



Digital 4 the Planet Newsletter, Vol. 4. August 2023.

**Hello and welcome to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Digital for the Planet newsletter, bringing to you *inspiration on how digitalization is helping to tackle the triple planetary crises --nature degradation, climate change, and pollution.***

In this edition, we share highlights on high-level discussions and events that UNDP contributed to in the past few months on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for climate change; how Earth Observation and AI can tackle disaster risk reduction and nature-based adaptation; and what digital public infrastructure can offer for enhanced climate transparency and credibility. Enjoy!

Please don't forget to follow the SparkBlue Community of Practice [Digital for the Planet](#) or sign up to the CoP mailing group for further engagement with GPN-wide experts working on this issue area and to receive notifications on future events.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Planet Conference



In May, the 'Artificial Intelligence for the Planet' conference took place at the side of the eighth annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) in New York. The conference was convened by France and Morocco, and organized in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group. From UNDP, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate

Administrator Haoliang Xu, and UNDP Chief Digital Officer, Robert Opp, made interventions alongside high-level guests and panelists.

[AI for Planet Alliance](#), which UNDP serves as one of the founding steering group members, is an alliance of technology companies, academic institutions, and international organizations working to stimulate discussions on AI and encourage innovators to channel the technology toward environmental sustainability. During the side event, participants celebrated three entrepreneurs and their groundbreaking AI solutions for climate change, followed by panel discussions where important points were raised for the international community and public sector actors to consider: (1) the need for safeguarding AI's direction, including by balancing the inequality in the amount and quality of data that goes into algorithms; (2) countering ever-growing inequality of access to technology by a potential global digital technology commons; (3) the role of international cooperation to build local digital ecosystems in countries that have less basic data capacity; and (4) the potential of South-south cooperation.

- Watch the full video here -> <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1y/k1ynu1wku1>
- More on AI for Planet -> <https://www.aifortheplanet.org/en>
- Please contact Reina Otsuka ([reina.otsuka@undp.org](mailto:reina.otsuka@undp.org)) for information regarding the AI for Planet Alliance.

## A Digital Planet - Leveraging Geospatial Data for Sustainable Development



In June, UNDP German Representation Office, BMZ and the German Foreign Office brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to explore the potential of geospatial data in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting risk-informed development. The event 'A Digital Planet - Leveraging Geospatial Data for Sustainable Development' was opened by Minister of State Dr. Tobias Lindner and UNDP Associate Administrator Haoliang Xu. Two technical panels discussed how to get over the barriers of data gaps; building technical capacities across the local digital ecosystem; better ways of working with private sector AI-based businesses, importance of data standards and open data; among other issues, with active participation from the audience.

Examples of geospatial data and earth observation from UNDP were shared, including a Digital Social Vulnerability Index (DSVI) from [Tajikistan](#); multi-hazard risk modelling in [Timor Leste](#); and monitoring of pastureland to improve the resilience of herder communities in [Mongolia](#).



- Have you worked on an exciting earth observation / remote sensing project for nature, climate or pollution? Please submit it through this [FORM](#).
- Browse through other interesting UNDP projects and examples in the UNDP Digital intervention catalog, [HERE](#).
- As follow up to the event, we are continuing to map future opportunities and challenges for countries to benefit from EO and AI technologies through an informal task force between BPPS, CB, CDO and ITM technical experts. Please reach out to Freshia Warimu ([Freshia.warimu@undp.org](mailto:Freshia.warimu@undp.org)) if you have ideas or needs!

## Digital for Climate Transparency – at the Bonn Climate Change Conference 2023

Two side events on the topic of digital transparency systems were co-organized by UNDP at the side of the Bonn Climate Change Conference (58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies) in June.

### Co-creating a Digital Climate Transparency System



UNDP and UNFCCC hosted a closed-door event with more than 20 country delegates and partners, to present the Digital Public Good (DPG) climate transparency system concept and exchange on opportunities and barriers. Participants discussed the need for national MRV systems (NDC tracking system) that pull together various sectoral MRV and connect the NDC progress with carbon credit management. The event included a panel discussion by representatives from Namibia, Cote d’Ivoire, and Indonesia, who shared their experiences and sparked considerable interest from many other developing countries.

- Join and invite government counterparts to the UNDP Community of Practice on Digital Climate Transparency Systems, where we have virtual meetings to share experiences between government practitioners: [LINK](#)
- **Questions?** Reach out to [dominique.mieguim.ngninpogni@undp.org](mailto:dominique.mieguim.ngninpogni@undp.org) and [mark.belinsky@undp.org](mailto:mark.belinsky@undp.org) to discuss more, or if you would like to receive a walkthrough of the demo registry.

### Accelerating Climate Action and Transparency by leveraging the power of digitalization

UNDP contributed to an event organized by UNFCCC to discuss digital technologies that enable end-to-end carbon trading, presenting alongside World Bank, EBRD and UNFCCC Innovation Hub that

make up the Digital 4 Climate working group, as well as a contribution from Bhutan. UNDP presented the voluntary bilateral cooperation [platform](#) which supports countries to walk through Article 6.2 (ITMO) process flows, and an open source, 'ready-to-install' [national carbon registry](#) that countries can adapt to build their own carbon accounting and management system.

- Watch the recording here: [Bonn Meeting - Accelerating Climate Action and Transparency by leveraging the power of digitalization](#)
- More on D4C Working Group can be found in this website: [LINK](#)

## Digital Public Infrastructure for SDGs and Climate Change



At the UN High-Level Political Forum, digital emerged as one solution to get us back on track. UNDP Associate Administrator Haoliang Xu emphasized the need to invest in [digital public infrastructure \(DPI\) and digital public goods \(DPGs\)](#) to accelerate climate action at an event co-hosted by UNDP's Singapore Centre and the Governments of Singapore and India. The potential impact of DPI across the climate, finance, and justice sectors is further highlighted in this [new report](#), which looks at 70 countries up to the year 2030. (Cross-posting from the UNDP Digital Newsletter July 2023)

- Read the report 'The Human and Economic Impact of Digital Public Infrastructure' [HERE](#)

This newsletter is brought to you by the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support Environment Cluster and the Chief Digital Office. Digital for Planet [Service Offer](#) is a backbone digital capacity across the practice areas to provide impactful, integrated digital offers that lead to a green transition leveraging on, and in support to, the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund portfolio.

For inquiries on any of the initiatives listed, or if you have a project that you would like to work with us, please contact: Reina Otsuka, Digital Lead for Nature, Climate, Chemicals and Waste ([reina.otsuka@undp.org](mailto:reina.otsuka@undp.org))

Do you know someone who might like to receive this newsletter too? Please contact us to add to the list: [digital4planet@undp.org](mailto:digital4planet@undp.org)

- END -

