



2nd GRoW-Workshop "SDGs – Hitting the targets"

Brief summary report

Date:	11 December 2018		
Place:	Institute for Environmental Systems Research, University of Osnabrück		
Participants:	From the projects InoCottonGROW, SaWaM, STEER, Trust, WANDEL goCAM, GlobeDrought (see participants list in Appendix A)		
Responsible Persons:	Prof C. Pahl-Wostl, Dr U. Eid, Dr A. Smetanova, Dr FA. Weber		
Moderator:	Dr Ilke Borowski-Maaser		

Introduction and Welcome by Prof Pahl-Wostl

- After a short welcome note, Prof Pahl-Wostl thanked all supporters of the working group and outlined the objectives of this second workshop of the cross-cutting topic: to further investigate the two working group topics identified at the first workshop.
- This was followed by an outline of the agenda by the moderator and a short introduction round of the participants, including an outline of their regional expertise (see participants list provided in Appendix A; and photo on regional expertise of participants in Appendix B).

First input presentation

"Methods for identifying conflicting targets and synergies within SDGs" (Dr F.-A. Weber)

- In the first presentation Dr Weber introduced <u>3 methods available to assess conflicting</u> <u>targets</u> and synergies between different SDG targets ('conflicting targets' because goals are not conflicting by themselves (see presentation on GRoW-website <u>here</u>):
 - Le Blanc (2015): Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network target.
 - Basis of analysis is a matrix that links every target of the SDGs to all the goals to which its wording refers (purely based on wording, not empirical analysis).
 - Water does not mirror prominently in the assessment results (very little interlinkages with other SDGs).
 - IGES (2017): Sustainable Development Goals Interlinkages and Network Analysis: A practical tool for SDG integration and policy coherence.
 - Analysis based on case studies of several Asian countries.
 - Water is presented more prominent in the results (several targets amongst most influential in terms of interactions).





- International Council for Science (ICSU), 2017: A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation [D.J. Griggs, M. Nilsson, A. Stevance, D. McCollum (eds.)]. International Council for Science.
 - 7-point scale is used to evaluate key target-level interactions between an 'entry goal' and all other goals. Scores are attributed based on expert judgment and literature review.
 - Methodology allows broad multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach, to synthesize knowledge and to identify focal points.
 - This method was used in the survey circulated prior to the meeting.

Input by Trust (Manuel Krauß)

- Trust uses a cross-impact balance analysis (CIB) to assess interlinkages amongst water related goals of different users as well as among different SDG 6 targets within its case study in Lima (Lurín River Basin).
- CIB is a qualitative, semi-formalized form of systems analysis, which assesses interlinkages between alternative policy options (development of alternative developments descriptors, / assessment of pairwise influences between variants of these descriptors).
- Based on this assessment, different conflict-free policy mixes (combinations of policies, measures, instruments) are discussed to ensure that different activities at implementation level avoid conflicting results.
- Major differences compared to other methods:
 - Systematic and formalized analysis of the impact network (balance algorithm).
 - Ultimate objective is to identify conflict-free policy mixes (multi-goal optimization). Interlinkages between different goals are assessed only indirectly through the assessment of interlinkages between policies to reach these goals.

Main points of discussion:

- Participants addressed the question whether and under which conditions case study results could possibly be generalized for regional/country-level.
- Often this is not really possible. In some cases quantification of indicators at broader levels is possible.
- adelphi emphasized that there is also interest amongst policy actors in disaggregated data, which is important for decision-making. A UN platform for this purpose is currently in the planning phase and should be launched soon (introduced at World Water Week 2018).
- It was furthermore discussed that whether conflicts and synergies between different targets and/or goals arise greatly depends on how these targets/goals are pursued. Measures taken to achieve targets in turn depend on political decisions. Therefore it is also a matter of political decision making whether conflicts in achieving various targets are avoided or not.





Short introduction to objectives of the two working groups

Dr Smetanova and Dr Weber briefly introduced the key thematic focuses, objectives and possible outcomes of the two working groups. This was followed by a short round of discussion and followed by the decision of participants to join one of the two groups.

- 1) Group 1: Indicators, data & models (Dr A. Smetanova), see presentation here
- <u>SDG 6 Synthesis Report</u> identified operational monitoring and data acquisition as the main obstacles towards achieving SDGs targets. Methods for data acquisition, modelling, and analysis are a key strength of GRoW projects.
- Aim of the working group: identify and collect innovative methods for data collection, analysis, and modelling approaches amongst GRoW partners to support the SDG 6 monitoring process. In addition, provide empirical examples for application of these approaches and how they can improve the situation on the ground.
- A possible outcome of the group work could be a policy briefing or opinion paper.

Discussion:

- The relevance of the monitoring methods to actually guide decision making and SDG implementation could also be subject of discussion within the group.
- Another objective of the group's work which was discussed included the aim to formulate recommendations for further development of methods (targeted at UN custodians).
- Based on the accumulated expertise within the GRoW community pitfalls in the current monitoring process as well as recommendations for the global process could be formulated, even where GRoW cannot provide solutions to all problems identified.

2) Group 2: Conflicting targets and synergies between different SDGs (Dr F.-A. Weber)

- Aim of the working group: To use the regional expertise available in the GRoW consortium to demonstrate the importance of SDG 6 in achieving other SDGs and to back this up with clear examples and best practices from work generated within GRoW projects. Hypothesis (to be tested): Reaching certain targets influences intensity of interaction amongst targets (in other words: if SDG 6 targets are strengthened, this has a positive influence on other targets).
- In terms of outcome, the working group could channel the results of the evaluation, along with examples and best practices, into a policy paper (or similar) and to prepare a contribution for the World Water Week in Stockholm next year.

Discussion:

- Main topic of discussion was whether the group should either focus on methods for identifying SDG interlinkages or on regional differences of assessment results reflected in the survey (can differences between assessment scores be attributed to differences in assessment processes/methods or to regional differences in context factors?).
- If and to which extent interlinkages between SDG 6 and its targets play out also depends on the level of achievement in SDG 6 and its targets, for example, in a country where SDG 6 targets are largely achieved, the interdependency with other SDGs may play out less prominent than in countries where the level of SDG 6 performance is low.





Group work

Group 1: Indicators, data & models (Dr A. Smetanova)

- The group discussion started with a conversation on what the output of the joint work could be. It was quickly agreed that the aim would be to prepare a **policy brief on how the current SDG monitoring process** could be further improved/amended/used/ complemented so as to:
 - help SDG implementation and decision making on the ground,
 - better represent existing governance systems that are a prerequisite for SDG implementation,
 - better address cross-sectoral problems in order to more efficiently achieve SDGs, avoid conflicting objectives and reveal synergies.
- The group sees GRoW not in the position to recommend changes in the SDG indicator and monitoring system per se, but rather to provide examples of how the monitoring process can be improved and complemented to provide meaningful insights for sustainable water resources management.
- Key statements of the paper should be illustrated by practical examples from GRoW. Also demonstrate data gaps and importance of improved data collection. GRoW examples include (list can be complemented by other projects):
 - Example monitoring: SaWaM develops interim methodologies which can be used for reporting until monitoring schemes are developed (water scarce regions, amount and seasonal availability of water),
 - Example governance: STEER analyses cross-sectoral governance challenges and deals with coordination instruments about how the obstacles in cross-sectoral governance can be overcome. Monitoring SDGs 6.5.1,
 - Example cross-sectoral: WANDEL delivers sub-nationally applicable indicators, which serves multiple SDGs (one monitored variable is useful to report multiple SDG).
- It was also remarked that there are also other monitoring approaches next to SDG (e.g. the RAMSA-Convention) which should be considered in the policy brief.
- Proposed outline of the paper:
 - 1. Rationale/Introduction:
 - 1.1 Existing (inter-)national monitoring systems (already before SDGs)

1.2 SDGs indices monitoring systems – do they improve existing monitoring? SDGs monitoring system is an opportunity for improvement and setting new standards

2. Our analysis

2.1 Where are we on the right track (in monitoring as tool to support achieving SDG targets/ or better achieve sustainable development)

- 2.2 Where are the gaps?
- 3. Example from the projects use to match with selected issues in 2.1, 2.2 (to remain politically correct, do not go beyond the project area of interest and region)
- Next steps:
 - adelphi prepares outline for policy brief until 11 January 2019.





- Participants of the working groups fill the outline with some text (about ½ page each) to have a first concept of the paper.
- Paper concept to be presented at GRoW mid-term conference on 20/21 Feb in Frankfurt, ask for further contributions from other GRoW members/projects.
- Concept paper to be further advanced in order to have a first draft for the next cross-cutting topic meeting.
- At next meeting (around June 2019): finalization of the draft (best case scenario), other case scenario: further discussion

Group 2: Conflicting targets and synergies between different SDGs (Dr F.-A. Weber)

- The group discussion started with a short introduction and discussion about the four projects that filled-in the survey. It was observed that the grading of interactions between different SDGs was significantly different between the projects.
- The group then discussed possible outcomes of the working group session which the participants would like to see:
 - It would be beneficial if the region-focused analysis of the GRoW projects could also provide indications for improving SDG implementation beyond the case studies.
 - It was suggested to develop a method to assess and measure the impacts of interactions between different SDG targets, which would provide an important basis for decision-making.
 - The role of different governance capacities and its influence on mitigating negative effectives on SDG interactions was discussed (this would likely influence the assessment of SDG interactions).
 - Research results coming from GRoW should also support and influence policy-making; so focus should be put on which specific results could be communicated to respective UN organizations to support the monitoring etc. of individual SDG indicators.
- The group decided, based on case examples coming from GRoW projects, to develop a new methodology/assessment procedure by which one can evaluate projects and/or different policy plans and their effects on SDG interactions. This will be done by taking into account the different national contexts (e.g. governance capacities). While the focus of the method will be to assess interaction amongst SDG 6 targets, other SDG goals and targets will also be considered (compare Appendix B 2). The method will benefit from similar approaches in the context of evaluating ecosystem-services.
- The approach will be based on the ICSU method but with a stronger focus on the level of individual SDG targets (instead of goals).
- Added value of the new methodology: Advantages and disadvantages of interventions can be presented more precisely.
- The overall aim is to develop concrete proposals for decisions-making to avoid or at least minimize negative effects and interactions amongst individual SDG targets.
- Subsequently the group started working on filling-in the excel table:
 - It was discussed whether the interaction of targets would be viewed in the context of specific activities and/or national plans.





- Where no interaction of targets could be observed this would be indicated with 'not significant' (not 0).
- It was decided that the discussion and reflection around the assessment along the excel table is very crucial and should therefore be finalized within the group (see next steps).
- At the very end the group defined the next steps:
 - A core team for the further development of the method was established: Ulf Stein, Manuel Krauß, Kristina Wencki, Zita Sebesvari/ Martina Flörke, Frank-Andreas Weber.
 - Writing-down of the method/completion of the table will be done jointly during an online meeting during the second week of January (adelphi will organize the doodle survey/meeting).

Transferring generated knowledge into the political process

Input presentation adelphi

- Based on a short introduction on the needs and opportunities for science engagement in the SDG 6 process by relevant UN actors (compare interview with Graham Alabaster & Stephan Uhlenbrook/Angela Ortigara) adelphi outlined possible entry points for engagement at the UN level:
 - Direct exchange and collaboration with SDG 6 custodian agencies (different UN organizations) in form of e.g. position paper or crisp technical paper. This can be facilitated by adelphi.
 - Input by GRoW to other UN-platforms such as the <u>Global Sustainable</u> <u>Development Report</u> (GSDR); <u>the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science</u>, <u>Technology and Innovation</u> (STI) for the SDGs (next meeting 14-15 May 2019) or the <u>Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators</u>.
 - Presentations at relevant conferences, events such as the <u>Stockholm World</u> <u>Water Week</u> (deadline for event submissions 20 January 2019) or the <u>High-</u> <u>Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development</u> (HLPF).
- Preparatory work (e.g. for the development of policy briefs) and arrangement of contacts can be facilitated by GRoWnet (adelphi).

Discussion:

- Two additional relevant events where highlighted to be of significance for the GRoW program: the HLPF 2021 when SDG 6 will again be reviewed; and the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water Action Decade (22 24 March 2023). Although the dates lie beyond the time frame of the GRoW program, they should nonetheless be considered for communicating relevant results.
- Participants showed strong interest to contribute to a session at the SWWW 2019 (e.g. a session linked to the data / monitoring policy brief).
- Also, even though the potential relevance of the (further developed) working group results was acknowledged, the limited resources for cross-cutting themes and the pressure of the GRoW-projects point towards the need for very clearly defining the scope of the method developed or the policy papers.





Input presentation Dr Falk Schmidt

- Dr Falk Schmidt introduced the German <u>Science Platform Sustainability 2030</u> which seeks to support sustainability policymaking and to provide a platform for exchange between representatives from academia, policymaking, the private sector, and civil society.
- There are currently 4 scientific working groups: global commons (which also covers water), sustainable consumption, future of work, sustainable mobility.
- The science platform is in exchange with an interministerial council (Ressortkreis) composed of different German ministries which support the work of the platform.
- The first major conference of the Science Platform will take place at the end of 2019 and will serve as a scientific input to the revision of the German Sustainability Strategy which will be revised in 2020. There will be an opportunity for GRoW projects to engage in an on-line consultation in preparation of the revision of the German Sustainability Strategy. Dr Schmidt will circulate the call for engagement which is expected to be published in February/March next year.

Next steps

- GRoWnet (adelphi) will facilitate the organization of an <u>online meeting for further</u> <u>discussion within working group 'conflicting targets and synergies</u>' during the second week of January (doodle survey) and <u>prepares the minutes</u> of the meeting.
- GRoWnet (adelphi) prepares an outline of a policy brief for the working group <u>'Indicators,</u> <u>data & models'</u> until 11 January 2019.
- GRoWnet (adelphi) will prepare the minutes of the meeting and circulate them amongst the GRoW community.



Appendix

A) List of participants

No		Family Name	First Name	Institution	Project	Email
1		Wencki	Kristina	IWW Zentrum Wasser	InoCottonGROW	k.wencki@iww-online.de
2	Dr	Weber	Frank-Andreas	FiW e.V.	InoCottonGROW	weber@fiw.rwth-aachen.de
3	Dr	Smetanova	Anna	TU Berlin	SaWaM	anna.smetanova@tu-berlin.de
4		Mollenhauer	Silke	oowv	STEER	mollenhauer@oowv.de
5	Dr	Stein	Ulf	Ecologic	STEER	ulf.stein.ecologic.de
6		Knieper	Christian	Uni Osnabrück	STEER	cknieper@uni-osnabrueck.de
7	Prof	Pahl-Wostl	Claudia	Uni Osnabrück	STEER	pahl@usf.uni-osnabrueck.de
8		Krauß	Manuel	Uni Stuttgart	Trust	manuel.krauss@iswa.uni-stuttgart.de
9	Dr	Kosow	Hannah	Universität Stuttgart	Trust	hannah.kosow@zirius.uni-stuttgart.de
10		Landwehr	Tobias	Uni Osnabrück	WANDEL	tobias.landwehr@uni-osnabrueck.de
11	Dr	Flörke	Martina	Uni Kassel	WANDEL	floerke@usf.uni-kassel.de
12	Dr	Sebesvari	Zita	UNU-EHS	WANDEL	sebesvari@ehs.unu.edu



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13		Kramer	Annika	adelphi	GRoWnet	kramer@adelphi.de
14	Dr	Blumstein	Sabine	adelphi	GRoWnet	blumstein@adelphi.de
15	Dr	Borowski- Maaser	Ilke	Interessen im Fluss		bm@interessen-im-fluss.de
16	Dr	Schmidt	Falk	IASS Potsdam		Falk.Schmidt@iass-potsdam.de
17	Dr	Wolf	Leif	Projektträger Karlsruhe		leif.wolf@kit.edu
18	Dr	Eid	Ursula			uschi.eid@googlemail.com







B) Photo documentation

B1: Regional focus/expertise present at the meeting









B2: Graphical visualization of envisaged method for assessing SDG-interactions





B3: Other monitoring approaches that should be considered

11.12.18 LD Zeelseby SDGG Habrichme meisil LS PROJEKT / Taylinchime mil 1 SDG (F) SDG (Ausscryspun) als toto tokus S ANALYSE SO WEIT N'ACHSTE SCHRITTE LD METHODIK VERSCHRIFTLICHEN LD. Ris STATUS KONFEDEN? Manuel branss 1 Ulf Stein, Krishner Wencki Martina Floit (Zita Sebesvari Franz-Indreas Weber 2. Januar Wach -) Telcon!





B4: Possibilities for transferring research results

11.12.18 ERGINZUNG AG Dala, India. DIREKTER KONTAKT STEER 86.5 -> -> Überlappungen mit Ramsar... L> adelphis unterstütet -> Rolle EUROSTAT ...? SVerhallmis ELI-SOG winde in Gönze der Rahmen L) Hinweis Cichij





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PAKISTISTAN INOCOHONGEON	Malnahmen, KLARANLAGER BIO-ENDESY KLARANLAGER BIO-ENDESY	Mk
	FLUSS- REIVATURIOR STRATEGIEV F.WASSERSEKTOR	
L) ERST	AUSCOIRICUME DER MASSNAHME AUF SDG G.X -> DANN ZIEL	
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-> Dein -> "O" -> for	tins Water LADDER micht benidsichtig + "independent" (Abhänsister ben not significant aber kann ander ausgeslichen w r Diskussion sbedard -> Gruppe notserdig	oteht, rs Narda)