



SESSION 4 - Holistic and integrated approaches to achieving SDG 15

Sustainable Development Goal 15: Progress and Prospects

An expert group meeting in preparation for HLPF 2018: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

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What are good practices in employing these approaches at scale?

- Examples of good practices:

- TEEB for Agriculture and Food

An initiative of UN's 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB)



- Bridge Collaborative

BRIDGECOLLABORATIVE

- Planetary Health Alliance



- One Health Initiative



- At scale yet?

- Innovative pedagogical approaches

- Evidence-based teaching and learning materials designed to build sustainability literacy and competency. Innovative pedagogic approaches such as games and scenarios can be used to raise awareness and consider decision-making about challenging topics.

- Better dialogue to break silos

- Networks to unite diverse experts and organizations in health, development and the environment with evidence and tools to tackle the world's most pressing challenges

- Research for impact

- Turns knowledge into action towards transformation to global sustainability, by co-designing research with stakeholders in the society to solve urgent problems in the earth environment and in human society.

What changes are needed in governance institutions and structures at all levels to enable greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving SDG 15?

- **Community level: Participatory approach to the self-governance of NRM that is self-sustaining and intrinsically motivated**
 - Collective action
 - Intuitional development

- **National/Sub-national level: Enabling conditions for participatory and integrated approaches**
 - Legal framework and administrative organization
 - Capacity building of local government
 - Create and align incentives for policy-makers and markets
 - Evidence-based decision support
 - Monitoring and evaluation (indicators and milestones)

- **Civil society and research community level**
 - Capacity building of NGOs
 - Research to provide relevant evidence and tools to support decision-making (Research for impact)

- **All levels: Develop a cultural narrative for transformative change**

How can we change the narrative of how we approach SDG15 to capture a more holistic way of thinking?

- Systems thinking, capacity building, and participatory action as key tools to foster integrated approach to SDGs.
- Using systems thinking requires a shift in fundamental beliefs and assumptions that constitute what are referred to as our 'worldviews'. These are essentially intellectual and moral foundations for the way we view and interpret reality. This in turn requires a shift in our beliefs about the nature of knowledge and the processes of knowing.
- While it is widely recognized that a paradigm shift in the way we approach SDGs is needed, the values, narratives, economic and moral foundations of a new aspirational and inspirational paradigm have not yet been fully developed, and likely vary due to geography, context, and other factors.
- Researchers are making headways in applying the general principles of systems thinking to a variety of social problems involving sustainability, and are moving from focusing solely on individual behavior to emphasizing the importance of cultural institutions and society's assumptions about which policies are feasible and which are not. Much progress has been made by behavioral economists and psychologists in identifying patterns of individual behavior relevant to policy formulation. Much more work remains in understanding how transformation towards sustainability can be triggered and supported by policy at societal level.