

VOCABULARY

Aggregate Constituting or amounting to a whole; total.

Basic sanitation The process of maintaining clean, hygienic conditions by the proper disposal of garbage and human waste.

(National Academy of Sciences: Global Health and Education Association)

Biodiversity The number and variety of organisms found within a specified geographic region.

Defecation The act of eliminating solid or semisolid waste materials (feces) from the digestive tract.

Deforestation The cutting down and removal of all or most of the trees in a forested area. It can erode soils, contribute to desertification, and the pollution of waterways, and decrease biodiversity through the destruction of habitat.

Developed countries These are countries that have a high level of development according to certain criteria, normally economic: income per capita and high gross domestic product (GDP) per capita are two common measures. Also, the Human Development Index (HDI) from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) combines an economic measure, national income, with the measures of life expectancy and education.

Developing countries This term generally is used to describe a nation with a low level of material well-being. However, the definitions of developing and developed are debated and disagreements abound about their usage.

Extant Currently or actually existing.

Hectare A metric unit of area equal to 2.471 acres.

LDC (least developed country) A country with the poorest development indicators including life expectancy and GDP.

Metric ton A unit of mass equal to 2,205 pounds.

MDC (more developed country) A country with high levels of economic development.

Montreal Protocol An international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer, first addressed in 1987 and entered into force in 1989, with seven revisions since. Ratified by 196 countries.

Ozone depleting substances Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and other contributory substances are commonly referred to as ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

Per capital Per unit of population; per person.

Safe drinking water The World Health Organization and various national agencies have drinking water quality standards that specify the acceptable microbial, chemical, and radiological characteristics of safe drinking water.

(National Academy of Sciences: Global Health and Education Association)

Slum The actual proportion of people living in slums is measured by a proxy, represented by the urban population living in households with at least one of the four characteristics:

- a.** lack of access to improved water supply;
- b.** lack of access to improved sanitation;
- c.** overcrowding (3 or more persons per room); and
- d.** dwellings made of non-durable material.

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/footnotes.html>

Subsidized housing Subsidized housing is government supported accommodation for people with low to moderate incomes.

Sustainable development Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- a.** The concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- b.** The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

(Brundtland Commission, Our Common Future, was published by Oxford University Press in 1987)

Sustainability Potential for long-term maintenance of well being, which in turn depends on the maintenance of the natural world and natural resources.