



NATURAL RESOURCES

Human development is based on the use of natural resources, which is why their stocks should be used carefully so as to guarantee their availability for the needs of future generations. Natural resources provide essential life support things such as food, habitats, carbon and water, as well as fundamental raw materials. The environment should have the possibility to serve all essential ecosystems. The assessment of the ecosystems confirms that pressure on the natural environment has already led to very significant losses in all types of ecosystems and the services they offer to human society.

Consumption of natural resources supports economic growth and contributes to the improvement of living conditions. Their unsustainable use leads however to changes in many ecosystems, which has serious consequences. It is generally recognized that sustainable economic growth depends on the quantity and quality of the available natural resources.

The indicators included in this theme are as follows:

- 1. Population connected to urban wastewater treatment plants with at least secondary treatment – key indicator**
2. Expenditure on waste water treatment
3. Share of protected natural areas