Governing SDG Interactions

An international research programme studying interactions
between different SDGs in specific country contexts.

Beyond cherry-picking:

aligning development actors and efforts for inclusive and effective governance of trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in East Africa
Factsheet

> **"Many different actors are working on achieving the different SDGs from a multitude of angles and perspectives. We want to identify effective mechanisms for aligning these efforts, so that trade-offs are minimized and synergies maximized."**
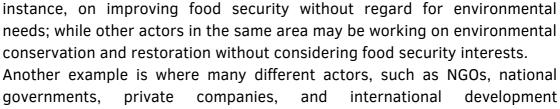
This project is about the governance of SDG interactions. Currently, SDG governance is mostly fragmented. Some actors may be working, for instance, on improving food security without regard for environmental needs; while other actors in the same area may be working on environmental conservation and restoration without considering food security interests.

Another example is where many different actors, such as NGOs, national governments, private companies, and international development organisations all work on the same theme in the same area, but in a misaligned manner.

Through in-depth case studies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda we will explore the effectiveness of different governance mechanisms to create inter-departmental, inter-donor, donor-recipient and public-private alignment to improve overall SDG implementation results.

Main Research question(s)

How do mechanisms of cross-level and cross-sector alignment enable development actors to address trade-offs and build synergies in the governance of SDG implementation in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda?

Research led by:

Prof. Art Dewulf (Wageningen University) in collaboration with researchers from the Public Administration & Policy group, Forest and Nature Conservation Policy group, Environmental Policy group, and Law group.

Research group and affiliated universities

Dr. Gete Zeleke, Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC, Ethiopia)
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Country Focus

The project focuses on three specific SDGs in three East African countries, and studies their synergies and trade-offs with other SDGs from a governance perspective:

· Uganda (SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation)
· Ethiopia (SDG 15 – life on land)
· Kenya (SDG 2 – zero hunger)

The research partners in these countries ensure strong embeddedness of the project into local and regional networks.

Planned Activities

The project design is based on principles of transdisciplinary research, involving stakeholders from different backgrounds and institutions right from the start.
The research is structured around the three in-depth multi-level case studies. Each of these is linked to two PhD projects, looking at SDG interactions from either a global to local or a local to global perspective. A final PhD project focuses on the shared system of rules for aid effectiveness at the international level.

Target Audience

This project builds on a strong set of cooperation partners that ensure the project's connection to international institutions such as the OECD and African Union, and discussions that play key roles in SDG implementation, such as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The prime target audience will consist of international organisations, donor agencies, NGOs and national governments.

What are the anticipated or hoped for results?

Through this project we hope to convincingly show the importance for different development actors to align and coordinate their efforts, and to offer concrete recommendations on how to achieve this.