

Statistics for the SDGs - global indicators



Name of the indicator	15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index
Sustainable Development Goal	Goal 15. Life on land
Target	15.4 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
Definition	The percentage ratio of green vegetation in mountain areas - i.e. forest, grassland, shrubland, pasture land, crop land, etc. to mountain area.
Unit	percent [%]
Available dimensions	total, Kapos class
Methodological explanations	<p>Mountains are defined according to the UNEP-WCMC classification that identifies them according to altitude, slope and local elevation range as described by Kapos et al. 2000:</p> <p>Class 1: elevation > 4,500 meters Class 2: elevation 3,500-4,500 meters Class 3: elevation 2,500 - 3,500 meters Class 4: elevation 1,500 -2,500 meters and slope > 2 Class 5: elevation 1,000 - 1,500 meters and slope > 5 or local elevation range (LER 7 kilometer radius) > 300 meters Class 6: elevation 300 - 1,000 meters and local elevation range (7 kilometer radius) > 300 meters</p>
Data source	Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography
Data availability	Annual data; since 2019
Notes	Mountains classification described in: Kapos V. Developing a map of the world's mountain forests., w M.Price i N.Butt (EDS.) Forests in sustainable mountain development: a state of knowledge report for 2000. Wallingford: CAB International.
Data updated on	26-08-2025
Metadata updated on	05-06-2020