

The SDGs and Size of Wales

Teachers notes

In this activity your pupils will look at the work of Size of Wales in various countries around the world and consider which of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals are met by each project.

This is a way for pupils to

- think about how the different goals are interrelated so that delivering on one goal impacts on others
- learn about the difficulties facing communities in many rainforest areas

It is assumed that your class is familiar with tropical rainforests and knows something about the work of Size of Wales.

What does Size of Wales do?

We bring people in Wales and beyond together to help protect four million hectares of tropical forests, helping to reduce deforestation as part of Wales' response to the challenge of climate change. We also raise awareness about how vital tropical forests are for us and our climate as well as for the wildlife and people who live in them. We work in schools and colleges to engage children and young people in understanding and sharing responsibility for the protection of the world's forests. We work with businesses, government and communities in Wales linking them with specific tropical forest areas, helping them to raise funds for the projects working to conserve those areas.

There are full descriptions of the current projects (nine in 2019, in South America, Africa and Indonesia) on the website at <https://sizeofwales.org.uk> with pictures and individual stories.

Prepare:

- White board
- Copies of the SDG symbols on A4 sheets (provided with this resource for you to print out)
- A world map
- Copies of the descriptions of Size of Wales projects. There are descriptions of 7 projects in the set (Uganda, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2 in Kenya, Guyana and Peru).

You may choose just to use one of the projects or more. On the website you will also find lists of the SDGs that Size of Wales thinks that each project deals with.

There is a new project in Indonesia which will be added at some point. The descriptions are summaries. There is more information on all of the projects on the website – <https://sizeofwales.org.uk/>

Workshop:

Slide 2 - The powerpoint briefly introduces what Size of Wales does.

Slide 3 - Ask pupils:

Q. What things would you like to change/ see happen to make the world a better place?

Stress that you are talking about the world, rather than something local. Often using 'if you had 3 wishes' works well.

List their answers on the white board

Most groups quickly come up with issues such as hunger, starvation, war and pollution. They do occasionally get bogged down in producing a catalogue of the various types of pollution or something like 'crime', 'plastics' or 'smoking'. It is important to acknowledge their views but to draw them back to a broader global view.

You end up with a list of things they would like to change that may include -

hunger, malnutrition, starvation, lack of clean water, homelessness, war, violence, racism, discrimination, refugees, pollution and probably climate change.

Explain that the students desire to change these things could be called goals – e.g. “to stop anyone having to leave their home because of war”

Slide 4 - The UN decides on goals like that

Q. What is the United Nations?

Slide 5 - The UN was set up in 1945 as an organisation to have meetings where all the countries in the world can get together and discuss things – to work together to try to have a more peaceful world and deal with problems like poverty.

With an older group you might want to give them this description of the purposes of the UN -

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Q. How many countries are there in the world? **A:** 195

Q. How many are members of the UN? **A:** 193

Slide 6 - In 2015 the UN decided on new goals – the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs, often called the global goals)

Slide 7 - Q. What does sustainable development mean?

Change to living in a way that everyone can live well enough, without destroying the environment now or in the future

The wise use of our resources to meet our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs but in such a way that

have no or minimum effects on our Ecosystem

Slide 8 - The UN has 17 SDGs (global goals)

Give out sheet of the SDGs so that each small group can see them.

Q. Which goals match the goals you thought of?

Slide 9 - The Welsh National Assembly passed the Well Being of Future Generations Act in 2015. One of the goals in that act is 'a globally responsible Wales'.

<https://futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/160401-wfg-accessible-guide-for-young-people-en.pdf>

Wales, the UN and the SDGs

Wales, inspired by the UN's WorldWeWant international consultation, took a bottom-up approach to see what people wanted for their future through TheWalesWeWant conversation. The recommendations became part of the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which came into force in July 2015, and whose policies, practice and monitoring stress the importance of ongoing and widespread participation of people and stakeholders (including business) to realise their objectives. It was also the first legislation to mention the SDGs, and how Wales is contributing to them.

<http://www.fdsd.org/the-uk-the-sdgs-and-particularly-sdg-16/>

Slide 10 - **Q.** Size of Wales works with local communities to protect areas of rainforest. Which of the SDGs does this fit?

- number 15 – Life on land

This is the obvious one but they may well suggest others (as they will see later many of the SDGs can be met by the Size of Wales work).

Slide 11 – Q. What’s **important** about forests?

Biodiversity? The tropical forests are the most biodiverse places on the planet with the largest number of different species of plants & animals)

What about **communities in forests?** -300 million people live in forests and 1.6 billion depend on them for their livelihoods.

Climate change? - forests photosynthesise CO₂, using the carbon to build wood, leaves and roots and giving out the oxygen

Slide 12 - Q. What’s **happening** to the forests?

They are being cut down to graze cattle for beef, grow crops (for food & fuel), mining, timber

(it would be useful to show pupils images of some of these)

Slide 13 – So Size of Wales is supporting the communities who live in the forest, which helps them to protect their environment.

This meets the Well-being of future generations (WBFG) goal of ‘a globally responsible Wales’.

Choose one or more of the SoW Projects to look at with the pupils.

Tell them “Let’s look at one of the projects and see if it meets other SDGs as well as 15”

Give pupils copies of the Project. Could look at the same Project for the class or different Projects in groups.

Ask the pupils to read the description of the project and list the SDGs that it helps with.

When discussing what the pupils think, it would be good to point out how connected these goals are with each other. For example, if you reduce poverty it makes it easier for people to access more and better food and access health services more easily.

Slide 14 - What we can do in Size of Wales is quite small but as –

Wangari Mathai said: “It’s the little things that citizens do. That’s what will make the difference. My little thing is planting Trees.”

In fact she didn’t just plant trees, she inspired a huge tree-planting movement.

If pupils want to know more about her –

<https://www.greenbeltmovement.org/wangari-maathai/biography>

Slide 15 - It’s really important that we cut down the CO₂ and other greenhouse gases that we put into the atmosphere.

So we all have a role to deliver the SDGs

You might want to show the pupils film of the rainforest. These are two that are available on line –

This one is 2+ minutes – a very good quick overview with images and maps – good for KS2 pupils

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS2VrgRFCzc>

This one is 4 minutes, 'Amazon: The lungs of our planet' by the BBC. It uses some terms that KS2 pupils probably won't know but most is fine and it gives a very good sense of the size of the rainforest and talks about the importance of and threats to the Amazon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eFiZbB9aIQ>

This is a 2 min film of the work of one of the women's groups planting trees in Uganda that you might want to use. They are singing about planting trees

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<https://sizeofwales.org.uk/international-womens-day-2018-with-the-suunu-womens-group-in-uganda/>