

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)

Since 1972, UNESCO, through the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) and in partnership with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), has harnessed the intellectual capacity of a worldwide network of geoscientists to lay the foundation for our planet's future, focusing on responsible and environmental resource extraction, natural hazard resilience and preparedness, and adaptability in an era of changing climate. UNESCO, the only United Nations organization with a mandate to support research and capacity building in geology and geophysics, and its flagship programme, the International Geoscience Programme, actively contribute to society and to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

IGCP's Contribution to SDG 12



UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences established the first international standard for buildings and ornamental stones by extensively documenting stones that have been significant in human culture. To date, twenty-two stone types from fourteen countries have been recognized as heritage stones, including Podpêc Limestone (Slovenia), Maltese Globigerina Limestone (Malta), Piedra Mar del Plata (Argentina), and Makrana Marble (India). Many researchers have been supported through capacity building activities, training in public awareness campaigns and organization of international sessions.

Right: the UNESCO designated World Heritage Site, Taj Mahal, captured from the South Gate; and Dr. Gurmeet Kaur conducting field work at one of the Makrana quarries (Rajasthan, India), a source of the world famous marble that was used in the iconic monument and is now recognised as a heritage stone. Credit: Anuvinder Ahuja.

While many people have access to and consume enormous amount of goods exerting serious pressure on Earth's natural resources, a large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to even meet their basic needs.

To balance this inequality in a sustainable manner, humanity's ecological footprint must be reduced by changing the production and consumption chain of goods and resources. This can be achieved through the efficient management of our shared natural resources and improving the way toxic waste and pollutants are disposed of by encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste. At the same time developing countries must be supported to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030. **SDG 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.**

Earth's resources are present in our daily life in multiple forms and are an essential part of our modern life. Without them many human activities would not be possible and our lives would certainly be different.



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