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SDGs for All - January 2019 In Retrospect

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can also be found on our news website [IDN-InDepthNews](#).

Perils Of A Journey From Eritrea Through Libya To Europe



Migrants' Search For Greener Pastures Carry Deadly Consequences

By Franck Kuwonu and Louise Donavan

This article [first appeared](#) on [Africa Renewal](#), December 2018-March 2019 issue.

NEW YORK | NIAMEY (IDN-INPS) – Alone in Niger, the young man sits, filled with regrets. “I didn’t necessarily want to come this far,” he says with anguish. “Khartoum may have been OK.”

What made him extend his flight to a destination unknown? he wonders. He survived a perilous journey across deserts and seas, but at a terrible cost. His brother, with whom he was so close, lost his life after leaving the Sudanese capital, where the two had briefly settled after fleeing Eritrea, the country of their birth.

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Progress In Retrieving Lands Improves Rural Livelihoods



By Rita Joshi

BONN | GEORGETOWN (IDN) – Significant progress is under way in repairing degraded lands and managing droughts more effectively, according to reports released for review by an inter-governmental meeting in Georgetown, Guyana.

An assessment of land degradation in 127 countries revealed that close to 20 percent of healthy land was degraded between 2000 and 2015. Around the world, 169 countries are affected by land degradation, desertification or drought.

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UN Warns Of The Confluence Of Significant Risks Threatening Global Development



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) – The convergence of several significant risks is endangering efforts to achieve the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) – the universally adopted plan containing 17 specific goals to promote prosperity and social well-being while protecting the environment, a new report has warned.

The risks with the potential to severely disrupt economic activity and inflict significant damage on longer-term development prospects include waning support for multilateral approaches; the escalation of trade policy disputes; financial instabilities linked to elevated levels of debt; and rising climate risks, as the world experiences an increasing number of extreme weather events.

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India To Host UN Conference On Land Degradation



By Jutta Wolf

BONN (IDN) – India will host the global Conference on desertification, land degradation and drought from October 7 to 18, 2019 in New Delhi. Participants from 197 Parties to the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) will have access, for the first time, to a wealth of vital new scientific data, says

the Convention secretariat.

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the [1992 Rio Earth Summit](#), which also endorsed the climate change ([UNFCCC](#)) and biodiversity ([CBD](#)) conventions.

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Cooperation Key To Confronting Migration Challenges In West And Central Africa



Viewpoint by Richard Danzinger

The writer is regional director for West and Central Africa of [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#), the UN migration agency. This article [first appeared](#) on [Africa Renewal](#), December 2018-March 2019 issue.

DAKAR (IDN-INPS) – Without a doubt, migration is a defining issue of this century. One billion people, one-seventh of the world's population, are migrants. Some 244 million people are international migrants, 40 million are internally displaced and 24 million are refugees or asylum seekers. In 2018, there is no longer a single state that can claim to be untouched by human mobility.

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Expanding Mediterranean Forest Area Increasingly In Peril



By Jaya Ramachandran

ROME (IDN) – The Mediterranean forest area has expanded by two percent resulting in a rise of 1.8 million hectares – about the size of Slovenia, says a joint report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and [Plan Bleu](#), Regional Activity Center of UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan.

But the report titled *The State of Mediterranean Forests 2018* warns that in the period 2010-2015 forests in the Mediterranean have also been considerably affected by degradation and are increasingly in jeopardy from climate change, population rise, wildfires and water scarcity.

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Global Heating Poses A Serious Systemic Challenge



Viewpoint by Franz Baumann

The following are excerpts from an article first published in the October 2018 issue of 'International Politics Review'. Dr. Franz Baumann is a visiting professor at New York University and a former UN assistant secretary-general, special adviser on environment and peace operations. He can

be reached at franz.baumann@nyu.edu.

NEW YORK (IDN-INPS) – Climate change, used here synonymously and interchangeably with global heating and global warming, is happening. To wit: 17 of the 18 warmest years on record have occurred in the twenty-first century. The past three years were the hottest since records began (World Meteorological Organization, [2018a](#)). Distress signals are coming from all corners of the earth (Achenbach and Fritz, [2018](#); Samenow, [2018](#); Sengupta, [2018b](#)).

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New Study Highlights Efforts To End Child Sexual Abuse And Exploitation



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – In *Out of the Shadows* 2017 thriller, a newly married detective and his pregnant wife move into their dream home unaware of its dark history. When his wife claims their baby is being tormented by a supernatural force and seeks the help of a renegade demonologist, he must investigate the past to save his family.

Out of the Shadows, released by the World Childhood Foundation USA (WCF) on January 15, is a thriller with a difference. Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation, it declares: Sexual violence against children takes place mostly in the shadows, but it is happening everywhere, regardless of a country's economic status or its citizens' quality of life.

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Antarctica: The Tale Of A Beauty Condemned



By Dr Palitha Kohona

The author is former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and former Foreign Secretary. Dr Kohona visited Antarctica on board [the expedition vessel Silver Cloud](#) recently. This is the second of a two-part report. Read Part 1 '[End of The Antarctic Ice Cap In Sight If We Do Nothing](#)' [here](#).

COLOMBO (IDN) – The outlines of the frozen continent, seen from the approaching expedition ship Silver Cloud, are so hauntingly beautiful, serene and inviting. The snow covered surfaces, the glaciers glistening in the Antarctic sun are stunning. But without much warning the weather changes, the gloom sets in and the scowling glaciers threaten menacingly. The environment of the Antarctic has remained pristine largely due to its inhospitable nature. It is the only continent with no native human population.

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Women To March For Gender Equality Around The World



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Building on the vision and mission of the 2017 National Women's March in the U.S., women around the world will mark January 19 with marches and other actions "supporting the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities".

The main march in 2019 will be in Washington D.C., but there are dozens of other marches that are scheduled for the same day. So far, there is least one in every state.

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End of The Antarctic Ice Cap In Sight If We Do Nothing



By Dr Palitha Kohona

The author is former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and former Foreign Secretary. Dr Kohona visited Antarctica on board [the expedition vessel Silver Cloud](#)

recently. This is the first of a two-part report

COLOMBO (IDN) – The thick ice cap above the Antarctic continent will not disappear in our lifetime. It will continue to glisten disarmingly in the summer sun, its soft outlines concealing its unforgiving ferocity. But if we do nothing, it will disappear, over time. Sooner than later. This could spell catastrophe for life on Earth. Already there is convincing evidence of something unusual happening. Large chunks of the glaciers are breaking and floating away and the mammoth Antarctic glaciers are in observable retreat.

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UAE Hosts UNIDO's Supreme Policy Making Organ in November



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | VIENNA (IDN) – When the Heads of State and Government, Ministers, and other official representatives, gathered in 2013 at the fifteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Peru's capital Lima, they agreed that

eradication of poverty – Goal 1 of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – deserves priority.

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UNCTAD Helps Pacific Islands Build New Economic Links



By Jamshed Baruah*

GENEVA (IDN) – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has opened an office in Samoa to coordinate a trade and transparency project for Pacific small islands, ahead of a regional free trade agreement coming into

force in 2019.

UNCTAD has joined agencies including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Women in new premises in the capital of Samoa to support coordinated multilateral assistance to small island developing states (SIDS) in the Pacific region.

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New Agreement Seeks To Resist Powerful Greenhouse Gases



By Devendra Kamarajan

NAIROBI (IDN) – A new agreement signed in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, promises to fight global warming. Known as the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the

Ozone Layer, came into force on January 1, 2019.

According to UN Environment, it will reduce the projected production and consumption of powerful greenhouse gasses termed as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years.

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UNDP Selects Next Generation Of Leadership Worldwide



By Caroline Mwangi

NEW YORK (IDN) – While the vast majority of the senior leadership of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – 126 Resident Representatives – were slated to leave the organization



stated to leave the organization simultaneously on December 31, 2018, a new pool of world class talent has been selected to lead the UNDP's development

work across the globe.

The new pool is not only 50:50 gender balanced and geographically diverse, it also implies a significant leap forward in preparing to play a crucial role in the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform of the United Nations Development System.

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UN Keen To Progress Towards 17 Global Development Goals



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – A series of events, including two High-level Political Forums (HLPFs) and the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit on the margins of the 74th General Assembly underline the vital importance of 2019 that marks the fourth year of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable](#)

[Development](#) adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015.

The first HLPF in July will be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), completing its first cycle, and the other in September at the summit level during the General Assembly.

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Sustainable Blue Economy Movement Gains Momentum



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – The concept of sustainable blue economy is gaining momentum, including at the highest levels of decision making, encouraging proponents of the growing movement to believe that humans can use the ocean as a tool for lifting people out of poverty, all the while

protecting its valuable ecosystems.

It was not surprising, therefore, that the first-ever [Sustainable Blue Economy Conference](#), held in Kenya in November 2018, brought together thousands of ocean experts and activists to discuss how to sustainably use the ocean, and according to experts, the conference proved to be an important stepping stone towards the next anticipated UN Ocean Conference in 2020.

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The Biomass Shore Project – A Leading Model For Next-Generation Innovation



Viewpoint by Midori Kurahashi

The author is Project Associate Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo, Japan.

TOKYO (IDN) – With the world's population projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, the



TOKYO (IDN) – Worldwide forest fires and the abnormal heat experienced last summer are still fresh in our memory. Many people throughout the world had a sense that some

kind of unsettling change is happening. Even so, response is slow and measures are not being taken. One reason for this is that the world is driven by people who believe that the cost of stopping global warming is too great for the achieved effect. (P21) [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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747 Third Avenue, Fl. 2, New York, NY 10017, USA

33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA

Marienstrasse 19/20, 10117 Berlin, GERMANY

Ichimura bldg. 4F, 3-2 Kanda Ogawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 101-0052

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