



SDGs – Hitting the Targets

A GROW Cross-cutting topic

Prof. Claudia Pahl-Wostl, University of Osnabrück, STEER

Dr. Ursula Eid, Advisory Panel GROW

Dr. Anna Smetanova, Technical University Berlin, SaWaM

Dr. Frank-Andreas Weber, FiW e.V., Aachen, InoCottonGROW

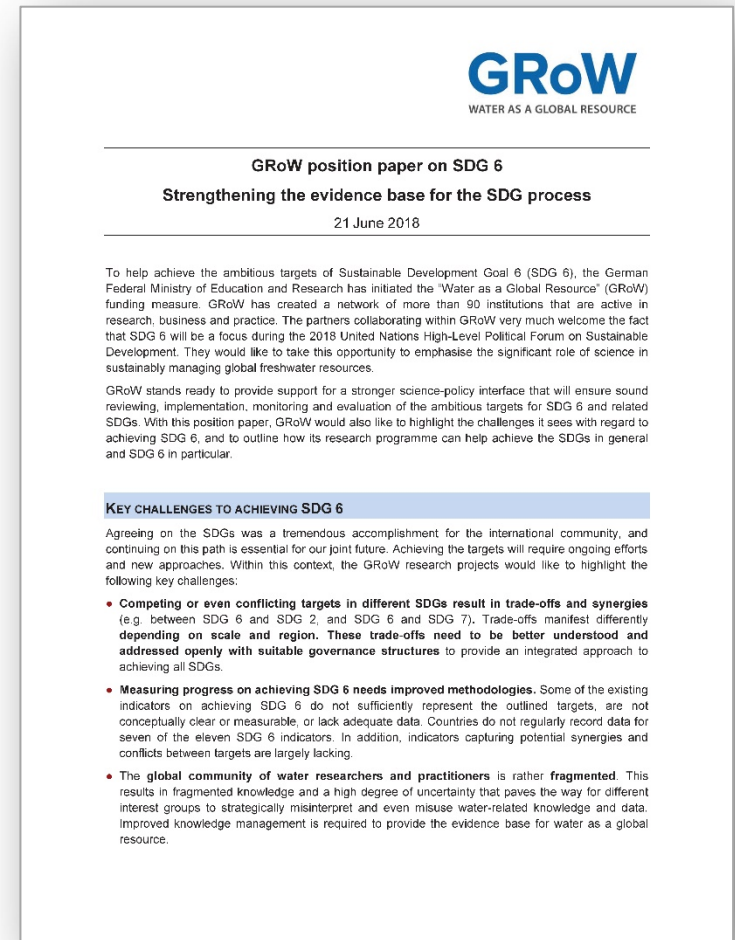
GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

First Product: GroW Position Paper

- GRow position paper on SDG 6: „Strengthening the evidence base for the SDG process“
- Presented at the HLPF on SDGs in New York in July 2018
- Feedback and expressions of interest from a range of international stakeholders
- Key challenges identified



Working Groups on Key Challenges Identified

WG 1 “Indicators, Data & Models”

(A. Smetanova, TU Berlin)

- Some of the existing indicators for measuring progress on achieving SDG 6 do not sufficiently represent the outlined targets, are not conceptually clear or measurable, or lack adequate data.

WG 2 “Conflicting targets and synergies between different SDG goals”

(F.-A. Weber, FiW e. V., Aachen)

- Competing or even conflicting targets in different SDGs are not well understood, and neither are scale- and region-dependent trade-offs and synergies.



Innovative indicators and monitoring concepts to support achieving SDG 6 in an integrated manner

Working Group within GRoW cross-cutting topic „UN-Sustainable Development Goals“

Anna Smetanova (TU Berlin), Annika Kramer (adelphi), Falk Schmidt (IASS Potsdam), Martina Flörke (Ruhr University Bochum), Evelyn Lukat (Osnabrück University), Christoph Lorenz (KIT), Christian Knieper (Osnabrück University), Tobias Landwehr (Osnabrück University)

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WG 1 Indicators, Data & Models

- GRoW policy brief
- SDG 6 monitoring as an opportunity for enhancing sustainable water management at the global and national level
- Main challenges:
 - Disaggregation
 - Interlinkages
 - Environmental data
 - Governance
 - Capacity

GRoW policy brief

Innovative indicators and monitoring concepts to support achieving SDG 6 in an integrated manner

In 2015, UN-Water launched the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to support countries in monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 related progress. This international monitoring effort provides immense opportunity for establishing new global standards and datasets for improved water management. However, achieving SDG 6 and related SDGs requires sound management and planning at the national and sub-national level – and thus appropriate monitoring concepts and indicators to support decision making at these levels.

Within the research, programme "Water as a Global Resource" (GRoW), which was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, professionals active in research, business and practice from 90 institutions worked together in more than 40 case studies around the world to develop new solutions in support of achieving SDG 6. This policy brief has been developed within a working group on the GRoW cross-cutting topic 'SDG6 – Hitting the target'. In this paper, GRoW experts argue that SDG monitoring can be coupled with cutting edge science-based approaches to improve achievement of the ambitious SDGs targets at the national and sub-national level. It provides examples on how the current global SDG monitoring could be complemented at national and sub-national level by innovative monitoring concepts and integrated indicators that help to improve:

- water management systems and SDG implementation,
- understanding of cross-sectoral interdependences to harness synergies to achieve more efficiently multiple SDGs
- water governance, as a prerequisite for SDG implementation,

SDG 6 monitoring as an opportunity

Monitoring of water-related variables has a long tradition in existing national monitoring schemes, and international or global monitoring systems (such as the Joint Monitoring Programme, Global Environment Monitoring System for freshwater (GEMS/Water), the Ramsar convention on Wetlands, or overarching monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)). In the past, these monitoring systems have helped to assess the actual dimension of the respective issue at hand and thus to raise awareness of its importance. For example, monitoring of the MDGs target 7.C on water and sanitation helped to close the hitherto existing gap in knowledge about access to sanitation, enabled to more accurately understand the complexity of the issue, and defined new monitoring needs.

Eight United Nations organizations have been formally mandated to compile country data on the SDG 6 global indicators. Together they launched the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 with an ultimate aim to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6 through evidence-based policies, regulations, planning and investments. The comprehensive and concerted SDG 6 monitoring effort sets new standards to existing monitoring:

- Countries have committed to monitor a broader spectrum of water-related variables than before, possibly down to basin level. This helps to recognize sustainability challenges at (sub-)national level.
- The SDGs require monitoring of previously unconsidered water-related issues, such as water quality, water-related ecosystems, water governance (integrated water resources management and transboundary water cooperation).

WG 1 Indicators, Data & Models

Approaches developed within GRow: three examples

1. **Interlinked model and data chains to fill existing monitoring gaps at basin level**
2. **Integrated indicators for measuring progress towards interlinked SDGs**
3. **Indicators and frameworks for assessing governance systems to better understand challenges in achieving interlinked SDGs**



WG 1 Indicators, Data & Models

Key recommendations for policy and decision makers:

- **make use of innovative approaches to fill existing data gaps** (e.g., remote sensing, integrated modelling, stakeholder knowledge)
- **combine new technologies** (e.g., remote sensing) **and monitoring approaches** (e.g., crowdsourced monitoring) **to simplify data acquisition on multiple levels and scales**
- **develop indicators in assessing SDG interlinkages**
- **include assessments of governance into monitoring efforts**
- **sound cross-sectoral monitoring paves the way for better coordination**



New approaches towards assessing trade-offs and synergies between SDG 6 and other SDGs

Working Group within GRoW cross-cutting topic „UN-Sustainable Development Goals“

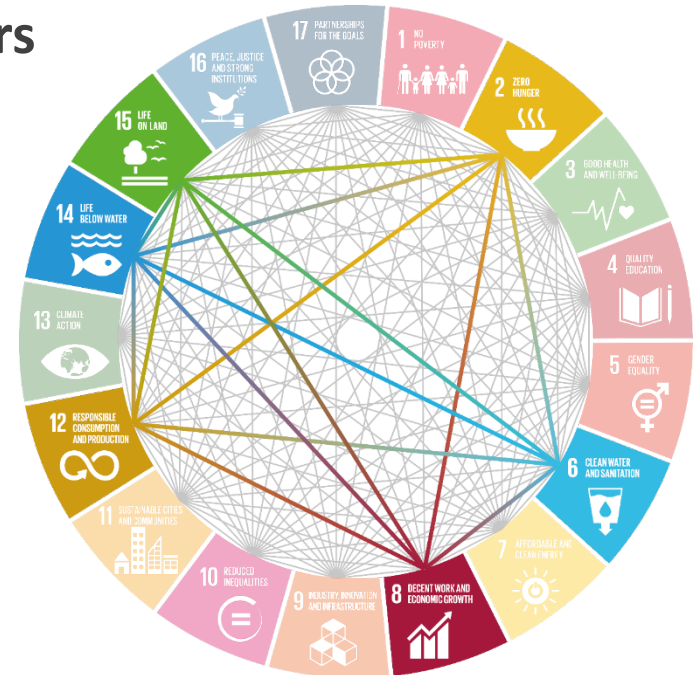
Frank-Andreas Weber (FiW e.V.), Manuel Krauß (FiW e.V.), Martina Floerke (RUB), Kristina Wencki (IWW), Ulf Stein (Ecologic), Judith Stich (FiW e.V.), Hanna Kramer (University of Stuttgart), Janine Möller (FiW e.V.), Nadine Gerner (EGLV), Hannah Kosow (University of Stuttgart)

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WG 2 Conflicting Targets and Synergies

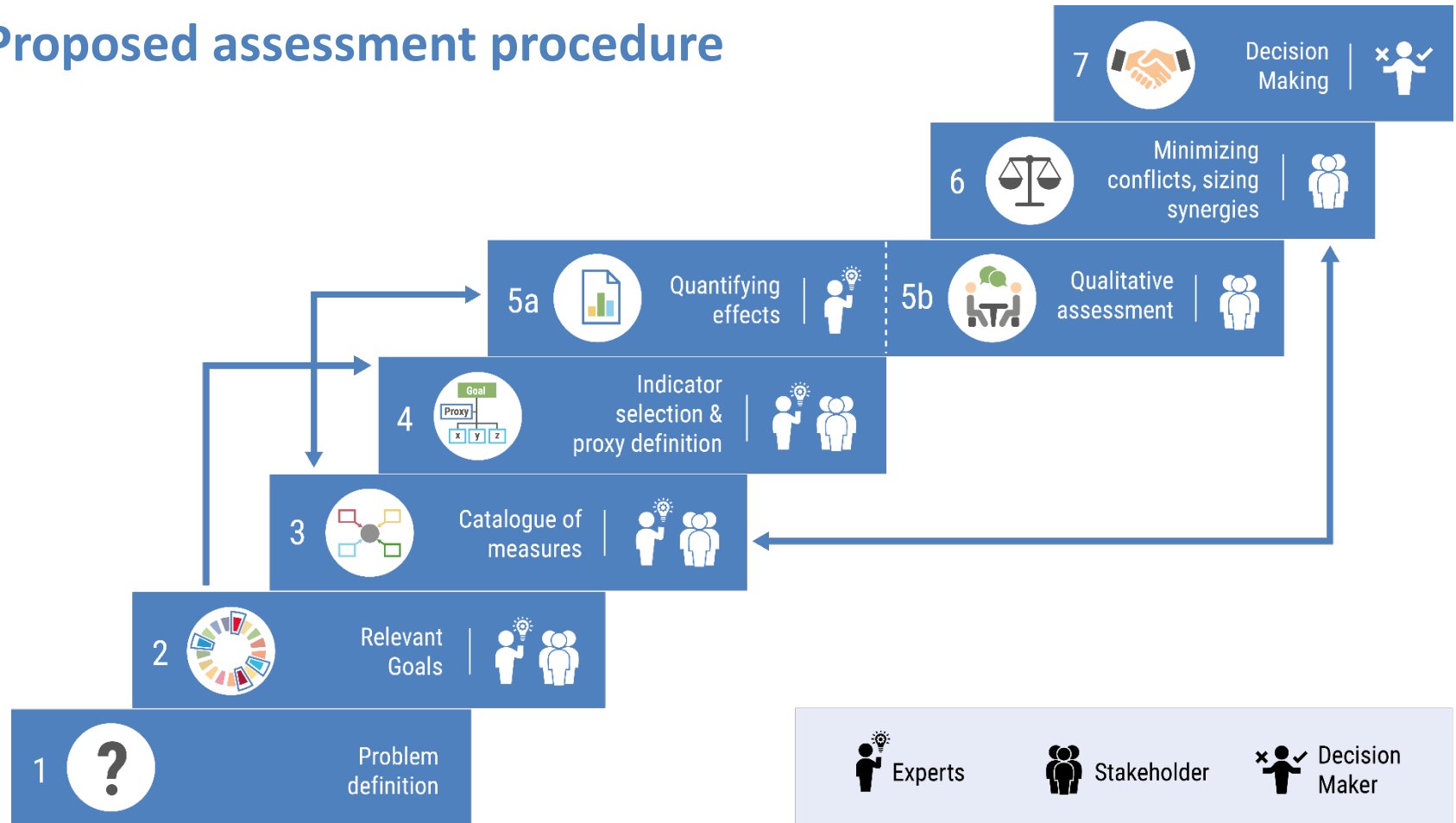
Discuss a **new assessment procedure** by which decision makers can evaluate the effects of key projects / policy strategies on achieving UN-SDG targets including **indirect trade-offs and synergies**.

- **Holistic approach** by looking on all 17 goals and 169 targets
- **Participatory involvement of stakeholders** to include local knowledge to minimize trade-offs and size synergies
- **Be quantitatively as far as possible**
- **Handle data gaps**
- Working across **different scales**



WG 2 Conflicting Targets and Synergies

Proposed assessment procedure



WG 2 Conflicting Targets and Synergies

- Participation of relevant stakeholders early on minimizing trade-offs and sizing synergies
- Event on Stockholm World Water Week, 25 August 2019
- Paper to be submitted
- KfW Climate Adaptation Support to Sector Information “Water and Sanitation” contracted to FiW e. V.



1 to be Submitted to sustainability in September 2020

2 Type of the Paper (Article, Review, Communication, etc.)

3 **Cooperative assessment procedure to size synergies**
4 **and avoid trade-offs between UN Sustainable**
5 **Development Goal SDG 6 and other SDGs for**
6 **improved decision making in planning processes**

7 [to integrate SDGs in decision support / interlinkages / stakeholder]

8
9 Frank-Andreas Weber ¹, Manuel Krauß ², Martina Hoerke ³, Kristina Wencki ⁴, Ulf Stein ⁵, Judith
10 Stich ¹, Hanna Kramer ², Janine Möller ¹, Nadine Gerner ², Hannah Kosow ²

11 ¹ Forschungsinstitut für Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaft an der RWTH Aachen (FiW) e.V.; weber@fiw.rwth-
12 aachen.de

13 ² Universität Stuttgart; manuel.krauss@iswa.uni-stuttgart.de

14 ³ Ruhr-Universität Bochum; e-mail@e-mail.de

15 ⁴ IWW Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wasserforschung gGmbH; k.wencki@iww-online.de

16 ⁵ Ecology; e-mail@e-mail.com

17 ⁶ EGLV; e-mail@e-mail.com

18 * Correspondence: e-mail@e-mail.com; Tel.: (optional); include country code; if there are multiple
19 corresponding authors, add author initials) +xx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx (I.L.)

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21 **Abstract (Head FiW):**

22 While the Sustainable Development Goals have clarified the overall objectives for global
23 development, on the scale of individual projects most times there are diverse interests leading to
24 activities and measures that can affect the achievement of relevant SDGs positively oder
25 negatively. On the global level, there are several tools of multilateral organizations to assess
26 progress on each SDG, but there is a lack of approaches corresponding approach allowing to
27 examine a project's impact on multiple goals. The developed method aims to provide an approach
28 to balance the contributions of different measures and actions to SDG's achievement within a
29 project. It also gives the possibility to weigh different kinds of indicators – e.g. quantitative against
30 qualitative. The method in itself is therefore flexible in the selection of evaluation methods. The
31 approach was successfully applied on four completed projects, which let to promising results. It
32 remains to be tested on new project with multiple main goals.

33 **Keywords:** SDGs, trade off, cooperative assessment procedure, qualitative indicators,
34 quantitative indicators, decision making, coherence

35
36 1. Introduction (1200 Words, Head: FiW, Contributors: Ulf, Hannah)

37 Introduction to UN SDGs

38 In 2015 all member countries of the UN sent off the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 17
39 goals for worldwide sustainable development. While agreements before were mainly aimed at the
40 Global South, the SDGs target the development in all countries. They contain diverse goals from
41 “Clean Water and Sanitation” (SDG 6) over “Zero Hunger” (SDG 2) to “Sustainable Cities and
42 Communities” (SDG 11). The goals set by the framework should all be reached at national level by

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Wasserressourcen als bedeutsame Faktoren der
Energieende auf lokaler und globaler Ebene

STEER 

MedWater 

trust 



ViWA
Virtual Water Values

Globe
Drought 



iWa
GSS
INTEGRATED
WATER
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Dr. Frank-Andreas Weber, FiW e. V., Aachen, InoCottonGROW (weber@fiw.rwth-aachen.de)

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