



# 15 LIFE ON LAND



15 LIFE ON LAND



GOAL



CHALLENGES



DATA



ACTIONS



This goal includes several targets aimed at halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss. Apart from the fight to avoid this degradation, the aim is also to recover the quality of degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation.

The purpose of the goal is to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Human life depends on the health of the land but, even so, the land is in a continuous process of degradation. The loss of arable land is 30 to 35 times higher than its historical rate. Drought and desertification, the impact of which primarily affect the most unprivileged, increase year by year. Of the 8,300 known animal species, 8% are extinct and 22% face a high risk of extinction.

The protection of natural capital is not an option, but a necessity, as it is crucial in order to meet basic human needs and rights. We cannot wait any longer before taking action for the recovery of land ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, drylands and mountains. We have to stop deforestation, the illegal trading of wood

products, the loss of natural habitats and the destruction of biodiversity (which also affects climate change to a large extent), the lack of clean water and the increase in the pollution.

At Auren, we promote values related to the protection of the environment and we actively participate in organisations that strive to defend ecology and combat environmental degradation.





- By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
- By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.
- Promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of natural resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.
- Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, in particular for conservation and restoration.
- Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, in particular increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.



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**GOAL 15:** Promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



### Biodiversity

- In the last 500 years, the activity of human beings has condemned 844 species to extinction.
- One out of four mammals and one out of eight birds face the risk of extinction in the near future.
- One out of three amphibians and almost half of all land turtles and freshwater turtles are threatened.
- The total number of animal species threatened has increased from 5,205 to 7,266 since 1996.
- Between 1990 and 2015, the common bird index decreased by 8% in the EU member states.
- Of the 8,300 animal breeds known, 8% are extinct and 22% are at risk of extinction.

### Forests

- The lives of 1.6 billion people depend on forests but, even so, they are being cut down at a breath-taking pace.
- Between 2010 and 2015, 3.3 million hectares were lost, in many cases for gains that did not benefit the local communities.

- The proportion of forestry cutting compared to increases is relatively stable and is under 80% in most European countries.
- More than 80% of land animal, plant and insect species live in forests.

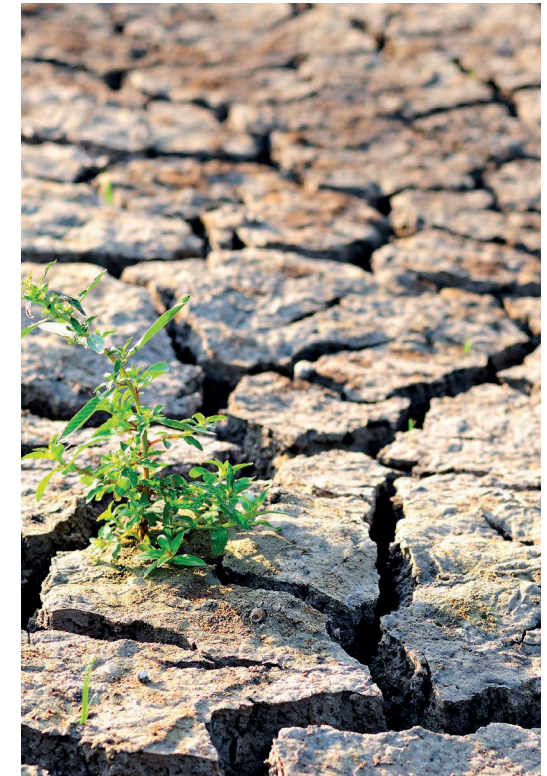
### Deforestation

- The total surface area of protected areas designated at national level in Europe has increased over time and came to 1.5 million km<sup>2</sup> in 39 European countries in 2017, covering almost 26% of the terrestrial land and inland waters.
- By 2014, the loss of ecosystems was 37.5% for forests, 24.9% for savannas and 15.9% for wasteland.
- Restoring the forests could eliminate the carbon produced by 1.5 billion vehicles.
- 27% of the global loss of forests can be attributed to permanent changes in the use of the land for the production of basic products.

### Desertification

- 2.6 billion people depend on agriculture, but 52% of the land used for agriculture is moderately or seriously affected by soil degradation.

- Due to drought and desertification, each year, 12 million hectares are lost (23 hectares per minute), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown.





1. Promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification, halt and restore land degradation and halt the loss of biodiversity.
2. Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems.
3. Promote the sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation and increase afforestation and reforestation.
4. Combat desertification.
5. Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems.
6. Take action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and protect threatened species.
7. Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of generic resources.
8. Take urgent action to end poaching and the trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna.
9. Take action to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species.



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**GOAL 15:** Promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



committed to



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- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany**
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg**
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Norway

- Poland
- Portugal**
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Spain**
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The Netherlands**
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

**AMERICA**

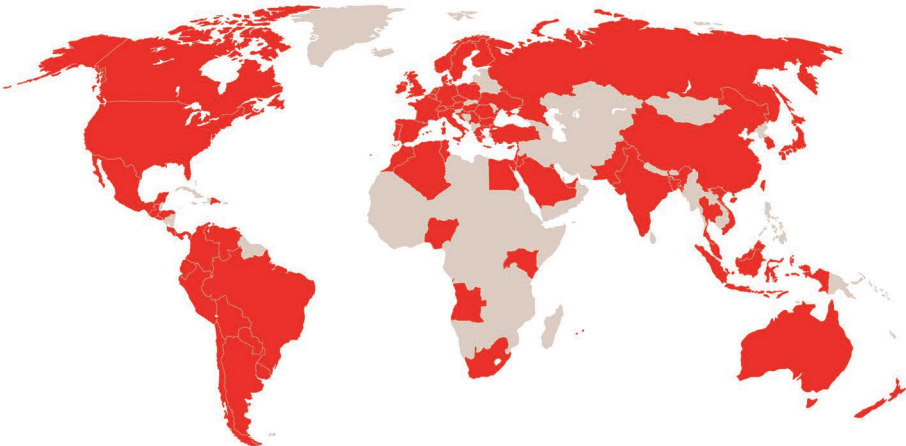
- Argentina**
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile**
- Colombia**
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico**
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay**
- USA
- Venezuela

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- Kuwait
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- Morocco
- Nigeria
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- Tunisia
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- UAE
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