

Report on Climate Indicators & Sustainable Development: WMO

Why in News

Recently, the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has published a new report on **Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections.**

- WMO studied seven climate indicators carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration, temperature, ocean acidification and heat, sea ice extent, glacier melt and sea-level rise.
- Its release coincides with the <u>United Nations General Assembly</u> annual session and the opening in September 2021 of the <u>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</u> Action Zone, which is dedicated to accelerating action on the SDGs.



Key Points

- Aim:
 - To **contribute to the sustainable development agenda** and to inspire leaders to take bolder climate action.
- Importance:
 - In the face of ongoing <u>climate change</u>, poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, <u>understanding the connections between climate and international</u> development is a matter of urgency.
 - Increasing temperatures will result in global and regional changes, leading to shifts in rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons. The intensification of <u>El Niño</u> events is

also generating more droughts and floods.

- Rising CO₂ Concentration:
 - The rising concentration of CO₂ will impact all of the 17 United Nations-mandated SDGs.
 - Rising CO₂ concentration **due to human activities** is a key driver of global climate change.

Impact on SDGs:

- Rising CO₂ concentration and increasing global temperatures, if left unchecked, would negatively impact efforts to combat climate change under the SDG 13.
 - This, in turn, would pose a significant threat to the achievement of the 16 SDGs other than SDG 13, by 2030.
- This would happen because uncontrolled rising CO₂ emissions would be **indirectly** responsible for risks related to the remaining six climate indicators, namely temperature, ocean acidification and heat, sea ice extent, glacier melt and sea-level rise.
- For instance, rising concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere will lead to reductions in nutrient content, affecting food security or the SDG indicator 2.1.2.
 - This would affect the global goal on tackling poverty, SDG 1, as well.
- Rising CO₂ in water would cause **ocean acidification**, directly affecting SDG indicator 14.3.1 which addresses marine acidity.
- Both food insecurity and loss of livelihood may drive conflicts related to resource management, thus threatening regional peace and stability (SDG 16.1).
- Extreme events attributed to rising temperature affect rainfall patterns and groundwater availability, which leads to a higher risk of water scarcity, directly affecting SDG 6 on access to water and specially the targets. The Vision

Suggestions:

- To mitigate climate risks, the WMO recommended to work on:
 - Improved education (SDG 4)
 - Global partnerships (SDG 17)
 - Sustainable consumption (SDG 12)



Source: DTE

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