



2015 European Year for Development

our world
our dignity
our future

EYD2015

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

2015 is a landmark year for international aid and development cooperation as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to their conclusion. Based on these, the world has come together to agree new global commitments to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and combat climate change.

Each month, the EYD2015 is focusing on a different development theme, to raise awareness of the benefits of the EU's development cooperation in that field and encourage direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of EU citizens. November is the month of 'Sustainable Development and Climate Action'.

Sustainable development is about improving people's lives without depleting the natural resources and ecosystems on which economies and human societies depend. Eradicating poverty, preserving the planet, creating sustained and inclusive economic growth and fostering social inclusion all reinforce and depend upon each other.

While the world has achieved significant progress over the last few decades, big development challenges remain. Persisting poverty, rising inequalities, frequent disasters, natural resource depletion, environmental degradation and climate change require action at all levels, from governments to individuals.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. Humans are increasingly influencing the climate due to greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests and farming livestock. Many developing countries are among the most affected, as these countries depend more on the natural environment while they have the least resources to cope with a changing climate.



A herd of elephants at Zakouma National Park in Chad. The EU is helping protect not just the wildlife but also the people and communities that depend on the park. Read the story on europa.eu/eyd2015

EYD2015 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Visit the official EYD2015 website and find stories, infographics and other information on 'Sustainable Development and Climate Action'. Also find out more about events, initiatives and activities organised by EYD partners!

THE EU'S COOPERATION IN ACTION

• From 2004–2014:

- **1.9 million km²** of forest protected and continued conservation of **1.1 million km²** of protected areas
- **27.5 million people** connected to sanitation facilities and **74 million people** connected to improved drinking water
- The EU is the biggest donor of **climate finance** to developing countries, strengthening their resilience to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The **Global Climate Change Alliance** has supported **39 countries** and **8 regional organisations**.
- The EU is helping create incentives for **44 developing countries to protect and better manage forests and combat climate change** through the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation programme (**REDD+**).



Pham Hong Luong oversees an innovative programme to protect Vietnam's forests and combat climate change. Read his story on europa.eu/eyd2015

EU and Sustainable Development and Climate Action

Sustainable development based on inclusive growth, the responsible management of natural resources and climate change prevention and adaptation are fundamental objectives of the EU. These priorities are integrated across all aspects of our international cooperation.

Through its support to partner countries, the EU is stimulating "green growth" that not only helps the economy, but also ensures environmental sustainability. Many programmes promote the sustainable management of natural resources, particularly land, forest, water, coastal zones and fisheries to protect ecosystems, biodiversity and to combat desertification.

The EU also helps countries better cope with the impact of climate change and is providing substantial assistance to strengthen climate change resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change requires global action. The EU is therefore at the forefront of international negotiations to secure a new global climate agreement, due to be agreed at the end of 2015 and implemented from 2020. The EU is pressing for an agreement that is ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding.

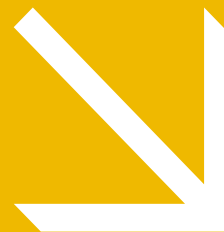
THE EU'S COOPERATION – IN COUNTRY FOCUS

- **Madagascar** – climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are being implemented in the agricultural sector in the south of Madagascar. A local Seeds Production Centre, with irrigation facilities, was established to produce climate change resilient seeds and a network of lead farmers is spreading sustainable agricultural practices and knowledge to farmers across the region.
- **Maldives** – Through a special Climate Change Trust Fund, adaptation measures and low-carbon technologies have been introduced, including: the protection of wetlands and coral reefs, benefitting 22,000 inhabitants; solar energy provided to 7,000 inhabitants; and solid waste management systems put in place, resuscitating 5 island waste management centres.

THEMATIC MONTHS

Each month during the campaign will focus on a different theme involved in development around the world:

- January:* **EUROPE IN THE WORLD**
- February:* **EDUCATION**
- March:* **WOMEN AND GIRLS**
- April:* **HEALTH**
- May:* **PEACE AND SECURITY**
- June:* **SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH, DECENT JOBS, BUSINESSES**
- July:* **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**
- August:* **HUMANITARIAN AID**
- September:* **DEMOGRAPHY AND MIGRATION**
- October:* **FOOD SECURITY**
- November:* **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION**
- December:* **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE**



**SPREAD
THE
WORD!**

Join the EYD2015 campaign online!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online! Stay up to date with information and news on the official campaign website, join the conversation on Twitter ([#EYD2015](https://twitter.com/EYD2015)) and have your say on Facebook.

Infographics, online banners, campaign trailers and more materials can be downloaded from the EYD2015 website. You can also join the group "European Year for Development 2015" on capacity4dev.eu to join the debate and get the latest news.

To get more involved, you can join us at events across the EU, and spread the impact of the campaign by co-branding with the EYD2015.

europa.eu/eyd2015

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