

**Title of the Side-Event:**

# Seeking Synergies Across Rio Conventions and the SDGs: Unlocking Transformative Strategies for a multi-crisis world

Side event at the UNFCCC sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body (SB60)

Bonn, Germany

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Time: 13:15-14:30

World Conference Center Bonn – Room Bonn

## Context

As we stand at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, the global community is presented with a pivotal moment to shape the future. The Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions's secretariats (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC), following several COP decisions is calling for more synergies between Rio conventions. The Secretary-General's call for action resounds louder than ever, with the recognition that "*Climate action is the 21st century's greatest opportunity to propel all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forward.*" A UNEA-6 resolution encourages "Member States to promote synergies, cooperation and collaboration for the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other relevant environmental instruments and to enhance collaboration when implementing their commitments under the Agreements". This era demands bold visions and decisive actions to navigate through current challenges, seize new opportunities, and navigate evolving geopolitical and economic landscapes.

Synergistic action stands as our solution to address the root causes, not just the symptoms, of our shared interconnected challenges. From enhancing food security to adapting to climate change, protecting biodiversity and eradicating poverty, this moment calls for transformative approaches that transcend traditional silos and forge new alliances.

In response to the Secretary-General's plea for integrated action, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Rio conventions secretariats alongside their partners, have been at the forefront, convening annual global dialogues. These gatherings serve as a platform to elevate the urgency of this critical juncture and ignite meaningful discussions that transcend borders and disciplines. The establishment of the [Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies](#) in 2023 marked a significant milestone. This group was tasked with developing a series of analytical pieces to unravel the complexities of our interconnected challenges. The first report, "[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#)," launched in September 2023, was the first step towards identifying key knowledge gaps, political hurdles, institutional barriers, and economic and financial challenges that must be overcome. Building on the success of the [2023 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy](#), the 2024 edition of the report is set to be released in view of pivotal 2024 milestones. Comprised of four thematic reports and a final synthesis report, the new edition aims to accelerate action on SDGs and

climate through four key entry points: policy frameworks; knowledge and data; a proposed new financial system; and cities. This event in Bonn will launch the findings of the four thematic reports, laying the groundwork for the synthesis report to be released in July.

Meanwhile the Rio conventions secretariats are joining forces to develop a joint capacity-building programme that will help countries and experts to better seize synergies across the Rio conventions. More synergies mean enhanced action where needed to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

### **Objectives:**

- To showcase the findings of the 2024 Thematic Report of the Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy
- To introduce a capacity-building programme on synergies between Rio conventions, resulting from the collaboration between the Rio conventions' secretariats
- To discuss knowledge and capacities gaps to harness the potential of synergies across Rio conventions and SDGs
- To provide a platform for dialogue among stakeholders on advancing synergistic climate, biodiversity, land and SDG actions
- To highlight successful country-based case studies and best practices in integrating climate, biodiversity, land and SDG actions
- To foster partnerships and collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector for joint implementation of climate, biodiversity, land and SDG initiatives
- To contribute to the global momentum for integrated action on climate, biodiversity, land and sustainable development

### **Speakers:**

- UNDESA
- Representatives from Rio conventions' secretariats
- Chairs of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG synergies
- Rio conventions National Focal Points
- Technical and scientific experts

### **Expected outcomes:**

Building on the success of the 2023 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy, the 2024 edition of the report is set to be released in view of pivotal 2024 milestones. Comprising four thematic reports and a final synthesis report, the new edition aims to accelerate action on SDGs and climate through key entry points: Policy Framework, Knowledge and Data, New Financial System, and Cities Platform. This analytical piece will provide policymakers with concrete recommendations on realizing synergistic climate and SDG actions on the ground. The event in Bonn will launch the findings of the four thematic reports, laying the groundwork for the synthesis report to be launched in July in New York during the High-Level Political Forum.

Besides, the Rio conventions secretariats will take the opportunity of the event to address existing capacity gaps to build effective synergies across Rio conventions and the SDGs. Having initiated the development of a joint capacity-building programme on this topic, the event offers a platform to share key ideas on relevant next steps for knowledge sharing, trainings design and critical

partnerships to build effective synergies at global, regional and national levels. Key synergies aspects addressed include: integrated national strategies and planning processes, transformative projects and financing mechanisms, local and indigenous knowledge for effective synergies.

**Tentative programme (75 min):**

Master of ceremony: Tristan Tyrrell, CDB Secretariat

Time	Item	Speaker
10 min	Opening	Opening words by UNDESA and Rio conventions secretariats
7 min	<b>Keynote: Synergies for enhanced action – The case of Rwanda</b>	Ms. Nina Bisom, GIZ ELD lead
1 min	<i>Slido question</i>	<i>To involve the audience</i>
20 min	<b>Launch of 2024 Climate and SDG Synergy Thematic Reports by Climate and SDG Synergy Expert Group</b> , with focus on policy frameworks; knowledge and data; a proposed new financial system; and cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Bahareh Seyedi, UNDESA</li> <li>• Co-leads and members of Climate and SDG synergy Expert Group to highlight 4 thematic reports findings</li> <li>• Mr. Luis Gomez-Echeverri, Emeritus Research Scholar International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Co-chair of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG synergies,</li> <li>• Ms. Heide Hackmann, Director, Future Africa, University of Pretoria, co-chair of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy (Virtual)</li> <li>• Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour, Vice-President, C2ES, member of Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies</li> </ul>
1 min	<i>Slido question</i>	<i>To involve the audience</i>
20 min	<b>Panel “Capacities and Knowledge needs for Synergies between Rio conventions”</b> , with a focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synergies for effective integrated national strategies and plans</li> <li>• Synergies for transformative projects and efficient financing</li> <li>• Leveraging local and indigenous knowledge for synergies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Alejandro Kilpatrick, UNFCCC</li> <li>• Speakers, sharing practical examples:</li> <li>• Ms. Mme Sarita Meeheelaul, Director Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius (TBC)</li> <li>• M. Dharitri Kumar Sarkar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh (TBC)</li> </ul>
7 min	<i>Youth or/and Private sector perspective (Discussants)</i>	Mr. Rushank Bardiola, Green Earth Agro, Ghana (online)
7 min	Closing	Closing words by UNDESA and Rio conventions secretariats