



SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Illegal trade in waste (or waste trafficking) is a type of crime that affects the environment and is a growing problem across the world. Once it reaches destination countries, illegal waste often ends up in illegal landfills and illegal storage sites or is burnt in the open, causing harm to the environment and human health, undermining the achievement of the SDGs and the transition toward a circular economy.

In 2021, UNODC and the European Union (EU) launched the Unwaste project, aiming to fight trafficking in waste between the EU and Southeast Asia by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member States partnerships. In addition, in 2022, the Office developed a legislative guide on combating waste trafficking to support states in enacting or strengthening domestic legislation against waste trafficking and participated actively in the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP27), including by co-organizing side events on waste trafficking and the world's plastic waste problem.

Furthermore, illicit crop cultivation and drug manufacture may affect the quality of (drinking) water, the behaviour of aquatic organisms as well as aquatic ecosystems in general. Most drug manufacture happens in remote areas with either no or poor water treatment systems, so remnants of the illicit manufacture of drugs and their metabolites remain in the water, potentially impacting aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity.

UN entities work closely together to address the different targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda.

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



UNODC supports the environmentally responsible disposal of chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture to protect and maintain clean accessible water resources, reduce pollution, protect aquatic environments, reduce or prevent land degradation and protect local environments and their biodiversity.

By implementing these initiatives, UNODC contributes to further progress on SDG 6 and the 2030 Agenda.

