

millennium development goal no.7

Ensure Environmental sustainability



What is a MDG?

The MDGs are an agreed set of goals which represent a global partnership that has grown from the UN Millennium Declaration adopted by 190 countries in the year 2000 to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

“Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.”

Why Environmental sustainability?

Climate change is intensifying disasters, including extreme weather events, storm surges, floods and droughts. It is vital that development strategies incorporate measures to strengthen community resilience through economic development, income diversification, strengthened natural/infrastructural defences and disaster preparedness. While no area can escape the adverse impact of climate change, the Arctic, small islands, mega-deltas in Asia and Africa, and the African region overall seem to be especially vulnerable because of their high exposure to the effects of climate change, their populations' limited capacity to adapt to the consequences or both.

Targets for MDG no.7

- 7a:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, reverse loss of environmental resources.
- 7b:** Reduce Biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.
- 7c:** Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- 7d:** Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2010.

Why these specific targets?

7a & b Poverty, biodiversity and sustainable development are intimately linked. The poor, especially in rural areas, depend on biodiversity for food, fuel, shelter, medicines and livelihoods. Biodiversity loss exacerbates poverty, and likewise, poverty is a major threat to biodiversity. Sustainable development means that changes made will last.

7c & d In our world today around 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved

sanitation and some 1.2 billion people do not have access to an improved source of water. If we do not act there will be 3 billion slum dwellers by 2050.

More information

www.undp.org/mdg - The UN webpage about MDG's
www.micahchallenge.org.uk - Micah Challenge UK is a coalition of Christian organisations and churches in Britain, united in their concern to fight global poverty. They are calling on Christians to hold their governments to account for their promises they made towards fulfilling the MDGs.