

# Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together

Expert Group Meeting SDG 13

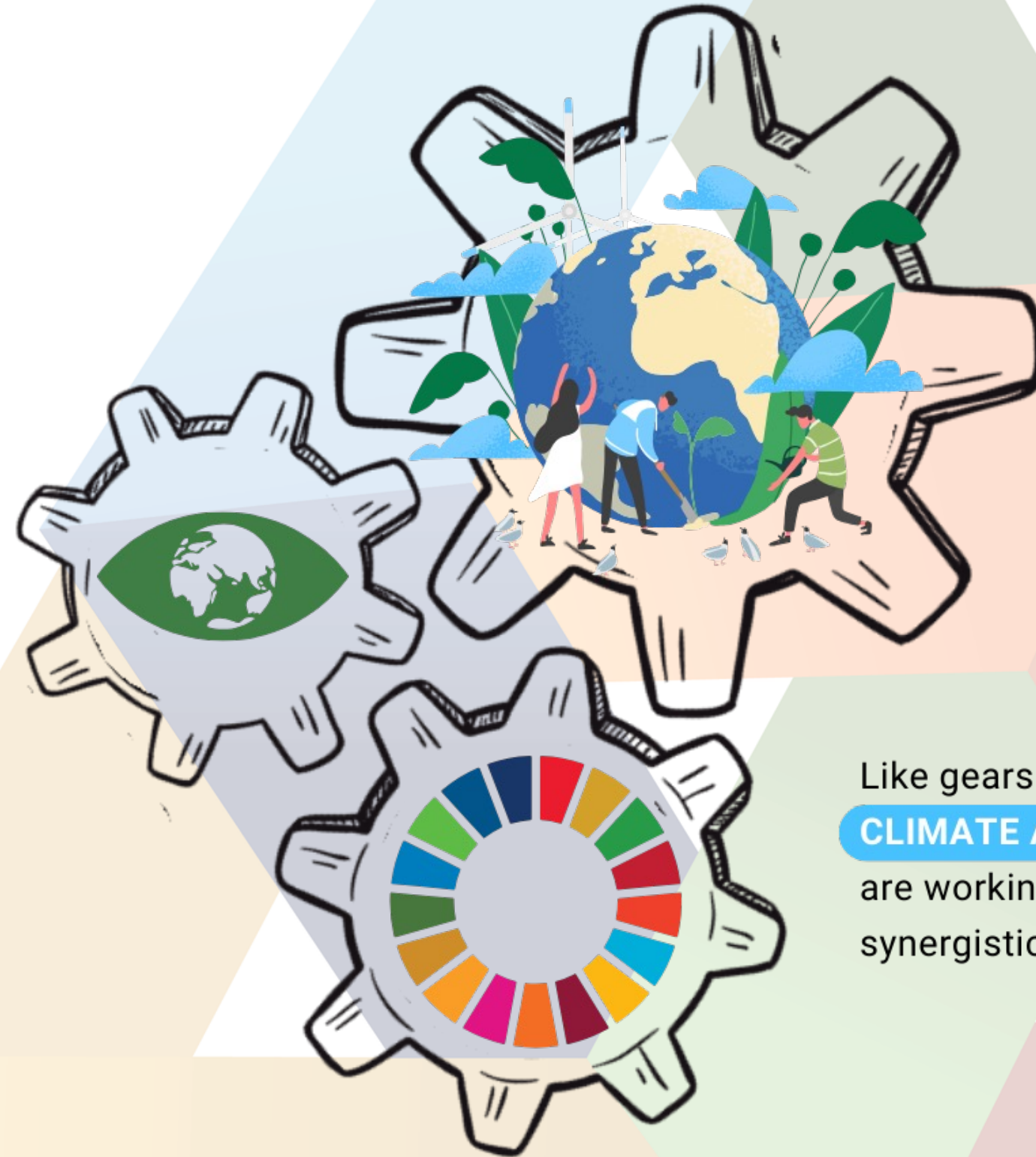
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Tokyo, March 4, 2024

# What is climate and SDG synergy?

**Definition:** Synergies occur when multiple actions combine to produce a result greater than their individual contributions.

In the context of climate change and SDGs, adopting a synergistic approach means addressing these challenges together, **amplifying the impact of policies** by addressing them jointly rather than in isolation.



Like gears in a well-oiled machine, **CLIMATE ACTION and the SDGs** are working together for synergistic, greater benefit

1.

# The Challenge

We must solve the climate emergency and sustainable development challenges together, or we will not solve them at all.

# Building on Outcomes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Synergies Conference in Tokyo

**The following were considered essential for advancing synergies:**

- Strengthening the evidence base for synergistic action
- Enhancing integrated planning
- Importance of scaling up capacity building and sharing of good practices
- Developing and promoting partnerships for transformation
- Convening multi-stakeholder dialogues at all levels
- Informing key intergovernmental processes on climate and the SDGs.

# Challenges that the Report Addresses

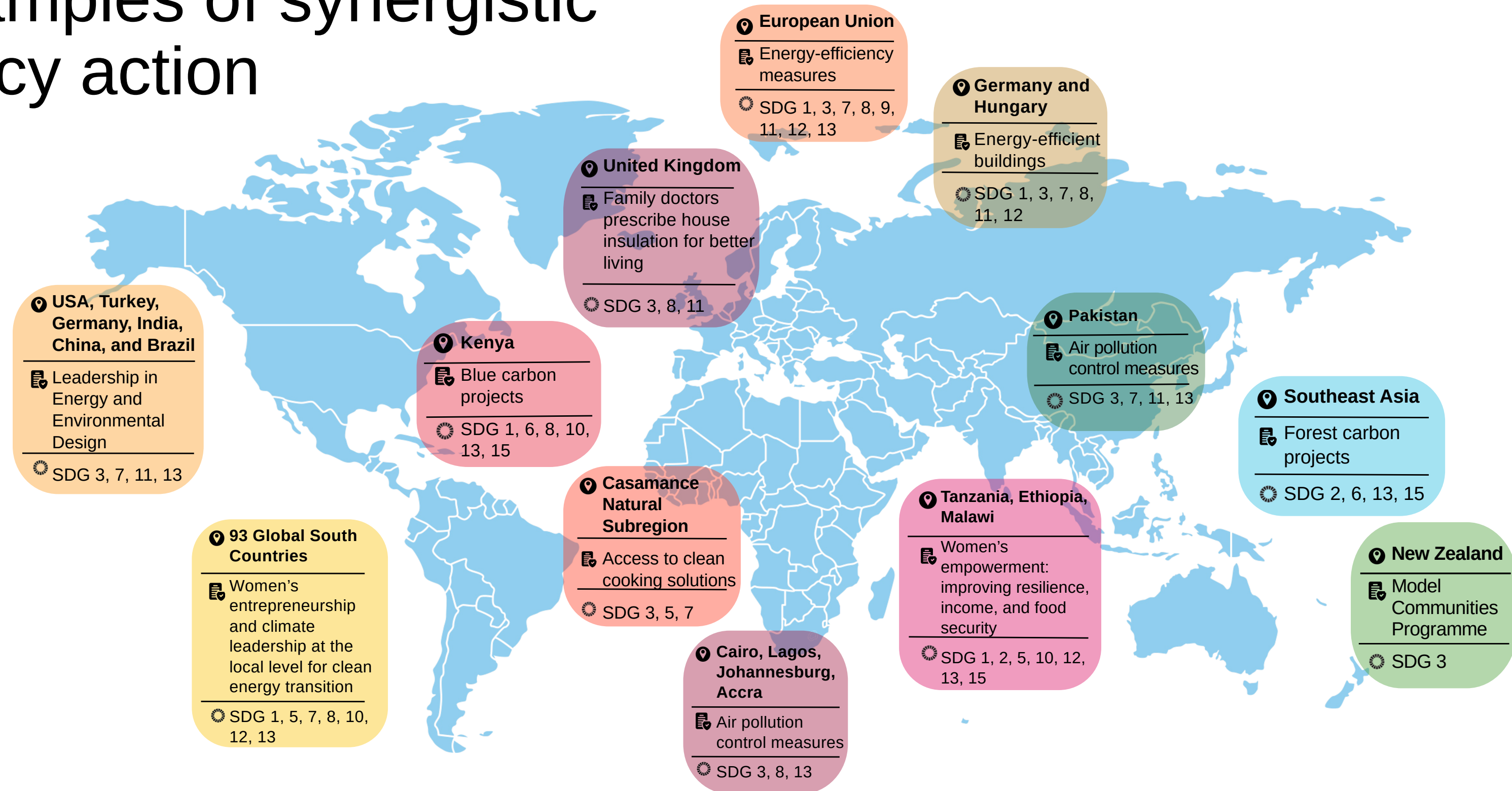
- Increasing recognition that synergies can result in win-win situations, but evidence is dispersed, scattered and often not easily accessible – **Should a platform that gathers this evidence be created?**
- The absence of practical tools for a) identifying and enhancing synergies, and b) for policy makers to enable, promote and implement synergies – **Would a policy framework for synergistic action that is easy to use by policy makers be a good solution?**
- How can finance be reformed to advance this agenda – **Can the current debate on the need for reform of the global finance architecture make this a critical component of that debate?**
- The adequacy or inadequacy of reporting mechanisms - if synergies are so essential for the success of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 – **Should reporting on them be made more prominent?**
- How can the topics of just transitions, leaving no one behind and equality be given higher attention in this and other debates? – **Should not this be permanent goals towards which to aspire?**

# 2.

## The Evidence

Pursuing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in concert can significantly and efficiently advance both agendas.

# Examples of synergistic policy action



3.

# The Opportunity

Co-benefits of synergistic action significantly outweighs trade-offs. Their evaluation is key for cost-effectiveness and a just and equitable transition.



# Synergistic action will help to course correct

**Reduce financial gaps:** Pursuing development and climate targets together reduces investment gaps.

**Achieve targets faster:** Integrating social dimensions enhances chances of reaching climate targets.

**Facilitate long-term vision:** Synergistic co-benefits balance short- and long-term gains, gaining stakeholder support.

**Ensure just transition:** Synergistic planning will ensure a just transition and limit the trade-offs of climate action.

**43 trillion**

USD can be gained in economic output by 2070 when aligning climate and SDG actions

**70%**

of SDG targets are attainable with climate adaptation measures focused on co-benefits

When acting in synergy...

**24 million**

new jobs created by 2030 through renewable energy

**4x**

economic gains in co-benefits through transitioning to a green economy

**40%**

of global population could meet WHO air quality standards with strict air pollution and GHG mitigation measure

# Overcoming Existing Barriers

## Knowledge

- Insufficient knowledge of SDG and climate interactions
- Lack of accessible and applicable methodologies and tools that map the nature and magnitude of interactions
- Challenges in understanding and aligning climate actions across all SDGs to ensure synergies and impacts

## Economic and Financial

- Limited national budgeting on addressing synergies
- Lack of enabling financial instruments
- Lack of clarity and evidence on the benefits and costs of co-benefits and trade-offs
- Lack of climate finance flowing to those countries facing highest risk and greatest adaptation needs

## Political

- Political cycles that cause changes in political priorities
- Lack of political motivation towards climate policies
- Lack of transparency in responsibility for implementation
- Lack of collaboration between governments and other actors
- Lack of consistency on commitments to equity, gender equality and other social justice and rights commitments across all indicators that would underpin climate justice and therefore advance synergy and impact on climate action and all SDGs

4.

# Key Recommendations

Integrated climate and development action offers a vital opportunity for the course correction, addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities.

# Ten Recommendations

01

**Enhance** collective resilience against current and future global crises.

02

**Strengthen** science-policy-society interaction to advance synergistic action.

03

**Promote** institutional capacity building and cross-sectoral and international and national collaboration.

04

**Ensure** policy coherence and coordination among policy makers across sectors and departments.

05

**Develop** a 'framework for action' that can help decision makers in public, private, and civil society sectors identify synergistic action for systems change.

06

**Use** the 'framework for action' and to other means to ensure a just transition.

07

**Address** the large investment gaps in the climate and development agendas to enhance the necessary synergies.

08

**Utilize** COP 28 in Dubai to initiate and accelerate synergistic action on climate and SDGs.

09

**Prioritize** the role of synergies in the work of the UN and international financial institutions, including an improved system for sharing information to help countries in their reporting responsibilities.

10

**Treat** cities, sites of major population growth and expansion of economic activities, as an opportunity for focusing on climate and development synergies.

5.

# Towards 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Report

# Second Report – Substantive Themes and Focus

## Synthesis Report

covering all 4 thematic areas with evidence and deep analysis, providing conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the political processes of 2024

Cross-cutting themes

### MEASURES FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION – KNOWLEDGE AND DATA

#### Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

### POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

#### Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

### NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

#### Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

Deep-dive theme

### CITIES PLATFORMS FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

#### Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

# Read the report



[bit.ly/UNSynergyReport2023](https://bit.ly/UNSynergyReport2023)

For further information, please contact:  
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