



UN System-wide Collaboration on the Environment

**A Draft Synthesis Report on System-wide Contributions to the
Implementation of the Environmental Dimension in the
Sustainable Development Goals**

2016-2017

Acknowledgements

Foreword

By the Secretary-General of the UN

The 2030 Agenda represents the most ambitious global framework ever adopted by the United Nations for eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and ensuring environmentally sustainable growth. Its Goals and Targets respond to the needs of all peoples, while protecting the natural resources on which our societies and future generations depend. It is a universal agenda applicable to all countries, and the UN, as a global institution, plays a central role in supporting efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Yet, we all know that the UN system can do more to meet its full potential in this regard. There is more that we must do to coordinate our work and increase our accountability across the UN system. In the same way that the 2030 Agenda calls on all countries to advance more integrated approaches to advance sustainable development, the UN system, must also ensure that our own response is better coordinated, better aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and more effective at working seamlessly within and across sectors and specializations. This includes the need to fully integrating environmental sustainability into UN policies and programmes for sustainable development.

Our shared goal is a 21st century UN system that is focussed more on people, more on results, and more on integrated support to the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. The holistic nature of Sustainable Development calls for new and innovative forms of collaboration. This is precisely why Member States tasked the UN Environment Management Group with the creation of a UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment – in other words, getting the UN system together towards convergence in terms of environmental strategies.

This Synthesis Report is the outcome of two years of participatory and collaborative efforts by the 51 Member Agencies of the UN system that form the UN Environment Management Group. The objective of this consultative process and this Report is to illustrate what agencies of the UN system are already doing to integrate the environmental dimension of the sustainable development agenda into their strategies and programmes. It highlights examples of effective and efficient collaboration between and across diverse UN Agencies, while also identifying areas where more needs to be done.

This effort is not about what individual entities can do alone – it is about what we must do together to better support implementation of the transformative 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Repositioning the UN system to work more collaboratively and coherently for the environment is a shared responsibility in line with broader UN reform efforts.

Just as our founders looked into the future when they shaped and adopted the UN Charter, we too have a collective responsibility to invest in the United Nations of tomorrow if we are to rise up to the environmental and linked social and economic challenges of the 21st Century.

Only by working together as One UN, will our combined efforts with all partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals be successful.

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Executive Summary

The degree to which the underlying drivers of global environmental damage have been addressed remains largely inadequate. This is due in part to the scale of today's sustainability challenges, coupled with various societal factors and the failure of markets to reflect the value of environmental risks and opportunities, as well as demanding trade-offs between different interests and concerns in society. Furthermore, the integration of environmental concerns with the economic and social dimensions of policy is still incomplete.

However, the Rio+20 Conference and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, have embarked the UN system towards increased efforts among its agencies, funds, and programmes to integrate the environmental dimension of sustainable development at strategic and operational levels. This report surveys the 52 Member Agencies of the United Nations Environment Group in order to effectively map agency specific environmental actions, partnerships, and overall strategic trends. In essence this report hopes to be a tool for higher effectiveness and efficiency by highlighting good practices, leveraging data visualisations, and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

The data gathered from the UN System-wide Framework of Strategies Survey serves as the bedrock to this report and allows for the discernment of key trends within the UN system. Among these, agencies show an ongoing alignment to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the strategic level.

In addition, several agencies reported to have explicitly aligned their programmes to the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically with targets and indicators that are within the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. However, in some cases performance frameworks are tailored to specific mandates which have been carefully crafted by the respective agencies and governing bodies.

Member Agencies also highlighted that nexus issues and partnerships are at the core of successfully addressing the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The strategic importance and challenge of a successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs by Member States has fostered new multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration within the UN system. The Nexus approach has proven useful to integrated policy-making and has driven the inclusion of recommendations on cross-sector collaboration and nexus opportunities for Member Agencies in this report.

In the context of the proposal made by the Secretary-General to "reposition the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda", Member Agencies recognize that mainstreaming their normative and programmatic work into national plans and strategies provides both a major opportunity and challenge.

Moreover, Member Agencies recognize the importance of properly tracking progress towards SDG implementation. Monitoring and review of agencies' impact seems to be a main area of concern. This can be explained by a lack of standardized performance indicators and because agencies are inclined to align their strategic-plans to relevant SDGs and respective targets on an ad-hoc and uncoordinated manner. Practical evidence of this can be the lack of reported collaboration and action across SDGs 6, 7, 11, 14, and 15. Taking this into account, this report issues recommendations across seven thematic areas of opportunity: Climate Change; Biodiversity; Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste; Water Security; Energy; Soil, Land, Land Degradation, Desertification; and Oceans.

The findings and data visualisations featured in this report point to three main areas where the Environment Management Group can continue to be helpful to Member Agencies: policy integration, information sharing, and capacity-building. Specifically, Member Agencies endorse and recommend the EMG to continue to foster discussion and information exchange among its Member Agencies through the System-wide Framework of Strategies and EMG Nexus Dialogues.

In closing, seems to be consensus among agencies that the proper and delicate balance between comparative advantage and coherence-driven cooperation will prove key to the efficient and effective role of the UN system in delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. This in turn will bring higher transparency and accountability, and may result in higher buy-in and subsequent increases in UN financing from stakeholders. This report is drafted in the context of UN reform to help foster collaboration and eventual convergence in environmental strategies within the UN system.

I. Introduction and Background

2.1 Introduction

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has set a universal strategic framework for sustainable development with the promise of leaving no one behind. The inherent philosophy behind Agenda 2030 is one of complex thinking, where interdependent issues are seen as an indivisible set of goals to be reached through an integrated approach.¹

Member States described the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the preamble of Agenda 2030 as: "...to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations."² Hence, goals focusing on the environmental dimension are primarily but not limited to: **SDG 6- targets 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6a, 6.b**; **SDG 7, SDG 11-targets 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.6, 11.7, 11.b, 11.c**; **SDG 12**; **SDG 13**; **SDG 14**; **SDG 15**. Other sustainable development goals also feature specific targets that address the environmental dimension such as Goal 1- target 1.5; Goal 2- targets 2.4, 2.5; Goal 3- target 3.9, Goal 4- target 4.7, Goal 8- target 8.4; Goal 9- target 9.1, 9.2, 9.4; 9.a, 9.b; Goal 17- target 17.7, 17.9, 17.15, 17.8, 17.19. However, given the context and complexity of the 2030 Agenda, it is safe to affirm that investing in environmental issues has a multiplier effect and brings dividends across all the goals.

Environmental activities have become an increasingly integral component of the work of the UN system as a whole, reflecting both the intrinsic links of environmental matters to a broad range of issues, as well as the growing importance attributed to the environment by Member States through the governing bodies of the UN system. The associated mandates range from setting international environmental norms and standards, to providing policy and programme support and capacity building to Member States, to integrating environmental sustainability into the operational activities of the UN.

While there have been successful cases of UN system-wide global approaches and strategies on the environment, coherent implementation of these strategies has in some cases remained a challenge due to issues such as specific mandates, differing policy priorities and lack of a robust framework for collaboration. This reality has become evident to Member States via formal review mechanisms of the United Nations and UN reform has been identified as a strategic priority to address these issues and better align the UN system with the 2030 Agenda.³ The UN Secretary-General has responded to the request of UN reform by Member States and has identified efforts to shift from fragmentation to coherence, improving overall effectiveness of the UN System. Another key area highlighted by the Secretary-General is faster and more agile response from the UN in serving people and planet.⁴ This means working towards a more efficient UN system. The importance of this endeavour is underpinned by the urgency to improve peoples' lives worldwide leaving no one behind and to ensure the wellbeing of future generations.

2.2 Background

In the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, "The Future We Want", Member States reaffirmed the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development.⁵ This would help to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the UN system. Particularly with regard to strengthening the environmental pillar, Member States urged the UN system to enhance coordination, coherence and effectiveness of its efforts through system-wide strategies on the environment.

Consistent with this call, the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in June 2014 in its Resolution 1/11 and in line with paragraph 88 (c) of the Rio+20 outcome document, requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to "develop system-wide strategies on the environment" mainly through a consultative process within the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) and to invite the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels".⁶

In response to that, a [System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment \(SWFS\)](#) was prepared through a Consultative Process under the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) as a collaborative framework to achieve greater synergy, collaboration and coherence in the UN system's work on the environment to support Member States in the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The main objectives of the SWFS include:

“Objective 1:

Enhance cooperation and collaboration across the UN system on environment in support of implementing the 2030 Agenda, by identifying the steps taken by individual UN Organisations to deepen the consistency of their strategies and activities with the 2030 Agenda, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as by facilitating a structured and timely exchange of relevant knowledge and information.

Objective 2:

Strengthen the UN systems’ capacity and synergies to enhance integration of the environment dimension of the 2030 Agenda by, inter alia, drawing on the experiences of others, exchanging good policy and practice, leveraging the research and data systems of UN system entities, and identifying new opportunities for cooperation.”⁷

Following endorsement by the Senior Officials of the EMG in March 2016, the Framework was presented to the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in April 2016. The CEB took note of the Framework as an important tool for the UN system to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing a flexible approach to achieving greater synergy and collaboration in the area of the environment. CEB members were encouraged by the UN Secretary General to support the implementation of the Framework in their respective organizations.

As a standing practice and one of the actions under the SWFS, Senior Officials of the EMG agreed at their 23rd meeting in September 2016 to provide an annual Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Framework. This report is the first edition of the SWFS Synthesis Reports for consideration of the 23rd meeting of the Senior Officials in September 2017 and submission to the third session of the UNEA in December 2017.⁸

2.3 About this Report

This report is the result of a mapping exercise to identify good practice and existing partnerships among Member Agencies in the area of the environment. While it features data submitted by 31 EMG Member Agencies, this report is by no means comprehensive, but rather illustrative. It is the result of a two year participatory and collaborative process that aims to foster greater synergy, collaboration and coherence in the UN system’s work on the environment. This work pertains to supporting Member States in the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This exercise is part of the UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) described above.

2.3.1 Specific Objectives

This Synthesis Report offers examples of how individual agencies are aligning their organisational strategies with the environmental dimension of the SDGs; examples of how the United Nations and stakeholders are collaborating on the environmental areas of the SDGs; and areas where there are opportunities for scaling up and/or strengthening coordination in existing or new environmental areas of the SDGs.

The specific purpose of this report is to help agencies communicate their efforts within the environmental dimension of sustainable development, across institutional silos. This information exchange and the identification of areas where there is room to improve is meant to strengthen or identify new areas of collaboration on the environment. This may ultimately lead to common approaches and strategies on the environment in the long-term. Simultaneously, this mapping exercise can allow agencies to better fine-tune their organisational scope in the context of UN reform and provide guidelines to the Environment Management Group regarding its strategic focus.

2.3.2 Audience

This Synthesis Report will be useful to Member Agencies, Member States, and the general audience looking to identify pertinent opportunities to address overlooked areas of work in an ever-changing global environment. This exercise is also well aligned and contributes to the ongoing efforts to reform the UN system to better deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

II. SWFS Survey Results and Analysis

This section provides the results of the first UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) Survey to Member Agencies of the Environment Management Group. It is the interpretation of qualitative data gathered from 31 Member Agencies and it is complemented by cited references. This type of analysis is by no means comprehensive, but rather an illustrative way to present the findings of the survey submissions by Member Agencies. For the purpose of transparency and data integrity, this synthesis report includes illustrative tables showing excerpts of the submissions by Member Agency in support of the overview of findings and the key messages that can be drawn from the qualitative dataset. This dataset was cross-referenced and complemented in some cases by agency specific communications and strategic documents. The main areas highlighted are internal organisational changes and partnerships across Member Agencies.

2.1. Overview of Survey Results

2.1.1 Individual Agency Initiatives

Member Agencies have reported of their efforts in aligning with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the strategic level. Most Member Agencies have recently launched or are in the process of launching new strategic plans, and report the integration of environmental sustainability as an integral part to the 2030 Agenda and SDG framework. Some agencies report doing this a priori, by incorporating the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development into their strategic plans, when drafted before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹ This can be seen as evidence of early success of the 2030 Agenda in fostering strategic coherence across the UN system. Examples of the integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development into strategic plans of Member Agencies can also be clear evidence of the general understanding that individual mandates, regardless of their focus, are inherently dependent on the success of environmental sustainability.

With respect to more specific objectives represented by programmatic agendas, agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Department of Field Support (DFS), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and UN Environment (UNEP) report to have explicitly aligned to the environmental dimension of the SDG framework, specifically with targets and indicators as seen on [table 2.3](#). For example, FAO has identified primary responsibility for 21 SDG indicators within SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, and sees itself as a contributing agency for five additional indicators in SDGs 1, 2, 15 and 15. In addition, FAO also recognizes that its work contributes to the attainment of all the SDGs. Furthermore, IFAD frames its food security work within the Integrated Approach Programme GEF/IFAD + FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, WB (2016-2021) directly and indirectly contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13 and 15.

Agencies with strategic plans predating the launch of the 2030 Agenda, which include IMO, ILO, OHCHR, UN-Habitat, UNCCD, UNDP, nevertheless report to be operating under the same overarching principles, which recognize the inter-connectivity between social, environmental, and economic issues. For example, UNDP's Strategic Plan (2014-2017), adopted in 2013, and recognizes the need to ensure greater links between environmental sustainability, poverty eradication, inclusive growth, governance, resilience, and gender equality. Hence, UNDP's Strategic Plan integrates environmental priorities across its seven Outcomes and has been complemented by a global integrated results framework (IRRF) with targets and indicators through 2017.¹⁰ UNDP also reports alignment of their new Strategic Plan (2018-2021) with the SDGs. Another example is UNCCD's new Strategic Plan (2018-2030), which aims to adopt a new organizing principle focused on achieving land degradation neutrality as stated in SDG target 15.3. OHCHR's 2014-2017 strategic plan also addresses a number of environmental issues which are directly relevant to achieving the High Commissioner's mandate including the rights to health, water, food, housing, culture, etc., which are recognized by the Human Rights Council to rely both directly and indirectly on a healthy environment. Furthermore, the ILO programme and budget (2018-19) proposal includes a just transition to environmental sustainability in the world of work as a cross-cutting policy driver of fundamental and permanent significance across the Decent Work Agenda. Here it is also worth highlighting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, both Bretton Woods Institutions with specific mandates and governance structures that have also integrated climate change and overall environmental sustainability as a core part of their mandates. This is evidence of a general notion, across the UN system and its different governance structures that recognizes the advancement of specific mandates as being underpinned by environmental sustainability.

It is worth noting that while the 2030 Agenda and SDGs have allowed for a common strategic framework for the UN system, there is still work to be done in terms of specific follow-up and review mechanisms regarding sustainable development outcomes. The main reason for this may be found at broader institutional levels where a multiplicity of governance mechanisms and comparative advantages underscore a clear tradeoff when it comes to coherence, cooperation, and standardized performance frameworks. According to the UN Statistical Commission, “a robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders.”¹¹ Agencies have identified the SWFS as a way to collaborate towards a coherent follow-up and review of environmental sustainability.

2.1.2 Partnership Initiatives

Beyond the aforementioned challenges, agencies report that nexus issues and partnerships are at the core of successfully addressing the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development. The environment-health nexus is one example that has been identified by the **UN Environment-WHO partnership**. This partnership can serve as evidence of WHO’s strategic commitment to environmental sustainability and UN Environment’s acknowledgment of WHO’s expertise as crucial to its own mandate. This partnership resulted from increased interaction triggered by Agenda 2030 between UN Environment and WHO. The result has avoided duplication of work and brought a new meaning to the imperative of a healthy environment to improved health outcomes. Here UN Environment’s expertise proved useful to WHO in identifying the root causes of several health maladies.

Another example is the **UNCHR-UNICEF-UNFCCC partnership** addressing the climate-migration nexus in accordance to normative guidance by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This partnership focuses on migration by looking at climate as one of the main root causes. It combines the overarching knowledge and expertise of UNFCCC in climate change and its implications, with humanitarian know-how from UNCHR, and development and communication resources by UNICEF focusing on the most vulnerable migrants. It is a successful partnership because it effectively allows for the integration of environmental sustainability into solving the specific humanitarian issue of forced migration.

UN Water, UN Oceans, and Sustainable Energy 4 All, are further examples of UN system collaboration on crosscutting issues. The nexus approach has proven to be prevalent in successful partnerships, where two agencies find common ground for collaboration at the intersection of diverse and specific expertise or focus, see [tables 2.5](#) and [2.6](#). For this approach to be implemented, there first needs to be a disposition to recognize agency-inherent limitations and the proper identification of know-how across the UN system. Here knowledge management and mapping are key areas where the UN system can vastly improve. As can be observed across the analysis of this report, there is also a clear understanding about the challenge that is for Member Agencies to implement SDGs on their own. Furthermore, there is also an understanding that partnerships and collaboration, as opposed to competition and overlapping, are not a zero-sum game. On the contrary, a more relevant theory would be the theory of specialization where Member Agencies, working together, can benefit from each other’s respective specialized know-how and capabilities in order to increase productivity and impact of outcomes and avoid duplication.

The strategic importance and challenge of successfully mainstreaming the normative and programmatic work of each Member Agency into national plans and strategies for the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs has also fostered multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration. The mainstreaming of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda has been repeatedly identified as a key performance indicator to the work of the UN system and as one of the biggest challenges according to the SWFS survey. Mainstreaming environmental sustainability however does not appear to be a straight forward exercise, but rather a very intricate business. Flexible bottom-up approaches, respecting country sovereignty in determining policy priorities and UN agency actions have guiding UN system’s support for Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It has also been underscored, that for the successful implementation of the SDGs, all stakeholders would need to do their share, and UN agencies seem to be living up to the challenge. In this sense, Member Agencies have reported broad partnerships which also include civil society, academia, and the private sector. This is not to say that there are no gaps, or areas where efficiency and effectiveness can be improved, but rather that there are positive indications that the UN system is moving in the right direction when it comes to delivering on the environment.

More can be done however in terms of monitoring and accountability within and across Member Agencies with regards to organizational and partnerships impact. The lack of proper monitoring and accountability can lead to the

failed partnerships and strain collaboration across the UN system. If there is no proper monitoring, it is difficult to establish accountability and determine proper feedback regarding positive and negative impacts. This in turn may discourage agencies from working together, and also discourage Member States to increase support and financing to the UN's work on environmental sustainability.

2.1.3. Key Trends within UN System

This section provides the key trends and findings from the responses by participating UN organisations to the SWFS survey. For detailed results on Individual Agency Initiatives, see [section 2.3](#). For detailed survey methodology and results see [ANNEX1](#).

- 1. An ongoing alignment to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was reported by most Member Agencies at the strategic level.** Most agencies have recently launched or are in the process of launching new strategic plans, and report adherence to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs framework, e.g. , DFS, FAO, IFAD, UNHCR, UN Environment, and WFP. Some agencies report doing this a priori, by incorporating the environmental dimension of sustainable development into their strategic plans, when drafted before A/RES/70/1, e.g. UNDP, IMO, ILO, UN-Habitat, UNCCD, OHCHR, among others.
- 2. Several agencies reported to have explicitly aligned their programmes to the SDG framework, specifically with targets and indicators that are within the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.** Some examples are FAO, WFP, IFAD, DFS, UNHCR and UN Environment. Agencies with strategic plans predating the launch of the 2030 Agenda, nevertheless reported to be operating under the same overarching principles, which recognize the inter-connectivity between social, environmental, and economic issues, e.g. IMO, ILO, UN-Habitat, UNCCD, UNDP, OHCHR, IOM. However, in some cases performance frameworks are tailored to specific mandates which have been carefully crafted by the respective agencies and governing bodies, e.g. World Bank, IMF, WTO.
- 3. Nexus issues and partnerships are at the core of successfully addressing the environmental dimension of sustainable development.** The strategic importance and challenge of successfully mainstreaming the normative and programmatic work of each Member Agency into national plans and strategies for the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs by Member States has fostered new multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration. Some examples of nexus issues reported by Member Agencies are the environment-health nexus (UN Environment- WHO), the climate-migration nexus (IOM-UNFCCC- OHCHR- UNHCR-UNICEF), poverty-environment nexus (UNDP-UN Environment), and the cities-environment nexus (UN-Habitat-UN Environment-UNDP-ILO-UNESCO).
- 4. Mainstreaming the normative and programmatic work of each Member Agency into national plans and strategies for the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 by Member States provides both an opportunity and challenge for the Agencies.** In the context of the proposal made by the Secretary-General to “reposition the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda” Member Agencies have a timely opportunity to engage more actively with strengthened UN Country Teams and UN Development Assistance Frameworks to deliver on the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- 5. The importance of properly tracking progress towards SDG implementation is highlighted by many agencies.** Monitoring and review of agencies impact seems to be of concern to most participating agencies, because indicators are not standardized and agencies tend to align their strategic-plans to relevant SDGs and respective targets on an ad-hoc and uncoordinated manner.
- 6. A clear call to UNEMG SWFS Process and Nexus Dialogues to continue to foster discussion and information exchange among its Member Agencies.** Continue ongoing reporting of progress of interagency and collaborative efforts and best practices, and to present findings at different inter-agency fora. A clear call to implement efficient and effective knowledge management tools for mapping and dissemination of system-wide efforts on the environment.

2.3. Individual Agency Initiatives

The following table is a representation of the organisational changes UN entities are undertaking to better respond and align their activities to the environment dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The table draws data submitted by EMG Member agencies via the SWFS Survey. In some cases the data was missing or could not be verified. In terms of the strategic alignment, this representation is not exhaustive. The main messages from this dataset is highlighted in the preceding sections. The inclusion of this and further tables and visualisations serves both the purpose of transparency and ease of data consumption.

Organisational Changes in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs

AGENCY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS	FUNDING ALLOCATION
BRS-MEAS- Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	YES SDGs 12.4, 12.5	The Budget Activity Fact Sheets have been revised to indicate how proposed activities contribute to the 2030 Agenda.	Adjustments have been considered for the 2018-2019 biennium and subject to the approval by Parties to the Conventions.
DESA- Department for Economic and Social Affairs	YES SDG 17	Annual sessions of the High level political forum on SD; SDGs/SD partnerships platforms, ECESA Plus; SG Reports.	N/A
DFS- Department of Field Support	YES 3.9, 4.7, 6.1-6.4, 7.2, 7.3, 9.4, 9.a, 11.2, 11.4, 11.7, 11.b, 12.2-12.5, 13.2, 13.3, 15.1, 15.5, 15.7, 15.8, 17.18, 17.19.	Scorecard-based environmental performance management of the field missions.	Budget allocation is related to mandates to reduce the missions' environmental impact.
FAO- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN	YES SDGs 2.4, 2.5, 6.4, 12.1, 12.3, 12.5, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 15.3, 15.6	Strategic Objectives aligned with SDG targets and indicators.	Changes to consolidate the headquarters' structure so as to elevate and strengthen FAO's work on climate change, SDGs and statistics require a cost of USD 1.86 million, which will be covered by savings arising during 2016-17 from streamlining of administrative services. Therefore, the structural changes are budget neutral, that is, they are accommodated within the approved 2016-17 budgetary appropriation and do not require additional resources, and therefore are within the authority of Council to approve.
ICAO- International Civil Aviation Organisation	YES SDGs 3.9, 12.a, 12.5, 13, 15.b, SDG 17	Strategic Framework 2016-2025 explicitly builds on the SDGs. ICAO's current five Strategic Objectives contribute to 13 out of the 17 SDGs, among which the ICAO's Environmental work programme contributes to 10 SDGs.	N/A
IFAD- International Fund for Agricultural Development	YES SDGs 2.4, 2.5, 6.4, 12.1, 12.3, 12.5, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 15.3, 15.6	Strategic Objectives and related activities are linked to relevant SDGs	All IFAD investments will mainstream climate change by 2018. IFAD has formulated a 10-point climate mainstreaming plan to enhance climate resilience and environmental sustainability across all IFAD country strategies and investments.

Organisational Changes in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs

AGENCY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS	FUNDING ALLOCATION
<i>ILO- International Labour Organisation</i>	In progress	Environmental Sustainability Action Plan for 2016-2017 has been adopted	Funding allocation for environment-related activities is undertaken by concerned departments and field offices within their budget provisions. Specific funds for activities related to the environmental dimension of the SDGs are being explored.
<i>IMF- International Monetary Fund</i>	NO	Informal Board meetings on IMF work on climate change held in September and November 2015. Managing Director's Statement on the Role of the Fund in Addressing Climate Change.	N/A
<i>IMO- International Maritime Organisation</i>	In progress	Development of the Strategic Directions for the 2018-2023 period	This work is still in progress as part of the development of the Strategic Directions for the 2018-2023 period.
<i>IOM- International Organisation for Migration</i>	YES SDG 10.7	The institutional Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) strategic objectives are directly contributing to SDG targets.	N/A.
<i>ITU- International Telecommunication Union</i>	YES SDG 17	ITU is working to incorporate all three pillars of sustainable development into its strategic vision 'to connect the world through universal and affordable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs).	Investment in a global platform for all smart city stakeholders to exchange knowledge, identify polices, develop international standards, and participate in the development of key performance indicators (KPIs).
<i>OCHA- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</i>	NO	Environmental Emergency Risk Index (EERI)	No adjustments in funding allocation with a view to contribute to the environmental dimension of the SDGs. In contrast, a P3 post in the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit was cut at the end of 2016 as part of broad budget cuts for OCHA.
<i>OHCHR- The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</i>	In progress	The four year plan was adopted in 2014 before the SDGs and focuses on Human Rights, however there are inherent links to SDGs. For example the human right to access clean water and sanitation (SDG 6).	N/A
<i>Ozone Secretariat - UN Environment</i>	YES SDGs 3.9, 12, 13, 17	The ozone layer has been addressed via the MDGs and has been one of the most successful indicators at that time. The Ozone Treaties also contribute to SDGs primarily 3, 12, 13 and 17 as well as 1, 2, 9, 12, 14 and 15. These goals have been inherently embedded in the Treaties' mandate.	N/A
<i>UN Environment</i>	YES SDGs 6.3, 6.6, 7, 11.4, 11.6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17	The medium-term strategy of UN Environment provides a long-term perspective (through outcomes mapped to 2030, with a strategic focus on the 2018–2021 period); the programmes of work 2016-2017 and 2018–2019 provide detailed elements of what UN Environment will deliver and how performance will be measured for the	The last biennial programme of work clearly reflects alignment to the 2030 agenda. More specifically, the medium-term strategy document summary explains how funding allocations changed in response to the SDGs. The newly created SDG Data and Information Unit has mobilized 1.9 million (from the UNDA) for implementation of project 732.1 and

Organisational Changes in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs

AGENCY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS	FUNDING ALLOCATION
		first half of the period covered by the medium-term strategy.	UN Environment has additional funding application related to 732.1 that is expected to get funded this year (one grant from the European Commission for 1.6m and another two UNDA projects which are collaborations between other UN Environment Divisions which would total to around 0.5m). Commitment on a new joint UNDP - UN Environment poverty and environment mainstreaming project from 2018 onwards, building on from the Poverty-Environment Initiative.
UN Women	YES SDGs 2.4, 2.5, 7, 13	World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development.	UN Women has established two flagship programmes on Climate Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Energy in response to the 2030 Agenda and is actively looking for funding for the flagship programmes mentioned above.
UNCCD- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	YES SDG 15.3	UNCCD's new strategic plan (2018-2030) will incorporate specific indicators directly aligned with SDG targets, for example, SDG 15.3 on land degradation neutrality.	N/A
UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	No	One particular example is UNCTAD's work on fisheries under SDG 14, where it is producing publications and organising events, with the purpose of fostering debate and developing specific policy options and novel ideas.	The Trade and Environment Branch has already been working for many years to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to formulate and implement mutually supportive trade, environment and sustainable development objectives; integrate sustainable development and poverty reduction objectives in development strategies at all levels, including the need to address climate change implications inter alia by promoting climate-friendly trade and production strategies including in green sectors; and support the effective participation of developing countries in international deliberations on trade and environment and SDGs.
UNDP- United Nations Development Programme	YES SDGs 2.4, 2.5, 6.3, 6.6, 7, 11.4, 11.6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17	Integrated Results Framework (IRRF) with targets and indicators through 2017, including new environmental and SD results definitions.	UNDP core and non-core funding are aligned with the environmental dimensions of the Strategic Plan.
UNECE- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	YES SDGs 17	The new strategic plan 2018-2021 contains Goal area 4 on "a safe and clean environment for children" incorporating specific climate and environment-related indicators.	Adjustments to funding allocation with a view to contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs are foreseen in the UNECE Budget 2018-2019, which is currently under preparation.

Organisational Changes in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs

AGENCY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS	FUNDING ALLOCATION
UNESCAP- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	YES SDG 17	The Strategic Framework 2018-2019, which is still under discussion, includes reference to environmental sustainability.	N/A
UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Technical Organisation	YES SDGs 13, 14.3	Indicator framework based on Agenda 2030 and internal indicators developed by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.	N/A
UN-Habitat	In progress	Strategic Plan 2014-19 is being revised in order to adjust some performance indicators, revisit outputs and add the SDG framework.	UN-Habitat developed specific work programmes for the current biennium, but the agency is striving to make adjustments in order to reflect new mandates and conditions - including financial constraints.
UNHCR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	In progress	Framework for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Environment in refugee-related operations, or FRAME.	UNHCR has expanded its work on climate change (SDG 13), which has implications for increased funding. However, all work on climate change is currently funded by additional (not core) funding of UNHCR, through external donors.
UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund	YES SDGs 6, 7, 13	No revisions are made to the results framework.	In 2016, two P4 positions related to environment have been created in the headquarters, and two regional level P5 positions are being created. These are all related to programmes. Activity budget has also been increased.
UNODC- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	YES SDG 15.7	Mainstreamed wildlife and forest crime into the work of the Division for Operations	UNODC's Global Programme has mobilized and continues to mobilize funds from donors to implement project activities.
UNOPS- United Nations Office for Project Services	YES SDGs 13, 17	Reports on sustainability according to the Global Reporting Initiative approach.	In terms of environmental sustainability in operations, significant budget is being mobilized to support this across the organization.
UNU- United Nations University VIE SCYCLE	NO	UNU-IAS organised a two-day workshop in May 2016 (at UNU-EHS in Bonn) that brought together 21 researchers from across the global UNU system to discuss how to maximise the value and impact of UNU's work on the SDGs.	N/A
The World Bank	YES SDGs 13, 17	World Bank action plan for climate change recognizes the need to manage SDGs and climate objectives together in an integrated way - in its development and growth strategy. The World Bank Systematic Country Diagnostics pays particular attention to data relevant for monitoring development goals related to the World Bank and the SDGs.	International Development Association Country Policy & Institutional Assessment requires assessment of: policy of social inclusion and equity, public sector management including related to environmental policies. This is similarly applied through International Bank for Reconstruction and Development assessments. In addition, the World Bank Group is leveraging private sector, domestic, and foreign resources for investment in programs, projects, and various mechanisms that reduce risks and

Organisational Changes in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs

AGENCY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORKS	FUNDING ALLOCATION
WFP- World Food Programme	YES SDGs 2.4, 2.5, 6.4, 12.1, 12.3, 12.5, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 15.3, 15.6	WFP's corporate results framework in full alignment with 2030 Agenda.	operational cost for the private sector. Internally, a Vice President has been designated Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda. All sustainability related topics have been consolidated under 1 Sustainable Development Agenda The World Bank also committed to 28% of climate co-benefits in the World Bank Group financing. WFP anticipates that additional investments will be needed to adequately mainstream environmental screening and Environment Management Systems rollout. At the same time, many resource efficiency activities and programmatic interventions are expected to yield financial savings as well as reduce environmental risks/ optimize outcomes.
WHO- World Health Organisation	YES SDGs 3.9, 6.1, 11.6, 13.1, 17	Health and Environment Linkages Initiative	N/A
WTO- World Trade Organisation	YES SDGs 2.4, 14, 17	WTO members are discussing how trade and the WTO can contribute to a number of important areas related to the environmental dimension of the SDGs. Discussions take place in the context of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) 10-point work program, as well as under specific environment-related aspects of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Among these, it is worth noting the on-going negotiations to regulate fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing (SDG 14.6).	The Trade and Environment Division (TED) of the WTO Secretariat support WTO Members in their discussions in the CTE. TED also develops partnerships and is in continuous contact with relevant stakeholders, including MEA Secretariats and other UN institutions, to further develop the mutual understanding of the relationship between trade and environment and how trade can support the achievement of SDGs. TED also provides technical assistance for WTO Members with an aim to enhance their domestic coordination, better their understanding of trade rules and environmental protection and help them harness the potential for mutually supportive solutions.

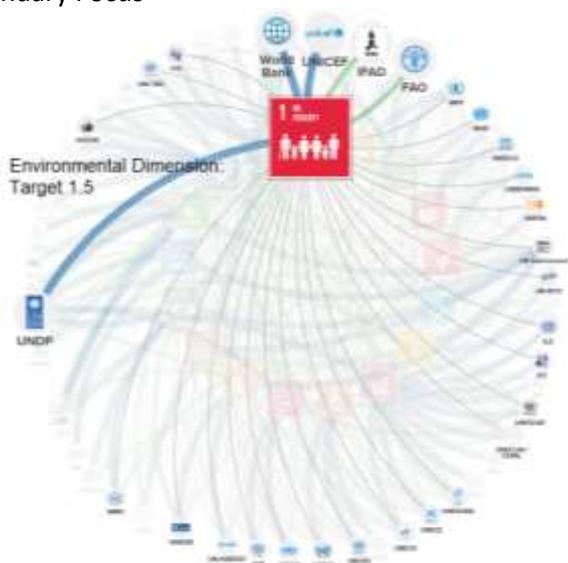
2.4. EMG Member Agencies' Primary and Secondary Focus

This series of visualisations are a visual representation of EMG Members' primary and secondary focus with respect to each SDG. ¹² The following tool allows the reader to clearly visualise which agencies are identified to be working primarily or secondarily on each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Each SDG is represented in a clockwise circumscribed circle and mapped against the 51 Member Agencies of the Environment Management Group, also aligned in an outer circle. This exercise is based on the submission of data by Member Agencies beyond the SWFS Survey. This tool references agency specific communications and materials, including preliminary System-wide mappings of the UN Development System commissioned by UN leadership in June 2017. ¹³ These visualisations are not exhaustive, they are accessible online and are updated as new information becomes available. Analysis of these visualisations allowed for the mapping of thematic areas of opportunities on [section 3.2](#).

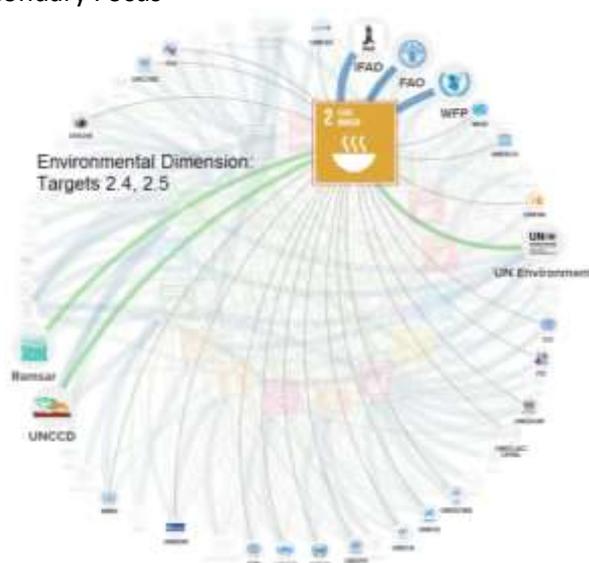
EMG Member's Primary and Secondary SDG Focus Area

- Primary SDG Focus Area
- Secondary SDG Focus Area
- System-wide Mappings

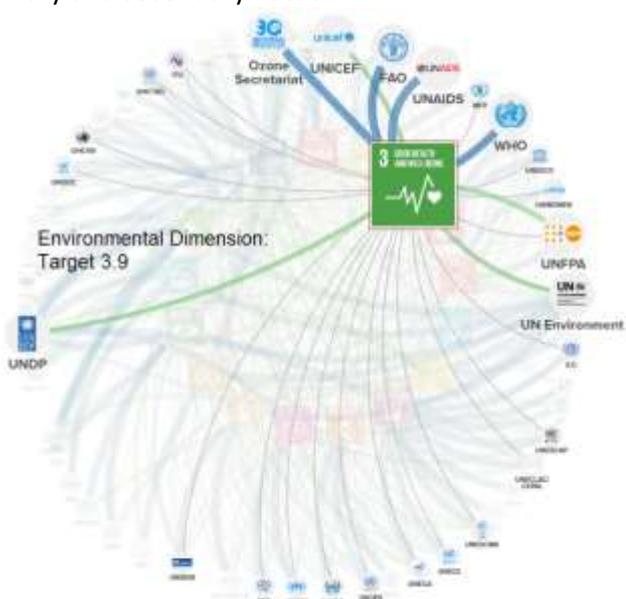
SDG1-No Poverty: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



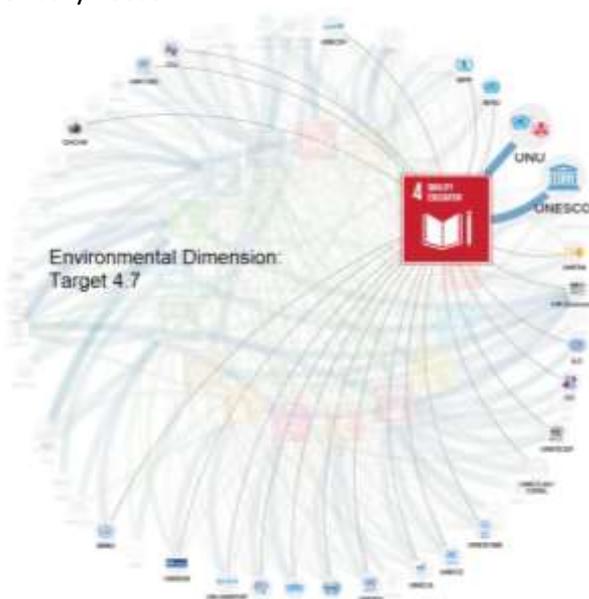
SDG2-Zero Hunger: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



SDG3-Good Health and Wellbeing: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



SDG4-Quality Education: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus

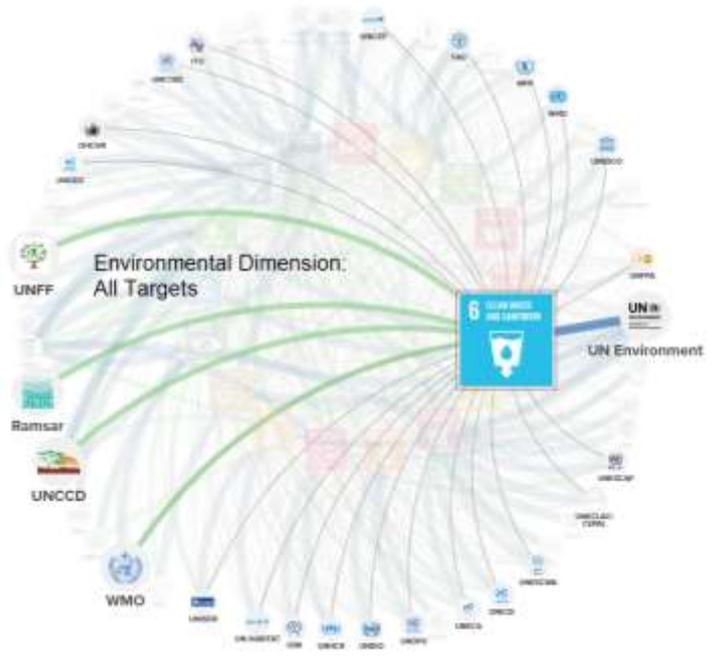
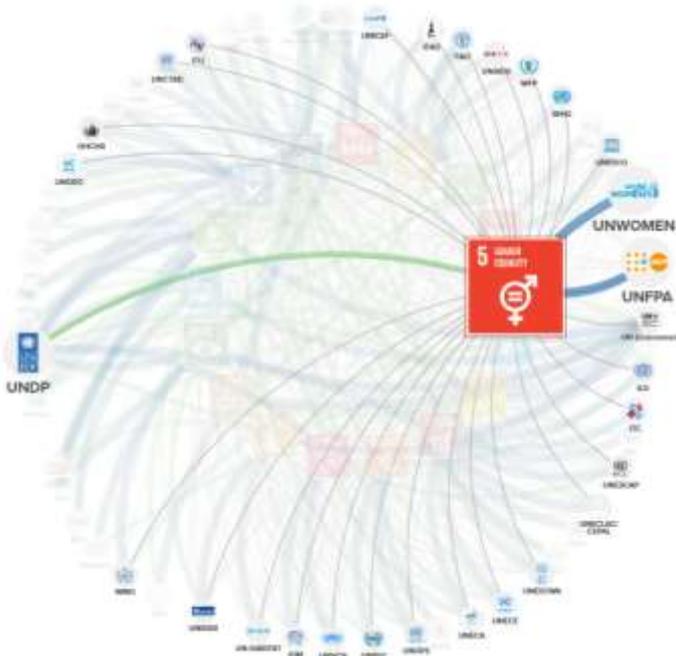


EMG Member's Primary and Secondary SDG Focus Area

- Primary SDG Focus Area
- Secondary SDG Focus Area
- System-wide Mappings

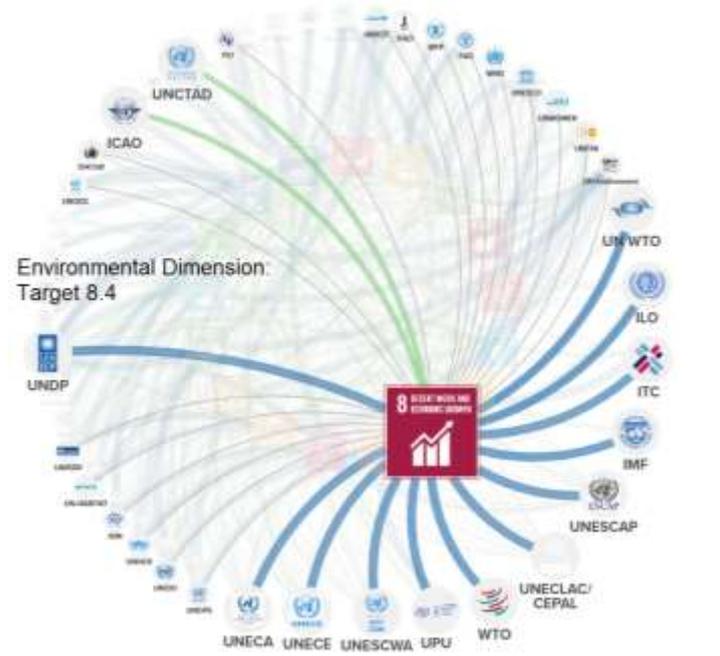
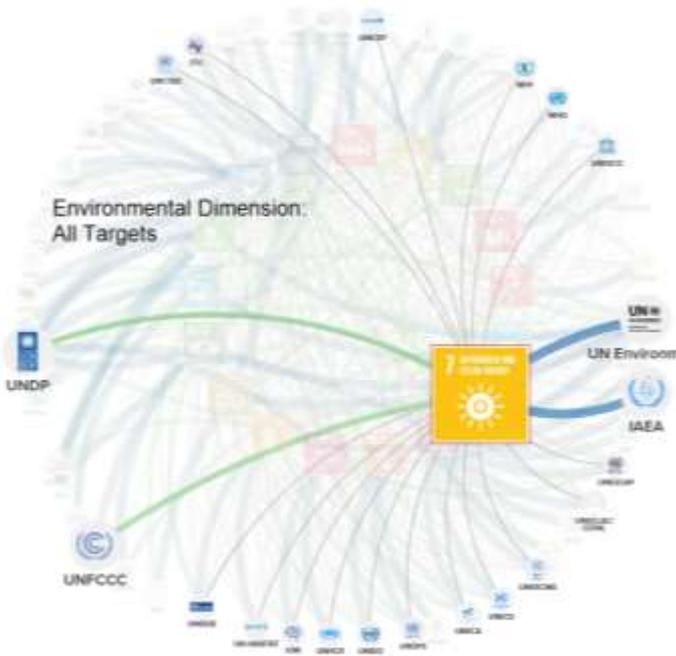
SDG5-Gender Equality: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus

SDG6-Clean Water and Sanitation: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



SDG7-Affordable and Clean Energy: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus

SDG8-Decent Work and Economic Growth: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



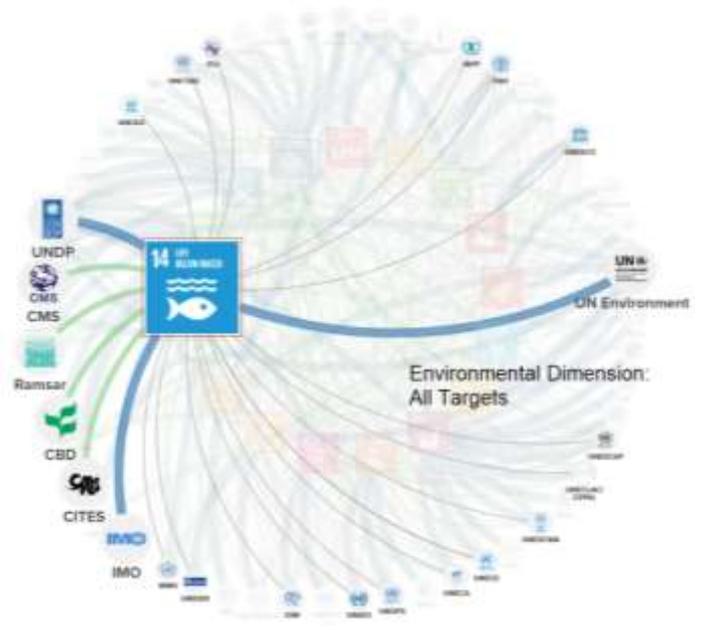
EMG Member's Primary and Secondary SDG Focus Area

- Primary SDG Focus Area
- Secondary SDG Focus Area
- System-wide Mappings

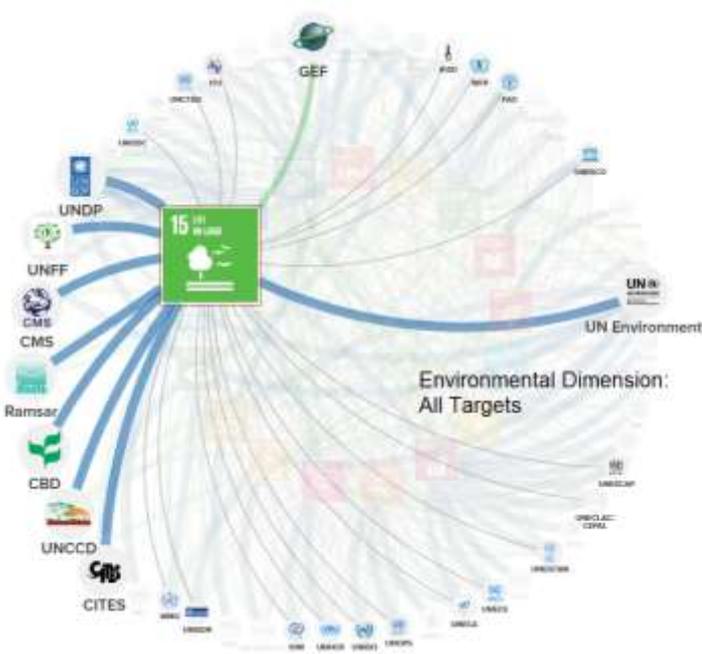
SDG13-Climate Action: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



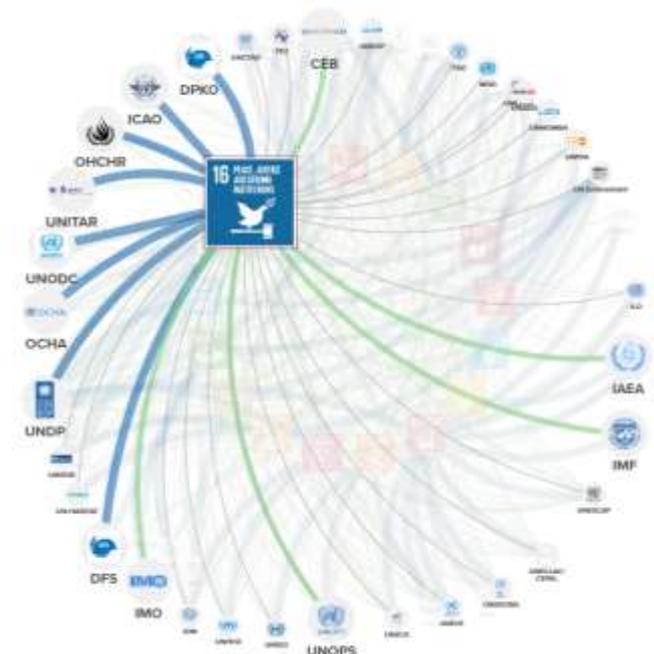
SDG14-Life below Water: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



SDG15-Life on Land: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



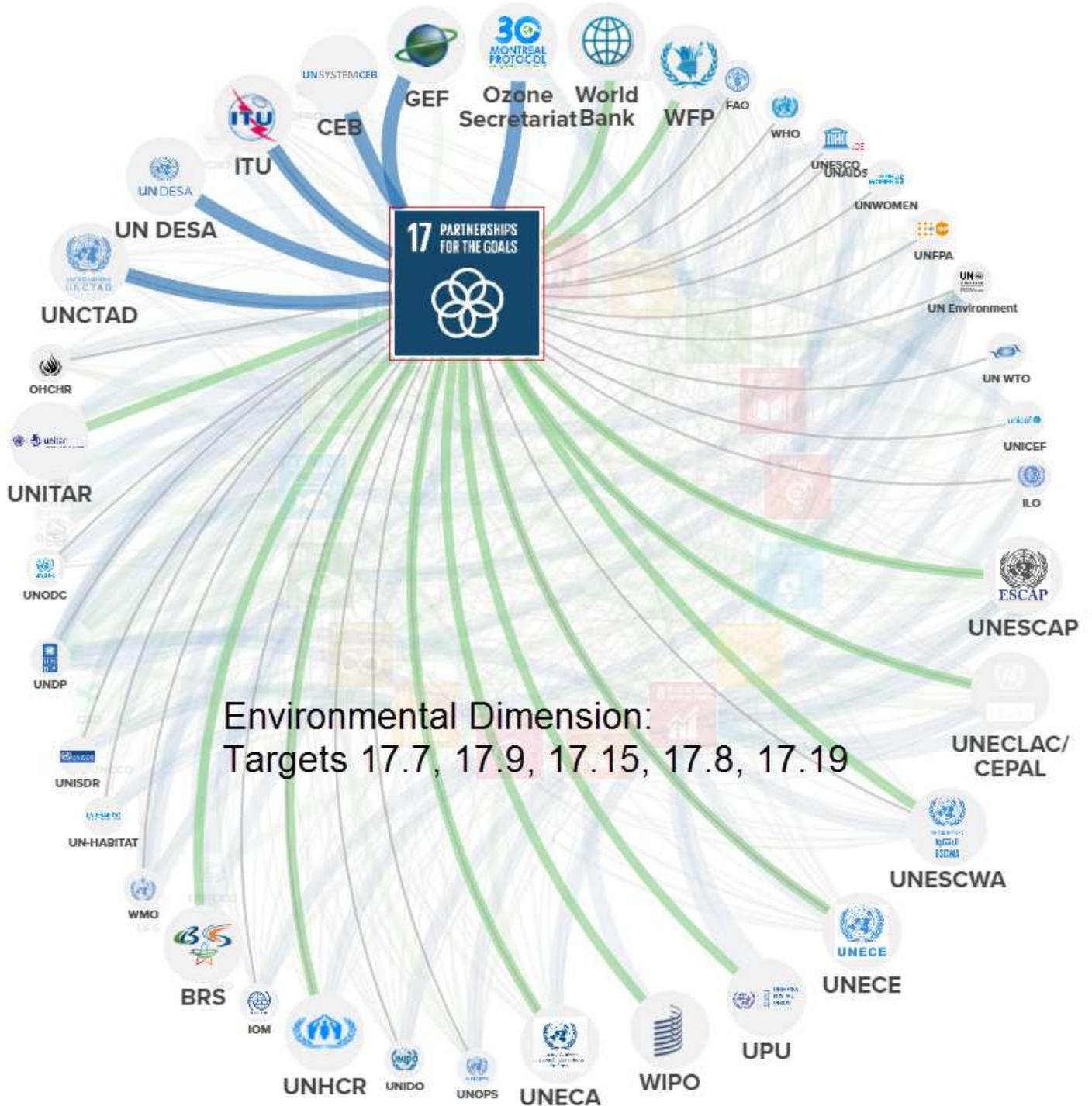
SDG16-Peace, justice, and Strong institutions: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



EMG Member's Primary and Secondary SDG Focus Area

- Primary SDG Focus Area
- Secondary SDG Focus Area
- System-wide Mappings

SDG17-Partnerships for the Goals: EMG Members' Primary and Secondary Focus



2.5. Partnerships and Collaboration

The following table illustrates partnerships on the environment that UN entities are engaged in, including with other UN Agencies, The Private Sector, Academia, and Non-governmental Organisations. This data was submitted by EMG Member Agencies and it is represented as received. The SDG Impact column data was included as requested by agencies via data referencing by the report author. This table is not exhaustive but allows the reader to quickly identify examples of how agencies are working together towards which topic or SDG. This information allowed for further analysis which contributed to [section 2.1.2](#) and led to the identification of opportunities for collaboration by SDG described in [section 3.2](#)

Legend	 National Focus	 Regional Focus	 Global Focus	 Internal- UN system
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Partnerships in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

AGENCY	FOCUS	PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	SDG IMPACT
BRS-MEAS- Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	  	Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI), Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) with UNU. Household Waste Partnership. Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE). Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN) (multi-stakeholder).	11, 12
DESA- Department for Economic and Social Affairs		The Partnerships for SDGs online platform; SIDS action Platform; The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) with 14 international Organisations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests as its members.	14, 15, 17
DFS- Department of Field Support		The DFS-UN Environment Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance Facility (REACT).	6, 7, 12
FAO- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN		Rome-based Agencies: FAO, IFAD, WFP collaboration. Technical support to the Committee on World Food Security.	2
ICAO- International Civil Aviation Organisation	  	UNDP-GEF-ICAO joint assistance project "Transforming the Global Aviation Sector: Emission Reduction from International Aviation"	12, 13
IFAD- International Fund for Agricultural Development	  	Rome Based Agency cooperation regarding engagement at CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC. Contribution to various knowledge platforms with the World Bank, The GEF, UN Environment, Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, CGIAR /CAAFS and many more.	2, 17
ILO- International Labour Organisation	  	PAGE partnership for sustainability at the heart of economic policies: UN Environment, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO, and UNITAR. ILO-UNFCCC partnership to boost action on just transition and decent work in the context of climate change	8, 17
IMF- International Monetary Fund		IMF has worked with ILO on issues related to employment, as well as social protection floors; UNICEF on fiscal issues and social policy; UN Environment on the green economy; WFP on social safety nets and early assessments of vulnerability. WTO-led Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, WTO Working Group on Trade, Debt, and Finance	1,2, 8, 12, 16

Partnerships in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

AGENCY	FOCUS	PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	SDG IMPACT
IMO- International Maritime Organisation	  	Several GEF-UNDP-IMO partnerships including: Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Partnerships project. Global Industry Alliance for Maritime Energy Efficiency. GloBallast Partnerships Project and the Global Industry Alliance for marine biosecurity; GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Project;	9, 14
IOM- International Organisation for Migration	  	Task Team on UN Strategic Approach on Climate Change, the Task Force on Displacement of the UNFCCC WIM, The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), Human Mobility Advisory Group to the UNFCCC and bilateral partnerships with UNCCD, UNEP, Climate Vulnerable Forum among others.	1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13
ITU- International Telecommunication Union		Global e-Sustainability Initiative and the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.	12
OCHA- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	  	The UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit, a partnership that pairs the environmental expertise UNEP and the humanitarian response network coordinated by the OCHA,	14, 15, 16, 17
OHCHR- The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	  	OHCHR works informally with a variety of partners on climate change and environmental issues, these include UNEP, UNFCCC, UNHCR, WHO, etc.	14, 15, 16, 17
Ozone Secretariat - UN Environment	  	Cooperation with a number of Conventions and Organisations such as UNFCCC, BRS, the Green Customs Initiative, the World Bank, IPCC, IPPC, ICAO, FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, UN Environment Programme, World Trade Organisation (WTO), WMO, WCO, WHO, Interpol, IMO, UN Office of Legal Affairs, NASA and NOAA of USA, Standard Committees and Organisations.	9, 13, 17
UN Environment	  	Global Mercury Partnership with more than 100 partners from IGOs, NGOs and private sector. UNEP Global Partnership on Waste Management with the International Environmental Technology Centre and The International Solid Waste Association. The Wild for Life Campaign (UNDP, UNODC, CITES, multi-stakeholder). UN Water, UN Oceans. The Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability is a UN Environment-led network of over 820 universities around the world committed to promoting education for sustainable development. UN Environment/OCHA Joint Environment Unit. UNDP - UN Environment Poverty Environment Initiative (2005-2017) and new poverty environment mainstreaming programme (2018-2022). Cooperation with UN Women to strengthen gender, equality and environment.	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
UN Women	  	On energy UN Women partners with UN Environment; On sustainable agriculture UN Women partners with WFP, FAO and IFAD. Gender Equality Award granted by the SEED Initiative.	2, 5, 7
UNCCD- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	  	UNCCD's national target setting exercise for the land degradation neutrality, supported by the GEF and Member States.	14

Partnerships in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

AGENCY	FOCUS	PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	SDG IMPACT
UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and development		Regulatory work on sustainable fisheries: Commitment to Tackle Fisheries Subsidies with FAO, and UN Environment.	14
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme		UNDP GEF Global Environmental Finance Unit. UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme. GEF Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa – An Integrated Approach (UNDP, IFAD, UNIDO, FAO, WB, UN Environment), GEF Global Wildlife Programme (UN Environment, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IUCN, WWF): GEF Announcement on the Global Wildlife Programme; GEF Brochure on GWP. UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products. GEF Commodities Integrated Approach Programme: Taking Deforestation Out of Commodity Supply Chains (UNEP, WB, IADB, WWF, CI). Green Commodities Programme. National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans Forum. The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative. Equator Initiative. Partnership for Action on Green Economy. UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative. UN-REDD Programme. UN-WATER. Global Enhanced Monitoring Initiative on water. UNDP Water Governance Facility at Stockholm International Water Institute. UN-OCEANS. The Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe		UNECE has established cooperation with a number of Organisations and institutions, such as UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, FAO, European Commission, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as with the business and academic communities and non-governmental Organisations.	17
UNESCAP - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific		Thematic Working Group on Resource Efficient Growth, members: ESCAP, IOM, UN Habitat, UNCCD, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), UN Environment, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, and WHO.	12
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Technical Organisation		UNESCO's co-sponsorship of Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services together with FAO, UNDP and UN Environment. Future Earth Initiative, together with multiple UN and non-UN partners.	4, 14, 15,
UN-Habitat		Greener Cities Partnership. Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity. UN subnational climate action hub with all UN agencies. Mayors for climate action (UNH, C40, ICLEI, UCLG, Bloomberg). Greener Cities Partnership. Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity. UN subnational climate action hub with all UN agencies. Mayors for climate action (UNH, C40, ICLEI, UCLG, Bloomberg).	11, 12, 13, 14, 15
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees		Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group on Climate Change. Human Mobility Advisory Group to UNFCCC Process (2013-2016). The Platform on Disaster Displacement, and the Task Force on Displacement of UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.	13

Partnerships in Response to the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

AGENCY	FOCUS	PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	SDG IMPACT
UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund		UN Environment: partnering on greening the blue, and increasingly related to advocacy on air pollution. UNITAR: as part of the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership, developing and sharing learning materials related to climate and environment. UNDP: joint GEF/ Least Developed Countries Fund Initiative on climate change adaptation in Madagascar. World's Largest Lesson. Children in a Changing Climate with WFP, OCHA and UNHCR on Humanitarian preparedness with a climate change component funded by DFID.	4, 13
UNODC- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime		International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime with CITES, INTERPOL, the World Bank, the World Customs Organisation and UNODC. Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit. One-UN Global 'Wild for Life' Campaign, led by UN Environment.	14, 15, 16
UNOPS- United Nations Office for Project Services		10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns; Consultative Process on Environmental and Social Sustainability.	12
UNU- United Nations University ViE SCYCLE		Solving the e-waste Problem (Step) Initiative, with ITU, UNIDO, BRS MEAS and multi-stakeholders.	12
WFP- World Food Programme		Global Alliance for clean cook-stoves (www.cleancookstoves.org) and delivers the Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy (SAFE) programme with UNICEF and in wide consultation with key stakeholders including UN Agencies, NGOs, technical partners, and WFP staff at headquarters and in the field.	2, 7,
WHO- World Health Organisation		Healthy Environment - Healthy People Report for UNEA2. Health and Environment Linkages Initiative partnership with UN Environment.	2, 17
The World Bank		A central tenet of the SDGs is partnership at the global, regional, and country-level and the WBG provides a platform for coordinated action. Partnership with the UN, multi-lateral development banks, bilateral agencies, as well as clients is one of the World Bank's key pillars of support for the SDGs and the WBG is involved in numerous global partnerships, including the Financing for Development agenda with the MDBs and UN, as well as umbrella partnerships such as Every Woman Every Child and Sustainable Energy for All.	1,2, 7, 13, 17
WTO- World Trade Organisation		Standards and Trade Development Facility. Ongoing collaboration with CITES and UNFCCC.	14, 15

2.6. Illustrative Partnership Initiatives and Examples by SDG

1 NO
POVERTY



For more than ten years, the **Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)** has provided evidence-based policy recommendations and used integrated approaches to put pro-poor, gender-responsive environment and climate issues into the heart of national and subnational planning and budgeting processes. Based on this experience, PEI is already supporting countries' efforts to implement the SDGs. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) jointly launched the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) in 2005 to help countries integrate poverty-environment objectives into their development plans and policies. PEI's overall aim is to bring about lasting institutional change and catalyze key actors to increase investment in pro-poor environmental and natural resource management. PEI works with government partners and other stakeholders to raise awareness, influence policy-making and strengthen the integration of poverty-environment into plans and budgets. Drawing on the comparative advantage of both UNDP and UN Environment, PEI is currently working in 22 countries across four regions, from more than 50 countries that have requested the programme's services. Capacity building and the use of an integrated approach are at the heart of the PEI's mainstreaming efforts, which are mainly led by ministries of finance and planning in close coordination with sector ministries, such as environment and agriculture. This has resulted in improved integration of poverty and environment, climate and gender priorities as well as increased allocation of resources in development plans and programmes. Strong government ownership and recognition of the effectiveness of PEI's integrated approach has catalyzed additional in-country funding for PEI programmes. Thanks to PEI's resource mobilization at the country level and contributions from UNDP and UN Environment, every US dollar contributed by PEI donors has generated an additional 2 dollars in support for the programme. In 2014, governments and in-country donors spent nearly \$7 million in support of achieving global PEI objectives.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Great efforts are being led by UN Environment and WHO around the health-environment linkage. The **'Healthy Planet- Healthy People' joint report** launched at the second session of the UN Environment Assembly in May 2016 is just one example of collaboration on this particular nexus issue. The topic of pollution, in all its forms, which will be addressed at the third session of the UN Environment Assembly in December 2017, has serious consequences to human health. This cross-cutting issue of pollution and waste is one that affects all SDGs to a certain degree. Some of the data is not as evident, and hence further collaboration among and across UN agencies and MEAs is well warranted. The issue of micro plastics, for example, in the context of SDG14 and SG12, has a direct impact on SDG2 and SDG3. However, lack of public awareness and practical action on this front is quite evident (see [ANNEX 5](#)).



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Given the population dynamics of this century, urban communities will prove key to successfully addressing sustainable cities and communities. **The New Urban Agenda** launched at the Habitat 3 conference has laid the ground for partnerships within SDG11.¹⁴ Agencies have long since identified plenty of opportunities at this local level and with local authorities to address environmental sustainability. However this is not a straight forward exercise. Perhaps the best attempt can be to showcase successful specific examples and try and replicate these outcomes. For example, Mexico City, Delhi and several Indian cities, several towns in Australia, the country of Rwanda, have been tangible examples of government policies addressing the key issue of plastic waste. Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands have led the way in Europe by taxing plastic bags and lowering their consumption considerably, especially in major cities. This topic is most relevant as scientific discovery keeps uncovering otherwise hidden health effects of our wasteful patterns. As a result, here we have an inherent transdisciplinary issue that should concern the breadth of society, not to mention UN agencies. Another interesting example has been around efforts for the promotion of green energy in cities under **The Sustainable Energy 4 All Initiative** and by various agencies like UN Environment, UNDP, ILO, among others. Furthermore, UNESCO has reported efforts on target 11.4. More specifically UNESCO Institute for Statistics is setting out to measure “total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed, World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector, sponsorship).”



UN-HABITAT



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Labour
Organisation

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Another area where agencies reported ample and ramped-up collaboration and partnerships as a result of the Rio processes and the Paris Agreement is Climate Action (SDG13). Agencies have found numerous opportunities to collaborate with the common objective of averting climate change. The examples are plentiful, but we can highlight ground-breaking humanitarian-development linkages in joint efforts between OHCHR and a broad array of UN system and other partners on **integrating human rights in climate action**. This includes UNFCCC, UN Environment, UNHCR, IOM, Platform on Disaster Displacement, the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action, WHO, the Climate Vulnerable Forum, UNICEF, ILO, and a number of civil society partners (i.e. Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, CIEL, HRW, Earthjustice, etc.). The first direct reference to human rights in the context of the UNFCCC was made in 2010, when decision 1/CP.16 referred to Human Rights Council resolution 10/4, which recognizes the adverse effects of climate change on the effective enjoyment of human rights and called upon all States to ensure respect for human rights in their climate actions.¹⁵ The Human Rights Council, UNOHCHR, and UNHCR, show an effective approach of **mainstreaming human rights across the UN system**, as opposed to absorbing climate policy competencies and mandates.¹⁶ This approach proved to be efficient with regards to fostering policy integration as shown by the Preamble of the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (1/CP.21), where it calls for all States taking action to address climate change, to “respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights”.¹⁷ Further examples of climate action include **The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)** with 35 member Organisations, including UN system, international multilateral Organisations, private sector entities, and non-state actors. **The Bretton-Woods Institutions**, have also shown commendable involvement on SDG13 with a specific focus on the environment-poverty nexus. UN Habitat has reported broad partnerships at the local level, through global associations like ‘**Mayors for Climate Action**’ or ‘**Compact of Mayors**’ in partnership with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), C40 Climate Leadership Group (C40), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).¹⁸ UNICEF and UNDP joint **Global Environment Facility’s (GEF)/Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)** initiative on climate



15 LIFE ON LAND



A good example of existing collaboration on issues pre-dating the 2030 Agenda can be seen in member agencies' work around SGD15: Life on Land. **The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)**, invited the heads of relevant UN, international and regional bodies to form a collaborative partnership on forests. Established in April 2001 with FAO as the Chair, and serviced by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, CPF shows coordinated efforts towards SDG15 that date back to the MDG era.¹⁹ In this example, we can observe multiple UN agencies, together with non-state actors, collaborating in a coordinated way towards the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This partnership was created out of the identification of common ground and shared interests and responsibilities, and has reported its progress to ECOSOC. The UN Collaborative Programme on **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)** was created in 2008 and is another great example of ample cooperation around SDG15. A collaborative programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) which contributed to slower global deforestation rates and increased protected worldwide..²⁰ The common ground and shared responsibilities among actors is also a fundamental factor to the success of this framework. It is important to highlight that while efforts are focused on one SDG, this case SDG15, the interdependence among the issues underpinned by the SDGs, illustrate how these particular partnership has direct positive impact on the 2030 Agenda at large, especially SDGs 1 ,2 ,3 ,6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17. This interdependence proves to be a constant fixture across reported examples.



15 LIFE ON LAND



When looking at global partnerships with broad participation it is worth highlighting the **‘Wild for Life’ Campaign** addressing SGD target 15.7. This global campaign reached over a billion people and inspired 2.5 million social media engagements. With pledges of action from 10,000 people and 40,000 having found and shared their kindred species, this interagency effort was started by UN Environment, UNDP, UNODC and CITES.²¹ However, it has drawn the support of collaborators from other Member Agencies like UNICEF, CMS, World Bank Group; state actors like IUCN, GEF, Interpol; and several non-state actors like The Nature Conservancy, The World’s Largest Lesson, the US Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, among many others. While this partnership is mainly geared around advocacy and communication, it has sprung from substantive interagency collaboration at the normative level. UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/69/314) “Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife” and UN Environment Assembly resolution on “Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products” (2/14)²² called upon the UN system to bring its complimentary capacities to bear on combating illegal trade in wildlife and requested the SG improve the coordination of UN activities. As a result, a **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products**, was established in 2017 comprising UN Environment, UNDP, UNODC, CITES, UNDESA, UNUNDP, UNDP, and UNDP. Additionally, this collaboration led to the launch of **The United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the Transportation of Illegal Wildlife Products** which brings high-level leaders from the transport industry together with representatives from across the world of conservation, along with organisations already engaged in initiatives designed to curb illegal trafficking. Efforts by CITES, IUCN, UNEA, CBD, and other institutions and conventions are also due credit on this topic which embedded within SDGs 15 and 14, underscore the issue of biodiversity depletion as one of the exceeded planetary boundaries²³ (See [ANNEX 4](#)). This particular issue, together with climate change and pollution, pose great challenges to human health, and agencies are working diligently to underscore otherwise unapparent linkages.²⁴



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



A relevant example of broad collaboration with external partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that predates the SDGs can be seen in practice when we look at the GEF-UNDP Small Grants Programme (SGP), which empowers communities to act and participate in their own development and hence ensures community ownership and impact. With a total of more than 20,500 grant projects implemented by over 18,500 grantees, 64 percent of grants channeled to NGOs, 34 percent to community-based organizations (CBOs), and 2 percent to other not-for-profit Organisations, SGP's efforts on sustainable development practice are worth highlighting. More than 60 percent of projects have directly benefitted communities either through direct grants to CBOs or through other NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) working with communities.²⁵ The **Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF)**, a partnership between FAO, WB, OIE, WHO and the WTO that supports capacity building in developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, now encourages projects to assess their direct or indirect contribution to environmental protection (e.g. through reduced use of pesticides/chemicals). **Rome-based agencies**, including FAO, WFP, IFAD are also reporting successful joint **partnerships on SDG2 with civil society** and non-state actors at the local level. The use of mobile technology by Rome-based agencies that pertain to climate and environment reporting by small-stakeholders is remarkable. UNICEF's **Voices of Youth and U-Report** are also great examples of the use of mobile technology to foster real-time data collection and collaboration with external partners. **The Equator Initiative**, a partnership between UNDP, UN Environment, CBD, and other Organisations, provides a wealth of 182 case studies of award-winning sustainable development solutions from indigenous communities.²⁶ **The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDGF)**, formerly MDGF, is another interesting example of UN system collaboration on integrated and multidimensional joint programmes to support sustainable development activities.²⁷ This level of inclusive, bottom-up, implementation provides evidence to the success of UN fostered partnerships at the local level.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The **UN Environment /OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU)**, housed within OCHA's Emergency Services Branch, help Member States to prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies effectively addressing SDG 1 target 1.5, SDG 2 target 2.4, SDG 11 targets 11.5, 11.b, SDG 13 target 13.1. By pairing UN Environment's technical expertise with OCHA's humanitarian response coordination structure, the JEU ensures an integrated approach in responding to environmental emergencies. The JEU provided independent, impartial advice and practical solutions, while working with Organisations dedicated to medium and long term rehabilitation to ensure a seamless transition from emergency response to recovery. This partnership has or is in the processes of shifting or merging into a broader system-wide integration effort by the UN system of the development-humanitarian agendas.



III. Opportunities and Recommendations

This section is dedicated to the identification of opportunities for coordination and collaboration across the UN system that can be the future focus of UN mechanisms such as the EMG. It will recommend strategies for scaling-up existing collaboration. This list is not comprehensive, but illustrates selected SDGs where the presence of gaps identified by the SWFS Survey pave the way for partnership opportunities. This section also provides recommendations for work by the EMG in response to identified needs and gaps, documented in this Synthesis Report.

3.1 EMG Support for Member Agencies

The Summary of Findings of the SWFS Survey seen on [section 2.1.3](#) point to three broad areas of opportunity where the EMG and specifically the SWFS can be of service to Member Agencies.

3.1.1 Policy Integration

New opportunities for integration are emerging. For instance, increased recognition and interest in the monetary value of environmental risks and opportunities has led to the identification of new win-win situations across sectors. Moving towards an inclusive green economy provides environmental benefits and can generate economic wealth and create jobs, thus contributing to safeguarding and enhancing human well-being, reducing unemployment and sociopolitical instability, promoting the diversification of economic structures and trade patterns, and contributing to promote competitiveness, stability and development. The majority of the Member Agencies have reported efforts on this front. This success can often times be tracked to the proper identification of nexus issues and the inherent interdependence between environmental policy and economic and social policy.

Opportunity: The EMG has launched a series of 4 Nexus Dialogues in 2017 which are spaces that allow critical thinking and strategic evaluation of nexus issues and their practical examples. Furthermore, the continued survey and reporting exercise by UN SWFS has been identified by Member Agencies via the SWFS Survey as a helpful way to foster integration via increased collaboration and coherence across EMG Member Agencies.

3.1.2 Information Sharing

The SDGs have provided a new opportunity to strengthen and coordinate technology support in the field of the environment at the national and regional levels. It is particularly important to develop much wider and inclusive set of capacities that are linked to proper information sharing needed to enable the formulation and implementation of integrated and coherent policies; to absorb and adapt new and innovative technologies in support of greater resource efficiency and a transition toward sustainability and resources; to formulate, finance and implement "bankable" green projects; and to work effectively in the multi-stakeholder partnerships that will be the basis of successful implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

Opportunity: The EMG can effectively continue to help facilitate the exchange of state-of-the-art environmental know-how and information within and outside the UN System via real-time information sharing and knowledge management services. The EMG has already taken steps in this direction by launching the [SWFS Knowledge Exchange Network](#) online platform in support of participatory drafting and editing of this report.

3.1.3 Capacity-building

A number of UN system entities, including the MEA secretariats, are involved in capacity-building and technology support efforts in the field of environment. These include: training, enhancement of centers of excellence; promotion and support of South-South cooperation; exchanges of best practices and lessons learned; and development of partnerships and networks. The InforMEA Platform and UNEP Live is a great example. UNITAR also has some ground-breaking programmes that are focusing on capacity-building around the 2030 Agenda.

Opportunity: EMG could curate these offerings and serve as a gateway to environmental capacity-building courses and programmes. The UN system can take innovative and dynamic approaches to support the achievement of the SDGs. Ultimately, the aim should not be to develop capacities only in the field of the environment, but rather to enhance coherent policy-making that integrates the environment along with social and economic dimensions in national and regional strategic decision-making processes.

3.2 Thematic Opportunities

In the context of the above high-level objectives and guided by the [SWFS Survey Results](#), this section identifies thematic areas of opportunity for environmental action which could be realized more effectively through a coordinated response by the UN system. These areas of opportunity can be defined as sharing three dimensions of sustainable development – social, environmental and economic – and these issues can be understood by the way the sustainable development pillars intrinsically interact and by effectively mapping them to the SDGs.

Such issues and their relevance to the SDGs could include:

3.2.1 Climate Change

SDG targets: 1.5 (vulnerability); 2.4 (adaptation); 11.6 (impact of cities); 13.1 (resilience), 13.2 (national policies), 13.3 (capacity), 13.b (planning);



Climate change poses an unprecedented threat to human settlements, food security, economic and social infrastructure, and functioning ecosystems. Greenhouse gas emissions are still on the rise and pledges of future action within the UNFCCC process currently fall short of what science suggests is necessary to keep the increase in temperature below 2 degrees Celsius. The potential disruption, displacement and adaptation caused by climate change, such as sea-level rise or extreme weather events, represent a profound challenge to sustainable development and can reverse hard-won development gains, including those from poverty eradication measures. Innovative approaches to environmentally friendly adaptation, particularly by using ecosystem-based approaches, are needed.

Opportunity: UNFCCC has diligently launched knowledge portals that identify practical examples of climate action on adaptation and mitigation. The Adaptation Knowledge platform for example allows the user to browse case studies, action pledges, thematic areas, regions, and tools and can be accessed via: <http://bit.ly/2tTy1GA>

3.2.2 Biodiversity

SDG targets: 2.5 (genetic diversity); 11.4 (natural heritage), 11.5 (loss reduction), 11.b (urban resilience); 12.2 (natural resources); 13.1 (adaptive capacity); 14.2 and 14.5 (marine and coastal ecosystems), 14.4 (overfishing), 14.c (regional ocean regimes); 15.1 (terrestrial ecosystems), 15.2 (forests), 15.3 (land and soil), 15.4 (mountain ecosystems), 15.5 (biodiversity loss), 15.8 (invasive alien species), 15.9 (ecosystems and biodiversity);



Biodiversity is intrinsically linked with human well-being and quality of life, and the preservation of healthy ecosystems. These ecosystems provide essential services that are critical foundations for human well-being, poverty eradication, sustained economic development and the resilience of societies, allowing them to adapt to and cope with risk and change, nature and development. Biodiversity is central to the ecological balance of the planet, and its ability to absorb and recover from shocks. As such, the issue of biodiversity must be fully integrated into the global ecological, social and economic agendas, and efforts to conserve biodiversity must be intensified in order to achieve sustainable development. The UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative to cooperate with other members of the UN system through the 'One UN initiative for Biodiversity', is an example worth noting. This effort is done in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).²⁸

Opportunity: The urgency to avert climate change and biodiversity loss calls for urgent and impactful action on Goal15, [see ANNEX 4](#). While Member Agencies have reported broad collaboration on the issue of deforestation, biodiversity has been identified by the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General as a key area of opportunity that can merit further inter-agency collaboration.²⁹

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity serves as a framework for the Convention, other biodiversity-related conventions and the United Nations system. Many UN agencies, programmes and other multilateral environmental agreements contribute to the implementation of its objectives for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The CBD has proposed an EMG sponsored Nexus Dialogue to be held in 2018 that could look at opportunities and challenges in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and biodiversity-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the respective roles and contribution of UN agencies and other actors. Furthermore, the CBD foresees a task team initiated by SOM 24 in September 2018 and facilitated by the EMG Secretariat in 2019, the EMG could engage agencies to provide inputs to the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

3.2.3 Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes

SDG targets: 3.2 (prevent infant mortality [from polluted water]), 3.3 (water-borne diseases), 3.9 and 6.3 (hazardous chemicals); 6.a (wastewater); 11.6 (municipal waste management); 12.4 (sound management of chemicals and wastes), 12.5 (waste reduction), 12.6 (company sustainable practices); 14.1 (marine pollution); 17.6 and 17.8 (international cooperation on science, technology and innovation);



Chemicals are essential to every aspect of modern life, and if properly deployed and managed, can yield immense benefits to society. However, societies and the environment continue to experience the harmful consequences of unsound management of chemicals and wastes, thus underscoring the need for comprehensive assessment and integrated management of chemicals and potentially hazardous materials throughout the cycle of their production, use and disposal to minimize significant short- and long-term risks to society and nature.

One specific example being addressed by EMG is the use of chemicals throughout the life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment, such as laptops, mobile phones, white goods and electrical tools, among others is of particular concern. The use of hazardous compounds, such as polychlorinated biphenyls and heavy metals like cadmium and mercury, can lead to air, land and water pollution. Furthermore, when this equipment becomes unused or broken and is thus disposed of via illegitimate routes, it often becomes subject to rudimentary techniques employed to manage its treatment and final disposal. These unconventional approaches, such as acid bathing, open burning and amalgamation facilitate the release of chemicals and other hazardous substances, posing damaging effects to the health of both humans and the environment.

Opportunity: Today, the majority of world's population lives in urban areas. The proportion of urban dwellers is also expected to continue to increase in the next decades. It is also worth noting that because of their inherent characteristics, cities will be the forefront towards civilization's much needed transition to sustainable development.³⁰ UN-habitat has identified the importance and challenge of the implementation of this specific goal. Partnerships as the Greener Cities Partnership, United for Smart Sustainable Cities, and Global Sample of Cities, have been identified as viable avenues for increased collaboration.

While some agencies reported membership to the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), this global framework of action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in both developed and developing countries, provides an ample area of opportunity for cooperation. UN Environment and multilateral environmental agreements, like The Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions and Minamata Convention as well as regional convention (Bamako Convention and Waigani Convention) have found numerous synergies within the life-cycle approach to the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and have also identified implementing partners on this area via: <http://bit.ly/2th5DQI>

3.2.4 Water Security

SDG targets: 6.1 (drinking water), 6.a (water management), 6.b (local communities water/sanitation), 6.4 (water use efficiency), 6.5 (integrated water resources management); 12.2 (sustainable management of natural resources); 14.2 (coastal ecosystems); 6.6 and 15.1 (freshwater ecosystems);



Narrative: Water security is defined as the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability. In "The Future We Want", member states called for providing universal coverage for safe drinking water and adequate sanitation services. In addition, the need to address inequities in access to water, which are closely linked to food and energy security, was stressed. Achieving water security will address multiple priorities of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, such as reducing causes of potential conflict and fragility; contributing to greater health, and food and nutrition security; facilitating economic growth and employment generation; and contributing to environmental sustainability. Member Agencies have identified this area as an opportunity and recognize UN Water as a platform for collaboration.

Opportunity: DFS, IFAD, UN Environment, UNDP/UNEP, UNESCO, UNCHR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, are among the agencies that have identified SDG6 as an area of opportunity. UNDP has stressed the importance of water governance through its work with the Stockholm International Water Institute and of capacity building through the 'Capacity Development in Sustainable Water Management' programme. UN Environment's work is focused on safeguarding healthy ecosystems for water, health, and food. This is very much in line with IFAD, FAO, and WFP. UNECE, UNESCO, and WHO have stressed the importance of access to clean water and sanitation from a social perspective directly linked to health. UNHCR has stressed access to water as a fundamental human right. UN-Water was mentioned as the main avenue for collaboration. It is worth mentioning the integrated approach to water resources management and the Global Water Partnership as valuable resources. The urgency to address increasing fresh water scarcity, coupled with climate change and population growth was also noted by FAO, UNESCO, and UNDESA.

3.2.5 Energy

SDG Targets: 7.1 (access to energy), 7.2 (renewable energy), 7.3 (energy efficiency), 7.a (access to and investment in clean energy technologies); 8.4 (resource efficiency and decoupling); 9.4 (retrofit industry with clean technology); 11.2 (transport), 11.b (cities); 12.c (fossil fuel subsidies); 17.6 (science, technology and innovation)



Energy is inextricably linked to most global challenges. Access to modern energy sources has been a major driver of development in industrialized countries and emerging economies. Access to reliable and affordable energy is essential for sustained economic growth, poverty reduction and improved access to income- and livelihood-earning opportunities, social progress, improved health care and education, efficient and sustainable agricultural production. Currently, 1.3 billion people, or nearly one in five globally, lack access to electricity. Twice as many still rely on wood, charcoal, animal or crop waste or other solid fuels to cook their food and heat their homes, which results in various economic and health consequences. Where traditional fossil fuel-based energy services are plentiful, emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are contributing to changes in the Earth's climate, degrading the planet's natural systems for survival. As such, the transition to sustainable, modern, clean and renewable energy systems is perhaps the most critical human challenge, and certainly one of the largest global economic opportunities, of the twenty-first century. Member Agencies have recognized the Sustainable Energy 4 All Initiative as a space to find increased collaboration on this issue.

Opportunity: The importance of access to clean energy and sustainable energy has been recognized by the creation of the UN Secretary-General’s Initiative on Sustainable Energy for All. However, 13 agencies including ICAO, IMO, ITU, DFS, UN Environment, UN Women, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WTO, have identified this area of work as teeming with opportunities for further collaboration. While most agencies stress the importance of access to energy, UNICEF, UNECE, UN Women, UNFCCC, and UN Environment are also concerned with the urgent need to transition to sustainable energy sources. Together with energy efficiency and carbon emission reductions, this transition has been identified as a main driver towards climate action.³¹

3.2.6 Soil, Land, Land Degradation, Desertification

SDG targets: 15.3 (desertification and land degradation), 15.5 (degradation of habitats, loss of biodiversity)



Soil and land resources underpin and support global efforts towards sustainable development. They are key components in the fight against poverty, food insecurity and climate change. Intricately linked to other natural resources, soil is an integral component of the water, energy and food security nexus. A projected population of 9 billion by 2050, changing consumption patterns, as well as climate change put additional pressure on land and soil resources.

Opportunity: UNCCD has diligently listed practical public-sector partnerships to these issues via <http://bit.ly/2tTzKeN>

3.2.7 Oceans

SDG targets: 6.3 (wastewater and pollution); 6.5 (transboundary cooperation on water); 14.1 (marine pollution), 14.2 (marine/coastal ecosystems), 14.4 (overfishing), 14.5 (marine conservation), 14.c (regional ocean regimes), 14.6 (fisheries subsidies), 14.c (ocean governance);



Oceans regulate our climate, provide us with natural resources such as food, materials, substances, and energy, provide livelihoods for millions of people, and are essential for international trade, recreational, and cultural activities. Exploitation of ocean resources and services have put strong pressures on marine ecosystems, ranging from overfishing and reckless resource extraction to various channels of pollution. International cooperation and negotiations are required to protect the marine environment and use marine resources in a way that provide for the needs of future generations. Member Agencies have identified UN-Oceans as an opportunity to increase collaboration in this issue. The Ocean Conference convened by the UN General Assembly has recently brought increased attention and momentum towards action on this issue. Member Agencies have also noted the relevance of WTO negotiations on this topic.

Opportunity: Alarming statistics have driven the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in June 2017. While the protected share of marine sites around the world that are designated as key biodiversity has increased in the last 16 years, there is an urgent need to be ramped up, especially when it comes to indiscriminate fishing and land-based pollution.³² UNCTAD, ILO, IMO, IOM, UNDP, UNOC, UNESCO, and UN Environment have expressed common interest on this particular issue. UN Oceans has made an important contribution to enhancing interagency cooperation and coordination on oceans via its creation and management of the [UN Oceans inventory of mandates](#) and activities which is increasingly being populated with valuable content by the member agencies. Going forward in 2017, UN Oceans has been requested by the General Assembly to review and revise its Terms of Reference, last updated in 2013. This may create opportunities to strengthen and broaden UN-Oceans mandate, capacity and impact, by (for example) providing it with sustained financial and human resources and high level leadership.

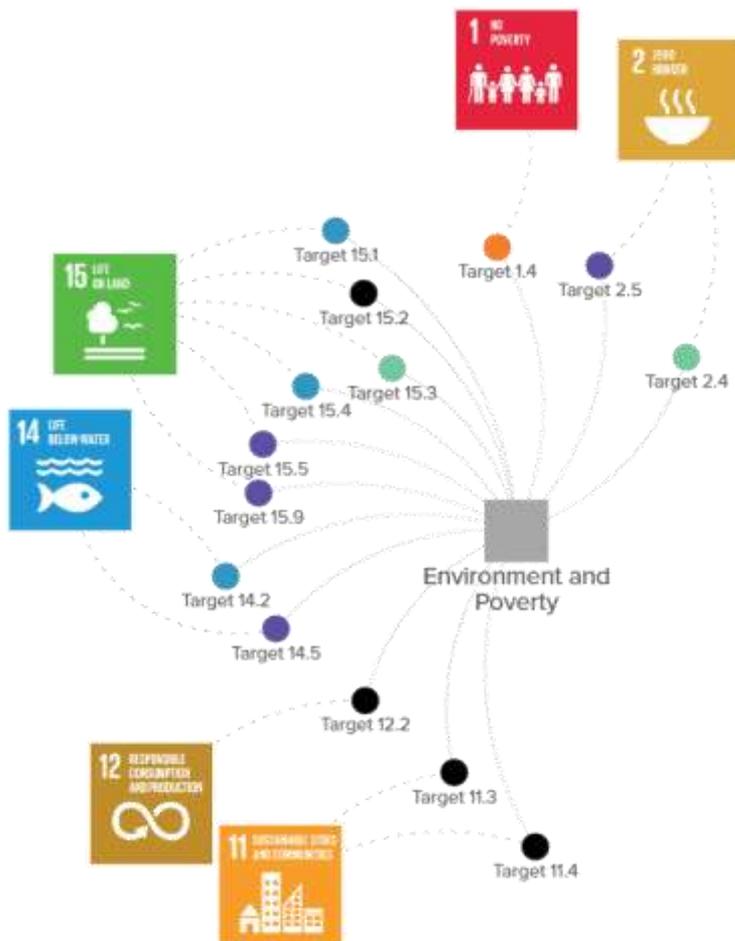
3.3 Cross-Sector Collaboration & Nexus Opportunities

Individually, the SDGs can attract and energize specific agencies, ministries, and expert communities to create unique solutions, but this can hamper efforts at integrated action across the UN system. This presents a challenge for UN agencies and Member States: how to build bridges between otherwise disparate domains? One approach is to focus on collaboration between those domains – the “nexus” between one sector and another—and focus on the overlap between sectors while respecting expertise in each. Below are illustrative examples of nexus issues and practical techniques various agencies have employed to work this nexus together.

3.3.1 Environment and Poverty (agriculture, food...)

Partners: PRIMARY PRODUCTION: - AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES sectors, GENDER, ENERGY, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SDG targets: 1.4 (equal rights to resources); 2.4 (agricultural practices), 2.5 (genetic diversity); 11.3 (human settlements planning), 11.4 (natural heritage); 12.2 (natural resources); 14.2 and 14.5 (marine and coastal ecosystems); 15.1 (terrestrial ecosystems), 15.2 (forests), 15.3 (land and soil), 15.4 (mountain ecosystems), 15.5 (biodiversity), 15.9 (ecosystems and biodiversity); 17.4 (Enhance policy coherence) and 17.19 (measurement of progress on SD)



Poverty is the principal cause of hunger and undernourishment and the main obstacle to human and social development. Poverty eradication is thus the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In "The Future We Want", Member States emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels.

Poor people depend on the environment, deriving all or most of their livelihoods and income from the use of natural assets, including through agriculture. Agriculture therefore sustains the livelihoods of nearly all human societies, and all sub-sectors of agriculture depend on biodiversity. Improved management of the environment and natural resources contributes directly to poverty reduction, more sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor growth. To fight poverty, promote security and preserve the ecosystems that poor people rely on for their livelihoods, pro-poor economic growth and environmental sustainability must be at the heart of economic and social policies, planning systems and institutions.

Example: [UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative](#)

3.3.2 Environment and Women, Health and Human Rights (rule of law)

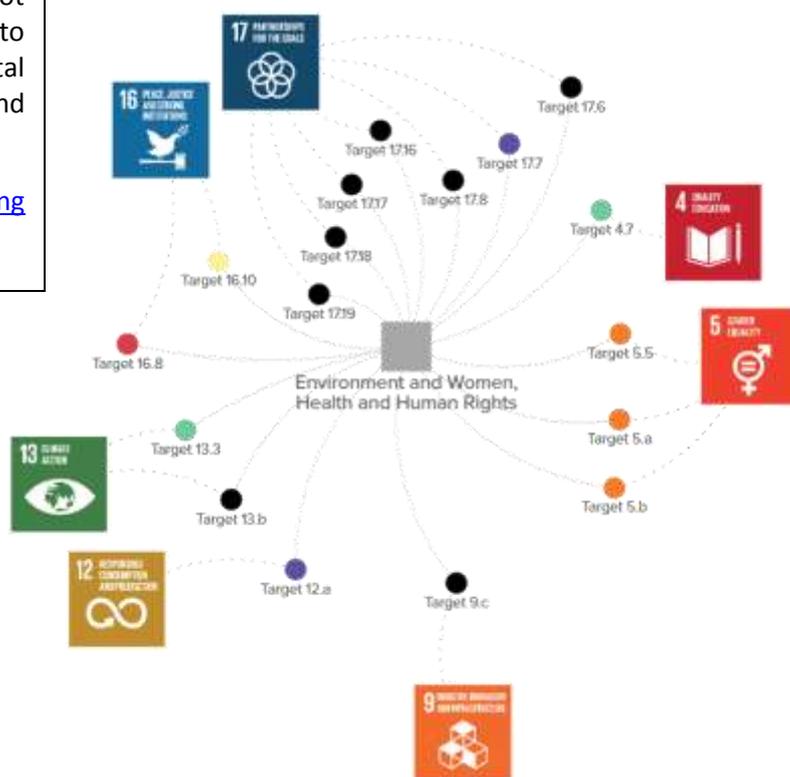
Partners: SOCIAL SERVICES: HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

SDG targets: 4.7 (education for sustainable development); 5.b (ICTs for women's empowerment), 5.5 (women's participation in decision-making), 5.a (women's rights to resources); 9.c (access to ICTs); 12.a (scientific/technological capacities for SCP); 13.3 (climate change education), 13.b (climate change and marginalized groups); 16.8 (participation in global governance), 16.10 (public access to information); 17.6 (science, technology and innovation knowledge sharing), 17.7 (technology transfer), 17.8 (capacity building and enabling technologies), 17.16 (multi-stakeholder partnerships), 17.17 (public, public-private, and civil society partnerships), 17.18 (capacity building for disaggregated data), 17.19 (statistical capacity building);

In many respects, the preservation of a healthy environment is intrinsically linked to the realization of human rights. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation.

An additional dimension that must be considered is the unique role of women in the context of sustainable development. Women around the world play distinct roles: in managing plants and animals in forests, drylands, wetlands and agriculture; in collecting water, fuel and fodder for domestic use and income generation; and in overseeing land and water resources. However, there remain significant gaps in gender equality worldwide. As sustainable development cannot be possible without equity, it is critical to address gender equality for environmental conservation, sustainable development and human security.

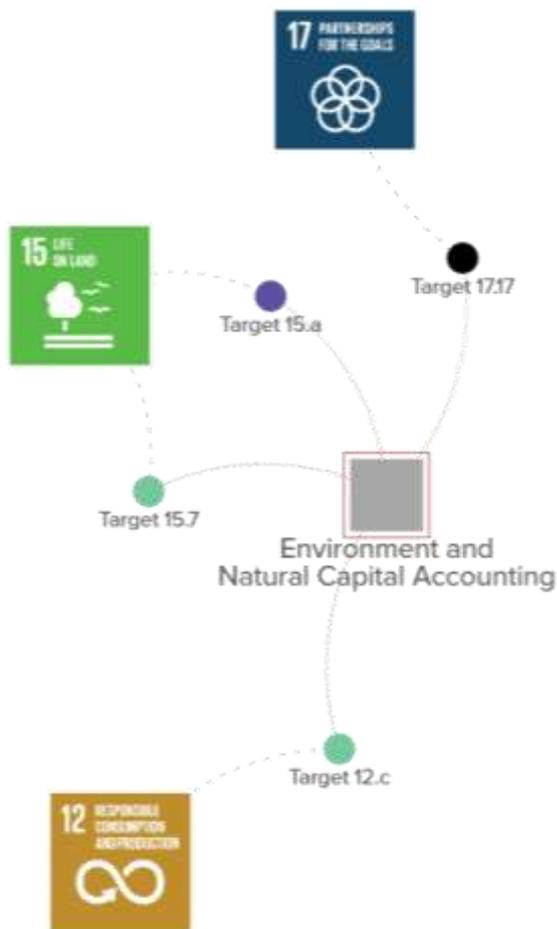
Example: [UN Women-Fiji Red Cross: addressing sexual violence in environmental disasters](#)



3.3.3 Environment and Natural Capital Accounting

Partners: FINANCE AND TRADE sectors

SDG targets: 12.c (fossil fuel subsidies); 15.a (financial resources for biodiversity), 15.7 (trafficking in protected species); 17.17 (public, public-private, and civil society partnerships);



Financial and trade mechanisms can play an important role in integrating the environment in the sustainable development agenda. Financial and trade policies can have positive impacts on the environment by promoting sustainable means of production and supply-chain management, and can lead to equitable resource allocation at various levels. Moreover, the increasing importance of natural capital accounting must be further supported to integrate the value of the environment into economic and social processes. The modelling and scaling of information on ecosystem services, conditions, and capacities across all types of ecosystems represents a significant challenge, and require data from a range of different sources, from specific local data to global satellite imagery.

Example: [World Bank -Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services \(WAVES\)](#)

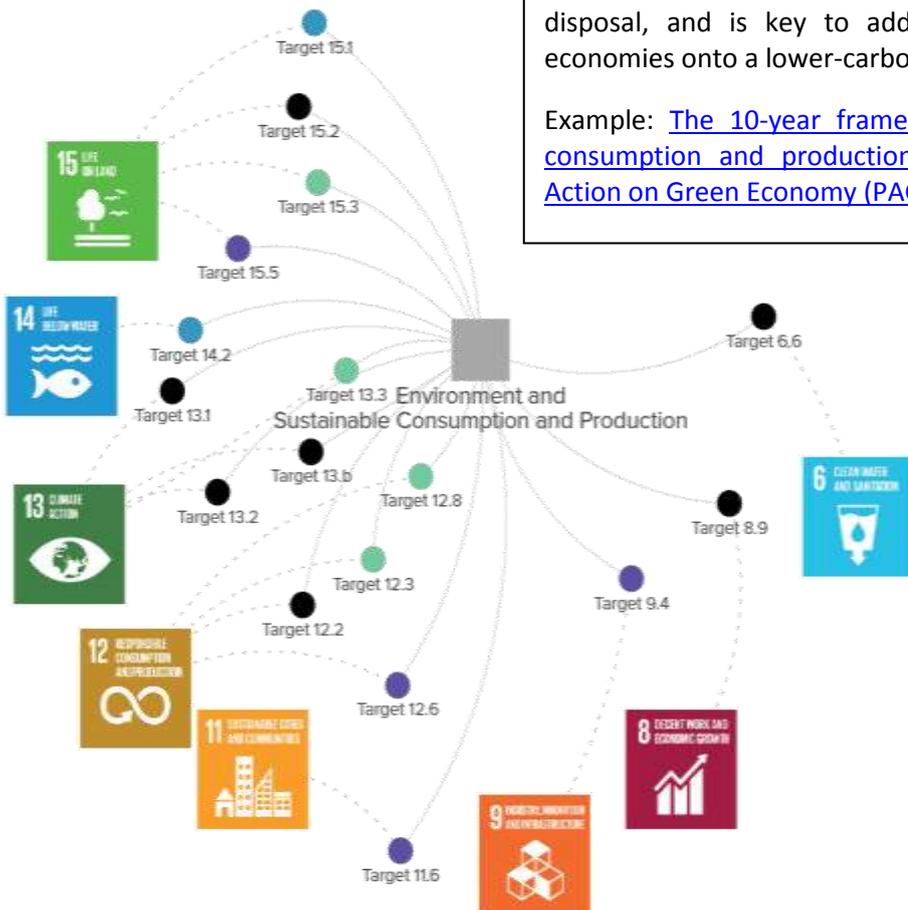
3.3.4 Environment and Sustainable Consumption and Production

Partners: PRODUCTION AND SERVICE: ENERGY, INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

SDG targets: 8.9 (tourism); 9.4 (retrofit clean industries); 11.4 (natural heritage), 11.6 (impact of cities); 12.2 (natural resources), 12.3 (consumer food waste), 12.6 (companies to adopt sustainable practices), 12.8 (awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles); 13.1 (resilience), 13.2 (national policies), 13.3 (capacity), 13.b (planning); 14.2 (coastal ecosystems), 6.6 and 15.1 (freshwater ecosystems), 15.2 (forests), 15.3 (degraded land), 15.5 (habitats and biodiversity);

Global industrial production and consumption patterns, particularly in the sectors of energy, tourism and transport, are outpacing the renewal capacity of natural resources and the capacity of governments to manage pollution and wastes. While industrial growth has helped raise tens of millions of people out of poverty in many countries over the last decades, particularly in ever-growing urban agglomerations, it is evident that economic growth and urbanization have come at a significant cost. Environmental issues must be addressed and cleaner production methodologies must be promoted at a systemic level in all areas. Achieving greater resource efficiency requires a perspective and a decision-making process that simultaneously consider both economic value and environmental sustainability. Improved resource efficiency applies to energy, where it reduces greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation and use; materials extraction and processing; transportation; and waste disposal, and is key to addressing climate change and moving economies onto a lower-carbon path.

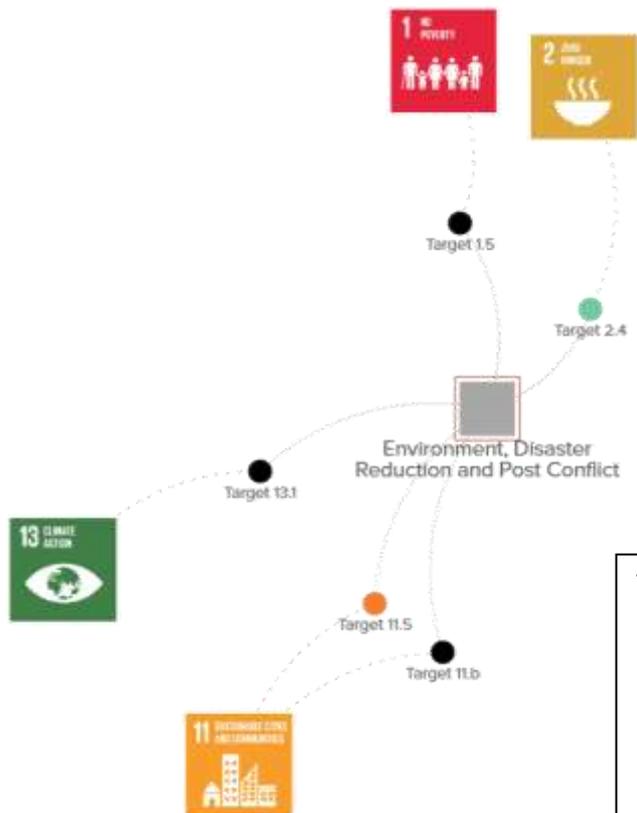
Example: [The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns \(10YFP\)](#) ; [Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\)](#)



3.3.5 Environment, Disaster Reduction and Post Conflict

Partners: HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND PEACE-KEEPING

SDG targets: 1.5 (vulnerability); 2.4 (resilience); 11.5 (loss reduction), 11.b (urban resilience); 13.1 (adaptive capacity)



The impact of war on the environment is high and may include habitat destruction, pollution and overexploitation. Urgent deployment of thousands of civilian, police and military personnel requires a very large amount of logistical support; and often takes place in countries with very little infrastructure. Peacekeeping and humanitarian operations can have an impact on the local environment, and particularly on energy, water, hazardous substances, wild animals and plants and cultural and historical resources management.

Example: [UN Environment, UNDP, OSCE, UNECE and REC - Environment and Security \(ENVSEC\) Initiative](#)

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ANNEX 1. Methodology

In this section, the approach used in gathering the information from participating UN organisations is described, including the following points:

- The development of the survey
- Who and how many organisations were involved? - The survey involves voluntary reporting
- Over what time-period did the survey happen?
- What types of questions were asked?
- How were questions asked?
- Literature review on key literature which already exists regarding the UN system – and what the key points of the literature are.
- Results

The 7th meeting of the Consultative Process on a System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) was held in New York on 19-20 September in the form of a workshop to further elaborate the follow-up approach to the implementation of the SWFS, including the preparation of the first SWFS Report. The workshop allowed for the sharing and commenting on a draft SWFS survey prepared by the UNEMG Secretariat. This draft was then submitted to several rounds of inputs online. With thanks to the active and constructive contributions and inputs from the meeting co-chairs and participants, and Member Agencies' focal points, the SWFS survey was finalized together with the Draft Synthesis Report outline and an SWFS work plan.

The SWFS survey was finalized in November. The digitalization and sharing of the survey followed after research, development, and testing of different online platforms available. This roll-out process was carefully planned in order to guarantee user friendliness, allow for collaborative responses, and real-time and transparent access to the data (see [ANNEX 2.](#)). The deadline for the completion of the SWFS survey by Member Agencies was scheduled and agreed to be December 16th, 2016. However, at this stage, only 12 submissions had been received. The majority of the submissions came after the agreed deadline and amounted to 31 submissions. While this amounts to a two thirds completion rate, it is a reality worth considering for planning of future iterations of the SWFS Survey, where the ideal completion rate would be 100 percent.

This survey was prepared in order to gather information from UN agencies on issues agreed under the SWFS in support of the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Information gathered with the help of this survey was analysed and compiled into the first in a series of annual Synthesis Reports that will serve as one of the main vehicles for implementing the SWFS.

The following definitions were provided to users filling out the survey:

Partnerships : Joint approaches in the following - projects, programmes, activities or fundraising.

Stakeholders : Actors in the following - private sector, national government, academia, NGOs or think-tanks.

Initiative : Actions involving projects, conferences, programmes, publications, internal and external changes.

The survey featured 19 questions ([see Annex 2.](#)) that encompassed a wide scope of issues. The survey consisted of 4 main sections. The first seeks to identify the Member Agency's details, mandate, and scope. The second solicits individual agency initiatives mostly focusing on organisational strategy, strategic plans, performance frameworks, funding allocations, internal structure, communication and reporting, and projects and programmes, in order to sense the level of alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the environmental dimension of the SDGs. The survey continues to solicit information regarding existing partnerships, collaboration and coordination mechanisms. Finally, the fourth section of the survey is forward looking and asks Member Agencies to identify opportunities to strengthen existing and newer areas of coordination and cooperation. It is important to highlight the last question, which allowed Member Agencies to identify opportunities for the EMG to better support their individual efforts. Agencies stressed the importance of regular information sharing and more spaces to share about their collaborations within the EMG SWFS.

To view the results of the SWFS Survey click to view [Grid Results](#) or [Table Results](#)

ANNEX 2. SWFS Survey*

*See online version unemg.org/swfs/survey

Introductory Questions

Please provide the name of your organisation and your contact details.

Which of the following statements are appropriate to your organisation? *(Please select and provide a few sentences in detail.)*

The environment is a core part of your mandate.

A healthy environment is a prerequisite for achieving your organisation's mandate.

Your mandate has no clear link to the environment

(If neither of these apply, please provide details in a few sentences)

At which of the following levels do the environmental-related elements of your mandate operate? *(Where applicable, feel free to select more than one)*

Global

Regional

Internal/UN system

Other *(Please provide a brief description)*

Individual Agency Initiatives

Internal Organisational Strategies

Has your organisation's top level of management made any changes to organisational strategy in response to the environmental dimension of the SDGs? *(Please provide any relevant details (one paragraph max) on your selection below)*

None.

Not yet, but changes are in process.

Yes, we have done it already.

(Please add any useful links, or attach documents here)

Please provide details *(one paragraph max)* of any changes to the mandate or strategic plan of your Organisation with a view to contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

(Please add any useful links, or attach documents here)

Please provide details *(one paragraph max)* of any revisions made to the results frameworks for measuring the performance of your Organisation with a view to contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

(Please add any useful links, or attach documents here)

Please describe *(one paragraph max)* any adjustments to funding allocation across your Organisation with a view to contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

Please provide details *(one paragraph max)* of any changes to the internal structure of your Organisation with a view to contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

(Please add any useful links, or attach documents here)

<p><u>Communication and Reporting</u></p>
<p>Please provide details (<i>one paragraph max</i>) on any mechanisms in place for reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs to your governing body.</p>
<p>Please provide details (<i>one paragraph max</i>) on whether your organisation has made changes to how it communicates publicly/reflects on its contribution towards the environmental dimension of the SDGs.</p> <p>If possible, please share any external documentation that illustrates reflection on the environmental dimension of the SDGs.</p>
<p>Please provide a brief description of any reports, websites, portals, data visualisations and other communication initiatives undertaken by your Organisation relevant to the environmental dimension of the SDGs and their targets.</p> <p><i>(Please provide any useful links, or attach documents here)</i></p>
<p><u>Projects and Programmes</u></p>
<p>Please provide a description of initiatives (<i>at least three examples</i>) undertaken by your organisation with a view of contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs and their targets.</p> <p>Initiative name and time-period: Nature of the initiative (normative, regulatory, operational, audits/impact assessments and environmental safeguards, management systems and conferences etc.): What is the geographical scope of the initiative (global, regional, country level, etc.):</p> <p><i>(Please add any useful links, or attach documents here)</i></p>
<p>Please provide details (<i>one paragraph max</i>) on any changes your organisation has made to types of projects and programmes it undertakes with a view of contributing to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.</p> <p><i>(Please provide any useful links, or attach documents here)</i></p>
<p>3. Existing Partnerships, Collaboration and Coordination Mechanisms</p>
<p>Please provide examples of relevant and formal partnerships between UN agencies and/or between your Organisation and other stakeholders which contribute to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.</p> <p>These partnerships should ideally be a best practice and a lesson that could be used for other UN agencies and stakeholder organisations.</p> <p><i>(Please provide any useful links, or attach documents here)</i></p>
<p>Please describe in which thematic areas your organisation and the UN system more broadly could partner/collaborate more with other UN agencies and stakeholders to improve UN coordination under the UNSWFS to advance the environmental dimensions of the SDGs?</p> <p><i>(Please provide a list)</i></p>
<p>Please provide details (<i>one paragraph max</i>) on any mechanisms (such as e-platforms, annual conferences, etc.) put in place by your organisation to engage/involve other stakeholders in any of your work which relates to the environmental dimension of the SDGs.</p>
<p>4. Opportunities to Strengthen Existing and Newer Areas of Coordination</p>

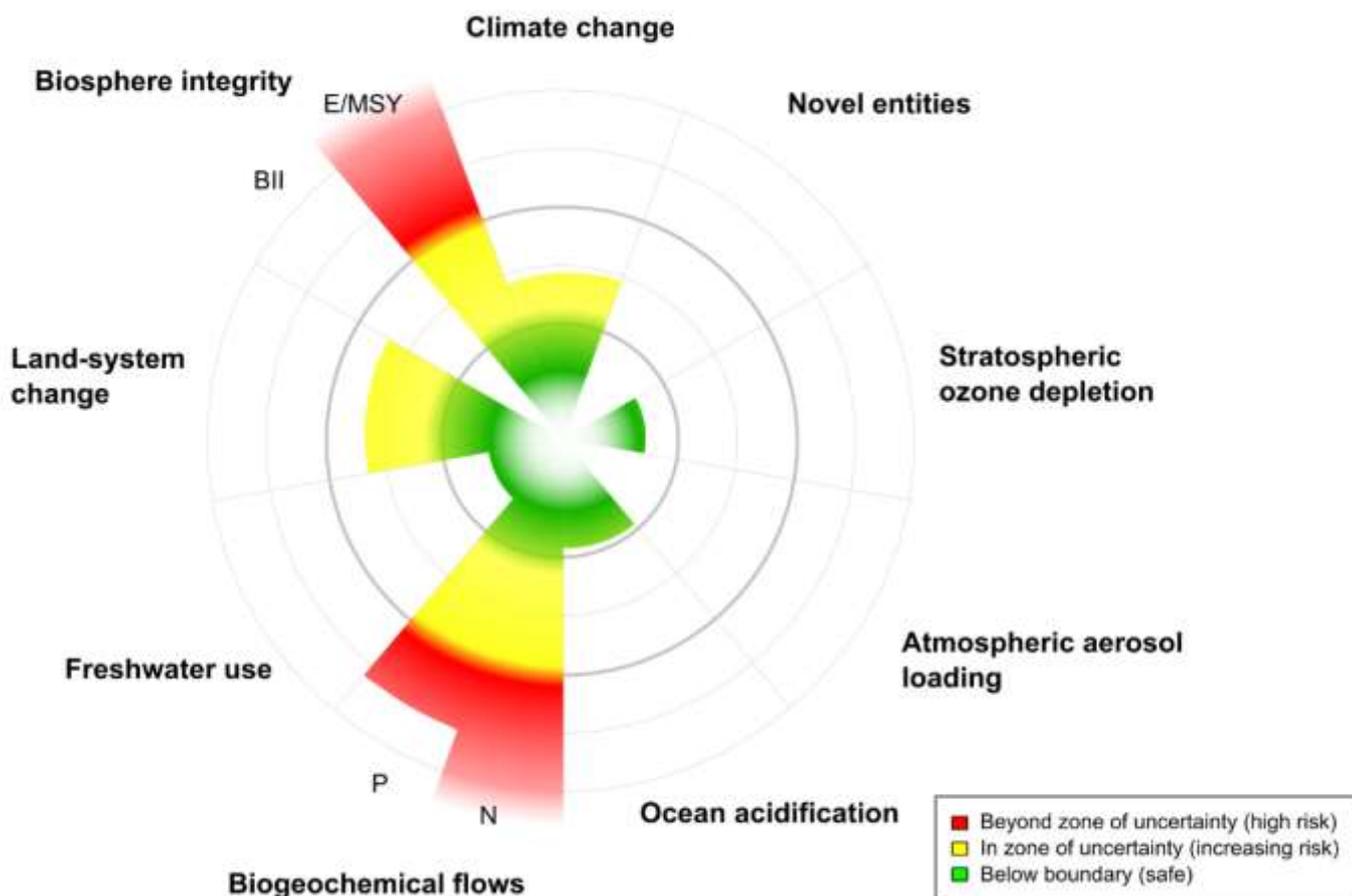
Please provide details (*one paragraph max*) of any opportunities for collaboration or partnerships across the UN system or nexuses that your organisation has recognised would better support the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

(Please provide any useful links, or attach documents here)

Please provide details (*one paragraph max*) of any opportunities which your organisation has recognised for the scaling-up of existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms which could better support the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

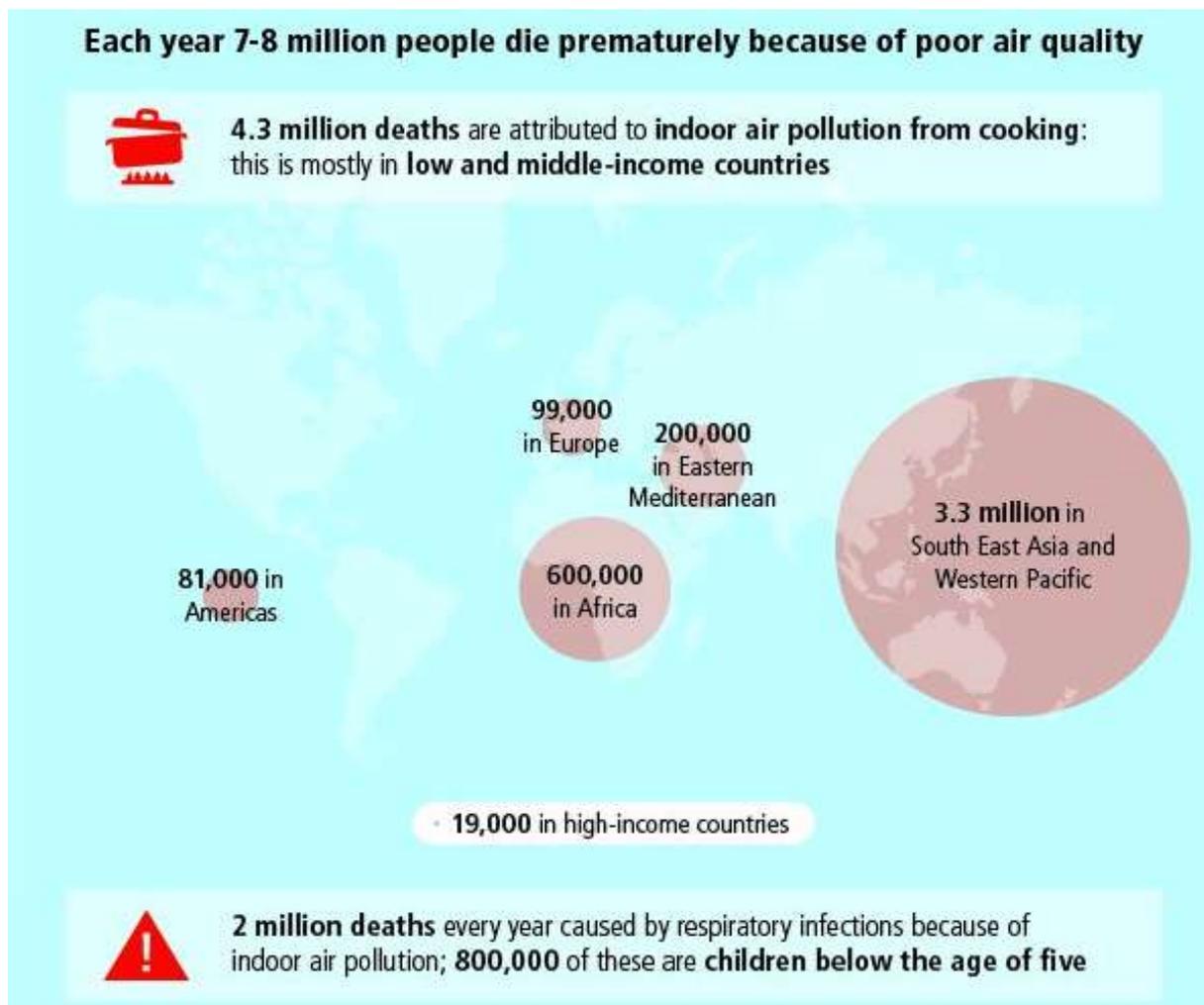
What opportunities do you see for the EMG to support the follow-up to the Synthesis report and its findings and recommendations?

ANNEX 4. The current status of the control variables for seven of the nine planetary boundaries³³



SOURCE: Steffen et al (2015). Planetary Boundaries. <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/planetary-boundaries-data.html>

ANNEX 5. Deaths by Air Pollution



SOURCE: UN Environment (2016) with data from the World Health Organisation (WHO)
