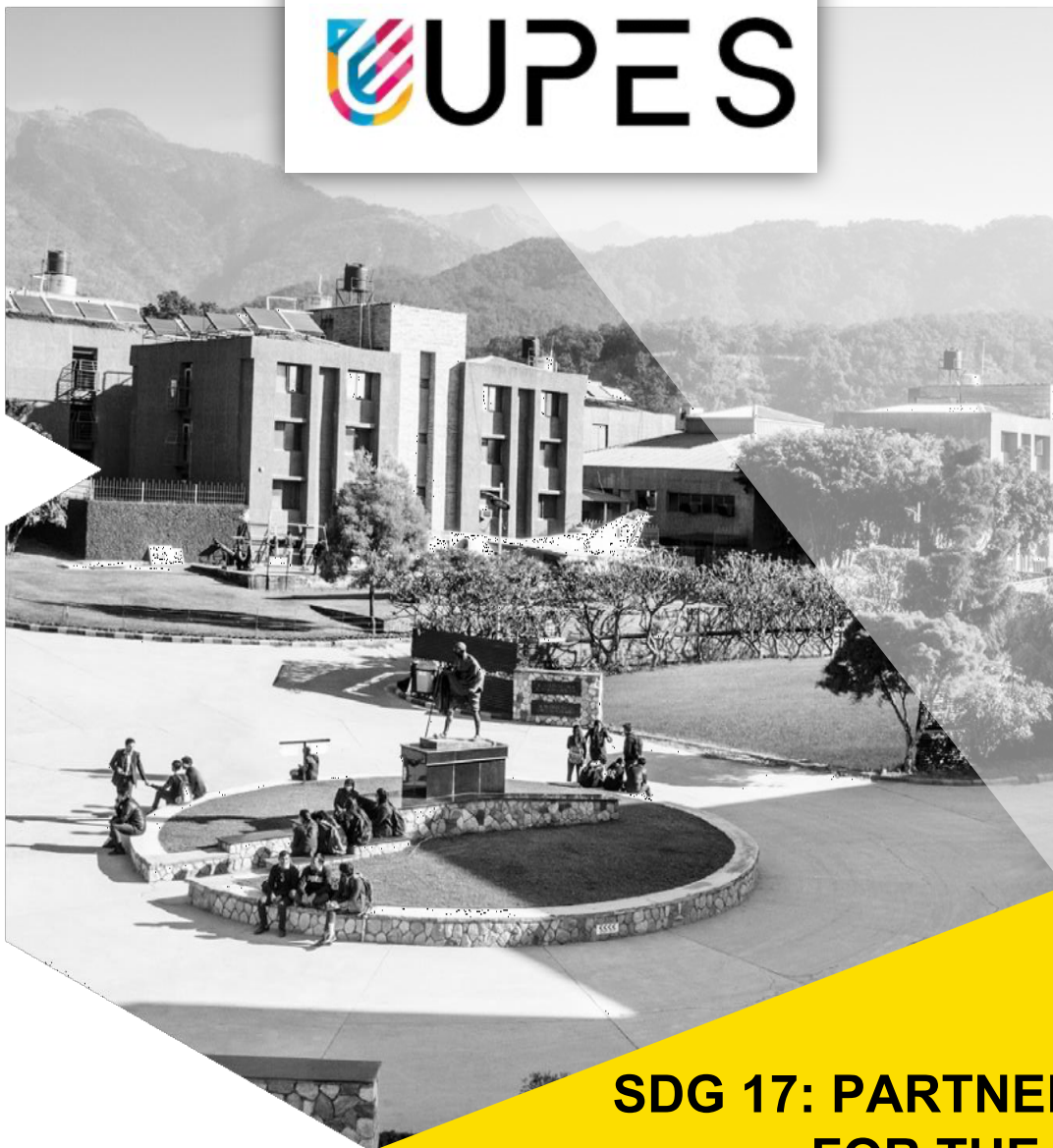# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UPES

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

2025

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17.2.3 Does your university as a body participate in international collaboration on gathering or measuring data for the SDGs?

UPES International Collaborations on SDG Data and Partnerships

UPES (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies) actively participates in international collaborations that involve gathering and measuring data for the UN **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. These collaborations span academic research partnerships, institutional alliances (including with UN agencies and global networks), data-focused initiatives for SDG indicators, and broader SDG-related projects with international components.

Below is a comprehensive report of **UPES's key international collaborations and events** supporting SDG data collection and monitoring, which bolster its performance in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

International Academic and Research Collaborations

Global Health Research (One Health Initiative)

UPES has partnered with **Leipzig University (Germany)** to address *"Global One Health"* challenges. Professors from Leipzig visited UPES's School of Health Sciences & Technology, delivering a talk on *"Global One Health: Time To Think Differently"*. This visit sparked intensive knowledge exchange on transboundary health issues, focusing on **One Health** concerns in the Himalayan region (integrating human, animal, and environmental health). Faculty and researchers from both institutions engaged in discussions and lab visits, laying the groundwork for joint research and data-sharing to tackle regional health challenges [1]. Such collaboration not only builds academic ties but also contributes to **SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being)** by jointly gathering data and best practices to address public health issues.

Bioinformatics and Technology Collaboration:

A new chapter of partnership was opened through a **Memorandum of Intent (MoI) with the University of Auckland (New Zealand)**. Following the MoI signing, Professor Partha Roop (Associate Dean International at U. Auckland) visited UPES to explore research synergies [1]. He engaged with UPES faculty and researchers in **Bioinformatics** (connecting the School of Computer Science and School of Health Science & Technology) through lab tours and workshops. This collaboration is unlocking avenues for **joint research projects, academic exchanges, and innovation**, with plans for exchanging students and PhD scholars between the two universities [1]. Such international research

collaboration will facilitate the *gathering of scientific data* (e.g. bioinformatics data relevant to health and sustainability) and contribute to global knowledge networks.

Law and Public Policy Exchange

UPES has formed an academic alliance with the **Maurer School of Law at Indiana University (USA)**. In a recent visit, Dr. Gabrielle Goodwin from Maurer Law met with UPES School of Law faculty, marking the start of a collaboration aimed at strengthening legal education and research at UPES [1]. This partnership paves the way for **joint academic programs, faculty/student exchanges, and collaborative research in law and policy**, aligning with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions). By sharing expertise internationally, UPES contributes to comparative studies and data gathering on legal frameworks and social justice issues across countries.

Student Mobility and Exchange Programs

UPES has numerous tie-ups to facilitate international student and faculty exchange, which inherently involve cross-border knowledge and data exchange. For example, UPES signed an MoU with **Gradstar Global Education** to create a *"seamless & holistic study abroad experience"* for international students. This partnership uses a student-first approach to open **"endless possibilities"** for international student mobility in higher education [1]. Similarly, UPES welcomed a delegation from **Nottingham Trent University (UK)**, as part of a program where UPES School of Business students can complete their final year at NTU in England [1]. During the NTU visit, delegates interacted with students and faculty to enhance mutual understanding and set up the credit-transfer collaboration. These exchange initiatives enrich the academic environment and often involve *joint projects or case studies* where data from both India and abroad are compared – contributing to SDG targets (e.g., quality education and global partnership indicators).

Collaboration with UC Berkeley

In 2020, UPES launched a high-profile academic collaboration with the **University of California, Berkeley (USA)**. This partnership is designed to expand students' international exposure, study-abroad opportunities, and global learning **even in the "new normal"** of post-pandemic education [1]. An online symposium between UPES and the **Berkeley Global** team (including Berkeley's regional managers and admissions advisors) was held, moderated by UPES's Department of International Affairs [1]. Through this alliance, students gain guidance on pursuing programs at a world-leading university and develop a *comprehensive understanding of the world*. As the UPES editorial notes, *"for more than 16 years, UPES has built a legacy of alliances with the best in academia"*, underlining a sustained commitment to global partnerships [1]. Such long-term academic collaborations often translate into **joint research**, co-authored publications, and shared data. Indeed, international collaboration *"increases the impact of research and the strength of students' education"* – a point emphasized by a visiting U.S. Embassy advisor at UPES [1].

Global Network of Universities

Overall, UPES's international outreach is extensive. The university boasts **tie-ups with 44 international universities** spanning North America, Europe, Asia, and beyond, facilitating student exchanges, international internships, and collaborative research projects [2]. These global academic partnerships enable UPES to participate in multinational research endeavors (contributing data to global studies) and to benchmark its progress on SDGs against international standards. By exchanging data, research findings, and expertise with **over four dozen partner universities worldwide**, UPES actively contributes to the global monitoring and attainment of the SDGs.

Global Institutional Partnerships and SDG Data Initiatives

United Nations Collaboration (SDG 7 – Clean Energy)

UPES engages directly with UN bodies in sustainability initiatives. Notably, **research by UPES has contributed to clean energy projects of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** [2]. This implies that UPES researchers provided data, analysis, or innovative solutions for UNDP's sustainable energy programs. The university also conducted *capacity-building programs and social impact reviews* in the clean energy sector as part of this collaboration [2]. By working with UNDP, UPES is helping measure and advance SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) – for instance, by assessing the outcomes of solar power implementations or energy access projects. This international partnership underscores UPES's role in gathering actionable data for SDG indicators on energy and sharing it with global development agencies.

Global Sustainability Networks

UPES is a participant in worldwide sustainability and education networks. It hosts scholars and fellows from prestigious international programs – including **Chevening Scholars (UK), Commonwealth Scholars, and Fulbright-Nehru Scholars (USA)** – among its faculty and student body [1]. By integrating these global scholarship programs, UPES fosters cross-pollination of ideas and research. These scholars bring international best practices and often engage in projects that require data analysis on social, economic, and environmental issues. Their presence at UPES strengthens the university's capacity to contribute to global SDG monitoring (through research outputs and expertise) and reflects institutional partnerships with bodies like the UK FCDO (Chevening) and the U.S. Department of State (Fulbright).

Industry Partnership for SDG Education

UPES collaborates with international industry leaders to enrich its academic offerings and research, thereby indirectly supporting SDG data capabilities. For example, UPES co-designed an MBA program in **Strategy & Consulting** with **KPMG**, a global advisory firm. KPMG experts *co-deliver courses, mentor students, and lead real-time consulting projects* in the program [1]. This partnership infuses global

industry data and case studies into the curriculum – students work on live projects that tackle real-world sustainability and business challenges, often analyzing data provided by industry. Such academia-industry collaboration helps build student competencies in data analysis for SDG domains (e.g., economic growth, industry innovation), and the knowledge generated can inform broader SDG metrics (like employability, innovation impact, etc.). Moreover, having a world-renowned firm like KPMG involved signals UPES's commitment to global standards and practices in its pursuit of SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure).

Collaboration with International Societies

The university also partners with global professional and scientific societies on community-focused SDG projects. A case in point is the **American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)**, with whom UPES collaborated on a sustainable technology project. Together they organized a *Solar Lamp Distribution* initiative, providing solar lamps to **50 families** lacking reliable electricity [3]. This initiative combined UPES's on-ground student volunteers with ASHRAE's technical expertise to address energy poverty in local communities. In the process, data on household energy use and improvements (before vs. after solar lamp distribution) could be gathered and shared as a model for SDG 7 implementation at the grassroots. Even though a relatively small project, it exemplifies how UPES engages in **practical data-gathering collaborations** with international organizations to monitor progress on sustainable energy and quality of life.

International Conferences and Consortia

To further its global engagement, UPES annually hosts an **international sustainability conference and fair** that convenes experts from around the world [3]. These conferences (organized by the Sustainability Cluster of the School of Engineering) focus on *"innovative approaches, emerging technologies, and collaborative strategies to address global community challenges"* [3]. By bringing international academia, industry, and civil society together, UPES helps facilitate the exchange of data, research findings, and best practices on SDG implementation. Such dialogues often lead to multi-institution research collaborations or consortia focused on specific SDGs. For example, discussions at the UPES sustainability conference could spawn joint research on climate action or urban sustainability, with partners agreeing to share data and compare outcomes across countries (contributing to SDG indicator databases). These events demonstrate UPES's leadership in *reviewing comparative approaches and developing international best practices on tackling the SDGs*, in line with Impact Ranking criteria.

NGO Partnerships and Data Collection

While not all are international, UPES's extensive partnerships with non-governmental organizations also bolster its SDG data efforts. The university has signed MoUs with numerous NGOs to work on improving community welfare (e.g. nutrition projects in rural Uttarakhand) [2]. In fact, **over 600 NGO tie-ups** are in place through the UPES *"Srijan"* Social Internship program [2]. Through these collaborations, thousands of UPES students have worked in the field on SDG-related projects –

teaching in schools, conducting health camps, supporting rural livelihoods, etc. Each of these projects involves **collecting local data** (such as health indicators, educational outcomes, environmental measurements) which feed into a larger picture of SDG progress at the regional level. By partnering with NGOs and sharing project results, UPES contributes to datasets and case studies that global organizations can learn from. For instance, the **Project Abhilasha** and **Project Utthan** led by UPES (to coach marginalized students and develop smart villages, respectively) generate data on educational improvement and community development that align with SDG 4 and SDG 11 targets [2]. These efforts complement international SDG monitoring by providing grass-roots evidence of what works, thereby reinforcing UPES's role in the global partnership network for sustainable development.

International SDG-Focused Research Projects

Beyond formal partnerships, UPES engages in **research projects with international dimensions** that involve data gathering for SDG outcomes:

"Project UK" – Sustainable Development Collaboration

UPES launched **Project UK (India Sustainable Development and Research Collaboration)** as a network-building initiative to find solutions for sustainable development challenges. This project explicitly aims at *"building a network of experts to find sustainable solutions"*, beginning with **reviving and modernizing traditional watermills** in rural areas [2]. The effort involves experts possibly from both India and abroad (the name "Project UK" hints at Uttarakhand, but also subtly positions it as a model that could involve United Kingdom or other knowledge partners). By updating small watermills for rural income generation, this project addresses SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 7 (Clean Energy) in remote hill communities [2]. Crucially, it requires **collecting data on watermill efficiency, community earnings, and social impact** before and after interventions. Through its network of experts, UPES is collaborating (potentially with international researchers or organizations focused on rural technology) to monitor these data and scale the solution. This demonstrates UPES's commitment to *measuring SDG progress* in a collaborative, internationally-informed manner.

Environmental and Biodiversity Research

UPES contributes to conservation data and research that tie into global SDG indicators for life on land and water. It was a **contributing organization to the "Leopard Report 2018,"** a comprehensive status report on leopard populations released by the Government of India [2]. While this was a national effort, conserving biodiversity (SDG 15) has global significance, and such contributions mean UPES is involved in gathering wildlife data and developing mitigation strategies. Additionally, UPES has worked with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** – an internationally recognized institution – on designing measures to reduce dugong entanglement in fishing nets [2]. This project has an international conservation dimension (dugongs are endangered marine mammals, and data on their protection feeds into SDG 14: Life Below Water). By collaborating on wildlife research and sharing findings, UPES aids international conservation goals and data repositories (e.g., the IUCN Red List data or national wildlife databases that inform global metrics).

Global One Health & Pandemic Response

The earlier-mentioned One Health collaboration with German partners also aligns with international efforts to combat zoonoses and pandemics (relevant to SDG 3 and SDG 15). During the visit by Leipzig University professors, **joint discussions were held on addressing One Health issues in the Himalayas "with local community needs in mind"** [1]. This indicates that UPES and its international colleagues are focusing on research that gathers health, environment, and socioeconomic data to form a holistic understanding of issues like zoonotic disease transmission or wildlife-human interactions in a changing climate. Outcomes from this collaboration (such as datasets on disease prevalence in animals and humans, or environmental risk factors) would contribute to global SDG monitoring frameworks for health security and biodiversity conservation. Moreover, by strengthening research capacity (e.g., exchanges of PhD scholars as noted during the visit) [1], UPES ensures ongoing international data collaboration on these critical topics.

Monitoring and Evaluating SDG Impact

Through all the above projects, UPES demonstrates tangible involvement in **gathering and analyzing data for SDG indicators** alongside international partners. Whether it is measuring the increase in renewable energy use in villages (Project UK), assessing improvements in education and livelihoods (through NGO partnerships), or contributing research to UN-led programs (UNDP clean energy data), the university acts as a node in the global data ecosystem for sustainable development. UPES's faculty and students routinely participate in **joint research grants and publications with international co-authors** (a key metric of SDG 17). In fact, international collaboration is ingrained in the university's strategy – as a U.S. Embassy official observed during a campus visit, *"international collaboration has long been the focus of many institutions to increase the impact of research and the strength of students' education"* [1]. UPES exemplifies this by co-authoring research papers and sharing resources (datasets, equipment, expertise) across borders [1], thereby directly contributing to the global measurement and achievement of the SDGs.

Conclusion

In summary, UPES as an institution proactively engages in international collaborations that involve the collection, sharing, and application of data toward SDG progress. This is evidenced by a wide array of partnerships – from academic exchanges with universities on four continents (fueling research and student development), to joint initiatives with UN agencies, global corporations, and international NGOs targeting specific SDGs. These collaborations enable UPES to contribute to SDG data monitoring (for example, by providing research inputs to UNDP or tracking community development indicators in partnership projects) and to participate in the creation of global knowledge and best practices for sustainable development. By participating in such international networks and projects, UPES not only answers "yes" to the question of involvement in SDG data collaboration, but does so in a comprehensive manner. This robust engagement underpins UPES's aim for the highest grade in THE Impact Rankings – the university has demonstrated that through strategic global partnerships, it is

helping to *measure progress and drive action on the SDGs* [2] [1]. The spirit of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is clearly visible in UPES's endeavors, as the university works alongside international peers to mobilize knowledge, gather data, and accelerate sustainable development for a better world.

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