

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) Progress Report

What are the SDGs?

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals that have been defined to support the world's transition to sustainable development and a sustainable future.¹

In 2015, the UN developed 17 SDGs comprising a set of 17 goals and 169 sub-targets. The goals call for worldwide action among governments, business and civil society to end poverty, ensure prosperity for all and protect the planet. We aim to help realise these goals where we can through our businesses.

Progress towards achieving the SDGs

This information note has been developed to highlight the progress of the SDGs most relevant to our members and demonstrate how IMCA members can contribute. The UN SDG 2024 progress report² finds that only 17% of the SDG targets are on track, nearly half are showing minimal or moderate progress, and progress on over one third has stalled or even regressed. Figure 1 shows the progress of the targets under each of the 17 goals.

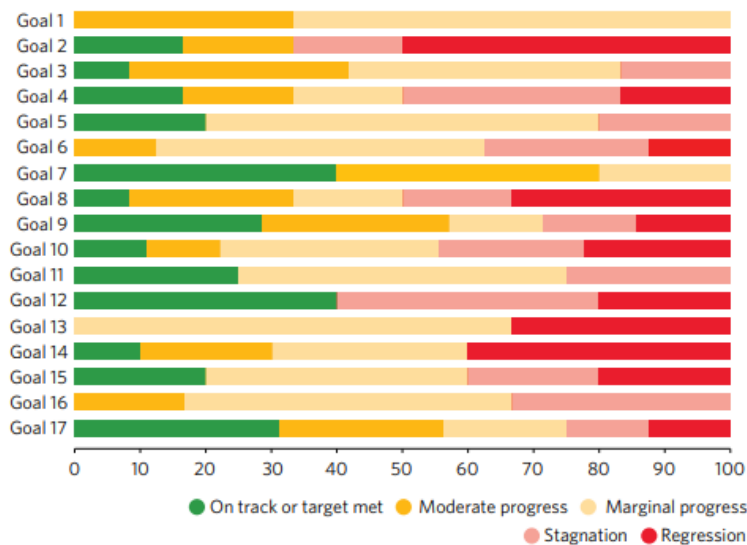


Figure 1 – Progress towards the 17 SDGs²

This document is intended to provide information only. IMCA members may wish to note some of the key findings of the 2024 progress report³ which provides a powerful call to action, presenting a candid assessment of the SDGs based on the latest data and estimates.

¹ THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)

² The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (un.org)

³ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (un.org)

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SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



Considerable strides have been made towards achieving sustainable energy targets. The number of people lacking access to electricity dropped from 958 million in 2015 to 685 million in 2022. To meet Goal 7's energy efficiency target by 2030, key actions include:

- ◆ switching to more efficient fuels, including electrifying final uses
- ◆ improving the technical efficiency of equipment and processes
- ◆ using energy and materials more efficiently
- ◆ creating supportive regulatory frameworks to accelerate electrification, enhance energy efficiency and increase investments in renewable energy, and
- ◆ fostering innovative solutions.

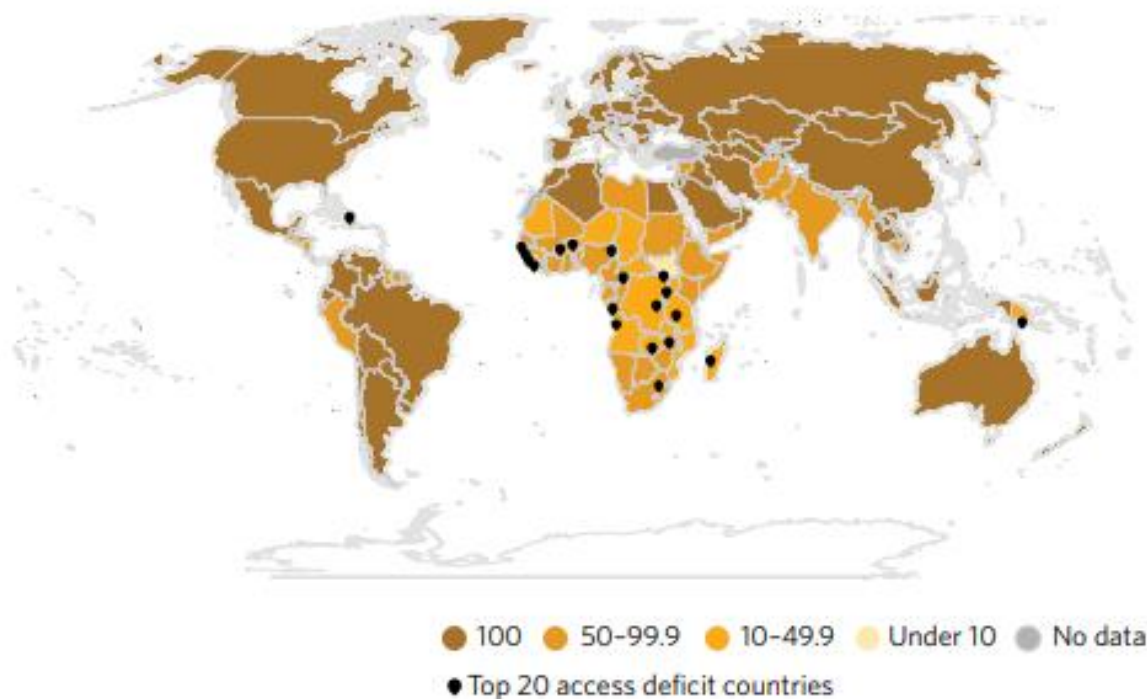


Figure 2 – Proportion of the population with access to electricity, 2022 (percentage)³

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure



Since 2022, manufacturing sector growth has plateaued at around 2.7%, a level expected to persist into 2024 due to the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions. The medium- and high-tech sector maintained its manufacturing value added share at around 46% in 2021. Small enterprises continue to face hurdles such as limited access to credit, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); only around 17% have access to loans or credit lines.

Emissions per unit of GDP have declined 11.5% from 2015 to 2021. Despite improvements, progress in reducing emissions intensity from global manufacturing to cut overall global emissions has been insufficient (figure 3). To advance Goal 9, there has to be a prioritisation of inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, investment in research and development, an acceleration of the green transition, and improved accessibility of information and communications technology.

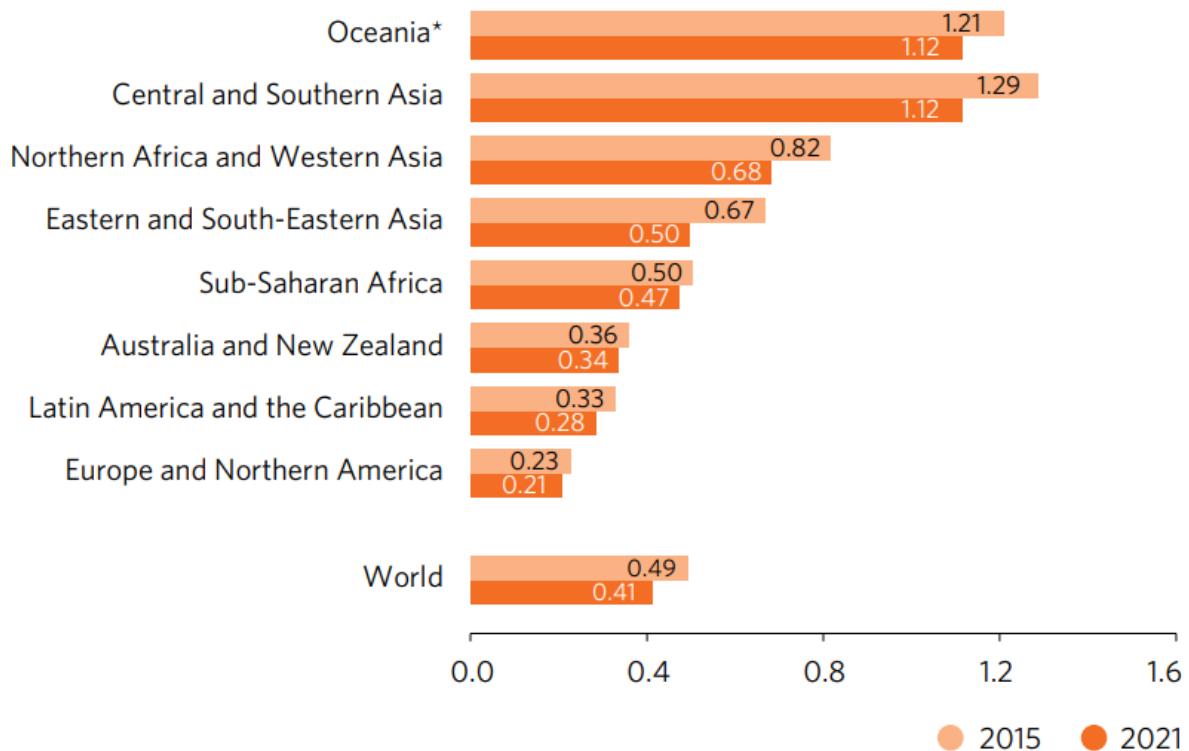


Figure 3 – CO₂ emissions per unit of manufacturing value added (kg of CO₂ per constant 2015 dollar), demonstrating emissions intensity from 2015 to 2021

*Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand⁴

⁴ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (un.org)

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production



Patterns of unsustainable consumption and production persist. Evident in how in 2022 global food waste reached 1.05 billion metric tons, yet only 9 of 193 countries included food waste in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) on climate change actions. Furthermore, the rapid growth of global e-waste remains largely unaddressed, with only 22% collected and managed sustainably (figure 4).

Achieving Goal 12 requires:

- ◆ fostering circular economy models
- ◆ sustainable production practices and responsible consumption
- ◆ regulatory frameworks
- ◆ financial incentives, and
- ◆ public awareness campaigns.

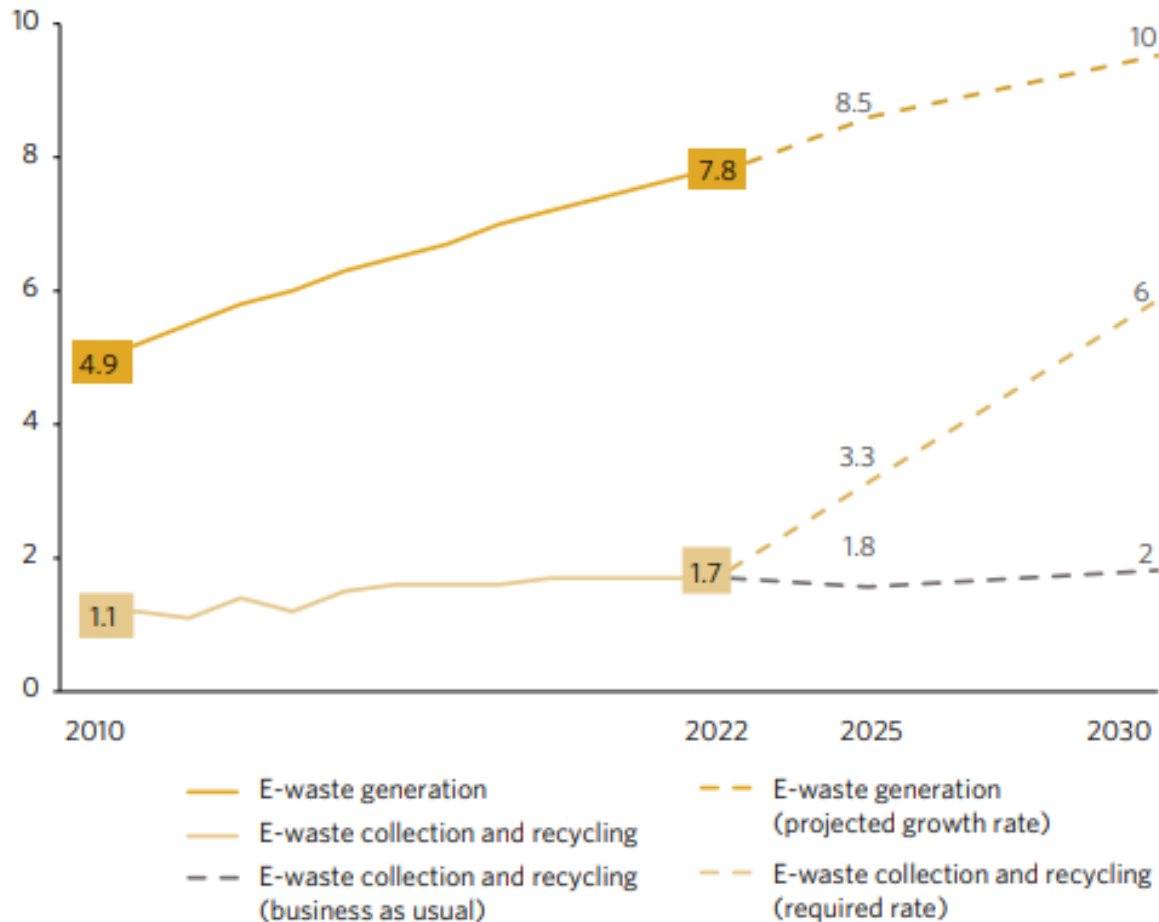


Figure 4 – E-waste generation and environmentally sound e-waste management, 2010–2022 and 2023–2030 projections (kilograms per capita)⁵

⁵ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (un.org)

SDG 13: Climate Action



Communities worldwide are suffering from extreme weather and increasingly frequent and more intense disasters, destroying lives and livelihoods daily. Climate records were shattered in 2023 as the climate crisis accelerated in real time. Rising temperatures have not abated and global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to climb (figure 5). All countries must urgently speed up economy-wide, low-carbon transformations to avoid escalating economic and social costs.

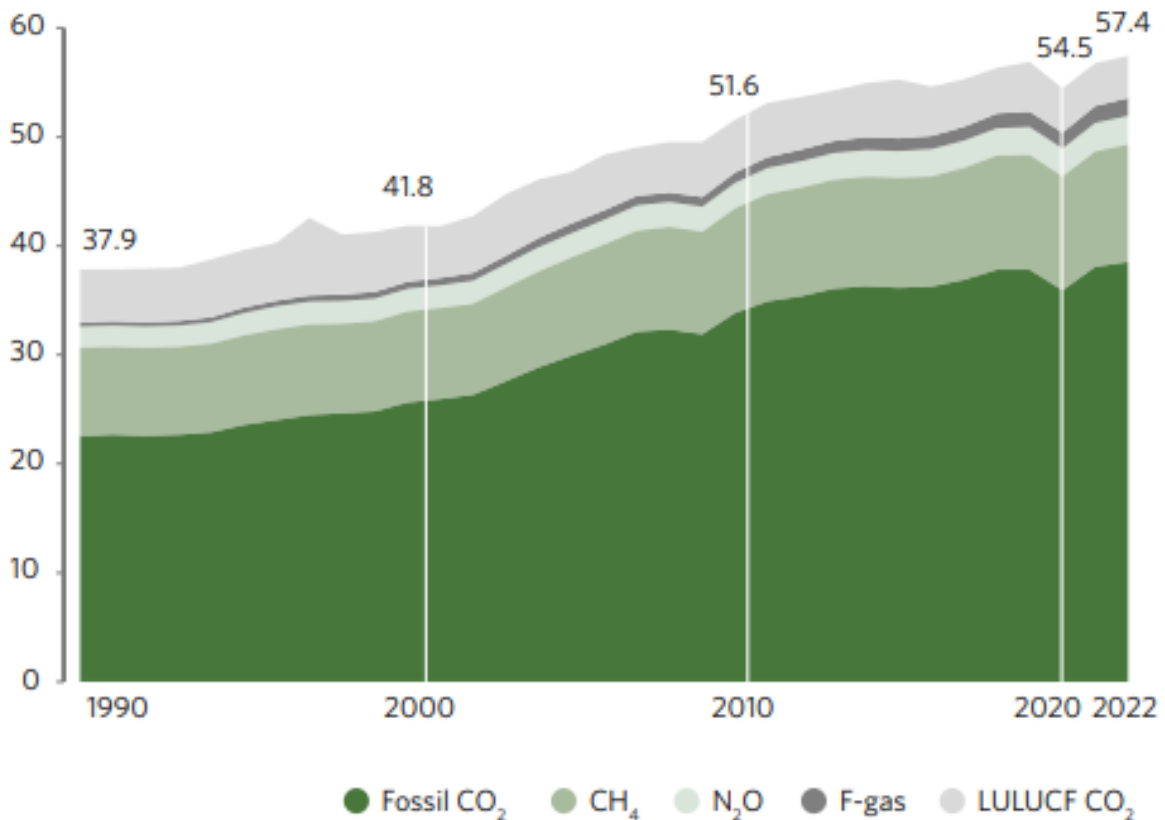


Figure 5 – Total net anthropogenic GHG emissions, 1990–2022 (gigatons of CO₂ equivalent)⁶

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed that 2023 was the hottest year on record, with global average temperatures soaring to approximately 1.45 °C above pre-industrial levels.

⁶ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (un.org)

SDG 14: Life Below Water



Oceans face significant challenges from:

- ◆ eutrophication
- ◆ worsening acidification
- ◆ declining fish stocks
- ◆ rising temperatures, and
- ◆ widespread pollution.

All these factors destroy habitats, diminish biodiversity and threaten coastal communities. This is incredibly problematic given the health of marine ecosystems are vital to over 3 billion people.

Key actions to address these mounting concerns include:

- ◆ implementing sustainable fishing practices
- ◆ expanding marine protected areas to safeguard key biodiversity areas
- ◆ increasing capacities to monitor ocean health and addressing the pollution that is choking waterways.

As of May 2024, 18,200 marine protected areas and 199 other effective conservation measures cover over 29 million square kilometres, representing a tenfold increase since 2000. However, progress has stalled since 2020. To reach the 10% SDG target by 2030, requires the designation and effective management of an average additional 1.3 million square kilometres per year.

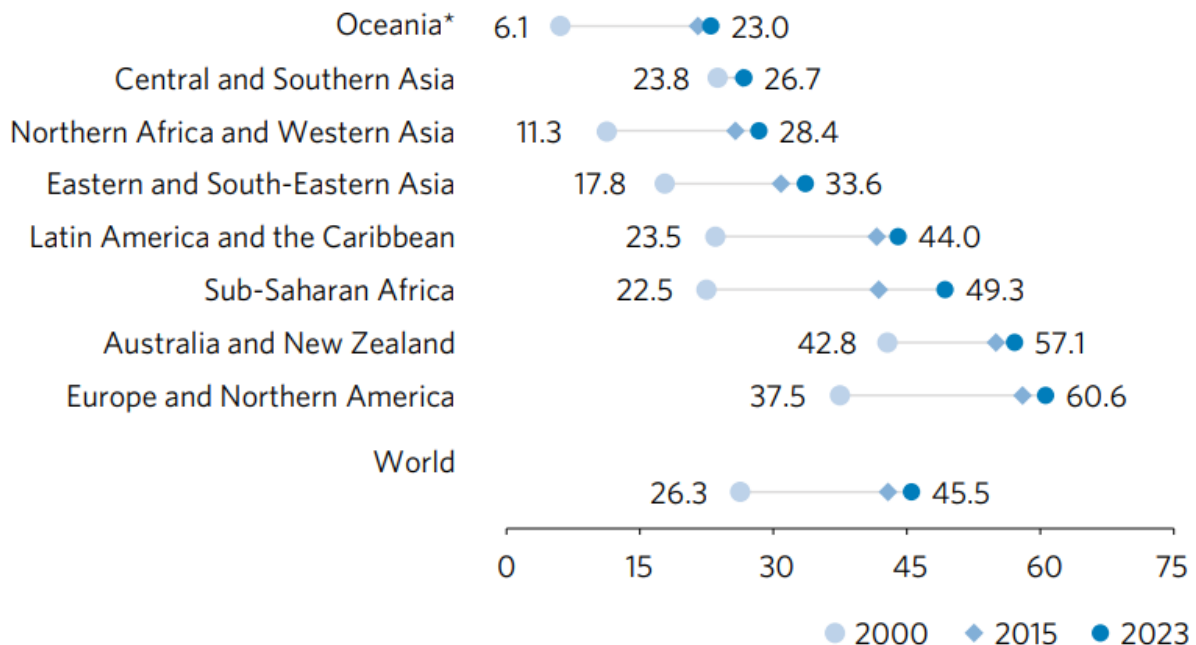


Figure 6 – Mean proportion of each key marine key biodiversity area covered by protected areas (percentage), 2000, 2015, and 2023

*Oceania excludes Australia and New Zealand⁷

⁷ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 (un.org)

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goes even further and commits to cover 30% of oceans by 2030 through establishing protected areas to safeguard habitats of particular importance for biodiversity. Additionally, there is another global agreement, the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which aims to protect marine biodiversity in international waters and seabed. Adequate management of such protected areas will be crucial to realise conservation benefits.

How IMCA members can influence SDG progress

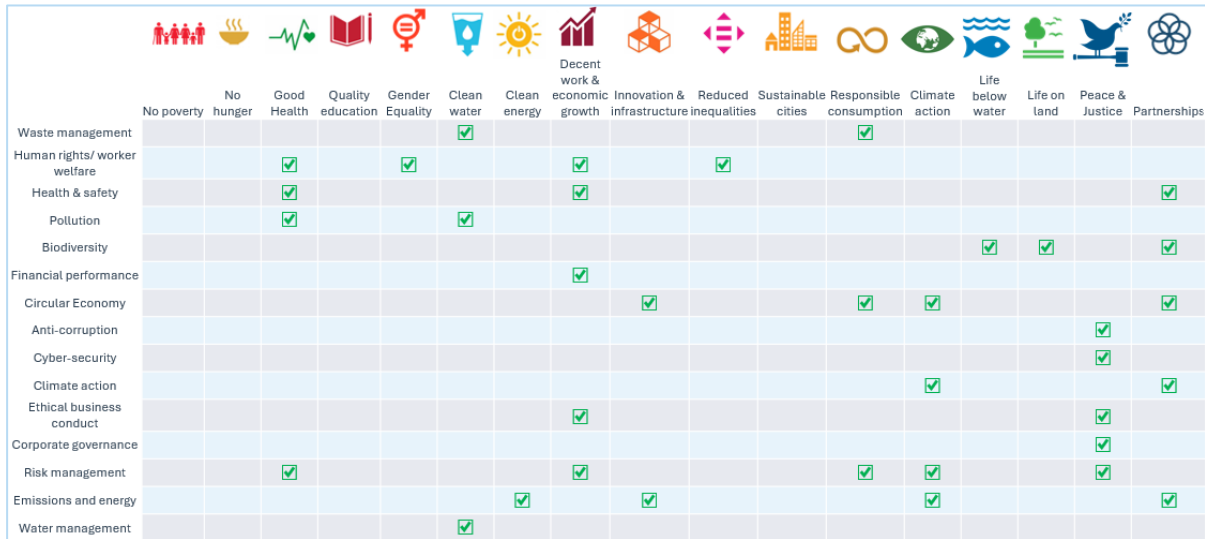


Figure 7 – Overlap between SDGs and the offshore sector

Our members who are involved in the construction of trade-related infrastructure are recognised as a pivotal element in progress towards achieving the UN SDGs. Achieving the SDGs without the private sector will not be possible, and numerous SDGs overlap with the operations of the offshore sector (figure 7).

For more information, please contact Mary.Ntamark@imca-int.com.

Related Guidance

- ◆ [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 \(un.org\)](#)
- ◆ [About the Voluntary National Review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ◆ [GRI - Standards \(globalreporting.org\)](#)