



GO 4 SDGs
ACCELERATING REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

**2023
PROGRESS
REPORT**

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A strategic approach to circularity

Since launching in 2019, Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs) has been recognized as an agile and dynamic platform to support action and implementation of the SDGs.

GO4SDGs connects the dots between global partnerships and regional needs and solutions, fostering collaboration and progress, particularly towards achieving SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). We do this through three main workstreams:

Policy coherence and circularity scale-up:	Innovation and finance for SMEs:	Youth empowerment:
Support governments to strengthen policy coherence and mainstream circular economy and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) approaches in national policies, including on climate change, biodiversity and pollution.	Support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to increase capacities and access to financing innovation and circularity.	Amplify young people’s voices, embrace sustainable lifestyles, and provide new skills and knowledge for green jobs for youth.



Box 1. GO4SDGs partners

The GO4SDGs approach is about building synergies and cooperation, avoiding duplications, hence creating a bigger collective impact. We do this by offering a range of existing tools, guidelines and knowledge products – developed by our partners – to take action, scale up efforts and replicate best practices.

Working with our partners (see Box 1), GO4SDGs has scaled up implementation through communities of practice, peer-to-peer learning networks and a variety of regional partnerships to transform knowledge into action with a focus on high-impact sectors such as food systems, textiles, tourism and finance.

The GO4SDGs Progress Report 2023 highlights the success of many of these initiatives, including the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, Sustainable Lifestyles Academy and Sustainable Fashion Academy, as well as regional standards for sustainable tourism and regional action on food waste reduction.

We thank all our partners, especially the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GGKP (Green Growth Knowledge Platform), International Labour Organization (ILO), Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (SEED), Waste and Resources

Action Programme (WRAP), 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and World Economic Forum (WEF), as well as many others presented in this report, who are committed to the same goal: to work of a better and more sustainable world.



ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG12 & SDG8



CONNECTING THE DOTS: REGIONAL SOLUTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

2023 Key Achievements

GO4SDGs in numbers Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 ACCELERATING REGIONAL SOLUTIONS



GO4SDGs accelerates the adoption of circular economy principles at the national and regional level through science-based knowledge, tools, sectoral approaches and policy support.

In 2023, GO4SDGs continued to strengthen many of its initiatives to support governments and the private sector in delivering on the SDGs. This included advancing circularity in high-impact sectors and engaging with financial institutions, small businesses and youth.

Regional Implementation of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact (SDG8)

Impact

- ✔ **Mobilized \$500,000 to support green jobs for youth** policies in Cuba, Madagascar and Senegal
- ✔ **Trained 117 young entrepreneurs** on sustainable business in Africa and Asia-Pacific through the LowCarbon.Earth Accelerator programme
- ✔ **Engaged over 3,000 participants** from Southeast Asia in a circular innovation challenge boot camp
- ✔ **Developed a focused curriculum for green jobs in sustainable tourism** in Africa, which was tailored to regional needs
- ✔ **Engaged 431 stakeholders across regions** through Supdialogues, workshops and webinars to raise awareness
- ✔ **Gained political backing across regions**, including from the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

GO4SDGs is accelerating the implementation of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact at the regional level in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia and Europe, West Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean by fostering regional partnerships, responding to regional priorities, and leveraging existing tools, guidelines and knowledge from pact partners (UNEP, ILO and UNICEF). A total of 117 young entrepreneurs have been trained in sustainable entrepreneurship in Africa and the Asia-Pacific regions. In Africa, ILO collaborated with GO4SDGs to provide sustainable entrepreneurship training to 50 entrepreneurs. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Low Carbon Earth Accelerator programme trained 67 entrepreneurs. These initiatives have equipped young entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge to establish sustainable businesses and generate green job opportunities.

GO4SDGs also supported a boot camp in partnership with Thailand's Thammasat University. The challenge engaged 830 participating teams and attracted over 3,330 applications from Southeast Asian countries to foster a mindset that values circular innovations in tackling regional and global sustainability issues.

In partnership with the E4Impact Foundation, **GO4SDGs** supported the development of a focused curriculum on creating green jobs in the sustainable tourism sector. A comprehensive training needs assessment was conducted involving 14 technical and vocational education and training institutions (TVETs) and nine universities in Africa to ensure the curriculum met the needs of the region.

GO4SDGs also partnered with Kazakh-German University and Tbilisi Business and Technology University to initiate regional research exploring green jobs for youth and informing skills development strategies in Kazakhstan and Georgia.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 1,178 participants, of whom 67% were women and included a significant number of young people, engaged in defining priorities and strategies for higher education institutions, and explored tools to increase access to green jobs for graduates. These regional consultations took place through national and regional platforms, such as the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week (LAC Climate Week) and Economic and Social Council Youth Forum

in Latin America (ECOSOC LAC) as well as events organized through the regional network of universities for sustainability, ARIUSA.

In Africa, **GO4SDGs** co-organized a regional dialogue in partnership with the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), AFRICANXT, Africa Circular Economy Network, Kenyan Plastics Pact, South Africa Plastics Pact, Green Africa Youth Organization and Kenya Waste Pickers Association to identify key actions to unlock green job opportunities for African youth across the waste sector.

In the Asia-Pacific region, **GO4SDGs** hosted a side event on green jobs for circularity during the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, in partnership with SWITCH-Asia. **GO4SDGs** also led a green jobs for youth event at the 11th University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Bangkok, in collaboration with ILO and UNICEF. Additionally, it supported a two-day regional hybrid multi-stakeholder workshop on Green Jobs for the Future in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Yunus Thailand.

All this work was also reflected at the ministerial level. The Green Jobs for Youth Pact received strong political endorsement in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Two ministerial decisions emanating from the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean “call upon all stakeholders to deepen their engagement with the Green Jobs for Youth Pact and to expand efforts towards policy coherence among relevant actors, aiming to foster a better understanding of the interplay between environmental policies, employment and education.”

In addition, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held a ministerial dialogue where government representatives from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Botswana discussed and reaffirmed their commitment to scaling up green job opportunities, reflecting the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production and the inclusive green economy into their policies and action plans.



1-Launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact at the XXIII meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
 2-Left, David Rubia, GO4SDGs Africa regional coordinator in a panel at the 2023 AMCEN meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
 3-Conference on Green Jobs for the Youth for Circularity in Xi’an, China.
 4-Green jobs for youth pact featured at UNEA6 Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.



Partners

- **Global:** UNEP, ILO, UNICEF
- **Africa:** ANDE, AFRICANXT, Africa Circular Economy Network, Kenya Plastics Pact, South Africa Plastics Pact, Green Africa Youth Organization, Kenya Waste Pickers Association
- **Asia-Pacific:** SWITCH-Asia, ILO, UNICEF, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNESCO, Yunus Thailand
- **Central Asia:** Kazakh-German University, Caspian Sea University
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Universidad Nacional de la Plata, ARIUSA

Advancing Circularity in High-Impact Sectors

Strengthened partnerships for the circular economy at the regional level (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia) (SDG12)

Impact



Published two flagship reports on the circular economy in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Offered technical support to the African Circular Economy Alliance to develop a regional standard for rPET.



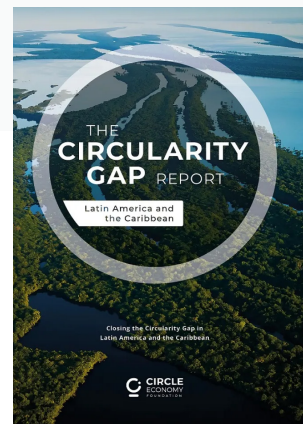
Supported knowledge production on natural resources use in West Asia to enable policymaking through science.



Developed a project proposal and resource mobilization (\$250,000) with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations Environment – Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) to provide technical support on circular projects, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) financing in Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic.

In 2023, GO4SDGs collaborated with the Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition and other key partners – such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest) – to produce the first-ever LAC Circularity Gap Report.

The report highlights the current state of circularity in the region and provides actionable strategies for key economic sectors



Cover page of the first ever LAC circularity GAP report

such as agrifood, manufacturing and waste management. Two months after its launch, the report counted 971 downloads and 7,900 page views. Stakeholders, including climate negotiators and UN Resident Coordinator Offices, actively engaged through a roadshow of dialogues to discuss key findings and recommendations.

GO4SDGs also partnered with UNEP FI and IDB to produce the Unlocking Circular Economy Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean report, which analyses how financial institutions can scale up the circular economy in the region. As a follow-up, a joint proposal was developed, mobilizing \$250,000.

The project will put into practice the report's recommendations and will focus on enhancing the knowledge and capabilities of banks and financial institutions in integrating circular economy principles. It will also expand the portfolio of circular projects, also targeted to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Swiss nonprofit BASE has been selected as the implementing partner, supporting Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.



Partners

- **African Circular Economy Alliance**
- **BASE**
- **Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)**
- **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**
- **Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest)**
- **International Resource Panel**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition**
- **UNEP-FI (United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative)**
- **United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

GO4SDGs is supporting the African Circular Economy Alliance to develop a regional standard for recycling food contact rPET (recycled polyethylene terephthalate). This standard will play a vital role in advancing circularity within the region and reducing pollution of single-use plastics.



2023 Annual Meeting of the African Circular Economy Alliance in Nairobi, Kenya.

In collaboration with the International Resource Panel, GO4SDGs produced the flagship report, Trends and Outlook of Natural Resource Use in West Asia. The report was presented at the Arab Forum for Environment as a tool to inform policymaking and support countries in making progress in sustainable consumption and production and circularity.

Increased regional capacities and initiatives on food systems and food waste reduction (SDG12.3)

Impact

- ✔ **Developed capacity on food waste reduction to more than 400 experts from 43 countries in 16 regional training sessions** in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia.
- ✔ **Supported the appointment of chef Leyla Fathallah as UNEP advocate** for food waste in West Asia.
- ✔ **Partnered with Hilton Hotels and Winnow on a “Recipe of Change” campaign to reduce food waste at three hotels** in Doha, Qatar, Riyadh, Saudia Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, with a 61% average reduction in food waste among them; the campaign was highlighted as a best practice at COP28.

In 2023, GO4SDGs intensified efforts to achieve SDG12.3’s goal of halving global food waste by 2030.

GO4SDGs partnered with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and One Planet Network Programme on Sustainable Food Systems to enhance food waste reduction capacity for 428 representatives from 43 countries. This was achieved through regional peer-to-peer knowledge networks in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia.

In each region, four training sessions were held focused on public-private partnerships, consumer behaviour change, circular food transitions, green technologies and sharing

inspiring success stories. WRAP is also providing technical support to eight countries to develop their national strategies to reduce food waste (Argentina, Brazil, India, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay)

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 81% of participants reported that the working group significantly enhanced their ability to develop and implement national food waste reduction strategies.

West Asia actively promoted food waste reduction through the regional Recipe of Change campaign, fostering multi-sectoral collaboration.

Through a collaboration with Hilton Hotels and Winnow, the Sustainable Ramadan campaign was launched in three Hilton hotels in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) technology, the campaign achieved a 61% decrease in food waste, saving over 8,600 meals, reducing nearly 4.8 tonnes of waste, and preventing approximately 14 tonnes of CO2e emissions.

The initiative was highlighted at a COP28 side event and in other regional fora such as the MENA Climate Week 2023 titled “Action for climate-resilient food systems”. Additionally, Chef Leyla Fathallah was appointed as the new advocate on food waste in the West Asia region, which amplified the reach of the Recipe of Change campaign.



- 1,2-Launch of the sustainable Ramadan campaign 2023 in West Asia.
- 3-COP28 side event featuring Recipe of Change.
- 4-Sustainable Ramadan campaign 2024.



Partners

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- One Planet Network Programme on Sustainable Food Systems
- Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)
- Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Advanced circularity in the fashion and textiles sectors (SDG12.2)

Impact

- ✓ **Engaged 239 stakeholders** in the regional consultation on fashion industry targets.
- ✓ **Trained 35 fashion designers** in fashion circularity and natural colorants.
- ✓ **Featured the Sustainable Fashion Academy** and the sustainable fashion communication playbook in Haya magazine.
- ✓ **Hosted multi-stakeholder dialogues** on circularity in textiles in the Asia-Pacific region.

GO4SDGs partnered with UNEP Textiles to advance regional progress towards a net-positive fashion industry. Together with the Fashion Industry Target Consultation, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other regional partners such as the Asia Garment Hub, regional multi-stakeholder consultations were conducted in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia. The consultations brought together 239 stakeholders from various sectors of the global fashion value chain to explore crucial industry performance indicators and milestones. The consultations also supported the FITC survey, which garnered responses from 380 industry stakeholders, offering further insights to refine the final set of fashion industry targets.

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GO4SDGs supported the consolidation of a network of fashion schools/universities engaged in trainings and workshops for youth, in the framework of the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy, to promote the inclusion of sustainable fashion modules in curricula.

A collaboration with the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Oman was developed to further analyse and discuss methods to extract and use colorants from natural sources. Thirty students from universities across the West Asia region were trained on the topic.

GO4SDGs and the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy launched the Sustainable Fashion Accelerator programme, training five fashion designers in one-to-one training and mentorship sessions. Additionally, GO4SDGs collaborated with Mediaquest to feature the circular fashion designs resulting from this training in the December 2023 issue of Haya Magazine. The collaboration also included

piloting the UNEP's sustainable fashion communication playbook in Haya Magazine to raise awareness of sustainable fashion to a wider audience and promote strategic partnerships with fashion brands to shift the narrative in alignment with UNEP strategy.

In collaboration with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), GO4SDGs supported the Asia-Pacific region in advancing circularity in textiles through multi-stakeholder dialogues. As part of this effort, a workshop on textiles was co-organized during the 26th Sustainable Development Conference, addressing regional challenges in textiles circularity and sharing some initiatives, tools and best practices.



- 1-Sustainable Fashion Academy training of young designers from West Asia.
- 2-Sustainable Fashion Academy trainees learning about use of colorants from natural resources.
- 3-Sustainable fashion academy 'sustainable designs' featured in Haya Magazine.



Partners

- Asia Garment hub
- Haya Magazine
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute – Pakistan
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Higher ambition on standards and certification for sustainable tourism in Africa and Central Asia (SDG8.9)

Impact

- ✓ **Developed capacity and carried out a gap assessment** in Central Asia on unified certification standards for sustainable tourism.
- ✓ **Developed a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) data collection framework for sustainable tourism** in Kenya and Uganda.
- ✓ **Drafted minimum mandatory sustainable tourism certification standards** for Kenya and Uganda.
- ✓ **Drafted harmonized sustainable tourism certification standards** for the East Africa Community (EAC).
- ✓ **Drafted reciprocity guidelines for sustainable tourism standards in Africa** under the African Union Commissions' African Tourism Strategic Framework 2019-2028.
- ✓ **Supported a roadmap to advance national legislation to address plastic pollution** in recreation zones in Kyrgyzstan and membership to the UNEP-led Global Tourism Plastic Initiative.
- ✓ **Initiated a pilot project for a waste collection facility** in Kyrgyzstan and Georgia with tailor made training for local guest houses.

Tourism is a critical economic driver for Africa and Central Asia and is also a major contributor to the triple planetary crisis.

GO4SDGs is advancing sustainable tourism in these two regions through targeted initiatives in plastic pollution, food waste, capacity building, and sustainable tourism certification and standards.

In Kyrgyzstan and Georgia, GO4SDGs supported the establishment of the first waste collection facilities in the village of Jyrgalan, Kyrgyzstan, and Assureti, Georgia, the most popular tourist destinations, to address the pressing issue of plastic waste management as well as boost green jobs for youth and women.

GO4SDGs – through its sub-regional group in Central Asia and Caucuses countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) – built capacity for tourism stakeholders in collaboration with the 10YFP Programme on Sustainable Tourism through a series of workshops and dialogues. Experts gained insights on key issues such as the reduction of single-use plastic, reduction of food waste, low-carbon policies and promoting responsible tourism across the region.

Additionally, in Africa, GO4SDGs supported the drafting of minimum and common mandatory sustainable tourism certification standards for Kenya and Uganda and harmonized sustainable tourism certification standards for the Eastern African Countries as well as the reciprocity guidelines for sustainable tourism standards in Africa under the African Union Commissions’ African Tourism Strategic Framework 2019-2028.



1- Launch of the waste collection point at the Jyrgalan tourist destination, Kyrgyzstan.
2- Webinar on Sustainable Tourism for guest houses in Central Asia.



Partners

- 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme
- East Africa Tourism Platform
- East African Commission
- Ecotourism Kenya
- ESG Central Asia
- Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN)
- Global Sustainable Tourism Council
- Kenya Tourism Federation
- UN Tourism

Sustainable Finance and SMES

Enhanced partnerships for sustainable finance in Africa and Central Asia (SDG12.a)

Impact



Partnered with UNEP-FI to launch the Principles of Responsible Banking Academy in Central Asia.

National and regional adoption of sustainable finance is crucial for transitioning to a circular economy. It provides financial resources and incentives to promote resource efficiency, waste reduction and maximization of resource value. GO4SDGs is also collaborating with UNEP-FI to launch the Principles for Responsible Banking Academy for second-tier banks in Central Asia, in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Chartered Banker Institute, the world's oldest professional body for bankers.



Conducted 458 SME self-assessments through the I-GO tool.



Secured \$6.7 million in commercial financing for resource efficiency and cleaner production upgrades for Kenya's Meru Dairy Cooperative Union.

Sale up innovation and financial mechanisms (SDG9 and SDG12)

GO4SDGs piloted a finance-ecosystem project to promote resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) in SMEs operating in the dairy and tea value chains in Kenya. This collaborative effort involved six partners: Meru Dairy Cooperative Union (MDCU), Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings Limited (KTDA), Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCP), Fintech Frontiers Kenya, Absa Bank Kenya and African Guarantee Fund.

With a \$67,500 investment from GO4SDGs, MDCU and KTDA underwent RECP assessments and received customized financing expertise.

As a result, MDCU leveraged approximately \$614,000 of finance for SMEs in its value chain from Absa Bank. MDCU and Absa Bank are structuring an additional \$6.1 million of commercial financing to finance a greenfield project looking at advanced wastewater treatment with biogas generation (from high organics in waste streams) as well as renewable solar energy generation. In addition to financial gains, the upgrades will see to MDCU's environmental compliance and will have several transformational social impacts within the dairy's farmer supply chain community, further contributing to sustainable development in the region.

GO4SDGs also partnered with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Nigeria to advance resource efficiency for 458 SMEs leveraging the I-GO Assistant tool. These SMEs from 78 countries conducted self-assessments, gaining insights into their specific resource efficiency needs. The assessments also provided recommendations for improving their resource efficiency status, along with access to knowledge and support services to implement targeted actions.



1-Roundtable to kick off the development of the Principles for Responsible Banking Academy for Central Asia in partnership with UNEP-FI.



Partners

- **10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)**
- **Absa Bank Kenya Plc**
- **African Guarantee Fund**
- **Chartered Banker Institute**
- **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**
- **Fintech Frontiers Kenya**
- **Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)**
- **Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCPC)**
- **Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings Limited (KTDA)**
- **Meru Dairy Cooperative Union (MDCU)**
- **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI)**
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Nigeria**

Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Lifestyles (SDG12.8)

Impact



Engaged 1,000 youth through the My Sustainable Living Challenge.



Trained over 3,700 youth through the Sustainable Lifestyles Academy online module.



Launched the Sustainable Lifestyles University Network in Central Asia and Caucasus.



Marked the inaugural International Day of Zero Waste in the Asia-Pacific region with capacity-building sessions.

GO4SDGs empowers young people to embrace sustainable living through educational tools, gamified learning and partnerships with universities. This approach promotes green campuses and creates green job opportunities.

On World Environment Day 2023, GO4SDGs launched the second edition of the Sustainable Living Challenge, a gamified online platform fostering behaviour change through actionable commitments. In partnership with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), UNEP and 10YFP, GO4SDGs made the challenge accessible to a wider audience by offering 1,000 scholarships and translating the challenge into three additional languages besides English – French, Spanish and Russian.



Launch of the Sustainable Lifestyles University Network (SLUN) during the Sustainable Lifestyles Festival, Central Asia in June, 2023.



In addition, a new online learning module on sustainable lifestyles was launched, in collaboration with the UNEP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education team. During 2023, over 3,700 individuals completed this self-paced module.



Sustainable lifestyles learning module launched in Feb 2023.

The Sustainable Lifestyles University Network of Central Asia was launched in cooperation with German-Kazakh University. The network, which brings together 25 universities from the region, has developed an action plan and declaration on learning to live a more conscious and conscientious lifestyle, with activities focused on research, education and infrastructure.

In 2023, a total of 300 representatives from universities in Central Asia and the Caucasus region acquired extensive knowledge of sustainable lifestyles and the circular economy.



The green nudges translated into Thai.

GO4SDGs also partnered with Chulalongkorn University to promote “green nudge” training for universities, including the translation of UNEP’s Little Book of Green Nudges in Thai, offering practical sustainability evidence-based actions for sustainability on campuses.



Partners

- **10YFP (10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production)**
- **Chulalongkorn University**
- **German-Kazakh University**
- **UN System Staff College (UNSCC)**
- **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Next Steps

Since its inception four years ago, GO4SDGs continues to “connect the dots” and build synergies and cooperation to support action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG12 and SDG8. We will also continue to bring together strategic partners and a joint menu of services with a vast number of tools, guidelines and knowledge to take action, scale up and replicate best practices.

GO4SDGs’ unique characteristics include:

Building partnerships between regional priorities and global initiatives, matching demand and supply of capacity development/ knowledge, scaling up action and strengthening partnerships.

Facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and capacity development. For example: regional groups on food waste reduction (SDG12.3) serving over 45 countries; regional groups on sustainable tourism raising ambition for certification and standards (SDG8.3); regional SMEs Innovation Labs and the I-GO tool (SDG9 and SDG12); and Sustainable lifestyles Academy in Central Asia and Caucasus (SDG12.8).

Scaling up implementation of tools (standards, index, learning modules, etc.) to the regions through the expertise of the 10YFP programmes on sustainable tourism, sustainable food systems and lifestyles.

Setting up communities of practice, which includes the Sustainable Fashion Academy in West Asia, and the Sustainable Lifestyles Universities Network in Central Asia.

Bringing knowledge into action, such as bringing knowledge from the International Resource Panel (IRP) and Lifecycle Analysis Network to the regions and connecting with regional science partners together with the 10YFP.

Creating the business case, including finance for SMEs in two value chains in Kenya, and a partnership with Hilton Hotels on food waste reduction.

Advancing circularity at the regional level and in high-impact sectors, for example, by cooperating with the African Circular Economy Alliance, LAC CE Coalition and UNEP-FI in defining and supporting financial mechanisms for circularity.

Steering a One UN Approach to promote the holistic implementation of the SDGs, including through pioneering the Green Jobs for Youth Pact for a just and inclusive transition. This initiative, situated at the interplay between

environmental policies, employment and education, is jointly implemented by ILO, UNICEF and UNEP, and involves strategic partnerships with other UN agencies.

Based on the work, achievements and lessons learned, the following priorities and activities are recommended for 2024:

1. Strengthen and scale up the Green Jobs for Youth Pact:

Continue regional implementation and actively engage the private sector and educational institutions. Support work and initiatives focusing on employment and entrepreneurship for youth, education and training for green skills and empowerment engagement. Prioritize the energy, agri-food, waste management and plastics sectors in the work. Position the Pact and share its best practices at the Summit of the Future, G20 and COP29.

2. Advance the circular economy transition:

Develop and translate science-based knowledge into actionable steps at the regional level and scale up partnerships with regional alliances and UNEP FI.

3. Replicate and scale up best practices in high-impact sectors across regions:

Agri-food: Recipe of Change campaign: Collaborate with the hotel industry to replicate successful initiatives, such as the Hilton initiative, across regions.

Fashion and textiles: Sustainable Fashion Academy: Scale up and replicate in the Asia-

Pacific, and Latin American and Caribbean regions, engaging governments, private sectors, SMEs, youth entrepreneurs and academia.

Tourism: Raise ambition for regional standards and certification for sustainable tourism in Africa and Central Asia.

Sustainable lifestyles and youth empowerment:

Strengthen regional networks of universities to generate research, behavioural change, green campuses and sharing of best practices. This will contribute to the implementation of UNEA6 Resolution on "Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles". Position the work on sustainable lifestyles at the summit of the future, G20 and COP29.

4. Strengthen collaboration with 10YFP and One Planet Network:

Continue the strategic partnership with the 10YFP to support regional and national delivery, and empower countries and stakeholders in mainstreaming and implementing sustainable consumption and production.

5. Develop a sustainability strategy: This would be for the new phase of GO4SDGs, which will define the focus of legacy initiatives until 2025.



Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs)

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