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The SDG 2020 Targets Rehearsing for the future

September, 2021

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Main findings

- **None of the targets that should have been met by 2020 was fully accomplished.** Some targets **show regressions on the indicators**, which leaves us farther away from their fulfilment.
- Nonfulfillment especially but not exclusively affects the environmental dimension. This creates an **unbalanced implementation of the three dimensions of sustainable development towards 2030.**
- An effective monitoring of some of the 2020 Targets is not possible due to **insufficient data**. This is a vicious circle worsened by not having achieved the 2020 Target on enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries to significantly increase the availability of timely, quality, and disaggregated data. This has forced us to **enter the last decade to achieve the SDGs with “blind spots”, and obstructs evidence-based decision-making.**
- Nonfulfillment introduces a debate on how to treat the unachieved targets: **Both options, to maintain the targets and to update them, have associated advantages and risks. There is still no clear institutional scenario in which this decision should be taken.**

Introduction

As [Felix Dodds](#) stated in 2017, “The existence of targets with varying achievement dates within the SDG package is the consequence of a process that recognized and honored the diversity and richness of [its] inputs.”

A first package of 21 targets, 12% of the 169 targets adopted in the 2030 Agenda, met its

achievement deadline on the last day of 2020, with less than encouraging results. Most of these targets are related to the Aichi Targets, an expression of the commitments made in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, but as shown in the following table, not all SDG targets that should have been met by 2020 were related to the Aichi Targets.

Table 1. Sustainable Development Goals and Targets (the targets to be met by 2020 are shown in white)

SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
TARGETS		X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
								X						X	X		
														X	X		
														X	X		
															X		

Note: X = unfulfilled 2020 target; X = partially fulfilled 2020 target

Source: own design, 2021

It is shocking to see all of these targets together, especially when we identify that they flow through 12 of the 17 SDGs and form a small, hidden 2020 agenda within the 2030 Agenda.

Additionally, it is clear that nonfulfillment of the 2020 Targets especially affects environmental SDGs, since they make up for 20% of SDG 13

targets; 40% of SDG 14 targets; and 42% of SDG 15 targets. Reality demonstrates that this topic is assigned little priority in world leaders’ speeches.

However, for a full picture of what has happened, it is necessary to analyze the progress achieved for each of the mentioned targets.

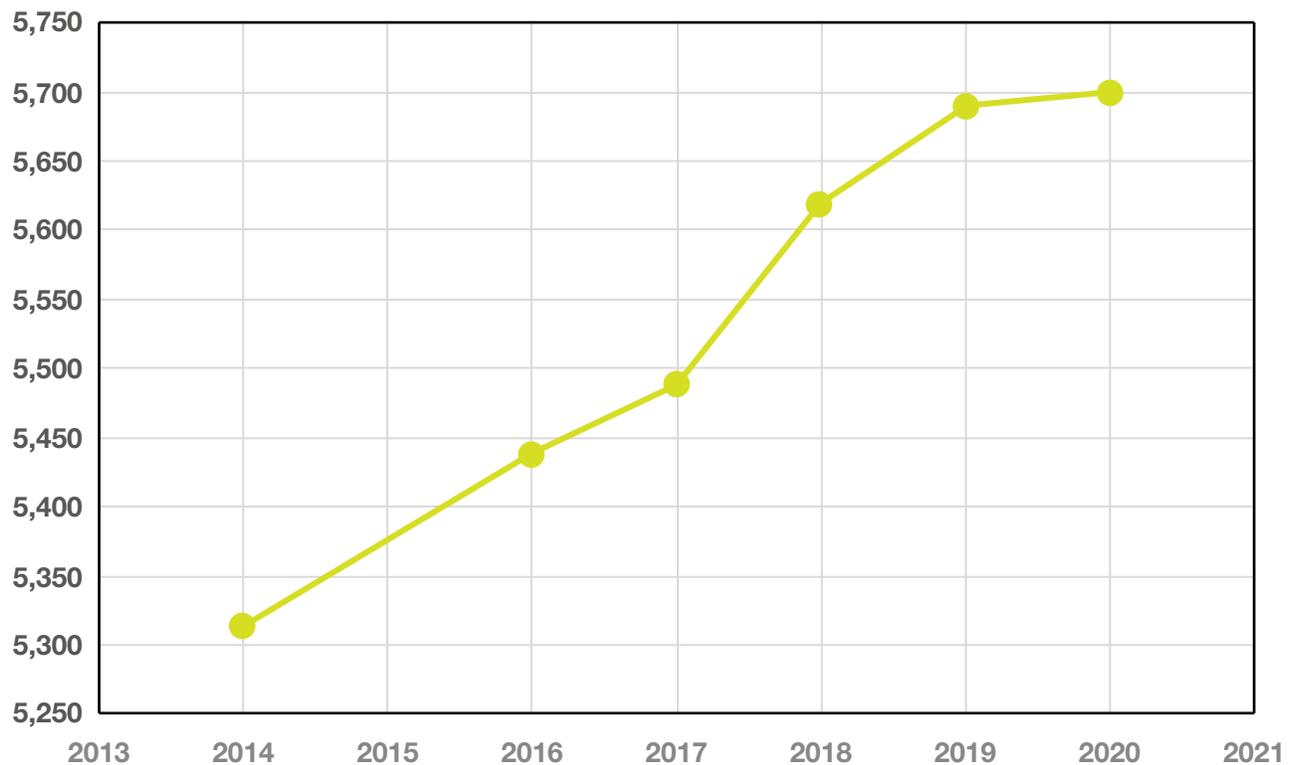
2020 Targets: Summary of the state of progress

Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

Indicator 2.5.1: Number of: a) plant genetic resources and b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities.

Indicator 2.5.2: Proportion of local breeds and varieties classified as being at risk of extinction.

Figure 1. Global stocks of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (in millions)



Source: FAO

Global stocks of plant genetic material have grown, but the growth rate has declined, with its lowest point in 2020.

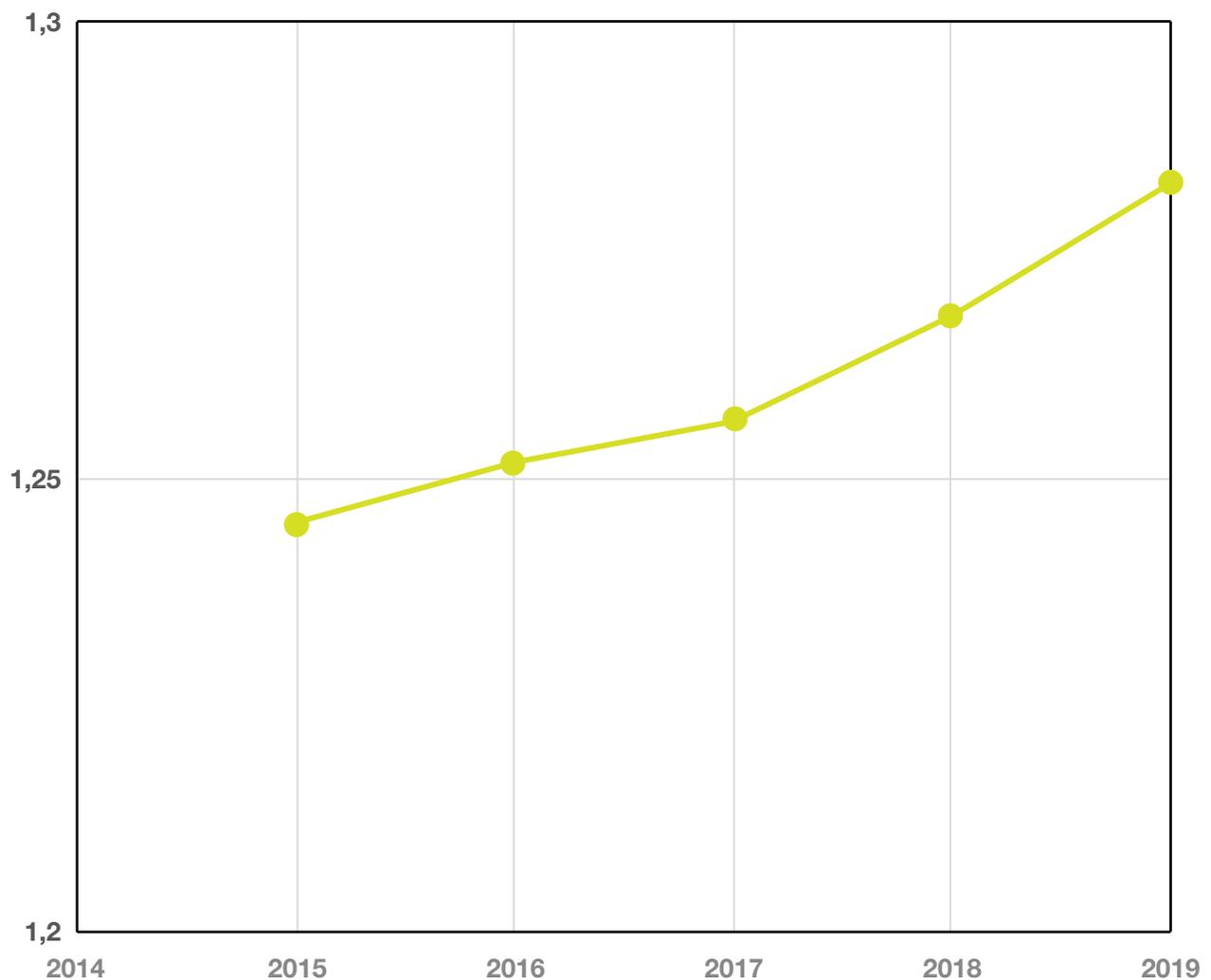
Regarding the sustainment of genetic diversity of farmed and domesticated animals, the risk status affecting 61% local livestock breeds remains unknown, and from the 39% for which there is data available, we know that almost three quarters (74%) are at risk of extinction.

In case of an extinction event, gene banks only have enough material to reconstruct 203 of the 7,700 livestock breeds that exist on the planet.

Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

Indicator 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries (Tier 1).

Figure 2. Estimated number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents (register of 183 countries, in millions)



Source: WHO

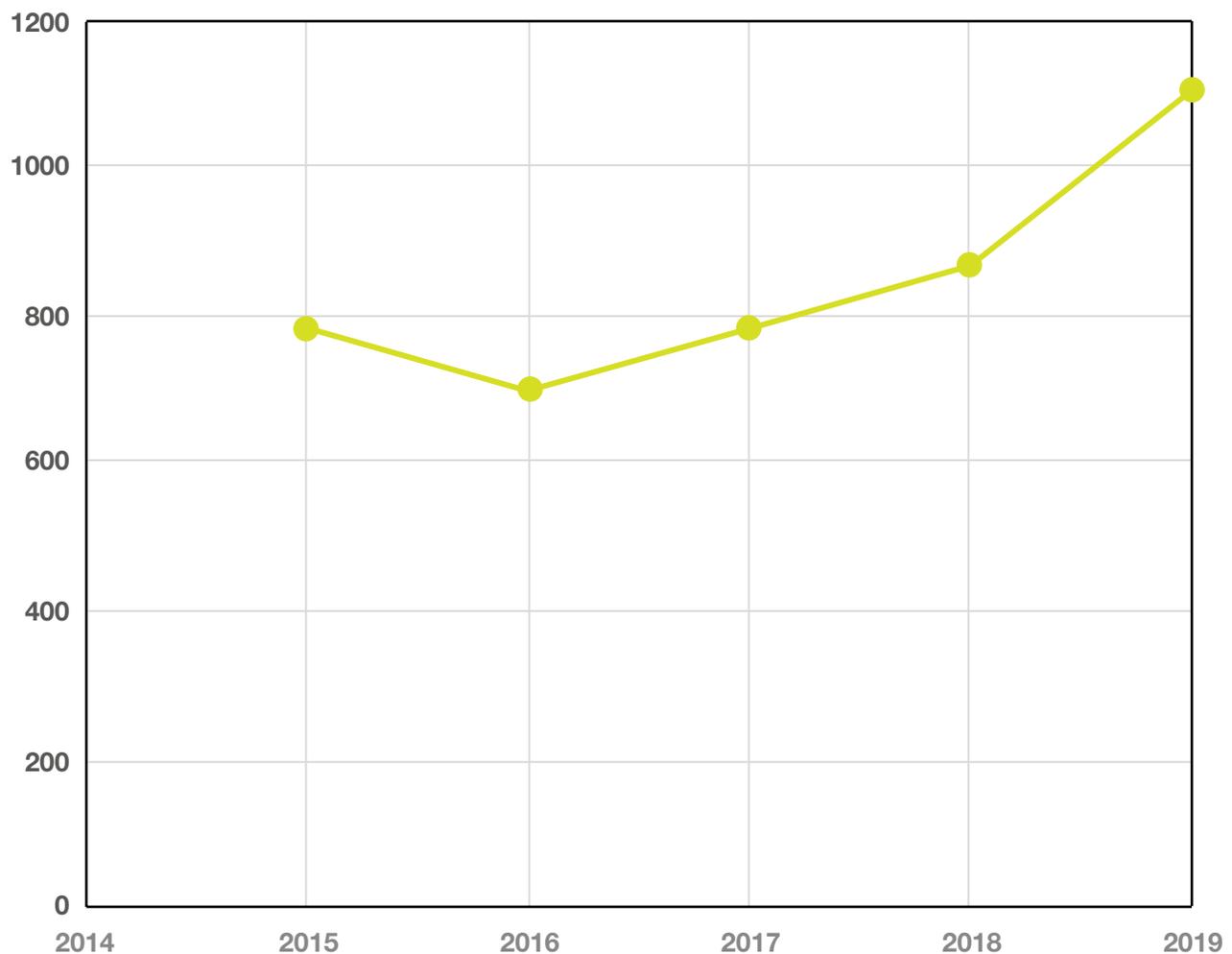
This aggregated rate has two hidden disparities: from the total number of deaths in 2019, 75% were children and men, and the death rate is 3.5 times higher in low-income countries compared to high-income countries. Additionally, in 2019 injuries from road traffic accidents were the main cause of death for the young population (15 to 29 years-old).

Target 4.b: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing

countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

Indicator 4.b.1: *Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study.*

Figure 3. Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships (in millions of dollars)



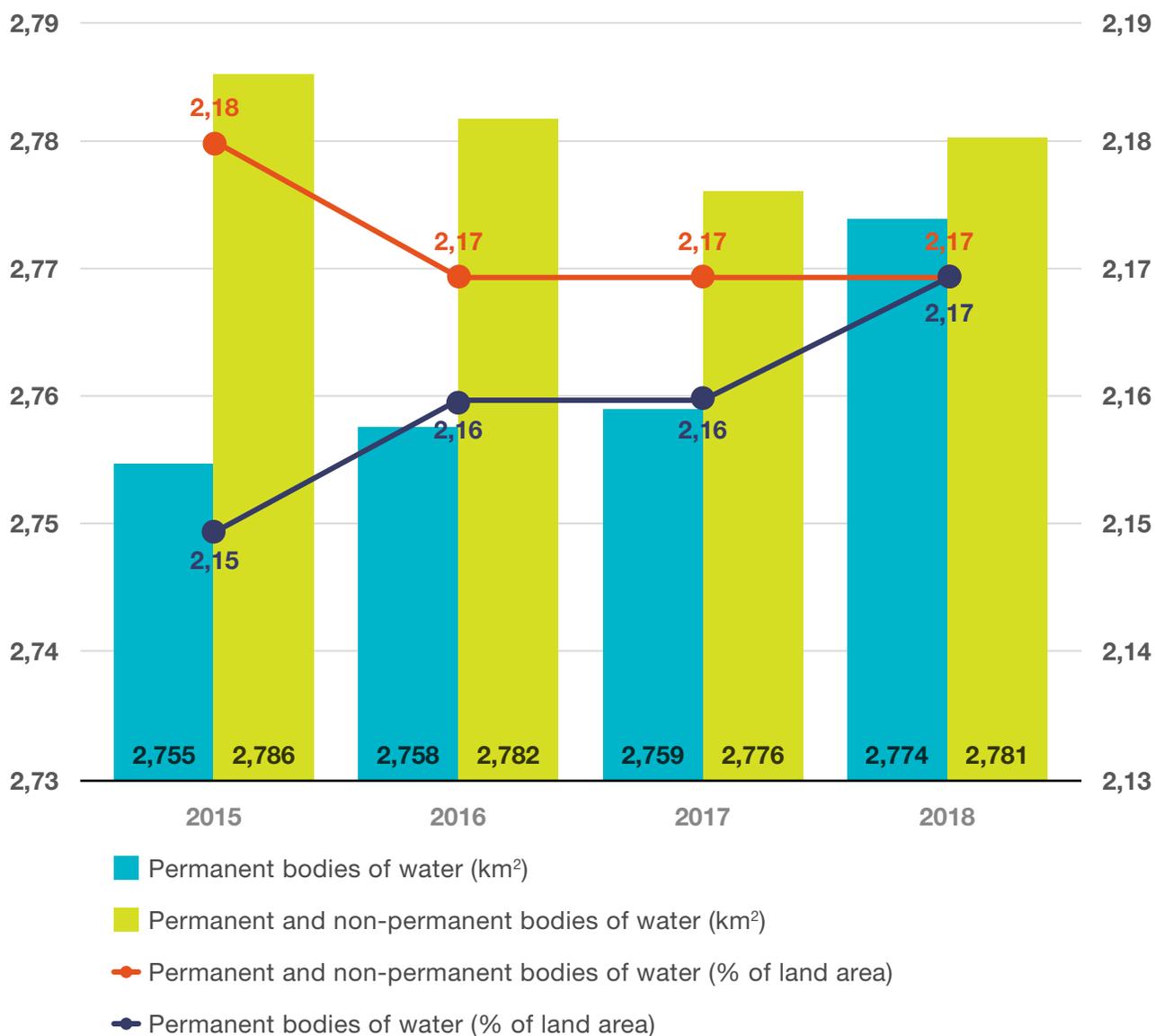
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, updated in March 2021, available from <http://data.uis.unesco.org>

There was a 39% increase. However, the data still do not have the disaggregation level required for the appropriate monitoring of the target. Thus, the data presented here is the aggregate flow result.

Indicator 6.6.1: Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time.

Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Figure 4. Permanent and non-permanent bodies of water (extent in millions of km², left axis; percentage of land area, right axis)



Source: UNEP

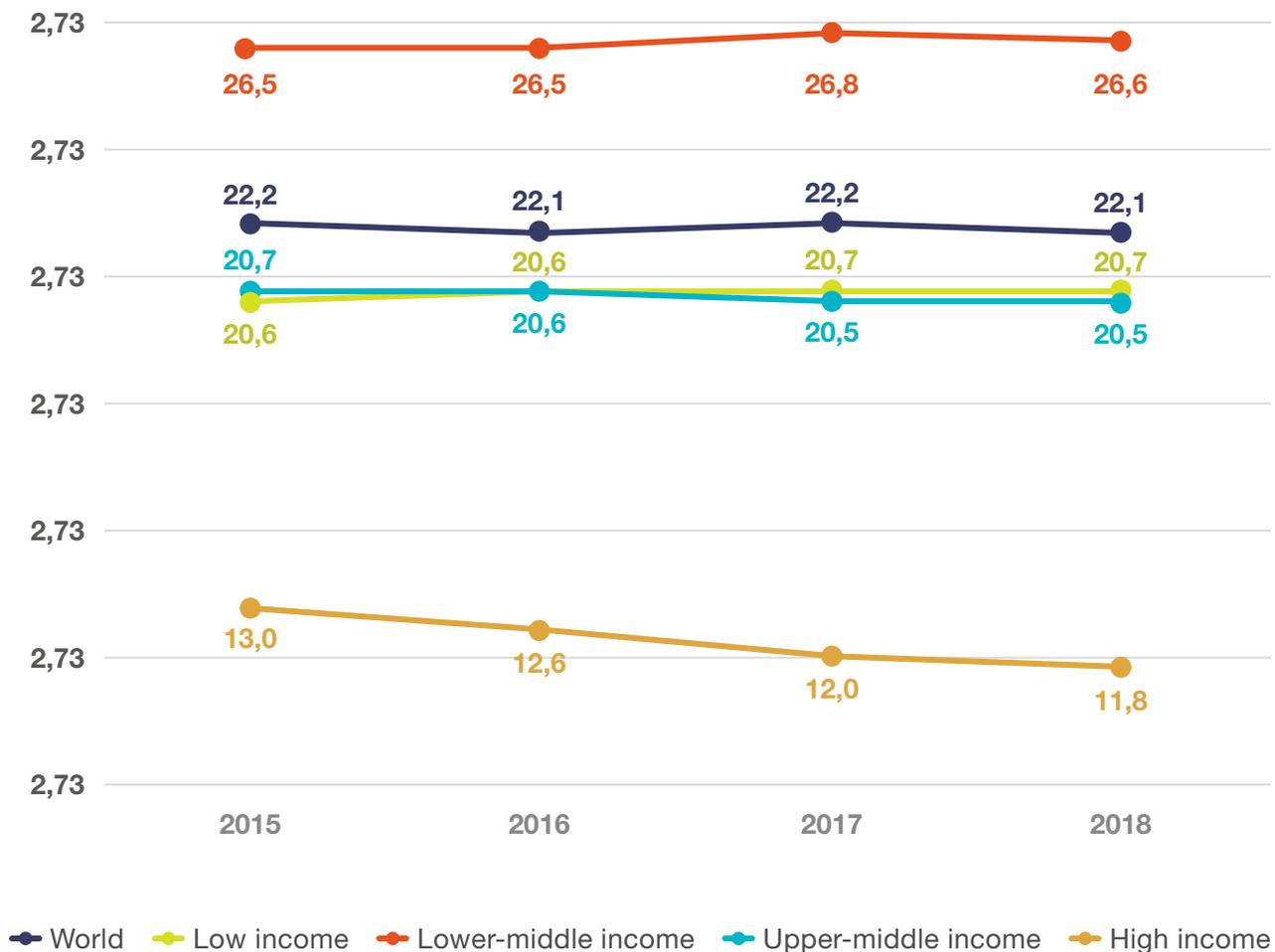
Between 1970 and 2015, the total number of continental and marine or coastal wetlands decreased by around 35%, three times more than the forest loss rate, and there are rapid increases or decreases in the surface waters of 20% of the world’s river basins. The graph shows that progress is stagnant, which is made worse by a rise in contamination of the great lakes, wetland degradation, and a biodiversity loss in freshwater bodies.

Target 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

Indicator 8.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training.

Indicator 8.b: By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

Figure 5. Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training (as percentage of the total population in that age range)



Source: ILOSTAT

It is estimated that in 2019, more than 1 in every 5 youth worldwide didn't work, study or received training. This proportion has remained stagnant for the past 10 years. If we disaggregate by gender, young women are approximately twice as likely to find themselves in this situation, compared to young men.

In response to this situation, by early 2020 around 35 countries had operationalized youth employment strategies in place, 44 had strategies that were yet to be implemented, and almost 25 countries were developing strategies.

Table 2. Situation of countries with information on the existence of a developed and operationalized strategy for youth employment (2019-2020)

<p>The country has not yet developed or shown progress in the development of a youth employment strategy</p> <p>Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>The country is developing a strategy for youth employment</p> <p>Afghanistan, Armenia, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Congo (DRC), Costa Rica, Eswatini, Gabon, Georgia, Granada, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Myanmar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Yemen, Zimbabwe</p>
<p>The country has a strategy for youth employment, but has yet to implement it</p> <p>Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lao (PDR), Liberia, Madagascar, Moldova, Namibia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Central African Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia</p>	<p>The country has an operationalized strategy for youth employment</p> <p>Germany, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Slovenia, Spain, Philippines, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malta, Morocco, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Rwanda, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan</p>

Note: countries that were added to each category in 2020 are in red

Source: own design based on ILO data

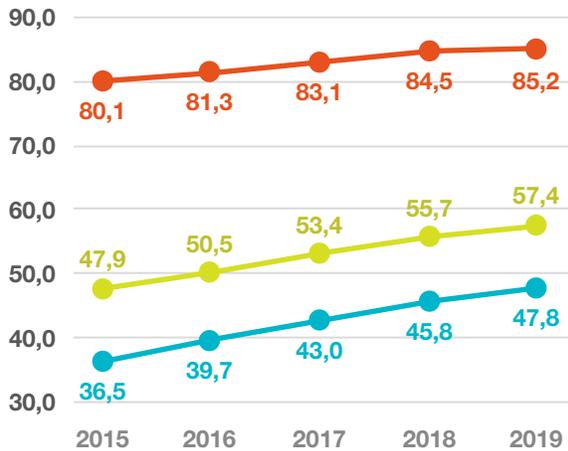
Target 9.c: Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

Indicator 9.c.1: Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology.

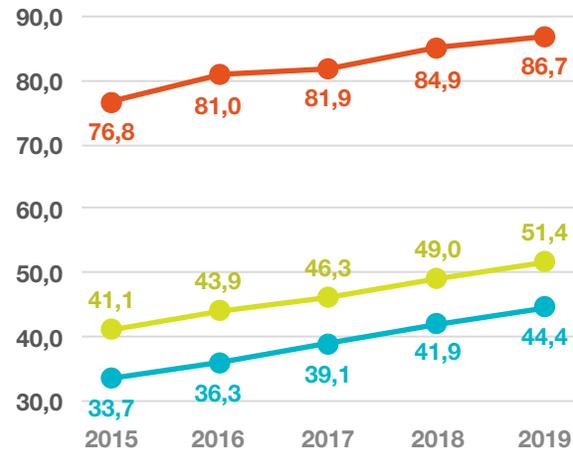
Figure 6. Key indicators for access to communications technology



Households with Internet access



Individuals who use the Internet



— World

— Developed countries

— Developing countries

Source: own design based on ITU data

It is estimated that the establishment of mobile broadband network services decreased in 2020, although by late 2020 approximately 85% of the population had access to a 4G network, the annual connectivity growth has continuously decelerated since 2017. The difference between developed and developing countries, reflected in the figures above, confirms the access to ICT gap.

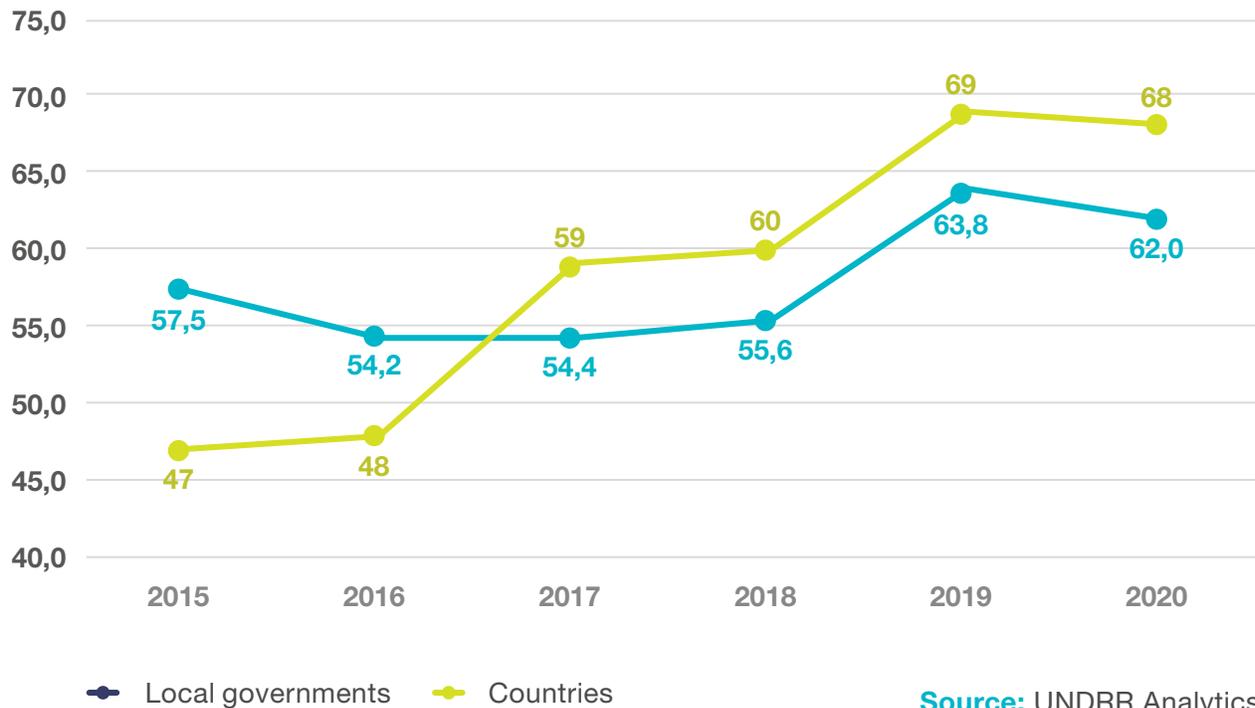
Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

Indicator 11.b.1: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Indicator 11.b.2: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.

Monitoring the “twin targets” of the SDG targets established in the Sendai Framework for Action shows oscillations in processes and reveals that the increase in countries has been of 45,2% during the period, while at the local level there has been an increase of 7.9 percentage points. During the past year, there have been regressions compared with the starting point, both at the national and local levels.

Figure 7. Proportion of national and local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030



Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Indicator 12.4.1: Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.

Indicator 12.4.2: Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.

The agreements referred to in the first indicator are the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant; the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Using a calculation that considers participation of all UN Member States in the treaties, and being 100 the indicator for full achievement, 2015 showed a value of 52.44, which has climbed to 61.79 in 2020.

Regarding the second indicator, its elements for technical measurement were not determined

until 2017, which means that the data available are limited and do not allow for comparisons of time series. The report of the Secretary-General notes, on the progress towards the SDGs in 2021 (paragraph 136), that each person generated about 7.3 kilograms of e-waste in 2019, of which only 1.7 kilograms was documented to have been managed in an environmentally sustainable way. It is expected that per capita waste generation will rise to 9 kilograms by 2030.

Target 13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

Indicator 13.a.1: *Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 to 2025 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment.*

Total financing for climate is increasing. For the period 2017-2018, it showed an annual average of 48.7 billion, an increase of 10% over the previous biennium, but still far from the commitment made. Most of the funding is directed towards supporting mitigation actions, but there is a sustained increase on financing for adaptation actions.

The Green Climate Fund is fully operational. The first round of financial contribution commitments, in 2014, reached 10.3 billion, out of which 8.3 billion were confirmed. The contributors were 45 countries (among which 9 were developing countries), 3 regions, and 1 city. The last round of commitments was completed in 2019, achieving 9.99 billion confirmed by donors, 31 countries (2 developing countries) and 2 regions, which represents an increase compared to the funding effectively made available during the first years (Source: Green Climate Fund Pledge Tracker).

Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

Indicator 14.2.1: *Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches.*

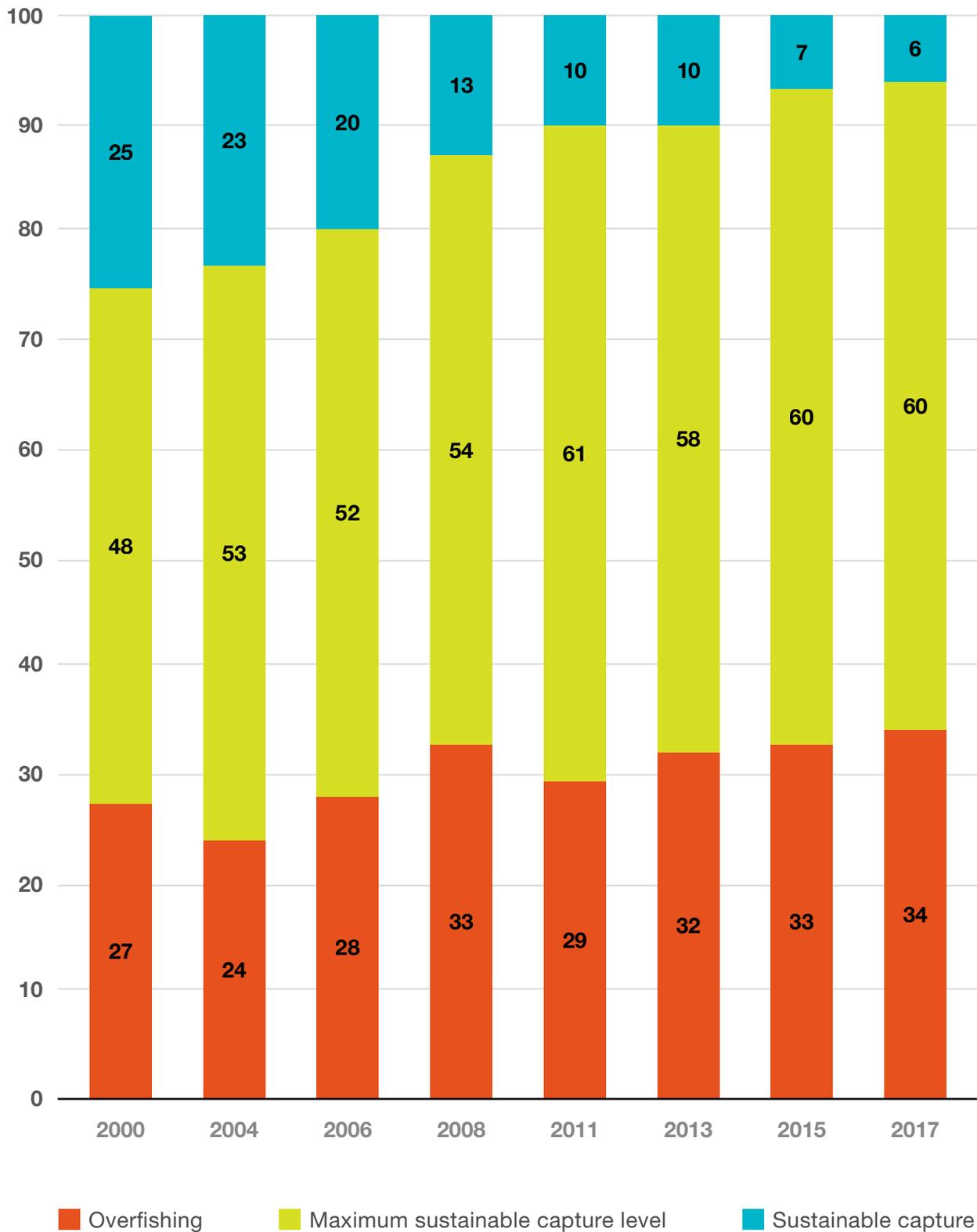
No data have been produced on this indicator, and its methodology was under development until 2020. The first collection is planned for 2021 and, consequently, we can only recommend interested readers to consult the [World Ocean Assessment II](#) (WOA) published by the United Nations in 2021. The findings in this publication clearly indicate that changes in the oceans (acidification, concentration of dissolved oxygen, temperature, overfishing, etc.) are driving marine ecosystems beyond their limits.

Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

Indicator 14.4.1: *Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels.*

Once again, the lack of data for this target is the main obstacle to its monitoring. The UN Statistical Commission database for this target shows only 11 data points for 2018, and none for 2019 and 2020. Science has warned us that the rising ocean temperatures are pushing various fish stocks beyond the limits of their resilience (WOA, Vol. 1:58), and that the level of catches beyond the limits of sustainability exceeds fisheries resources by one third.

Figure 8. State of marine world fish stocks (percentage)



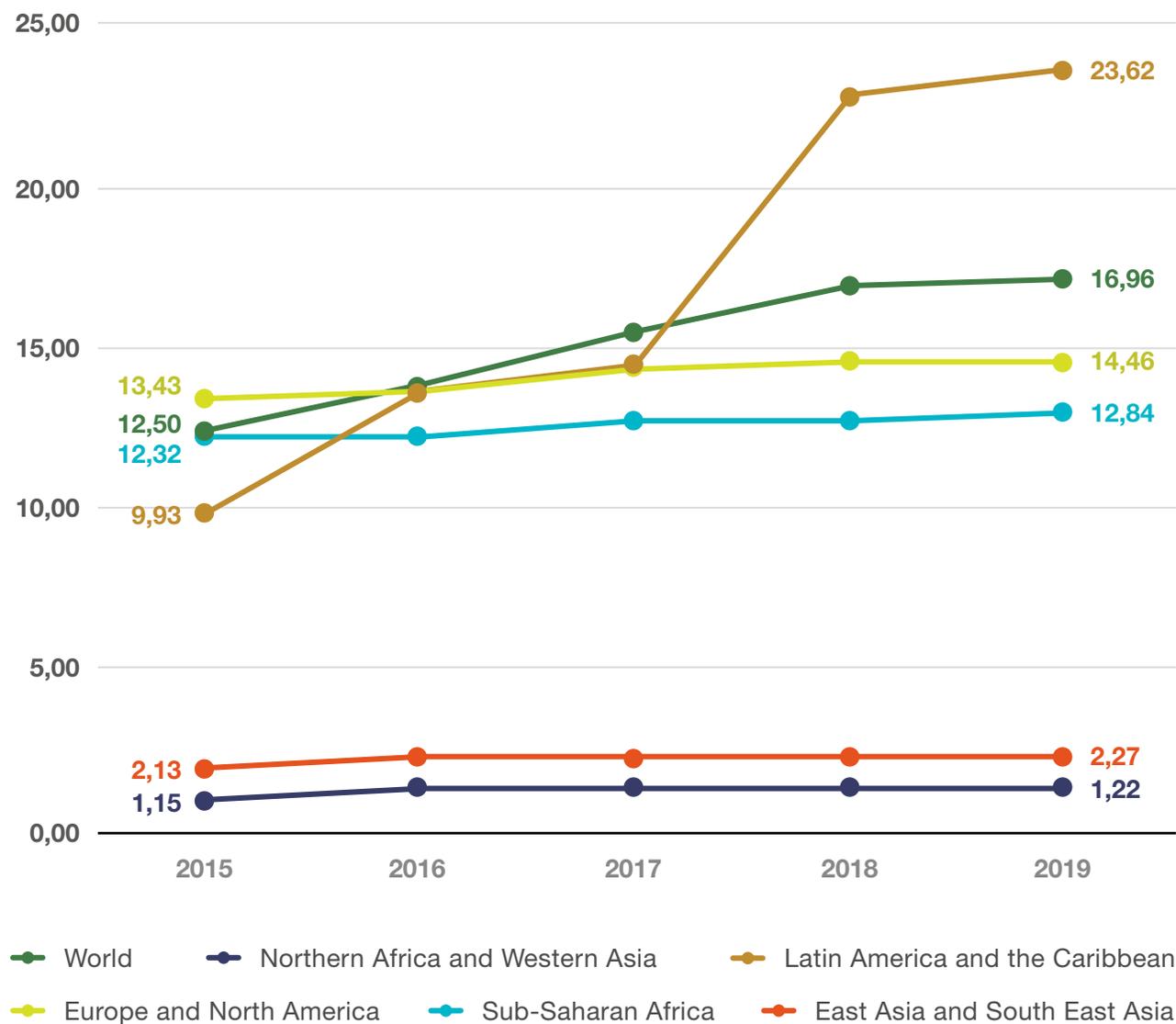
Source: FAO

Target 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

The protected area of marine zones rose from 28% in 2000 to 44% in 2020, with marked differences between regions.

Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas.

Figure 9. Coverage percentage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (exclusive economic zones)



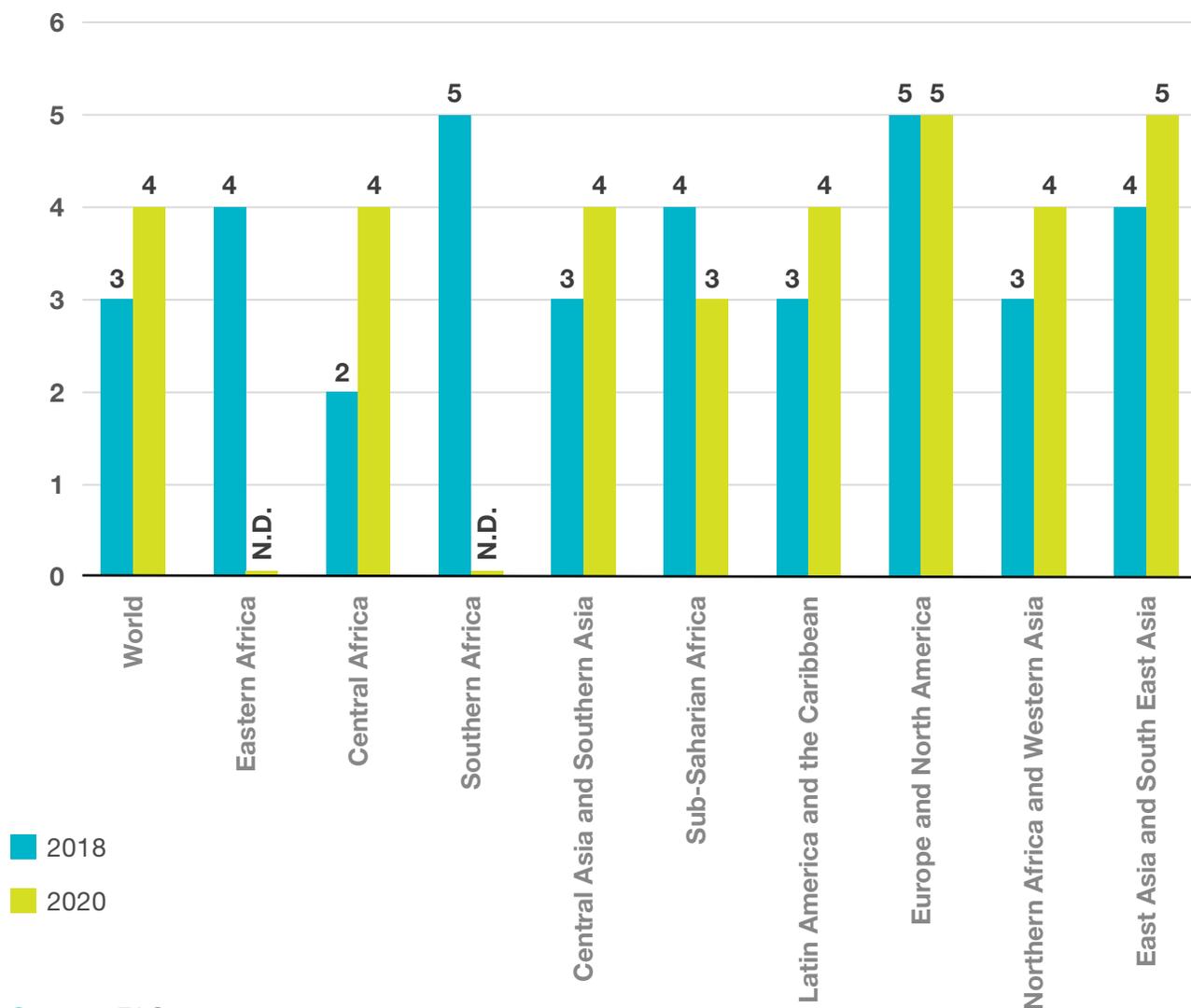
Source: UNEP-WCMC

Target 14.6: By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Indicator 14.6.1: Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

There is general progress, when we compare the only two data points available for most regions. With the exception of Sub-Saharan Africa and considering the warning about the lack of data in two regions for 2020, we identify a global improvement tendency in the application of the instruments to which this indicator refers.

Figure 10. Progress in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (level of implementation: 1 = lowest; 5 = highest)



Source: FAO

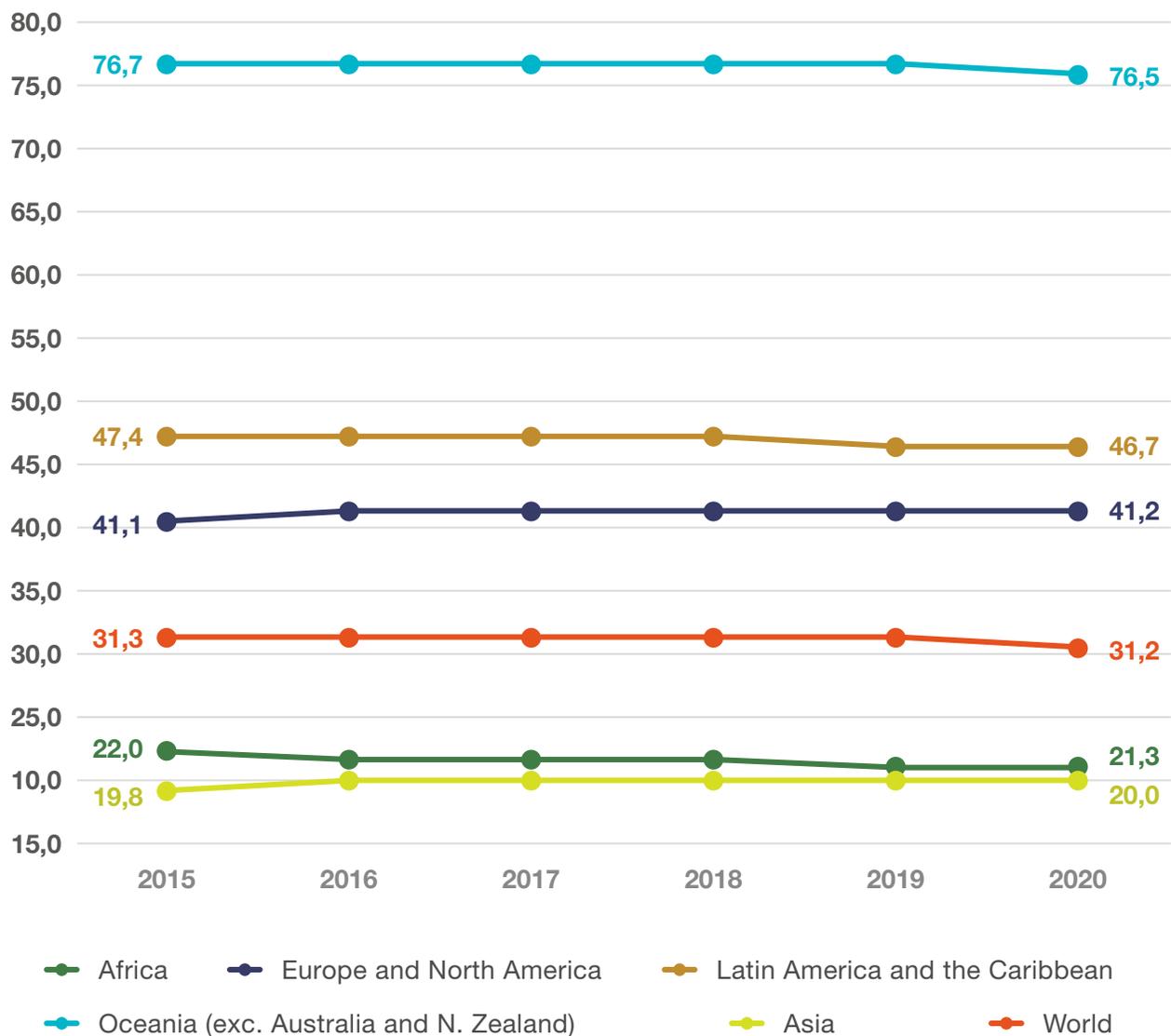
Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area.

Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type.

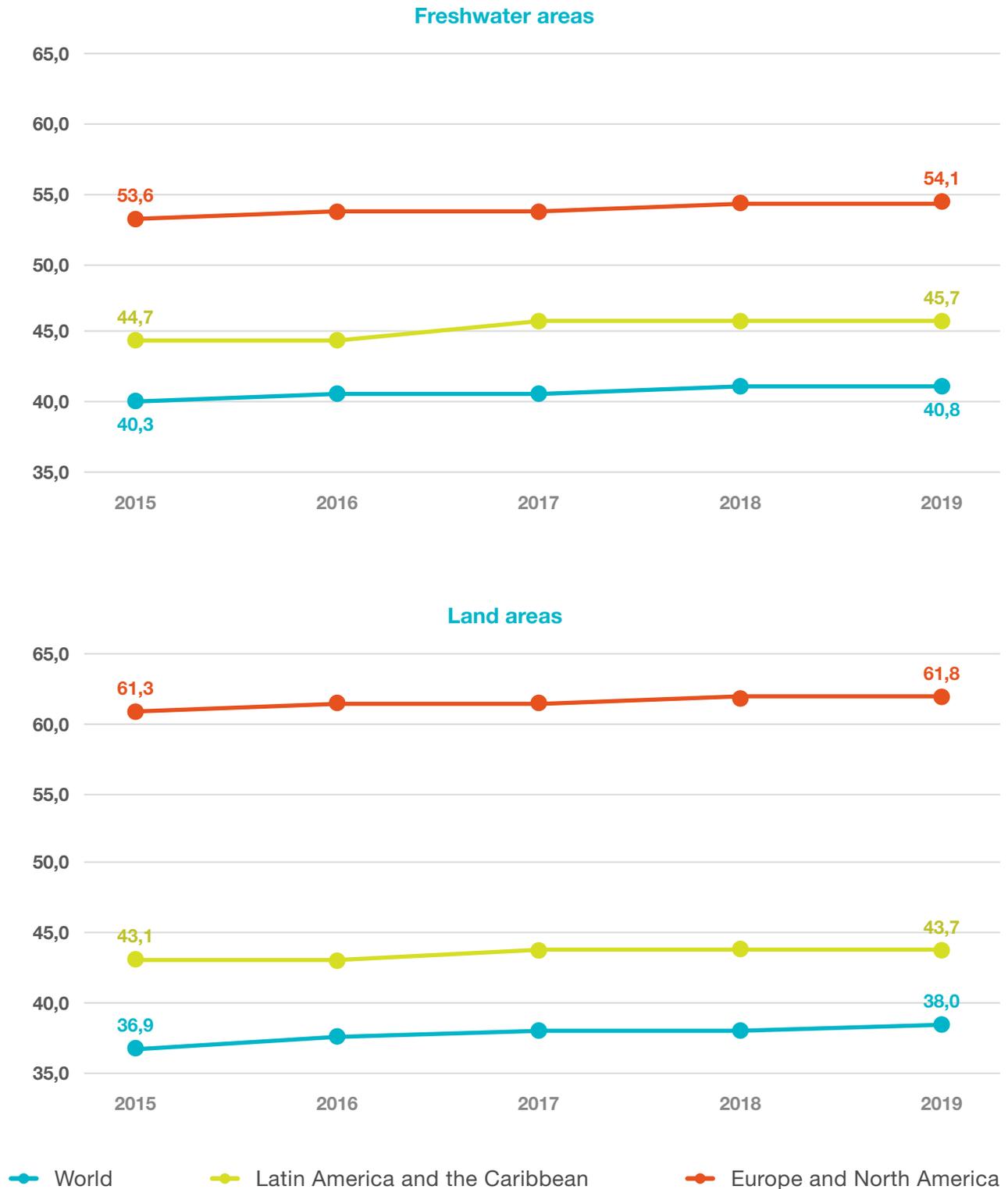
During the first 5 years of SDGs implementation, both the forest area and proportion of key sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity have remained stagnant.

Figure 11. Forest area as a proportion of total land area



Source: FAO

Figure 12. Average percentage of key sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas



Source: United Nations Statistical Commission

Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

Indicador 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management.

If we consider the forest area as a proportion of total land area, we observe a regression from 31,9% in

2000 to 31,2% in 2020, a loss of approximately 100 million hectares of forest. This result presents variations between regions: While the forest area grew in Asia, Europe, and North America, it decreased in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

However, the proportion of forest area in conservation areas has remained almost unchanged.

Figure 13. Percentage of forest areas as forest zones protected by law



Source: FAO

Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Indicador 15.5.1: Red List Index.

Between 2000 and 2020, there was a growth of around 14 percentage points in protection areas

that are particularly important for biodiversity, reaching 42% of the total key freshwater areas, 43% land areas, and 41% mountain areas, during the past year.

However, the IUCN list of threatened species has been continuously expanding during the past 30 years. The following table shows the time frame 2015-2020, by groups of species:

Table 3. Performance of the number of IUCN Red List “critically endangered” and “endangered” species (2015-2030)

Critically endangered species	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mammals	209	204	202	201	203	221
Birds	218	225	222	224	225	223
Reptiles	180	237	266	287	309	324
Amphibians	528	546	552	550	588	650
Fish	446	461	468	486	592	666
Insects	176	226	273	300	311	347
Molluscs	576	586	625	633	667	682
Other Invertebrates	209	211	243	252	270	282
Plants	2347	2506	2722	2879	3229	4337
Fungi and Protista	5	8	10	14	19	30
Total	4894	5210	5583	5826	6413	7762
Endangered species	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mammals	481	464	476	482	505	539
Birds	416	448	461	469	461	460
Reptiles	361	421	484	515	565	584
Amphibians	810	852	869	903	964	1036
Fish	614	660	676	674	868	1036
Insects	605	408	461	537	571	690
Molluscs	503	513	547	546	564	586
Other Invertebrates	311	312	340	348	344	347
Plants	3510	3691	4123	4537	5727	7925
Fungi and Protista	11	12	18	21	60	82
Total	7322	7781	8455	9032	10629	13285

Source: IUCN

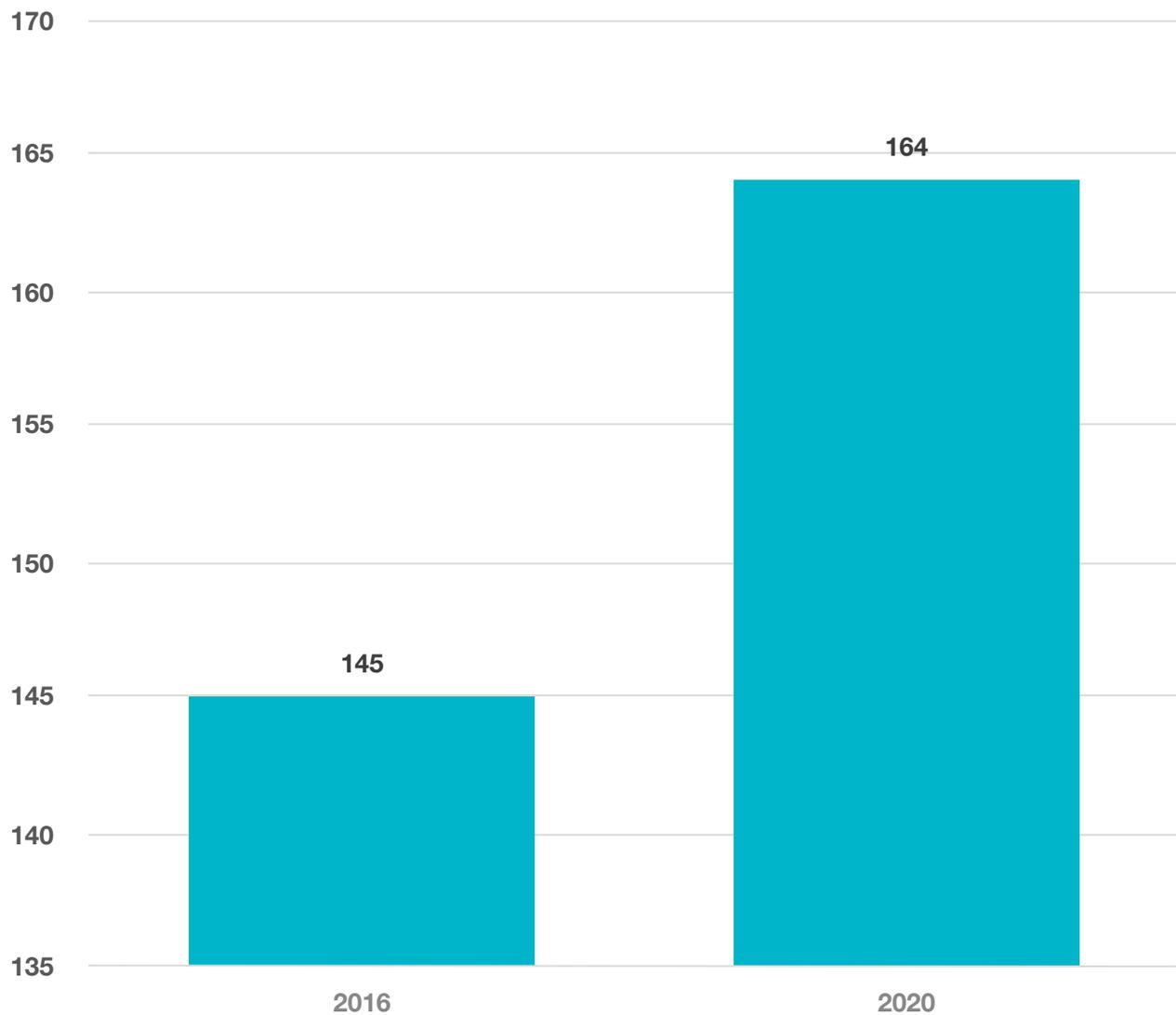
Target 15.8: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

Indicator 15.8.1: *Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately*

resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species.

98% out of 195 countries and territories have adopted legislation to prevent or control invasive alien species, and the proportion by which they are in line with the global Aichi Targets went from 74% in 2016 to 84% in 2020.

Figure 14. Countries' legislation, regulation, or legal act related to preventing the introduction and handling of invasive alien species (for 195 countries and territories with data available)



Source: United Nations Statistical Commission

Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

Indicator 15.9.1: a) Number of countries that have national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 or similar targets in their action strategies or plans regarding biodiversity and have informed progress towards the achievement of these targets; and b) inclusion of biodiversity in national accounting systems and presentation of reports, defined as the Environmental and Economic Accounting System.

There is no information available before 2020. That year, 52 countries and territories had national objectives in line with the target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets) and showed a tendency to achieve them on schedule; another set of 78 countries had an objective in

line with Aichi Target 2 but had not shown enough progress to meet it by 2020. Finally, 57 countries or territories lacked a national objective in line with Aichi Target 2.

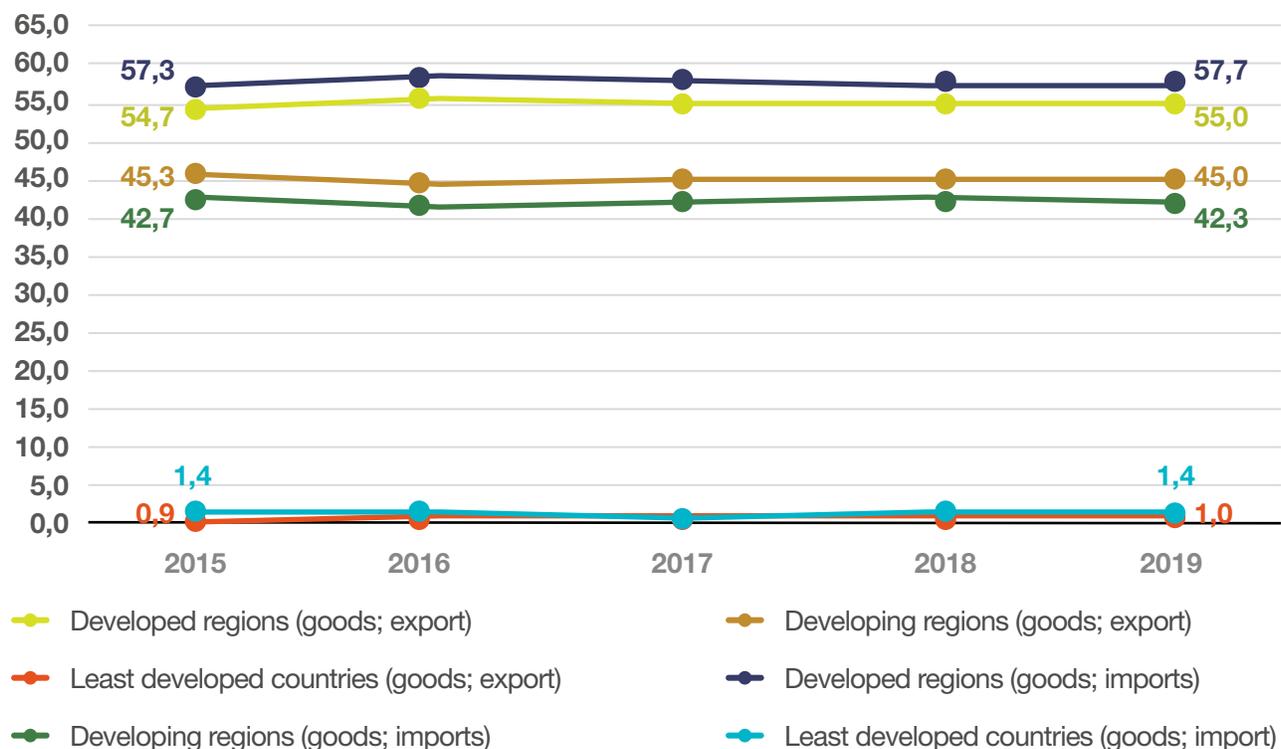
Additionally, by the end of March 2021, 89 countries and territories had been using integrated environmental and economic accounting systems, compared to 68 in 2017.

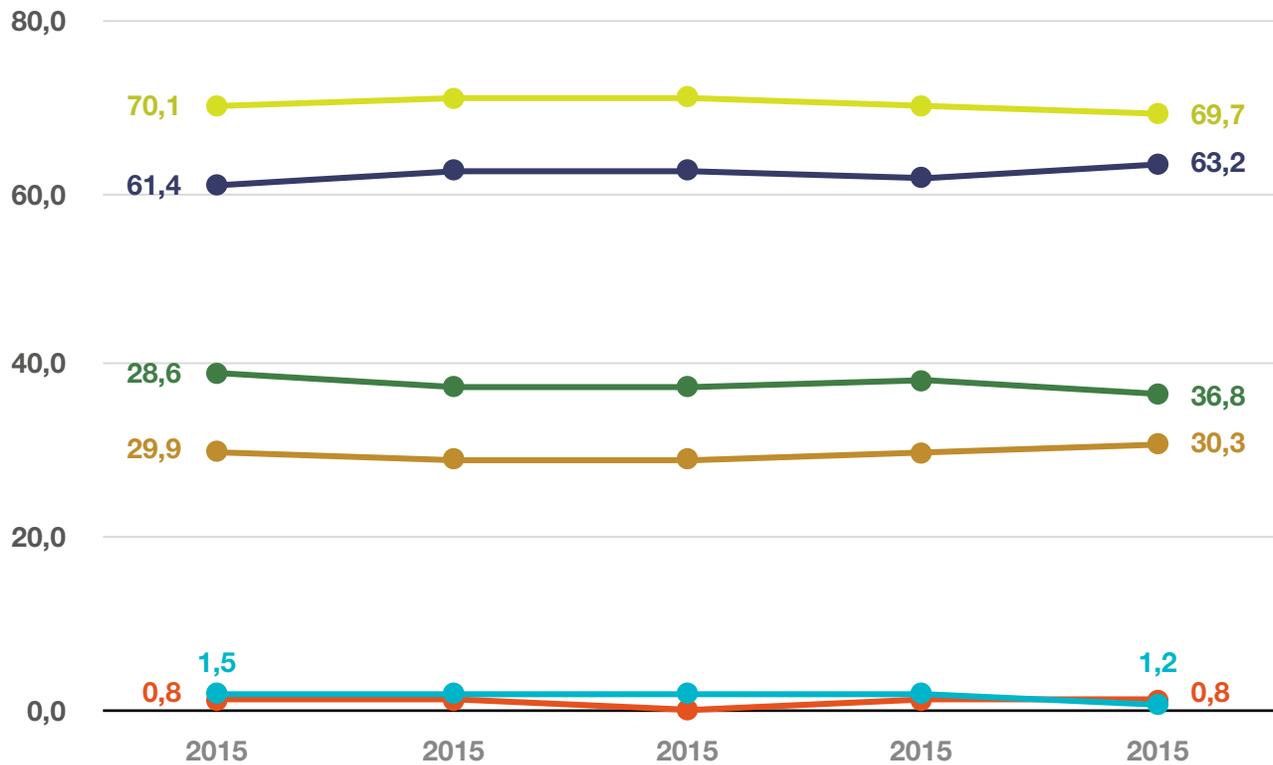
Target 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

Indicator 17.11.1: Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports.

Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of world merchandise and services trade did not display changes for the period and has been stagnant for a decade.

Figure 15. Proportion of world merchandise and services trade, selected groups (imports and exports)





- Developed regions (services; export)
- Developed regions (services; import)
- Least developed countries (services; export)
- Least developed countries (services; import)

- Developing regions (services; export)
- Developing regions (services; import)

Source: UNCTAD y OMC

Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Indicator 17.18.1: Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Indicator 17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Indicator 17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding.

There is no information available for the first and fundamental indicator of this target. For the second indicator, we only have data for 2019 and 2020. In 2019, with data for 159 countries and territories, 132 had national statistical legislation in place in accordance with the Fundamental

Principles of Official Statistics. In 2020, the number of countries and territories was 166, out of which 136 had legislation in place (Source: PARIS21 SDG Survey).

Regarding countries' capacity to finance statistical plans, again there is only information available for 2019 and 2020.

For 2019, the information for 156 countries pointed out that 96 of them had the required financing to integrally implement their plans. In 2020, and now for 149 countries with data, 87 had integral financing. Among them, only 4 were Least Developed Countries.

In 2020, sources of (either full or partial) financing for these plans were public funds for 103 countries and territories (compared to 139 in 2019), from foreign contributors in 23 cases (57 in 2019), and from the generic "other sources" in 15 cases (21 in 2019). Although the number of contributors does not help us know the available amounts, the reduction of contributors seen in the two years with data available shows a loss of interest in the topic.

Finally, official development assistance aimed at statistical capacity-building rose from USD 591 million in 2015 to USD 693 million in 2018 but became stagnant in 2019.

What can we do?

In light of the current status of the 2020 Targets, we are facing a dilemma: Do we maintain them and keep working to achieve them, or do we reform and adapt to the new scenario? Both paths have their pros and cons.

Option 1: Maintaining the unachieved targets and keeping our commitment beyond the 2020 barrier

With this option, we avoid reopening the discussion on the content and ambition of the targets, which in the current state of the world might lead to regression. The price to pay will be a “disengagement” between the 2020 Targets and the targets that might stem from continuing with the process that originated them in the first place, as in the case of the set of targets related to Aichi, soon to be revised at the UN Biodiversity Conference.

This disengagement may be a two-way street: The new commitments arising from negotiation processes may turn out to be more ambitious than what the SDGs let know. However, the opposite case is also a possibility, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first case, maintaining the 2020 Targets as they currently are would “devalue” the SDGs, but in the opposite case they would display their capacity to sustain the degree of commitment expressed in 2015, reinforcing the value of the Agenda as a reference for post-pandemic processes to respond and rebuild.

In any case, keeping the 2020 Targets unchanged would result in countries’ adjusting their efforts to achieve the targets that present fewer demands.

Option 2: Reforming the 2020 Targets and adapting them to the new scenario

The apparent advantage of this option is the possibility of attaching the 2020 Targets to the progress of their linked external processes. Additionally, this would allow for a revision in accordance with the change in the international framework that took place since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda six years back.

The risk of opening up a debate is too high. The results, far from ensuring an adjustment that will strengthen the targets, might lead to their weakening. Here, we repeat the same considerations as for the first option, from another perspective.

Considering both options poses a new question: **What should the scenario for debate be for the future of these goals and the introduction of hypothetical adjustments?**

- The 2030 Agenda is, technically, a resolution of the General Assembly and, as such, the debate might take place under any framework, as long as the General Assembly formally adopts a new resolution with the content of the goals.
- A special session of the General Assembly on the topic in its 77th session might be the right opportunity, but there does not seem to be the necessary interest in the topic, a fundamental requirement to convene the meeting.
- Although the UN High-Level Political Forum is the main global monitoring meeting for the 2030 Agenda, reforming its content is outside its competencies. The next meeting of the Forum at the Summit level, and under the General

Assembly, would be a good opportunity, but we are far from it (it will not happen before 2023).

- The ECOSOC, particularly its High-Level segment, might be a viable scenario, but its decision would still require the Assembly's approval.
- Convening a special conference, which does not seem viable or appropriate.

Finally, we need to be mindful of the three targets to be met by the end of 2025:

- **Target 2.2:** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- **Target 8.7:** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition

and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

- **Target 14.1:** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

The Decade for Action and Delivery and the initiative to Build Forward Better the post-pandemic world should produce the necessary impulse to achieve this. However, this requires doubling our efforts to advance the 2020 Targets, even after the deadline.

How can we keep the promises made in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs if we do not have the capacity to generate the necessary data to adopt evidence-based public policies based on timely, disaggregated, reliable data? This was the call-for-action brought forth by one of the 2020 Targets in Goal 17, which has not been met to date.

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