

SDG Synergies: a tool to support decision making in implementing the 2030 Agenda

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Åsa Persson
SEI Research Director



Karin Fernando
Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka (CEPA),
Senior Professional



Suzanna Sumkhuu
Former SDG and development policy
planning focal point in the Government of
Mongolia



Efraim Hernández
SEI Research Associate



Daniela Maestre
SEI Research Assistant



Ivonne Lobos
SEI Senior Expert Researcher

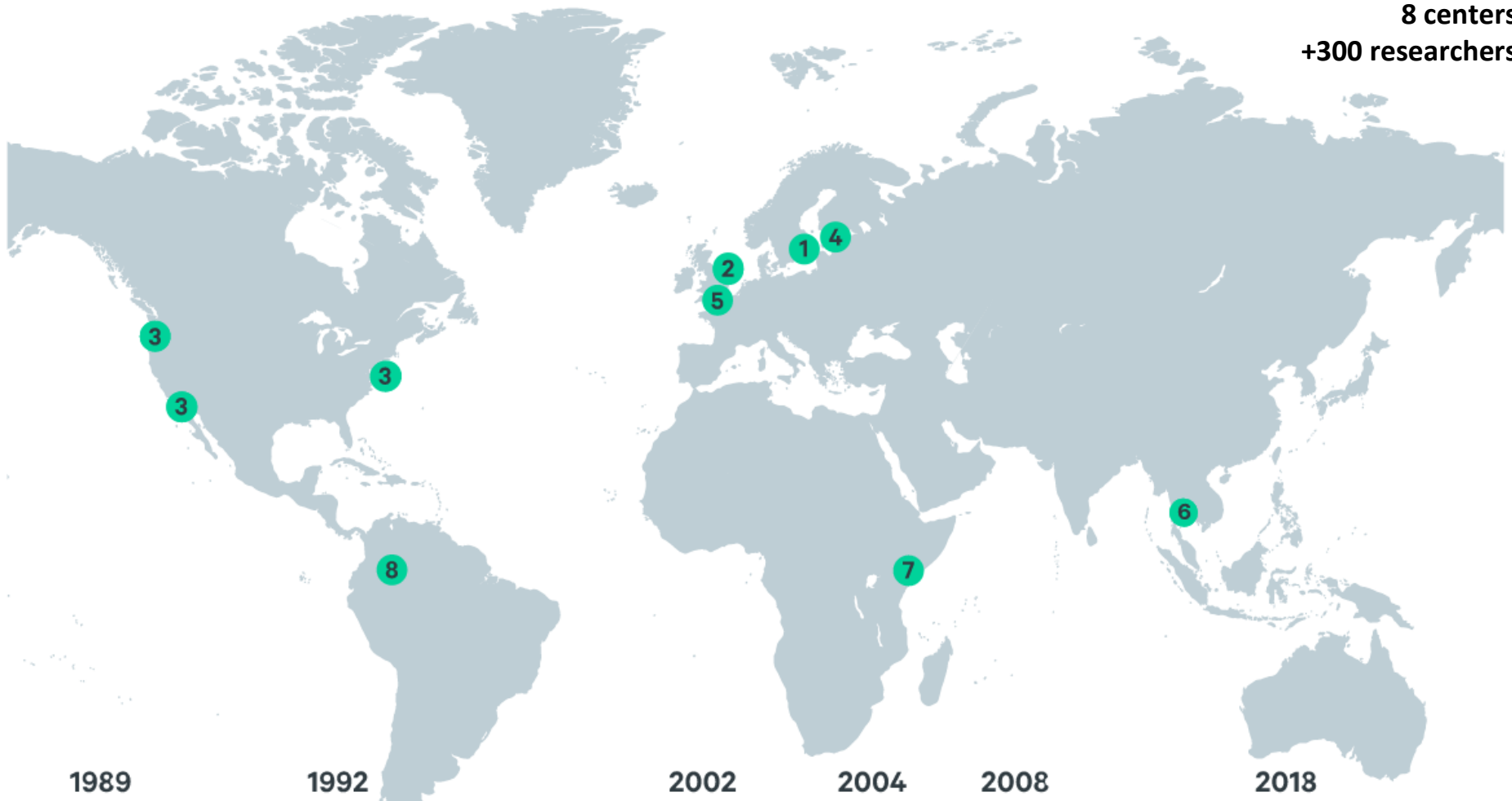
Agenda



-
1. About SEI – Stockholm Environment Institute
 2. SDG Synergies tool and cross-impact analysis methodology
 3. Use cases of the tool and applications of the tool
 4. Demo: how to create and score a cross-impact matrix of interactions
 5. Q&A

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

8 centers
+300 researchers



1989

1992

2002

2004

2008

2018

1 SEI Headquarters

4 SEI Tallinn

5 SEI Oxford

6 SEI Asia

7 SEI Africa

8 SEI Latin America

2 SEI York

3 SEI US

An aerial photograph of a modern campus. A dark river flows through the center, bordered by lush green trees and landscaped walkways. To the right, a modern building with a grey facade and large windows is visible. The foreground shows a paved area with a geometric pattern. The overall scene is bright and green, suggesting a sustainable and modern environment.

Vision

A sustainable, prosperous future for all

Mission

To support decision-making and induce change towards sustainable development around the world by providing integrative knowledge that **bridges science, policy and practice** in the field of environment and development

SEI Stockholm
Environment
Institute

SDG Synergies

Making effective policy often means balancing sets of highly connected but very diverse targets. Striking the right balance can unlock synergies that bring multiple targets closer. The wrong one can see momentum lost, and progress on one target pushing others out of reach.

SDG Synergies is a practical tool for understanding how groups of policy areas and targets interact, using systems thinking. Designed by researchers at Stockholm Environment Institute originally to support governments in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG Synergies could be invaluable within and beyond the field of sustainability.

SDG Synergies is now being developed as a free online tool.

REQUEST AN
ACCOUNT ✉

DOWNLOAD THE
MANUAL 📄

VIDEO TUTORIAL
🔗



<https://www.sdgsynergies.org/>

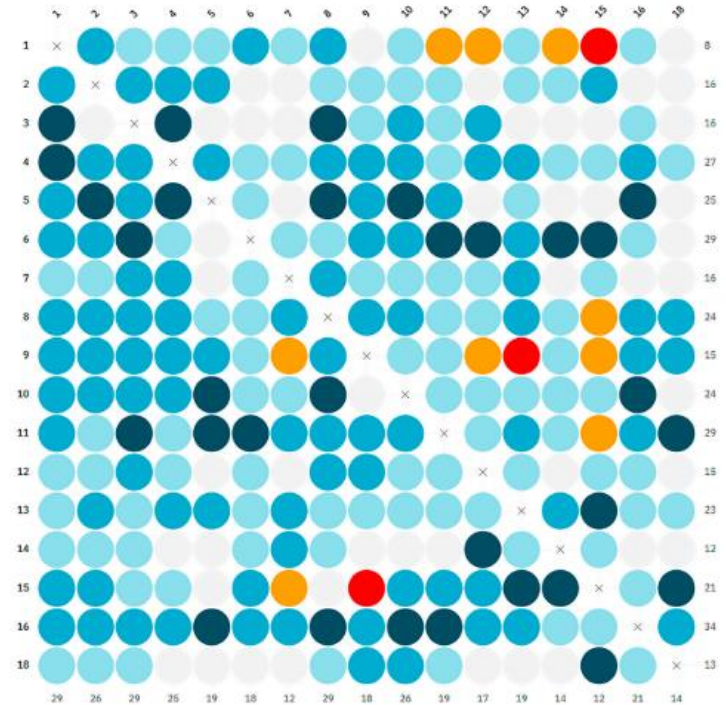


SDG Synergies tool

SDG Synergies helps the user to **record**, **visualize** and **analyze** how multiple **policy objectives** interact

Based on a **participatory discussion scoring process**

Develops a **matrix of cross-impact interactions** between all the objectives being considered: this **reveals how progress on one might affect progress on the other, and vice versa**

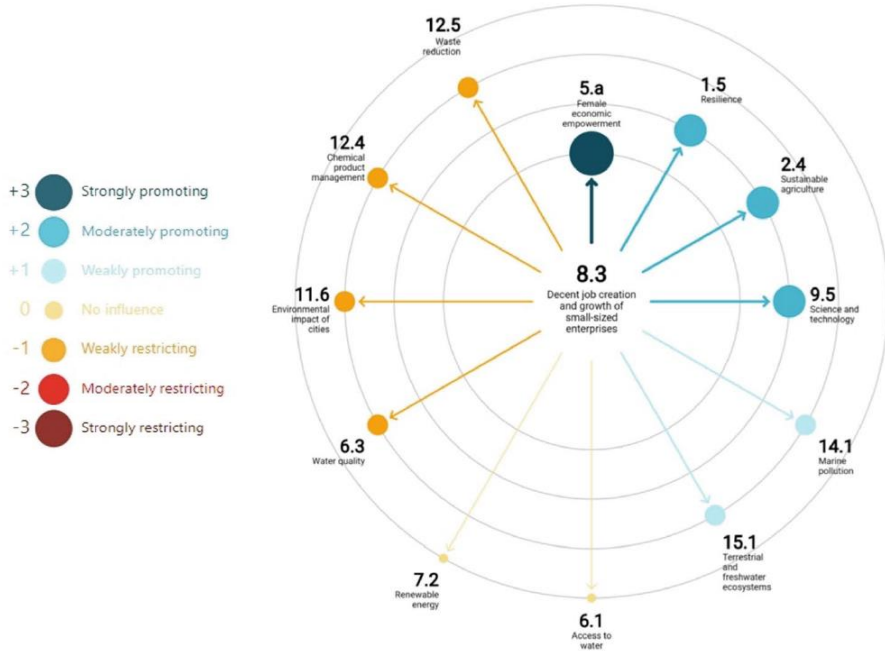




SDG Synergies tool

Through the use of **network visualization and analytics**, SDG Synergies can reveal complex relationships between policies; for example, how the effects of an interaction might affect the entire system

Visualizations and analytics can **inform decisions about how to prioritize** or sequence the implementation of different objectives



Select the scores to be included ?

Score slider: -3 to 3

Show Clusters ?

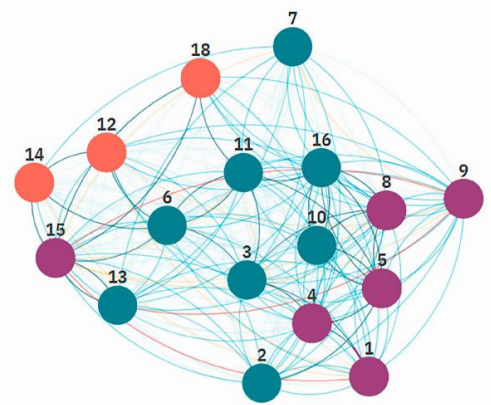
Off On

The attraction between nodes is defined by ?

Score dropdown menu

Download the network image

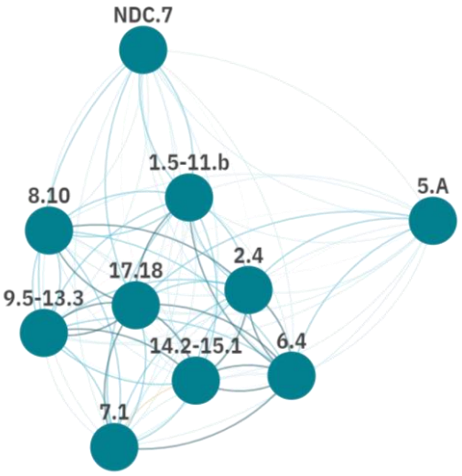
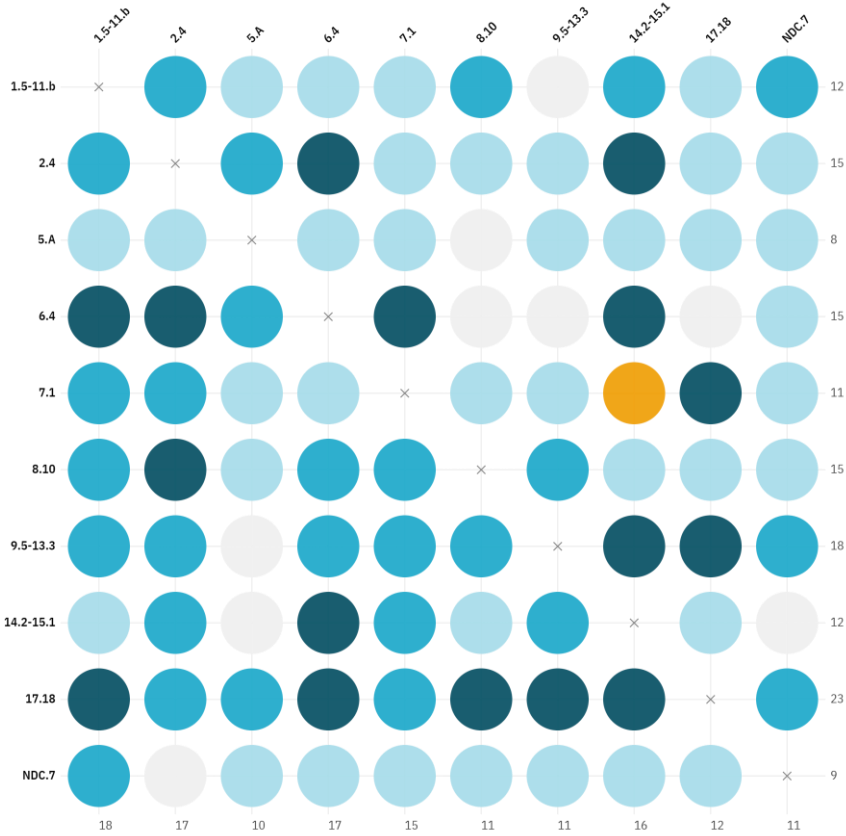
Buttons: PNG, JPEG





SDG Synergies tool

The SDG Synergies approach seeks a coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda and **other public policy agendas**. In this sense, the tool can be used in any context and sector of public policy



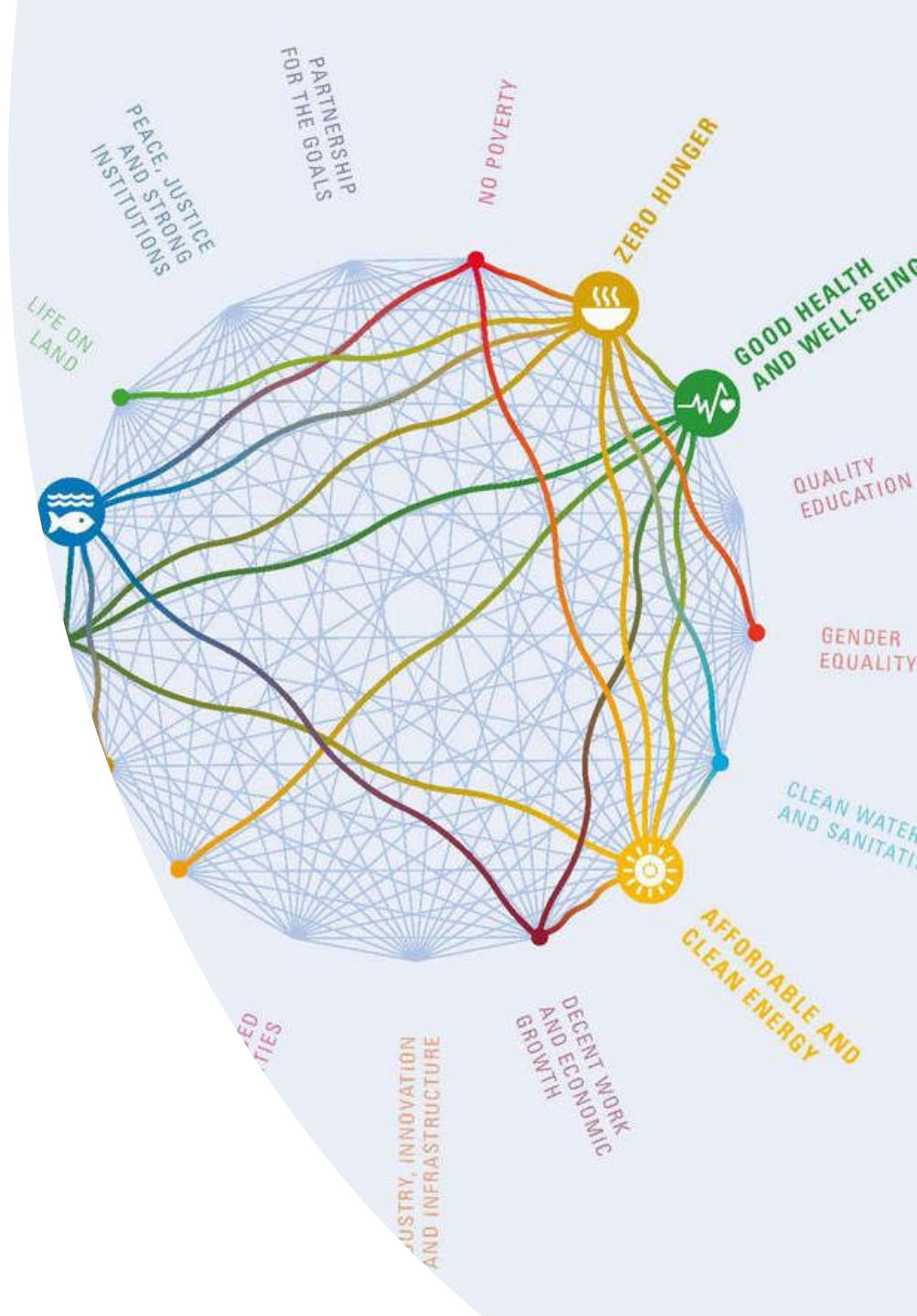
Methodology: cross-impact analysis

Weitz, N., Carlsen, H., Nilsson, M. *et al.* Towards systemic and contextual priority setting for implementing the 2030 Agenda. *Sustainability Science* **13**, 531–548 (2018).

- consider **interactions amongst SDGs** in policy and planning
- **score** interactions in a **cross-impact matrix**
- find **synergies** and **trade-offs** in the implementation of multiple goals or objectives






Synergy: when two policies reinforce each other

Trade-off: when two policies limit each other

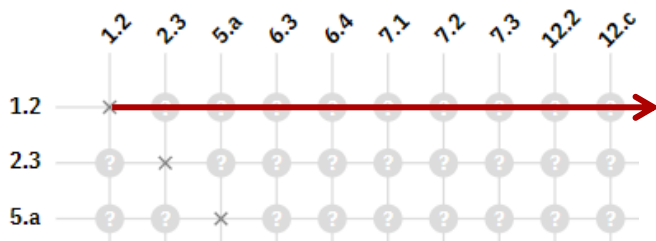


Scoring interactions: Scores can be given individually or as a group through discussions, scores require a justification

Scoring the interactions

- 3  Strongly promoting
- 2  Moderately promoting
- 1  Weakly promoting
- 0  No influence
- 1  Weakly restricting
- 2  Moderately restricting
- 3  Strongly restricting

The matrix is graded from **left to right**, beginning in the first row. Always from the row to the column



6 → 7

If progress is made on target 6 how does this influence progress on target 7?

-3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3

Please write a short explanation for your score

If you are not sure about the score and you want it to be discussed in the plenary session, you can indicate that here.

Certain score Uncertain score

The **scoring menu** appears when you click an interaction

A **justification** can be provided after the score is issued

You can also select whether a score is **uncertain**

SDG Synergies is open access and can be applied in any policy sector. At the moment, accounts have been created for more than 100 institutions, in 15 countries

<https://www.sdgsynergies.org/>



Use cases and applications of the tool

Use cases

The **SDG Synergies tool** is designed for **governments, policymakers, and academic organizations** that:

- Need to **localize the SDGs and align them** with the country's national development goals.
- Want to **assess policy coherence in a specific sector** or in the national development plan.
- Want to **assess SDG interactions, between SDGs or SDGs and other agendas, in practice.**
- Aim to **analyze scenario interactions at different geographical scales**, by modeling socio-technical scenarios based on the knowledge of local experts and stakeholders

Use cases

The **SDG Synergies tool** is designed for **governments, policymakers, and academic organizations** that:

- Want to **present SDG interactions** between national or local policies as part of their **Voluntary National Review (VNR) or Voluntary Local Review (VLR)**.
- Seek more **integrated policy formulation and alignment in a specific sector** (e.g., water) **with the goals of the 2030 Agenda or another policy agenda** (e.g., a national sustainable development plan).
- Want to **improve coherence between different policy agendas** (e.g., the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs, Nationally Determined Contributions, and/or OECD good practices) **applied to a specific context or in a specific sector** (e.g., regional, national, or local analysis; water, energy, food, etc.).

**SDGs interaction
analysis in
Mongolia, Sri Lanka,
Colombia**

Mongolia

Objective: Test and refine the overall methodological approach to **policy alignment and target setting in the water sector** related to the objectives in **Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision (SDV) 2030**

Follow-up: The government adopted the methodology and presented the results as part of their 2019 **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at HLPF



Sri Lanka

Goal: To apply the methodology to assess **policy coherence** in the **national development plan**. Transfer of knowledge for the Government to apply the method and tool to other policies

“The method is useful to get the overview. We often think about how one target influences others, but not both directions, and not assigning a value (and direction), and not in a systematic way.” (workshop participant)



Colombia: national and regional analysis



Number of participants per institution type		
Type of institution	Colombia national workshop	Antioquia regional workshop
Government	59	22
International organizations	15	8
Academia	11	18
Industrial sector	3	5
Civil society	12	7
Total	100	60

Source: Weitz, N., Carlsen, H., Nilsson, M. et al. Towards systemic and contextual priority setting for implementing the 2030 Agenda. *Sustainability Science* 13, 531–548 (2018).

Interactions analysis between the SDGs and other agendas

Example of multi-agenda analysis: policy coherence for the mining-energy sector in Colombia



The objective of this exercise was to **improve policy coherence between three different policy agendas** in the context of Colombia's mining and energy planning:

1. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. Colombia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement
3. the OECD Good Practice Guidance

61 targets were selected from the three agendas, chosen according to their **relevance to Colombia's mining and energy sector**

Example of multi-scale scenario analysis: State of Nuevo León, Mexico



Through a workshop using SDG Synergies, we analyzed **scenario interactions at three geographical scales**: the metropolitan zone, the state, and the national level

The use of scenario analysis, together with the SDG Synergies tool, informed the **Climate Change Plan for the State** considering relevant geographical scales

The analysis was based on the knowledge of local, regional and national experts and stakeholders

How to develop a cross-impact matrix of interactions →

<https://tool.sdgsynergies.org/stockholm-environment-institute-bogota>

Thank you

Contact

Ask for an account at: sdgsynergies@sei.org

Efraim Hernández:

efraim.hernandez@sei.org

Daniela Maestre: daniela.maestre@sei.org