* in Brussels. Overall, his leadership and international impact in these areas have attracted numerous accolades including the prestigious Advance-HE National Teaching Fellowship and three Santander International Research Excellence Awards.

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