

CONTENTS

12	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
25	1. INTRODUCTION	
25	1.1. Context	
26	1.2. Prototype United Nations report	
27	1.3. Participation and consultations	
28	1.4. Objective and scope	
29	1.5. Outline	
31	2. ASSESSMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
31	2.1. Introduction	
31	2.2. International assessments	
37	2.3. National assessments	
41	2.4. Designing assessment processes to link knowledge with action	
42	2.5. Emerging issues identified by science	
44	3. REVIEW OF PROGRESS	
44	3.1. Sustainable development trends and progress	
54	3.2. Reflection on synergies and trade-offs	
58	3.3. Progress in terms of commitments on sustainable development	
59	3.4. Perspectives: Making sense of the debate on sustainable development progress	
62	4. VISIONS, SCENARIOS AND FUTURE PATHWAYS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
62	4.1. If we continue like in the past: a “dynamics-as-usual” scenario 2010-2050	
65	4.2. A better world we can achieve: a sustainable development scenario	
68	4.3. The most likely world in 2050? A prediction for the world in 2052	
68	4.4. Note on global scenarios at the science–policy interface	
70	4.5. Investment and technology needs and market potentials	
73	5. MEASURING PROGRESS	
73	5.1. Measuring progress towards internationally agreed commitments	
74	5.2. Global initiatives on measuring overall progress	
85	5.3. Monitoring development from space and beyond: filling data gaps in the poorest countries with “big data” approaches	
92	5.4. The way forward	
93	6. SPECIAL THEME: THE CLIMATE-LAND-ENERGY-WATER-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS	
93	6.1. From integrated assessment to the climate-land-energy-water-development nexus	
94	6.2. Interlinked issues: climate, land/food, energy, water, materials and development	
96	6.3. Hierarchy of assessments	
97	6.4. Global climate-land-energy-water-development nexus (CLEWD) model - an open source, open-data approach	
97	6.5. Landscape of CLEWD nexus applications: subnational, national, regional and cross-border river basins	
103	6.6. Conclusion	
104	7. SELECTED SCIENCE DIGESTS	
104	7.1. Ocean acidification	
105	7.2. Marine microbial ecology and bioreactors	
106	7.3. Protein substitutes and the livestock sector	
108	8. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION	
108	8.1. Lessons learned from the preparation of the present prototype report	
109	8.2. Selected issues	
110	8.3. Options for scope and methodology of a Global Sustainable Development Report	
112	ANNEX	
113	Annex 1: Outcomes and/or summaries of selected meetings held in preparation of this report	
116	Annex 2: List of United Nations/international organizations publications and outlooks	
119	Annex 3: Information on selected assessments	
122	Annex 4: Note on data sources, statistical methods and uncertainty	
126	Annex 5: Global CLEWS model - an open source, open-data approach	
134	Annex 6: Response to the questionnaire on the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report	
139	Annex 7: Selected areas for action identified in the SD21 study	
140	NOTES	

FIGURES

- 29 Figure 1.** From people to nature
- 30 Figure 2.** Three dimensions of sustainable development in the capital approach
- 32 Figure 3.** Geographic distribution of sustainability science publications.
- 33 Figure 4.** Number of articles (contained in Google Scholar) indicating selected ultimate objectives
- 38 Figure 5.** United Nations Member States that submitted national sustainable development reports in preparation for Rio+20
- 44 Figure 6.** From people to nature
- 47 Figure 7.** World population aged 15 years and above by level of educational attainment in 1970-2010
- 49 Figure 8.** Global foreign exchange market reserves in trillion US\$, 1995-2013
- 50 Figure 9.** Global household wealth, 2000-2013
- 50 Figure 10.** Regional distribution of global household wealth
- 50 Figure 11.** International and global income inequality
- 51 Figure 12.** Changes in real income between 1988 and 2008 at various percentiles of the global income distribution.
- 53 Figure 13.** Global CO₂ emissions from fossil-fuel burning, cement manufacture and gas flaring (billion metric tons)
- 54 Figure 14.** Human appropriation of net primary productivity excluding human fires
- 72 Figure 15.** Orders of magnitude of investment requirements for various sectors from the literature (US\$ billion)
- 80 Figure 16.** Global trends in GPI and other aggregate metrics of progress, 1961-2007
- 81 Figure 17.** The world's gross savings vs adjusted net savings, 1970-2008
- 87 Figure 18.** Income growth, estimated by official sources and by using night-time lights data, 1992/3 to 2005/6
- 87 Figure 19.** Temporal and spatial resolution of data sources
- 88 Figure 20.** World map of night-time light data
- 88 Figure 21.** Lao People's Democratic Republic at night, 1992 and 2010
- 89 Figure 22.** Land cover data for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2001 and 2010
- 89 Figure 23.** Estimation of economic growth at the subnational level for agriculture and non-agricultural sectors growth in Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam
- 90 Figure 24.** Net primary production 2012 in the Greater Mekong Subregion
- 91 Figure 25.** MODIS EVI for the Mekong river delta in 2010, 2011 and 2012
- 92 Figure 26.** Google prediction (blue) vs official data (orange) of influenza cases in the US
- 92 Figure 27.** Use of cell-phone data in Kenya to show movements of people (A) and carrying of malaria parasites by humans (B)
- 94 Figure 28.** Priority areas for SDGs officially suggested by Governments in December 2012
- 99 Figure 29.** Mauritius CLEW interlinkages considered in the case study
- 100 Figure 30.** Predicted impact of climate change on water availability in Mauritius, water-related energy consumption and GHG emissions, predictions for year 2030
- 101 Figure 31.** Changed energy balance due to reduced land-use change in Burkina Faso in 2020
- 102 Figure 32.** Qatar case study of the water–energy–food nexus
- 126 Figure 33.** Conceptual design of the GLUCOSE model
- 128 Figure 34.** Simplified reference energy system of the GLUCOSE model
- 128 Figure 35.** Reference land resource system of the GLUCOSE model
- 129 Figure 36.** Reference resource system for the materials module of the GLUCOSE model
- 131 Figure 37.** Total Primary Energy Supply in the baseline scenario of the separate energy module (left) and the integrated GLUCOSE model (right)
- 131 Figure 38.** Water consumption in the materials sector in the baseline scenario
- 131 Figure 39.** Water consumption in the energy sector, excluding hydropower
- 132 Figure 40.** Power generation in the baseline (left) and CO₂ tax (right) scenarios
- 133 Figure 41.** Total primary energy supply in the GLUCOSE model for the 4°C (left) and 2°C scenario (right)
- 133 Figure 42.** Emission constraints and actual emissions in selected scenarios

TABLES

- 25 Table 1.** Sustainable development - bringing together great global issues at the United Nations
- 29 Table 2.** Areas and issues typically covered in definitions of "sustainable development" in the literature
- 29 Table 3.** Coverage of three pillars of sustainable development
- 31 Table 4.** Comparing reviews with assessments
- 32 Table 5.** Top 15 assessments scientists worldwide would like to bring to the attention of decision-makers
- 35 Table 6.** Simple typology of international sustainable development assessments
- 37 Table 7.** Example of messages of United Nations systems publications on food, biofuels and land compared with integrated solutions
- 38 Table 8.** Summary of national sustainable development documents, by region
- 39 Table 9.** List of topics, cross-sectoral issues, and themes maintained by the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development
- 42 Table 10.** Top-15 sustainable development issues scientists worldwide would like decision-makers to consider for action
- 42 Table 11.** Top-10 global risks identified by a stakeholder survey of the World Economic Forum
- 42 Table 12.** Issues identified by young researchers
- 43 Table 13.** Top-10 emerging environmental issues identified by UNEP
- 45 Table 14.** Overview of global sustainable development trends
- 46 Table 15.** Global number of people, in billions, 1950-2012
- 48 Table 16.** Global macroeconomic data
- 52 Table 17.** Households size versus electricity and natural gas use
- 55 Table 18.** Interlinkages between trends and sustainable development issues at the global level, 1950-2013
- 60 Table 19.** Progress towards achievement of goals or commitments in the initial 19 focus areas of the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
- 62 Table 20.** Top-15 crowdsourced answers to the question: "What do you think the world will be like in 2050?"
- 63 Table 21.** Brief characterization of the consequences of continuing like in the past (a "dynamics-as-usual" scenario 2010-2050)
- 65 Table 22.** Top-15 crowdsourced ideas on "What kind of world would you like to see for yourself, your children and grandchildren in 2050?"
- 67 Table 23.** Goals and targets in sustainable development scenarios for Rio+20
- 75 Table 24.** Progress towards internationally agreed commitments and potential future goals in the areas on the agenda of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
- 78 Table 25.** Broad overview of perspectives, scope, dimensions and purpose of selected global initiatives to measure overall progress
- 79 Table 26.** Calculation of the measure of economic welfare
- 79 Table 27.** Calculation of GPI (as used for Baltimore city)
- 81 Table 28.** Calculation of adjusted net savings
- 81 Table 29.** United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development sustainable development indicators
- 83 Table 30.** System of Environmental-Economic Accounting classification of environmental activities
- 84 Table 31.** "Small set" of indicators proposed by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD in 2009
- 84 Table 32.** "Small set" of indicators proposed by UNECE/Eurostat/OECD task force on measuring sustainable development in 2013
- 85 Table 33.** Components of OECD's Better Life Index
- 85 Table 34.** Components of the human development index and human sustainable development index
- 91 Table 35.** Big data examples which can be useful to monitor the priority areas for SDGs
- 95 Table 36.** Selected climate-land-energy-water-development nexus content in national submissions in preparation for Rio+20
- 96 Table 37.** Selected interlinkages between climate, land/food, energy, water and materials
- 97 Table 38.** Stylized review of integrated assessment practices
- 98 Table 39.** Coverage of CLEWD issues in selected national case studies
- 98 Table 40.** Tools and models used in the selected CLEWD case studies
- 98 Table 41.** Selected national and subnational CLEWD applications (ongoing or recently completed)
- 102 Table 42.** Regional CLEWD case studies and river basins (ongoing or recently completed)

BOXES

- 103 Table 43.** Proposals for basins to be assessed (water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus) under the UNECE Water Convention
- 104 Table 44.** Overview of science digests provided for this report by young scientists at Wageningen University
- 110 Table 45.** Common elements of majority agreement on scope and methodology of the Global Sustainable Development Report
- 111 Table 46.** Overview of differences between the three options
- 119 Table 47.** Key assessments carried out under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- 121 Table 48.** Production steps of UNEP's GEO-5 report
- 122 Table 49.** Data sources of estimates of total, global investment needs (chapter 4.5)
- 123 Table 50.** Data sources for GPI components, United States (chapter 5.2)
- 123 Table 51.** List of data sources for chapter 3
- 125 Table 52.** Coverage of selected aggregated measures
- 127 Table 53.** Land categories in the land module of the GLUCOSE model
- 27 Box 1.** United Nations entities that have supported the production of a prototype global sustainable development report
- 28 Box 2.** Expert group meetings in support of a global sustainable development report
- 40 Box 3.** Strategic environmental assessment and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
- 40 Box 4.** Lessons learned from strategic environmental assessments
- 41 Box 5.** Ten principles for organizing science advice, suggested by New Zealand's Chief Science Adviser
- 74 Box 6.** SDG criteria agreed by Member States in the Rio+20 outcome document
- 74 Box 7.** Potential sustainable development goals/targets that have been suggested by scientists
- 109 Box 8.** Integrated Sustainability Assessment