



The importance of geodiversity for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

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Essential Variables have been developed to measure and monitor changes in climate, oceans, and biodiversity to advance science and inform policy. These variables and their associated indicators are now routinely included in international conventions and policy documents, but key aspects of geodiversity – abiotic characteristics of Earth's surface and subsurface – are still largely overlooked.

We discuss examples of how geodiversity can help implement and monitor the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Priorities for Action, aiming to demonstrate the relevance of different aspects of geodiversity to two major global policy agendas. We provide evidence of a lack of incorporating abiotic nature explicitly in planning for and evaluation of the success of these agendas and conclude that considering geodiversity is essential for achieving the SDGs and aims of the Sendai framework. In particular, 1) Raising awareness of the role of geodiversity to sustainable development is needed to achieve SDGs Target 4.7.; 2) Enhanced scientific research on geodiversity and strengthened capacity in the Global South, are needed to achieve SDGs Target 9.5.; 4) Raising awareness of the sustainable development role of geodiversity is needed to achieve SDGs Target 12.8.