

# Spotlight on sustainable development



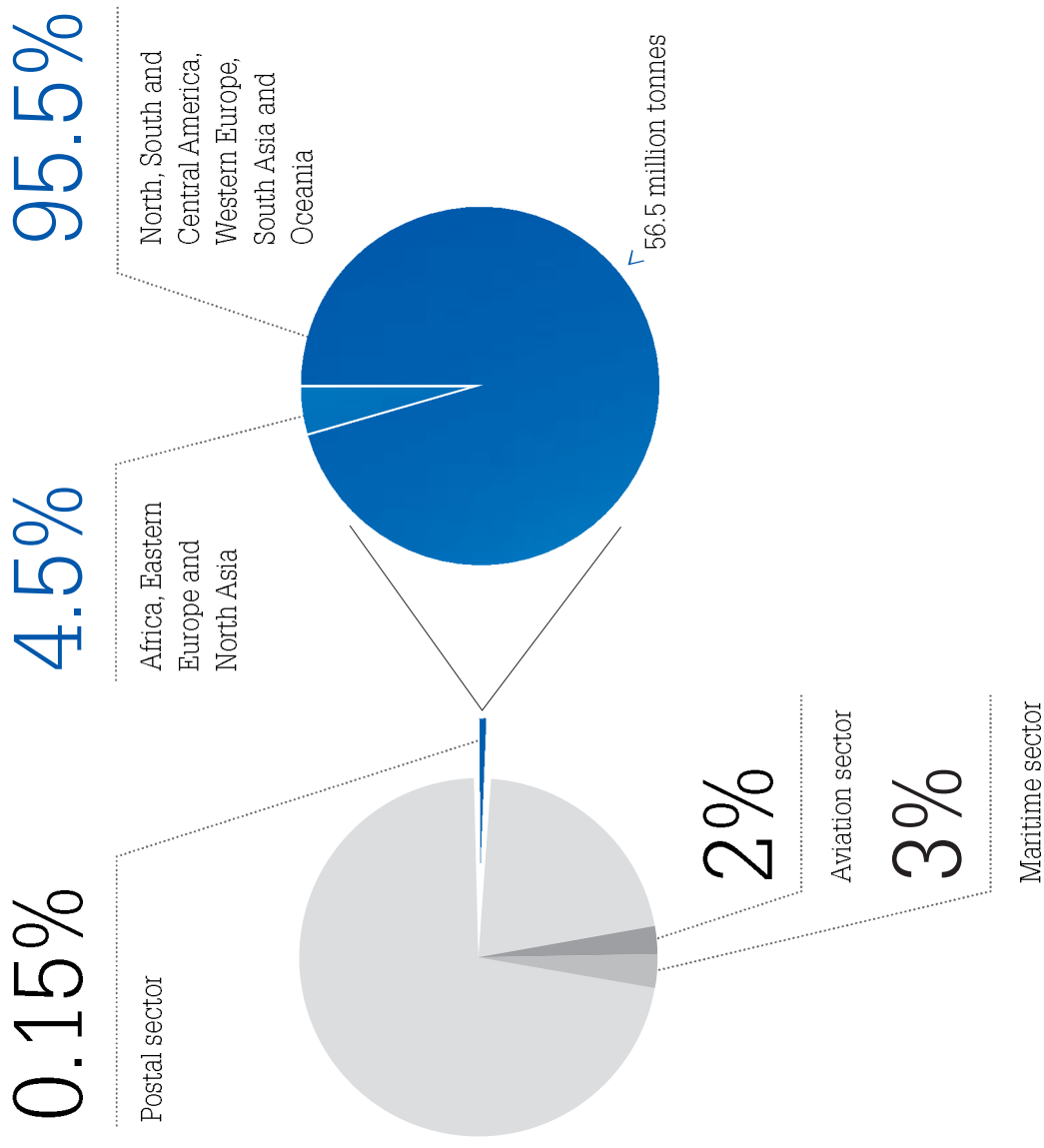
Posts across the world are facing up to their social and environmental responsibilities with the UPU helping them to assess their imprint on society and use of energy.

To help the postal sector minimize its greenhouse gas emissions, the UPU has been raising awareness of this matter since 2009. This includes training in the field and sharing best practices.

In 2012, the UPU conducted its annual emissions inventory for the third time. For the first time, the survey covered emissions from rail and sea transport. With 133 member countries responding, the results revealed that postal operators emit at least 56.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. Consequently, the postal sector is responsible for 0.15 per cent of the 38 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> generated worldwide annually. As a comparison, the maritime sector is responsible for some three per cent of total global emissions. The aviation sector accounts for some two per cent of the same.

**LEFT:**  
Sustainability greens the planet, Sapa, Viet Nam (UN Photo/Kibae Park)

Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2012 (Total: 38 billion tonnes)







During the Doha Congress, several resolutions on sustainable development were adopted, including continuing this area of activity. In another, Congress recommended that the UPU Postal Operations Council raise awareness of the benefits of a voluntary carbon offset mechanism. Another resolution recommended that the Council of Administration conduct a feasibility study on establishing a UPU policy on risk reduction. This policy could provide a framework for restoring basic postal services in times of disaster.



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Sustainable development  
at the UPU

» <http://www.upu.int/en/activities/sustainable-development/about-sustainable-development.html>

In 2012, the UPU also organized its third regional seminar on sustainable development for Asia-Pacific, where Posts exchanged best practices on social policies, waste management and fighting HIV/AIDS.

As for the UPU's own headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, sensitivity about its own carbon footprint has increased. Projects to renovate the building's facade and install a new lighting system led to lower energy bills: the International Bureau's electricity bill in 2012 was more than 100,000 USD less than in 2011.

**LEFT:**  
Posts, like Belgium's bpost, are using electric bikes to cut emissions (bpost)