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of Material Fluxes and of Resources



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ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH** TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF **WATER, SOIL** AND **WASTE**



INTERNATIONAL
KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

11-12 NOVEMBER 2013
DRESDEN, GERMANY



ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH**
TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF **WATER, SOIL AND WASTE**



An Integrated Approach for Developing SDGs

Relevance to Environmental Resource Management

International Kick-Off Workshop
United Nations University, Dresden, Germany ♦ 11 – 12 November, 2013

Sunday A. Leonard
Office of the Chief Scientist, UNEP



United Nations Environment Programme



The Context

Rio+20: Develop SDGs – balance environmental, social & economic dimensions of sustainable development...

Several on-going processes toward SDGs and Post-2015 agenda

- ✓ Open Working Group (OWG) - overall vision of SDGs
- ✓ UN SG's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons ...
- ✓ UN System-wide Task Team on ...
- ✓ Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- ✓ + many others

UNEP's role → “leading global environmental authority within UN system” → Input especially on “environmental dimension” to current processes & member states



UNEP Discussion Paper 1



Objectives

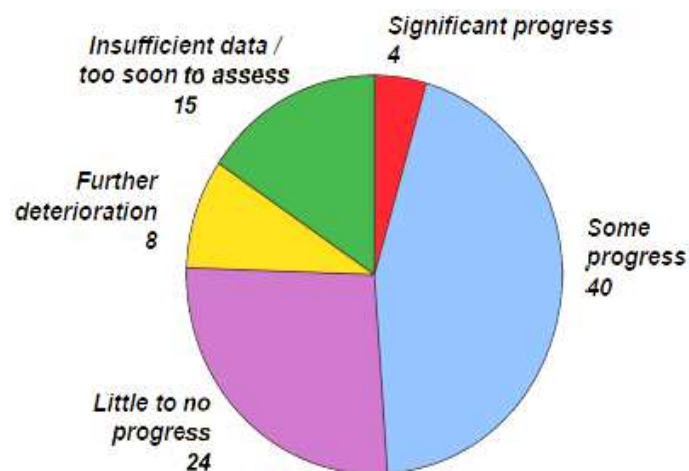
Advice & guidance → how environmental sustainability can be incorporated in SDGs

Scope of paper

- ❑ Part A: **Lessons** from current global environmental goals & targets
- ❑ Part B: **Framework** for embedding environment in the SDGs



Lessons from Current Goals and Targets



90 Internationally agreed goals and objectives assessed

UNEP GEO-5 analysis of over 90 global environmental goals

Successful environmental goals

- ✓ Built on general support from society and science
- ✓ Embedded in effective governance regimes
- ✓ Easier to implement because of the availability of solutions
- ✓ Linked to specific and measurable targets

Other lessons from MDGs and other goals



- ✓ SDGs must cover a wider range of important environmental topics
- ✓ SDGs should minimize fragmentation -- link environment with socio-economic development. -- coordinate design, implementation and monitoring



Framework for Embedding the Environment in SDGs



Overarching vision → narrative describing the rationale

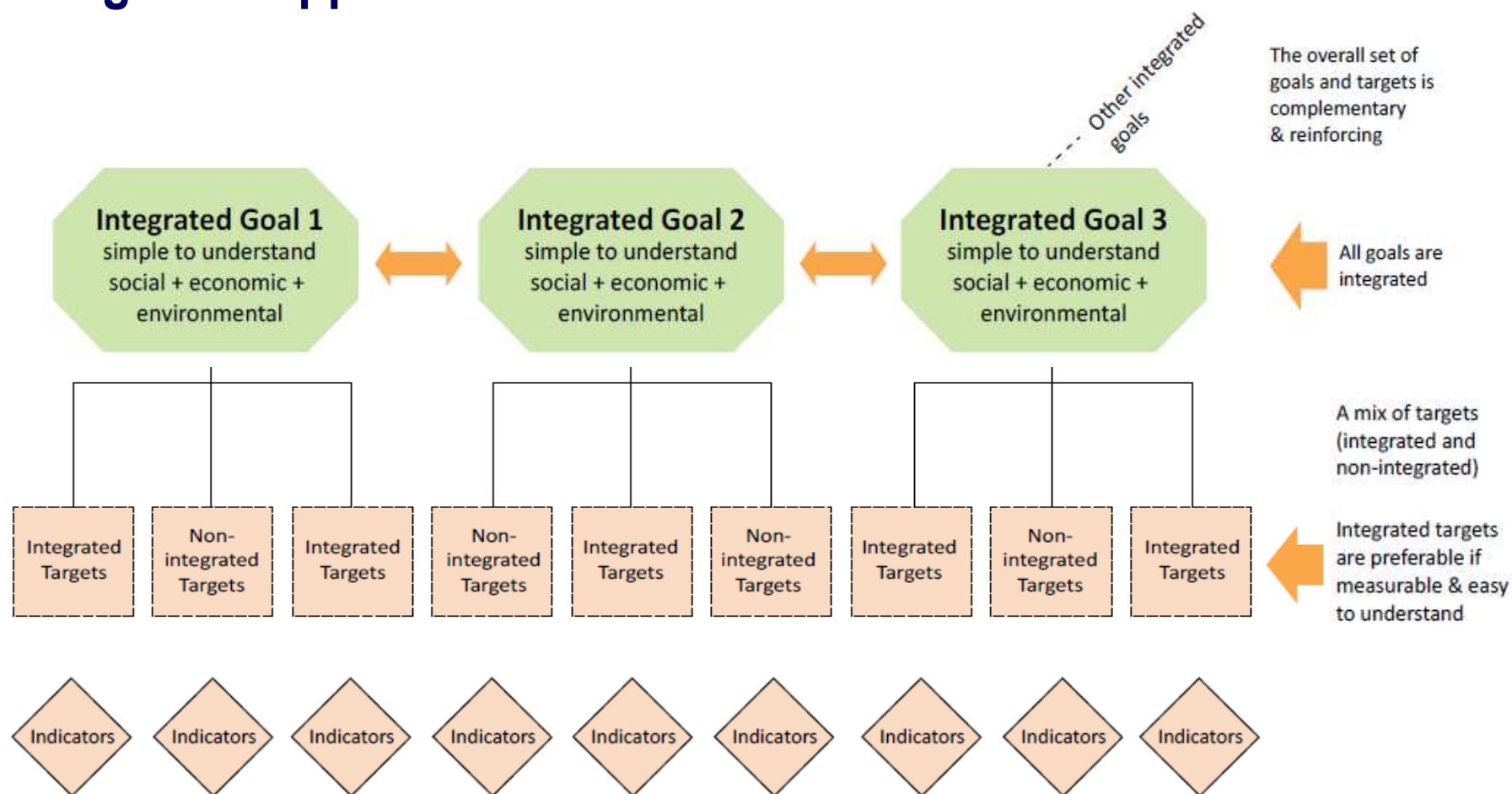
Integrated approach → basic characteristics and types of goals and targets

Criteria for selecting goals and target → for assessing or proposing goals

Best practices → for selecting indicators that can effectively support targets



The Integrated Approach





Criteria for selecting goals and targets

- 1. Strong linkage with developmental goals**



- 2. Critical issues of environmental sustainability**



- 3. Progress must be track-able**



- 4. Current global environmental goals and targets**



- 5. Scientifically credible and verifiable**



- 6. Decoupling of socio-economic goals to escalating resource use and environmental degradation**





The Integrated Approach – An Example

AN INTEGRATED GOAL: *Ensure food and nutrition security worldwide through:*

- (i) adequate nutrition for all,*
- (ii) equitable access to food supplies*
- (iii) expansion of sustainable fisheries & agriculture*

Integrated Target: Increase affordability & access to food, and reduce the environmental consequences of food production, by reducing **food loss and waste** by XX% by 20YY.

Non-integrated Target: Reduce the absolute number of children suffering from malnutrition from X to Y by 2025.

Non-integrated Target: Expand the coverage of sustainable agriculture and fisheries by:

- ✓ increasing the **area of land** under sustainable agriculture from XX% to YY% by 20YY
- ✓ ensuring that XX% of fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, by 20YY
- ✓ reducing by XX% the **environmental pollution (e.g., water pollution) and soil degradation** caused by unsustainable agricultural practices, e.g., excessive fertilizers use, by 20YY



Characteristics of Indicators?

Success rate of the nexus approach depends on selecting the right set of indicators

- ✓ ***Limited in number and coherent** – consistent & complementary to each other, within and between goals & targets.*
- ✓ ***Understandable, clear and unambiguous** in their interpretation*
- ✓ ***Specific and measurable** & linked to recognized monitoring systems for credibility and comparability*
- ✓ ***Linked to targets and robust** in providing measurement of progress*
- ✓ ***Policy relevant and sensitive to policy interventions***
- ✓ ***Include absolute and relative changes** to give a more complete picture of progress*



Strengths and Weaknesses

Weakness

- ✓ Requires shift in thinking in government, business, other institutions & high level of inter-sectoral coordination

Strengths

- ✓ Encourage governments & other institutions to move away from silo approach
- ✓ Adequate representation → high level of integration of 3 dimensions of sustainable development ensures all well represented
- ✓ Helps avoid unintended environmental impacts of socio-economic development.
- ✓ Conveys the messages:
 - conserve & invest in environmental goods and services as foundation for socio-economic development.
 - SDGs are a time for transformative thinking and strong leadership



Relevance to Nexus Approach

Nexus Approach → Integrated Approach

- ✓ *Incorporates the social, economics and environmental dimensions?*
- ✓ *Not just the interlinkages between environmental resources, but also linkages with humans, economics, and social dimensions*
- ✓ *Research and teaching should incorporate the three dimensions in practice*
- ✓ *Important for increasing relevance*



In Summary...



An integrated framework

1. Rationale and overarching vision;
2. Integrated approach;
3. Criteria for assessing goals & targets;
4. Best practices for indicators