



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



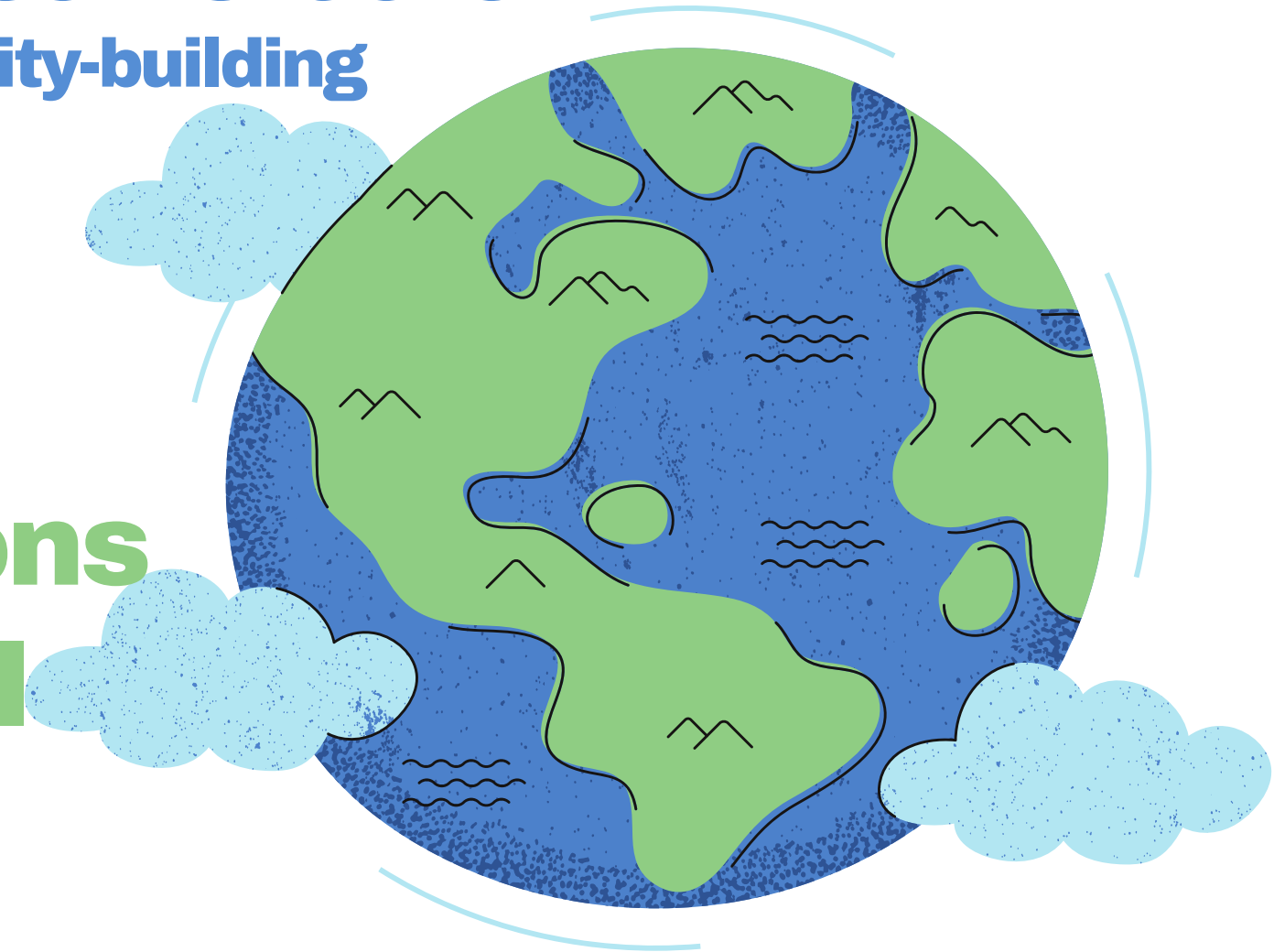
**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

## **How to build synergies between the three Rio Conventions**

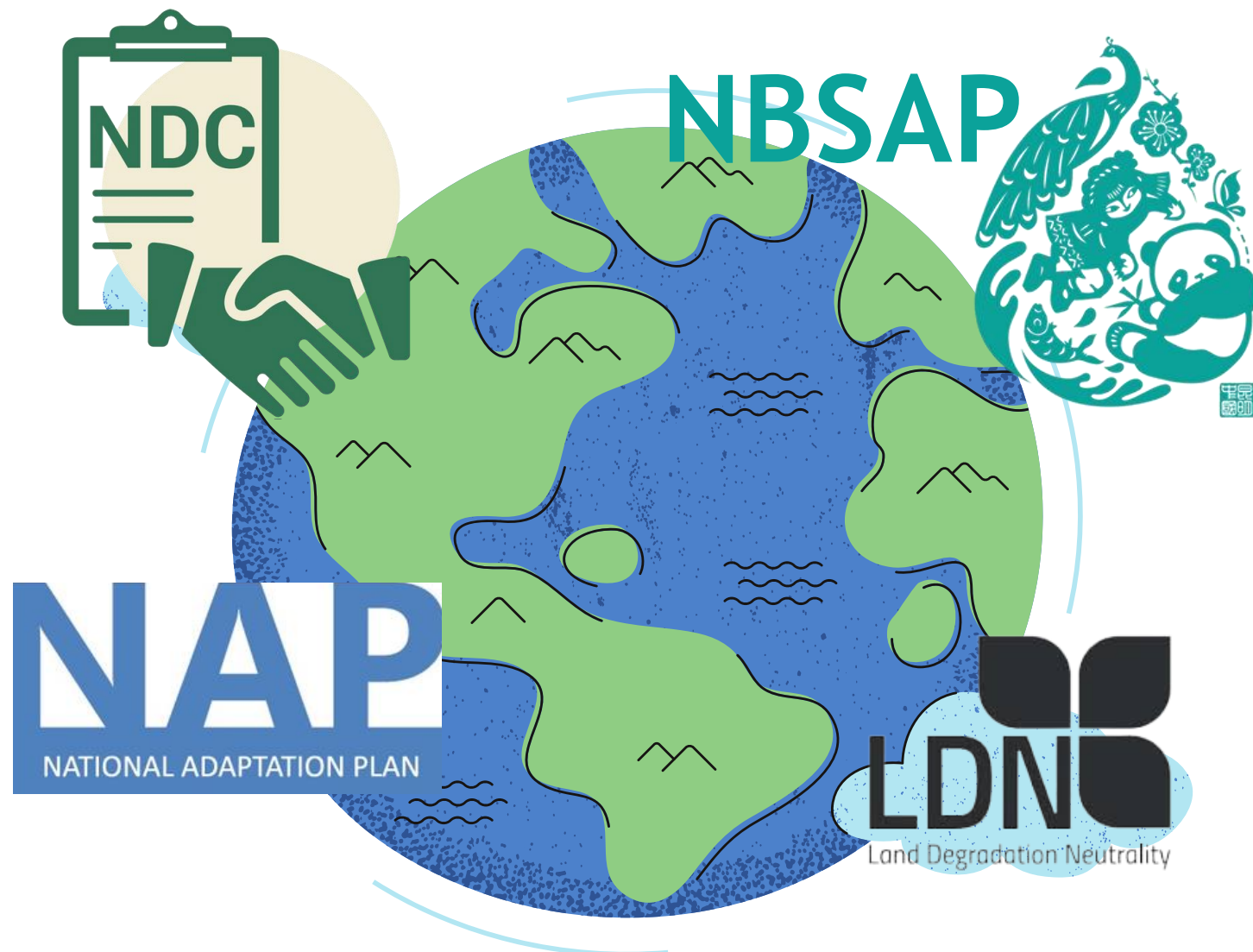
**A webinar series hosted by the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme**

### **Session 1**

**Inter-linkages of the Rio Conventions  
and integrated planning of national  
strategies and policies**



# Agenda



15:00-15:02	<b>Welcome</b>
15:02 - 15:05	<b>Opening remarks</b> Alejandro Kilpatrick
15:05 - 15:10	<b>Interaction via Wooclap</b>
15:10-15:35	<b>Leveraging Rio Synergies: Key Findings from Rwanda</b> Waltraud Ederer
15:35-16:20	<b>Interlinkages between Rio Conventions &amp; How to build synergies in planning processes</b> Ludwig Liagre, Peihan Yang
16:15-16:30	<b>Q&amp;A + Open discussion</b>

# What comes to your mind?



Two ways to join:

1. Scan the QR code directly, or
2. Go to [wooclap.com](https://wooclap.com), then enter event code

**SBYZJY**

# What are the 3 Rio Conventions?

The Rio Conventions, established during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, comprise three major international treaties aimed at sustainable development:



## Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Aims to preserve biological diversity, promote sustainable use, and ensure fair benefit-sharing of genetic resources.

Introduced the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) with 23 targets to guide global biodiversity efforts.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Seeks to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent climate change.

Facilitated significant global agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.



United Nations  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

## United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Addresses desertification, land degradation, and drought, particularly in dry regions.

Custodian of SDG target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

# Why synergies are important

1

## Integrated Planning

Combines different goals to avoid conflicts and overlaps.

- For example, a plan that considers climate, biodiversity, and land protection together will be more successful and beneficial than focusing on just one aspect.

## Co-Benefits

Working together on multiple goals can save money and increase efficiency, making it easier to get funding and support.

2

3

## Stakeholder Mobilization

Involves various groups, especially indigenous communities, bringing together different ideas and expertise to improve the overall efforts.

# Joint Liaison Group (JLG)

01

Sharing information and raising awareness; Providing information on interlinkages



02

Developing technical reports to clarify and elaborate on specific policy and technical issues



03

Contributing to relevant workshops mandated by pertinent bodies under each Convention



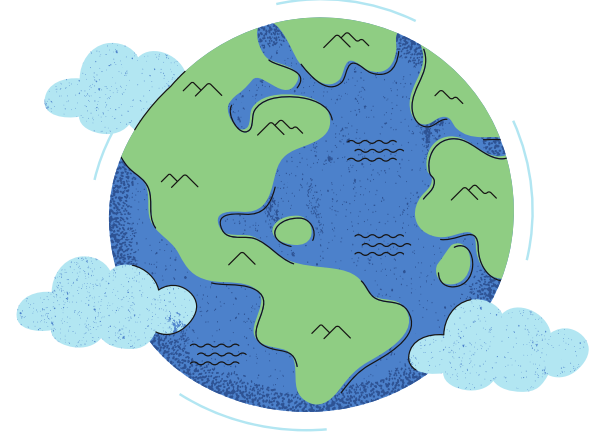
04

Encouraging and promoting better coordination among national focal points and stakeholder groups



The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) was formed in 2001 by the secretariats of the three Rio conventions to collect, share information, and coordinate work. The JLG ToRs outline specific areas of cooperation.

# Subsidiary bodies, science policy interfaces & capacity-building portals of the Rio Conventions



Science Policy Interfaces

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

Capacity-building portals

UNFCCC Capacity-building portal

Biodiversity E-Learning Platform

UNCCD Data & Knowledge resources

# Subsidiary bodies, science policy interfaces & capacity-building portals of the Rio Conventions



## Subsidiary bodies

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

Committee on Science and Technology (CST)

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)



# COPs calling for synergies

## UN promoting synergies

United Nations General Assembly:

- Notes the need for enhanced cooperation among the Rio Conventions (Dec. 2009)
- Adopts "The Future We Want", encouraging coordination and cooperation among MEAs (July 2012)



## Multiple COP Decisions calling for synergies

XII/20 – decision on climate change – requests the SE to collaborate with the UNFCCC (among others) to promote ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to climate change adaptation

XI/21 - Decision on Climate Change - Encourages Parties to promote synergies between actions and policies on biodiversity and climate change

X/35 – Decision on Dry and Sub-Humid Lands - Para 5. Calls upon Parties to support activities that promote synergies among the Rio conventions at the subnational, national and regional levels

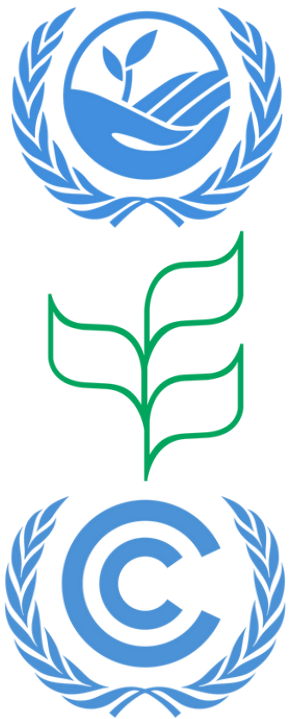


# Synergies of the Rio Conventions and sustainable development: A historical perspective

2023

**Joint Statement of the Presidents of CBD COP15, UNCCD COP15 and UNFCCC COP27**

Calls on Parties to the three Rio Conventions to collectively work to advance the intertwined objectives of the Rio Conventions in accordance with respective mandates of each Convention to ensure a sustainable future for humanity and the planet.



2024

**Resolution on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments (UNEP/EA.6/L.7)**

Encourages Member States to enhance synergies, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of national environment policies and actions, delivering global environmental benefits, contributing to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**UNEA-6**

# Critical role of national focal points (NFPs) to build synergies

## Key Roles of NFPs

- Coordination and communication
- Policy integration and mainstreaming
- Facilitation of national reporting
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising

## Current Status (as of March 2024)

- 153 out of 198 Parties have NFPs for two or all three Conventions within the same ministry.
- 53 Parties have a single individual representing NFPs for multiple Conventions.

## Common Ministries for NFPs

- Foreign Affairs
- Environment and Sustainability
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

## Challenges and Recommendations

- Need for improved communication and coordination among NFPs.
- Support and encourage closer collaboration to enhance synergy with national development goals.

# Key topics for synergies



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

**REDD+ and LULUCF**  
**Climate-smart agriculture**  
**Sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity**  
**Ecosystem-based adaptation**  
**Conservation Finance, Ecotourism**  
**Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (ABS, Ethical Biotrade, etc.)**  
**Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)**  
**LDN implementation**  
**Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)**  
**Conservation and rehabilitation of wetlands, etc**



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

# National planning processes under the Rio Conventions



## NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC)

### Commitments by Countries:

- Reduce national emissions
- Adapt to the impacts of climate change

### Submission Cycle:

- Every five years

### Central Role:

- Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement



## NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAP)

### Objective:

- Reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts
- Build adaptive capacity and resilience

### Integration:

- Incorporate climate change adaptation into new and existing policies
- Applicable at all levels of governance



## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAP)

### Objective:

- Conserve biodiversity
- Promote sustainable use of biodiversity
- Equitably distribute biodiversity benefits

### Alignment:

- National policies with global biodiversity goals

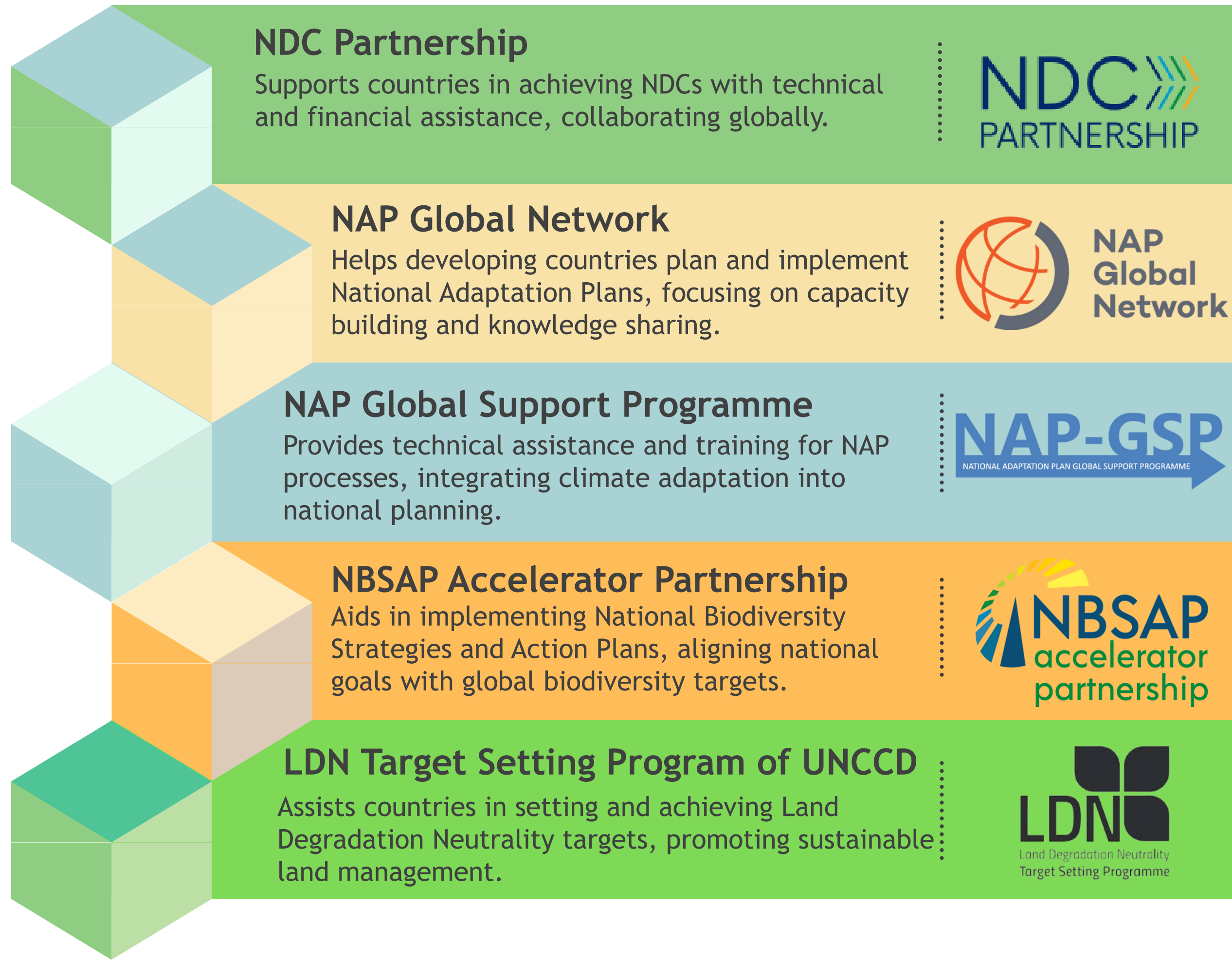


## LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY (LDN) TARGET SETTING

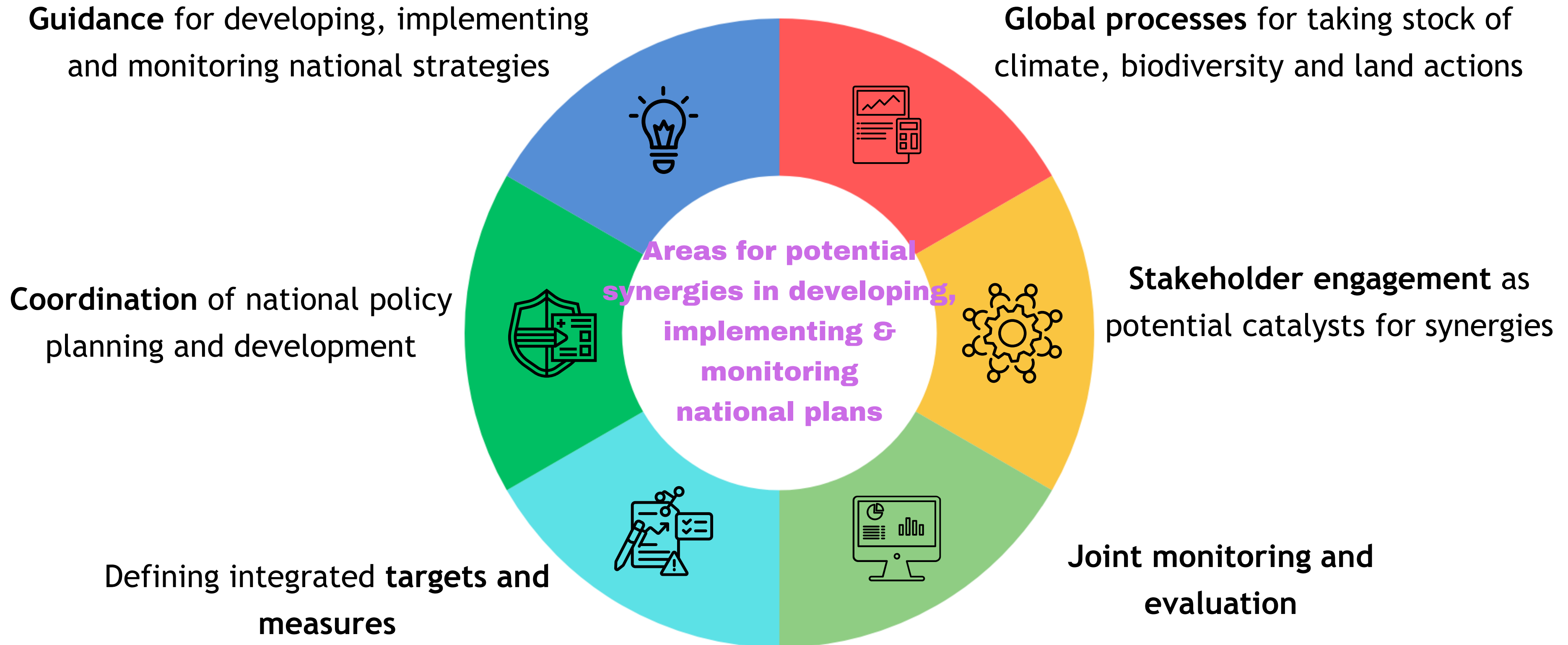
### Objective:

- Set actionable targets to halt and reverse land degradation
- Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)
- Maintain or increase healthy and productive land resources

# Initiatives to support Rio Conventions' planning processes

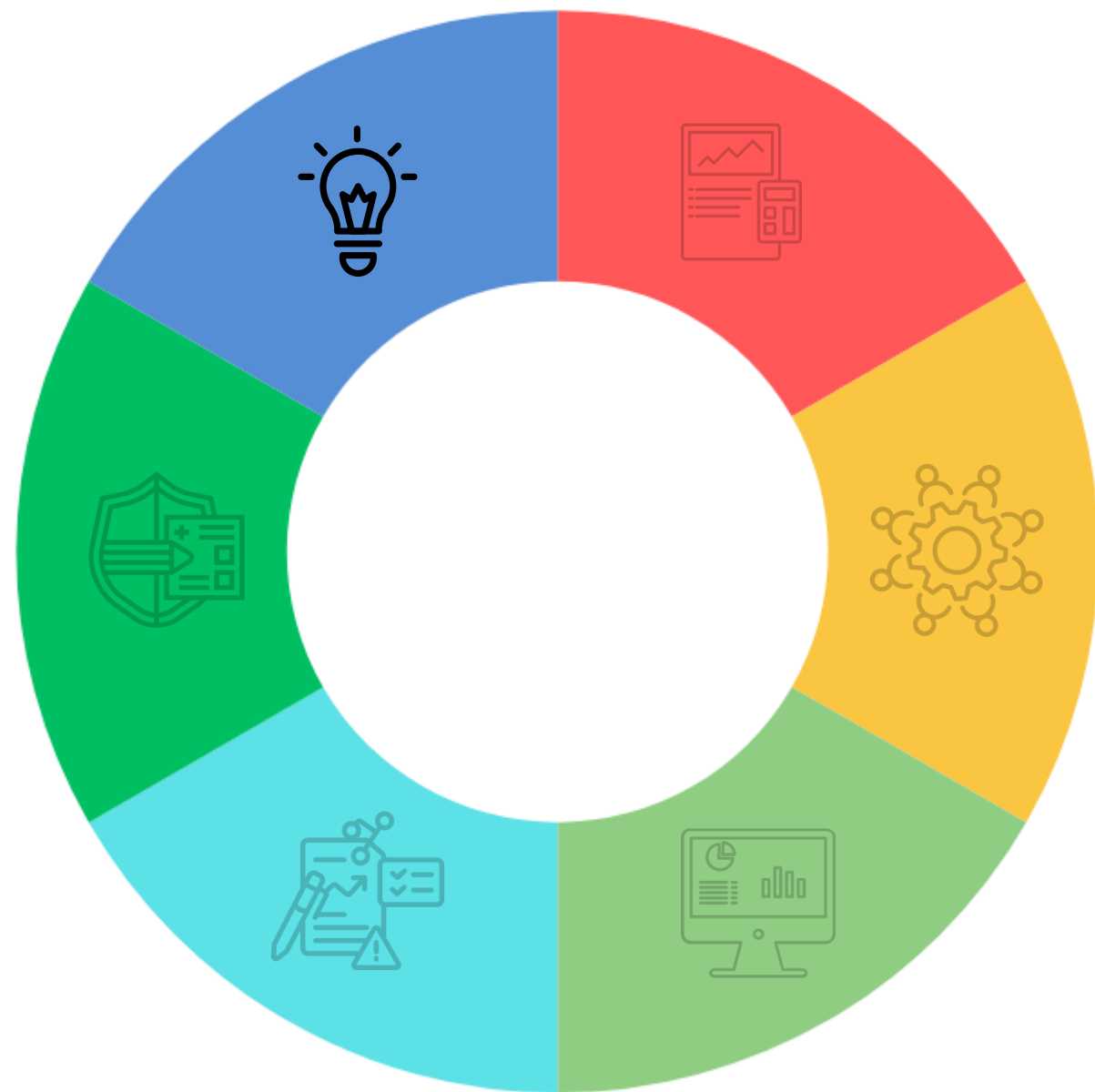


# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning

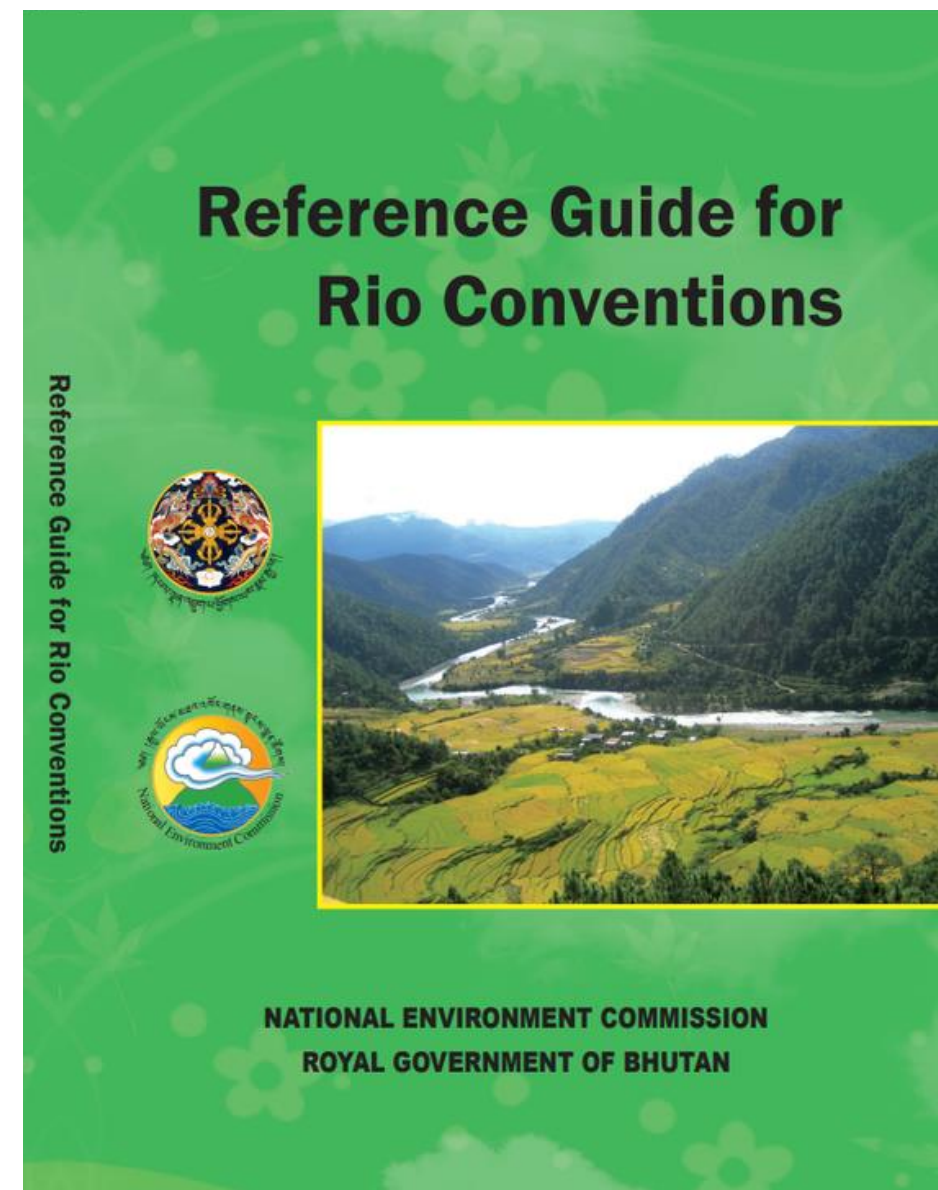


# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning

Guidance for developing, implementing and monitoring national strategies



Example: Bhutan - Reference Guide for Rio Conventions (2004)

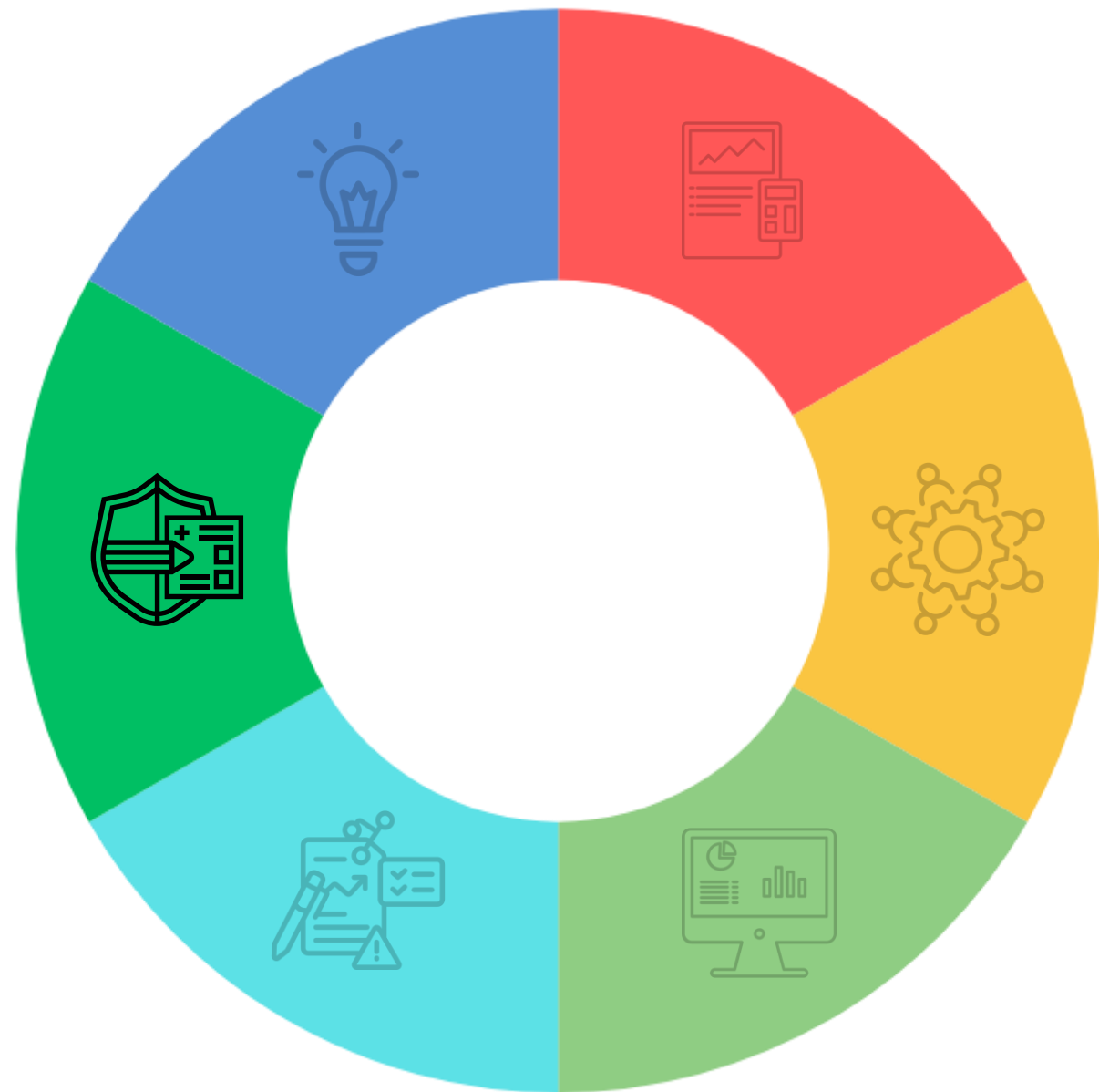


- Basic science of the three thematic areas
- Convention histories
- Operating procedures and institutions
- National obligations under each Conventions
- Impacts and/or affects of local actions on global environmental management
- Approaches in dealing with problems.



# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning

Coordination of national policy planning and development



Example: Grenada - Integrating Rio Conventions and SDGs in Climate Resilient Agriculture Planning

## Project Launch

Year: 2019

**Objective:** Mainstream biodiversity conservation in production landscapes and increase agricultural system resilience.

## Integrated Planning

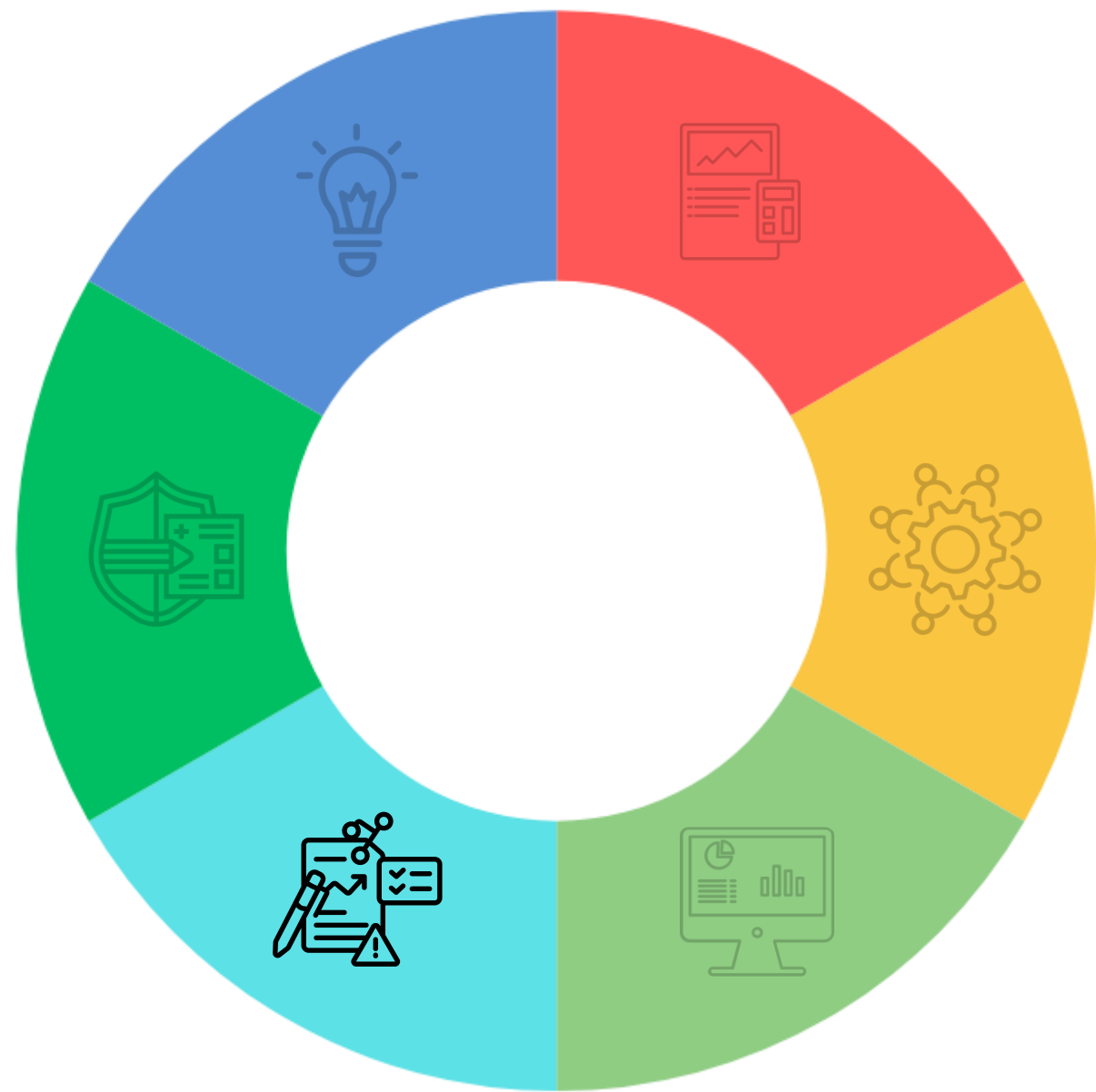
**National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035:**

- Integrates NBSAP, LDN, and NAP priorities and targets.
- Aligns with SDGs: (5, 10, 13, 14, 15)

## Institutional Arrangements

- MEAs Coordination Meetings
- Ad-hoc Project Steering Committee

# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning



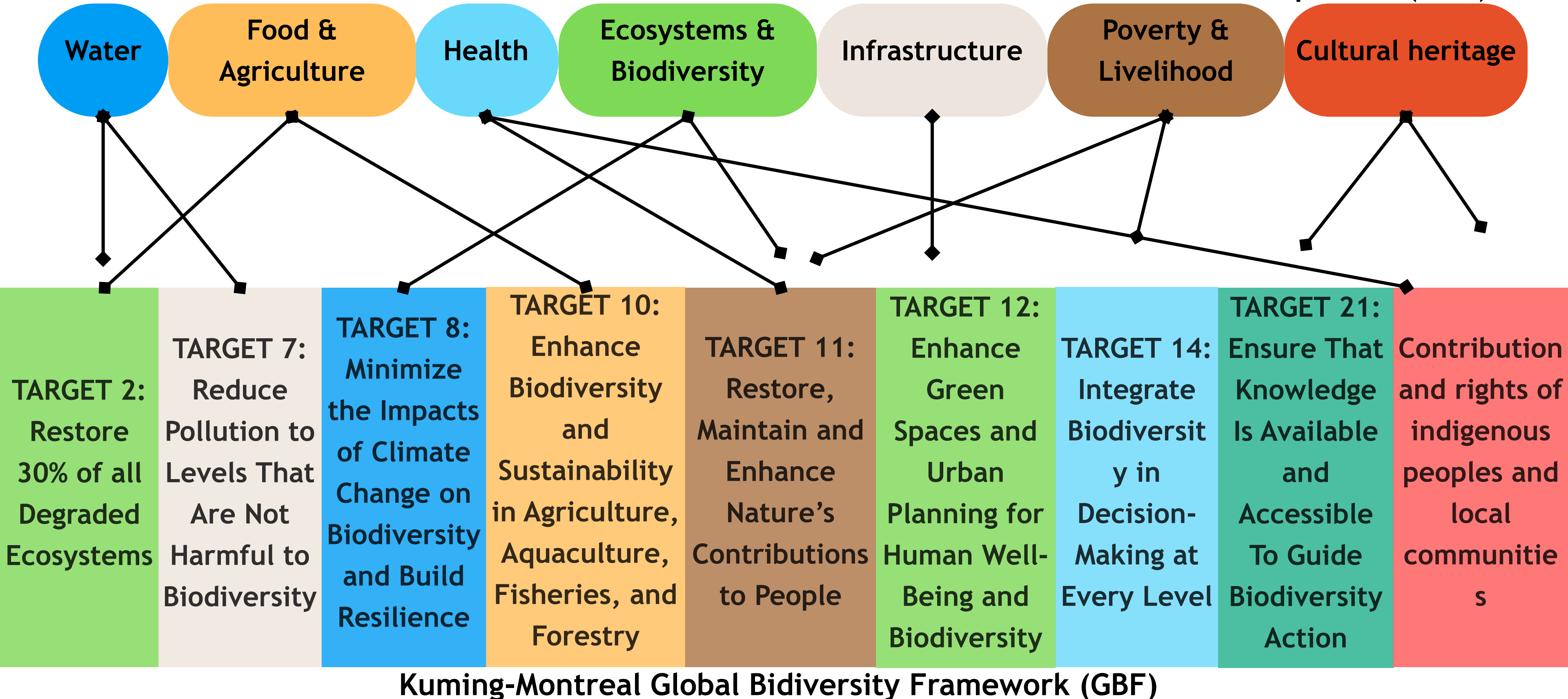
Defining integrated **targets and measures**

Examples:

- Adaptation & Biodiversity - Aligning Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- Biodiversity & Land - Aligning GBF with Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting

# Example of Common targets: Adaptation & Biodiversity

UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience - framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)



# Example of Common targets: GBF + LDN

## Global Biodiversity Framework Targets

## Land Degradation Neutrality Targets

### Integrated planning

Target 1: Ensure participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes.



To foster and support integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management as a tool to achieve LDN targets.

### Land & Ecosystem Restoration

Target 2: Ensure by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded ecosystems are under effective restoration.



To implement land and ecosystem restoration as an essential part of land use planning to achieve LDN targets.

### Protected Areas and Conservation Measures

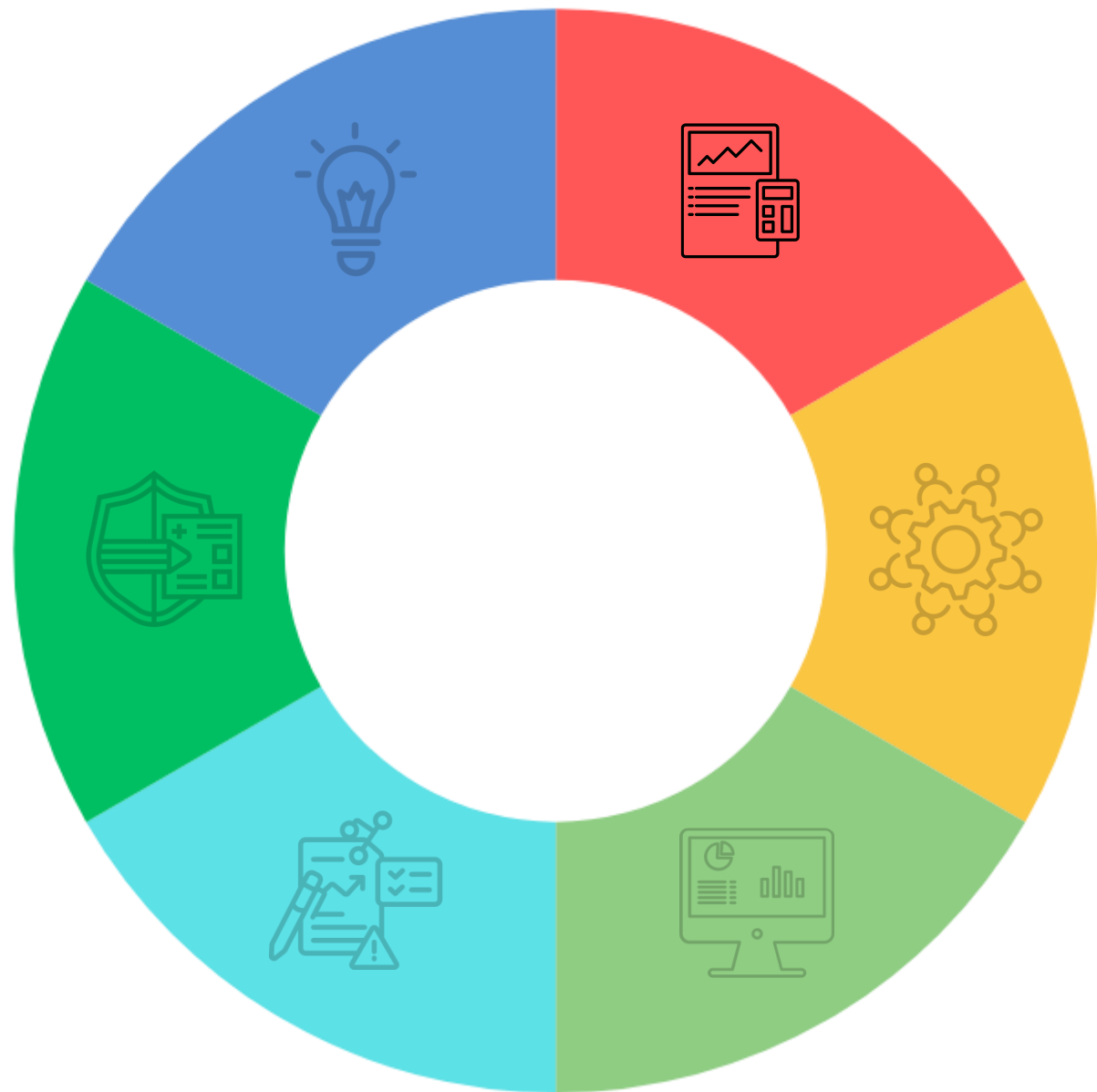
Target 3: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas are conserved and managed through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.



To avoid new degradation of land by addressing the direct and indirect drivers as well as protecting and conserving areas with critical biodiversity and ecosystem services.

# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning

Global processes for taking stock of climate, biodiversity and land actions

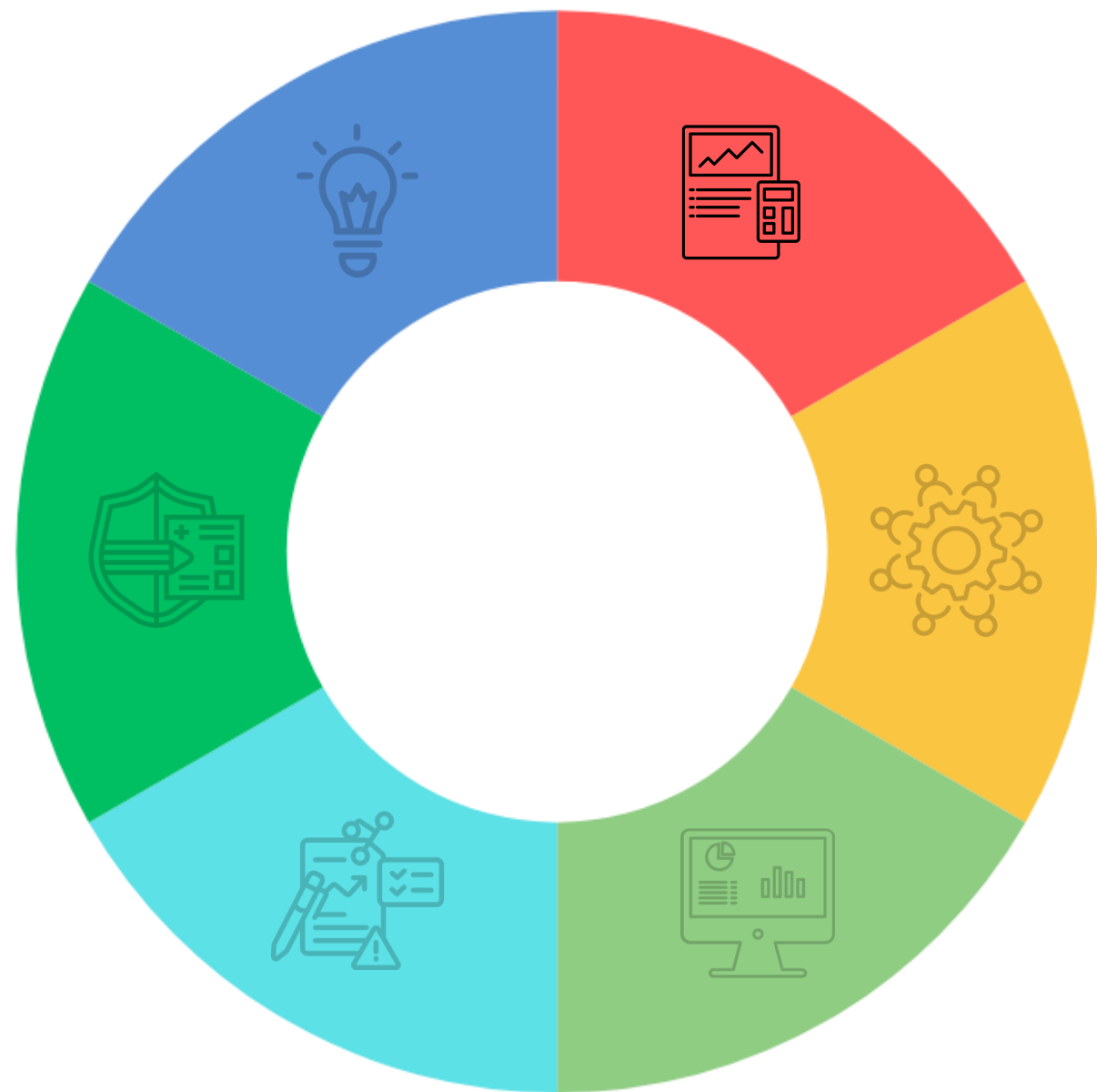


Example 1: The first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement during UNFCCC COP28



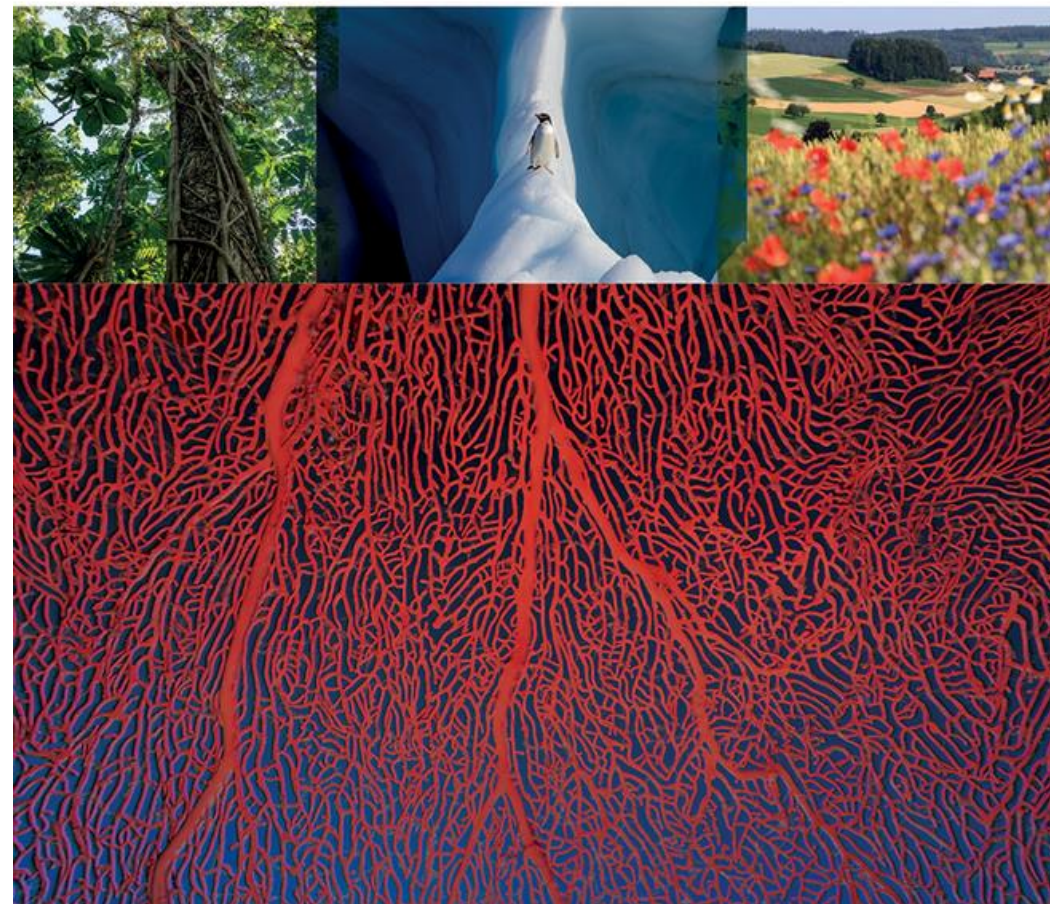
# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning

Global processes for taking stock of climate, biodiversity and land actions



Example 2: IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2020)

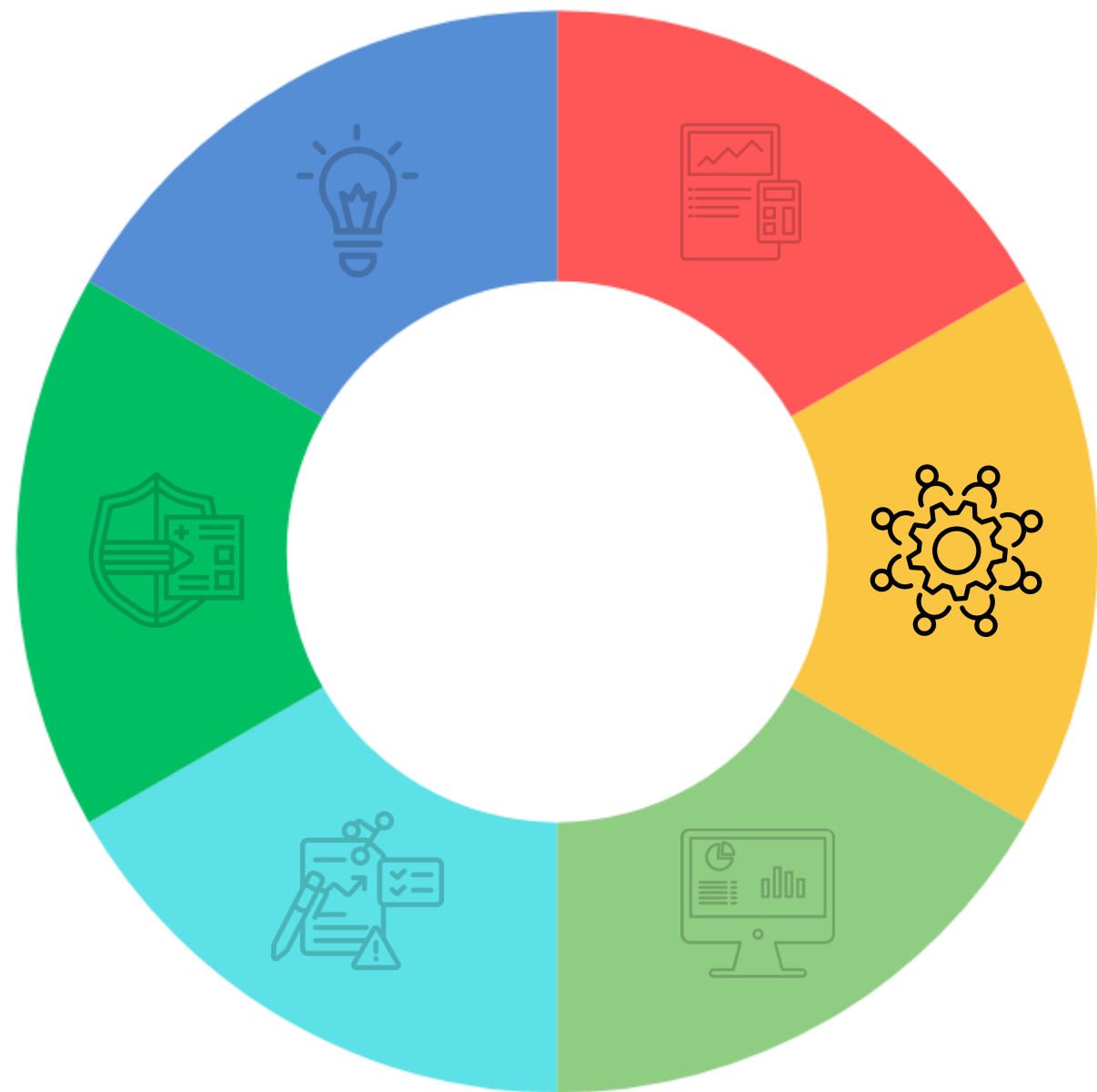
IPBES-IPCC CO-SPONSORED WORKSHOP  
**BIODIVERSITY AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Scientific outcome



- Summarized emerging state of knowledge involving climate change and biodiversity
- To inform decision making and highlight options for action,
- And to identify knowledge gaps to be filled by scientific research.

# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning

Stakeholder engagement as potential catalysts for synergies



Example: Peru - Engaging with local and indigenous communities to enhance synergies

## Climate mitigation

**National Forest Conservation Programme for Climate Change Mitigation**

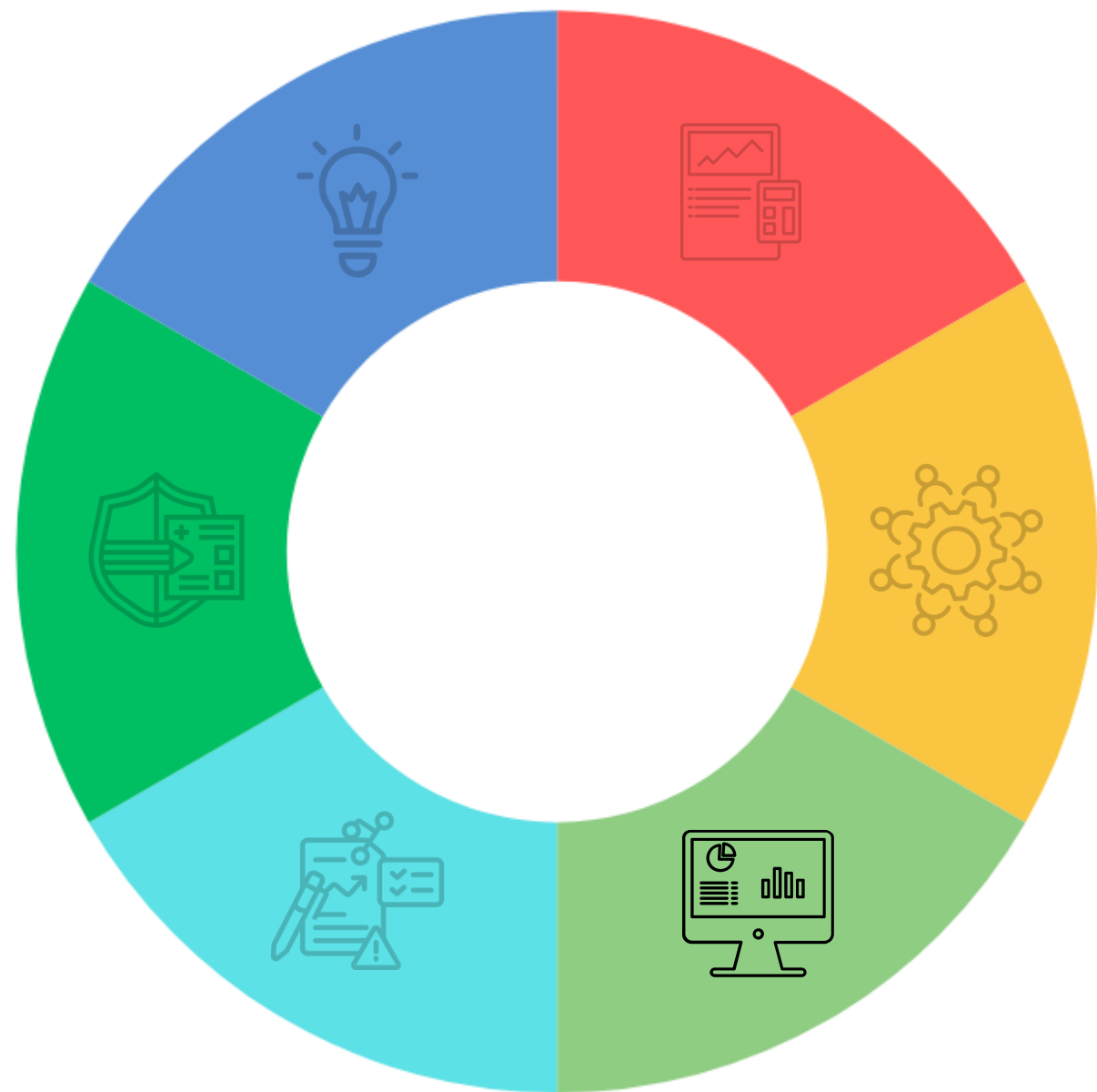
To work directly with Indigenous Peoples to conserve and monitor forest ecosystems in their territories, drawing on their vision, knowledge, and ancestral wisdom

## Climate adaptation

**Indigenous Peoples Platform for Climate Change (IPPCC)**

A space of coordination and dialogue and key instrument for national adaptation planning

# How to build synergies? Entry points for integrated planning



**Joint monitoring and evaluation (M&E)**

Example: Rwanda - How a joint monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism can significantly reduce transaction costs of Rio Conventions' land restoration activities

Annual transaction costs of joint M&E	Annual transaction costs of separated M&E	Total annual gains from collaboration in Rwanda
33.82 million USD	59.20 million USD	25.38 million USD



# Recommendations for policymakers and practitioners



Mainstream synergies and make best use of windows of opportunities



Enhance institutional capacity to coordinate different processes

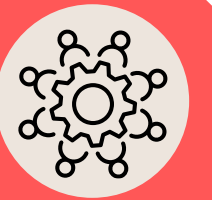


Identify common targets and appropriate measures based on different agenda

Promote political processes and scientific research to take stock of actions and address trade-offs



Understand and apply indigenous knowledge and practices to enhance synergies



Establish a joint monitoring, evaluation and learning process



# A quick wrap-up quiz



Two ways to join:

1. Scan the QR code directly, or
2. Go to [wooclap.com](https://wooclap.com), then enter event code

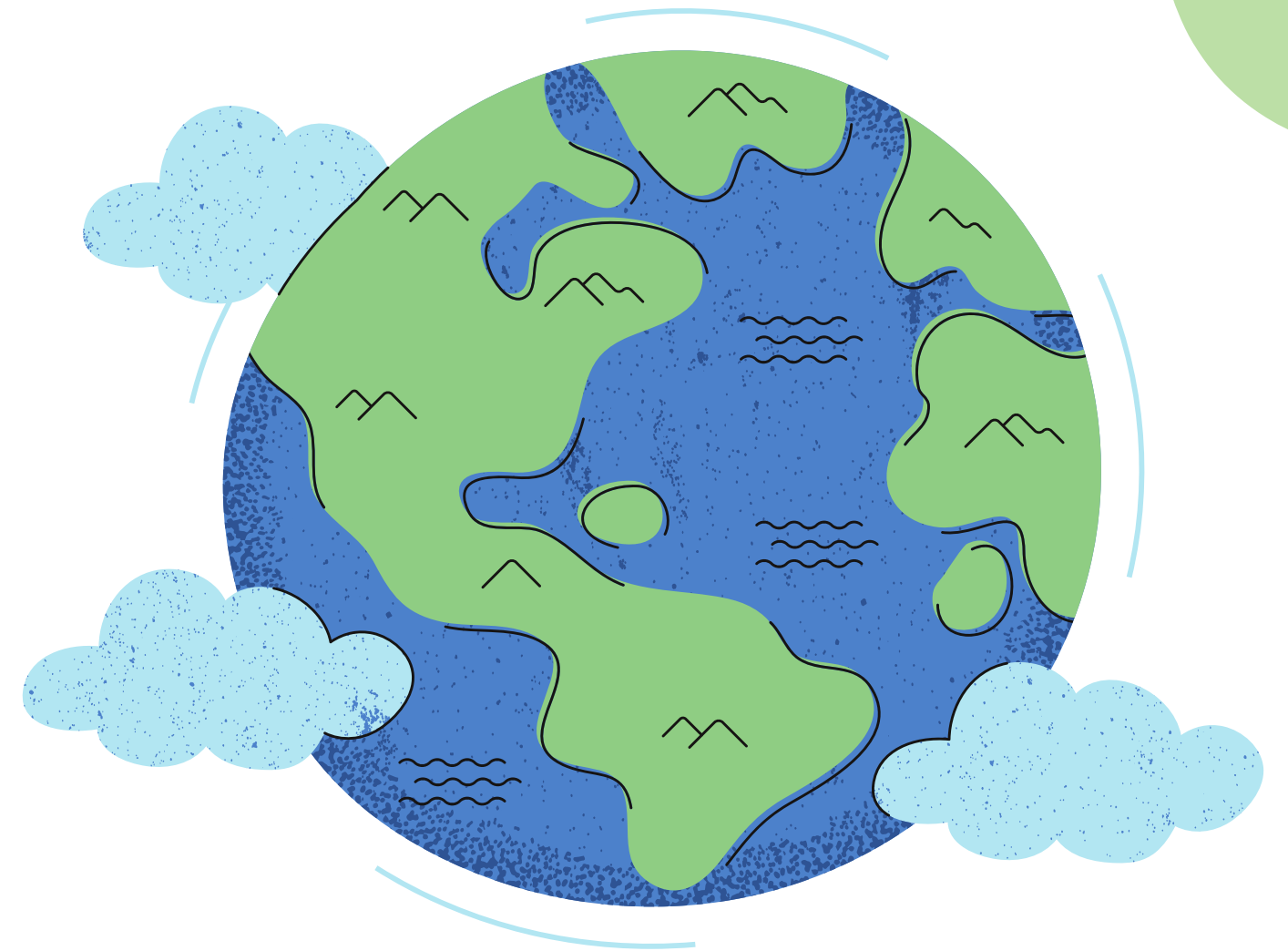
**UKZMPS**

# Questions & Comments?

Evaluation form  
QR core

Your feedback is invaluable to us!

# Thank you very much!



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

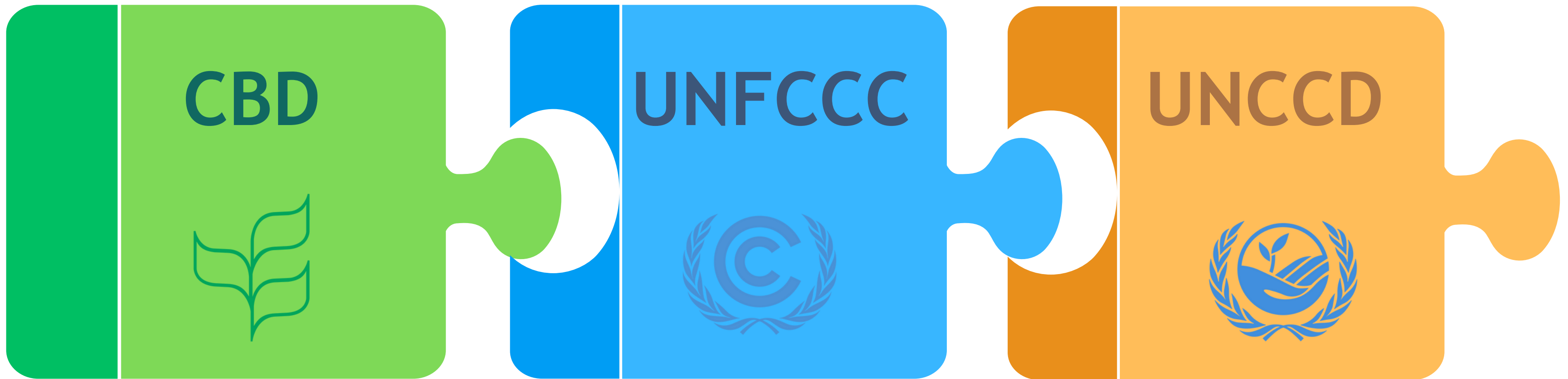


**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

# Key international frameworks bound to the Rio Conventions



## Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):

Concluded in 2022, it sets targets to halt biodiversity loss, ensure ecosystem restoration and resilience, and integrate biodiversity into all sectors by 2030.

## Paris Agreement:

Adopted in 2015, the Agreement aims to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, striving for 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

## Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) - SDG 15.3 Target:

As a part of the UN's SDGs, the LDN target aims to combat desertification, restore degraded land, and achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030.

# Synergies of the Rio Conventions and sustainable development: A historical perspective

1998

**Promotion and Strengthening of Relationships with other Relevant Conventions**  
Highlighted the need to strengthen relationships between the Rio Conventions, focusing on their shared sustainable development goals and scientific and institutional inter-linkages.



2004

**Opportunities for Synergy in Implementing the Three Rio Conventions**  
Mapped out how the provisions of the Conventions complement each other to prepare for a workshop on enhancing synergies in Africa.



2004

**Options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio Conventions**  
Identified eleven options for improved cooperation among the Conventions, including joint national strategy planning, collaboration among national focal points and scientific bodies, and the establishment of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) for better coordination.



# Synergies of the Rio Conventions and sustainable development: A historical perspective

2001-  
now

## Joint Liaison Group (JLG)

The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) was formed in 2001 by the secretariats of the three Rio conventions to collect, share information, and coordinate work. Its mandates include

- Sharing information and raising awareness
- Providing information on interlinkages
- Developing technical papers to clarify and elaborate on specific policy and technical issues
- Contributing to relevant workshops mandated by pertinent bodies under each Convention
- Encouraging and promoting better coordination among national focal points and stakeholder groups



2012-  
now

## Rio Conventions Pavilion

The Rio Conventions Pavilion (RCP) is a platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific findings linking biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management.



# Capacity-building for enhancing synergies: Why now and what to expect?

## Context and Urgency



- **Persistent Silos:** Despite efforts, silos and departmentalization remain prevalent in global environmental governance, particularly between the Rio Conventions.
- **Need for Synergies:** There is an urgent need to understand and bridge the gaps in synergies to maximize the effectiveness of global environmental efforts.

## New Trends and Windows of Opportunity



- **Growing Emphasis on Synergies:** Recent trends highlight the promotion of synergies, creating opportunities for joint actions. (2023 Joint Statement, 2024 UNEA-6 Resolution)
- **Windows of opportunity:** The incoming COPs and sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Conventions provide valuable chances to call for more synergies.

## Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Program



- **Objectives:** Improve capacities to implement the Rio Conventions and SDGs coherently and integratedly.
- **Scope:** Policymakers and practitioners ranging from national officials to local actors, covering individual, institutional and systemic levels.
- **Activities:** Trainings, resource materials, knowledge-sharing web portal and partner engagement.

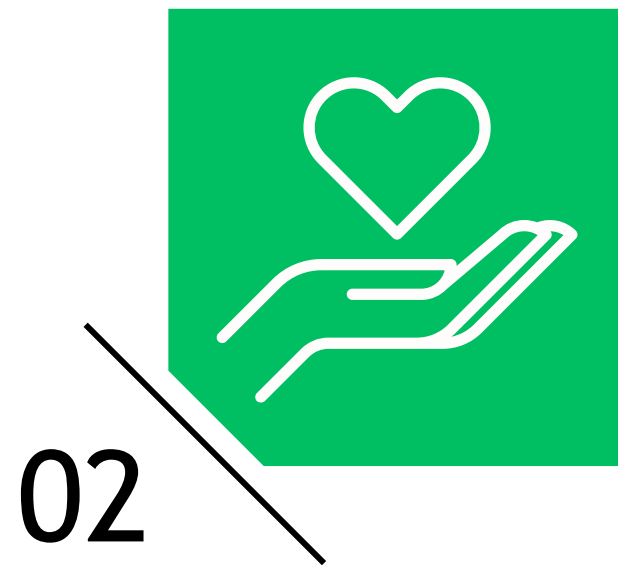


# Context: Inter-linkages and Synergy Opportunities between the Rio Conventions



## Rio Conventions:

- UNFCCC (Climate Change)
- CBD (Biodiversity)
- UNCCD (Desertification)



## Commonalities and Synergies:

- Identified common commitments across the conventions
- Intertwined concerns and goals in sectors such as land use
- Integration into Sustainable Development Goals:
  - SDG 13 (Climate Action)
  - SDG 15 (Life on Land)
  - Multiple co-benefits for other SDGs

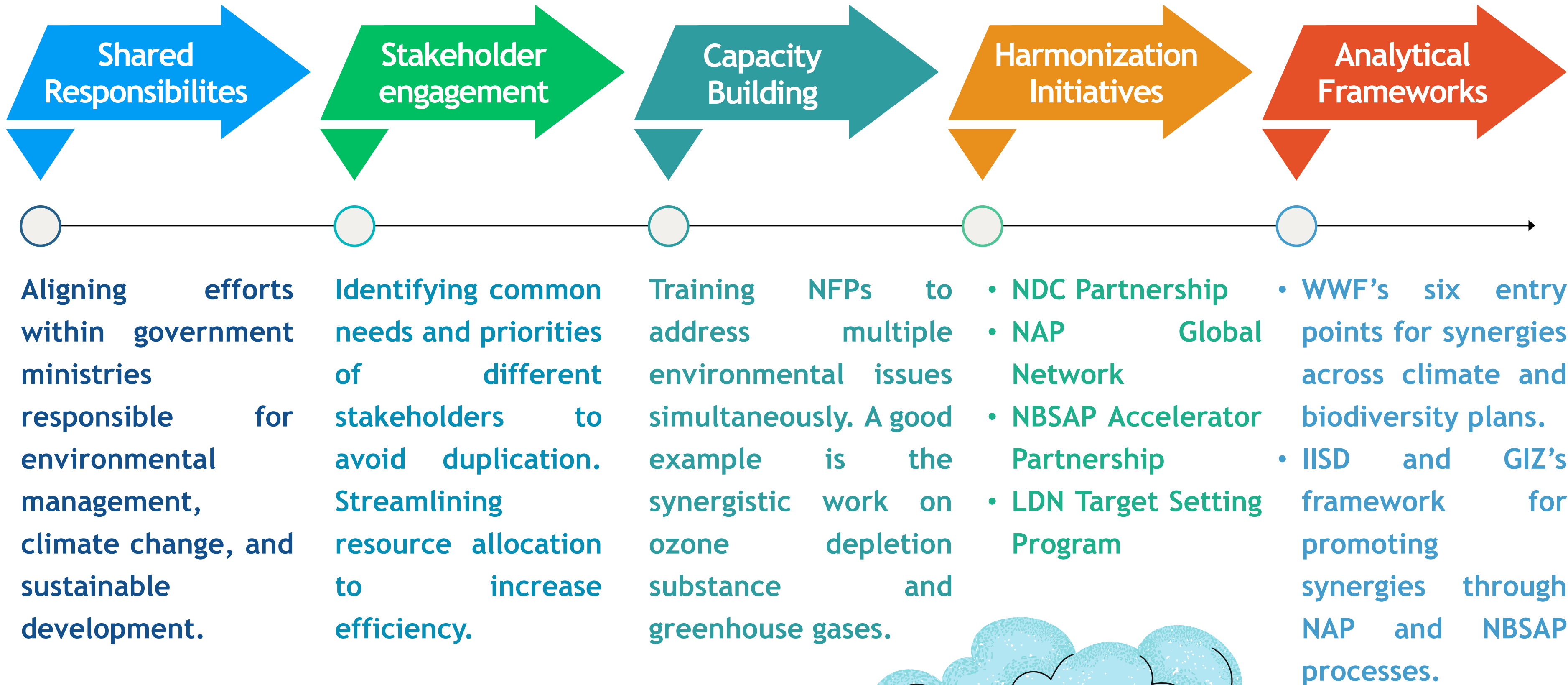


## Importance for Sustainable Development:

- Crucial role in Agenda 2030
- Prioritizing synergies for efficient resource use and greater impact



# Key Opportunities to Promote Integrated Planning





# **Synergies in practice: Case studies of Rwanda, Grenada, Benin & Peru**



# Grenada: Integrating Rio Conventions and SDGs in Climate Resilient Agriculture Planning

## Project Launch

- **Year:** 2019
- **Objective:** Mainstream biodiversity conservation in production landscapes and increase agricultural system resilience.

## Integrated Planning

- National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035:**
- Integrates NBSAP, LDN, and NAP priorities and targets.
  - Aligns with SDGs: (SDG 5, 10, 13, 14, 15)

## Institutional Arrangements

- MEAs Coordination Meetings
- Ad-hoc Project Steering Committee

## Capacity-Building Efforts

- Challenges:**
- Lack of qualified technical personnel for cross-sectoral coordination.
  - Gaps in data collection, sharing, and management.
- Solutions:**
- Extensive training programs
  - Awareness-raising initiatives
  - Knowledge management programs

## Key Message

Grenada's CRA project showcases the importance of integrated planning and capacity-building to enhance synergies between Rio Conventions and sustainable development goals.

# Rwanda: Revising NBSAP and Leveraging Land-focused Targets of LDN and NDC

## Overlapping Targets

- **LDN:** Conserve, sustainably manage, and restore 1,069,476 hectares of land.
- **NDC:** 805,000 hectares under sustainable management.
- **NBSAP:** Safeguard and reduce degradation of at least 50% of natural ecosystems.

## Current Opportunity

- **NBSAP Revision:** Align with the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- **Leverage Related Agendas:** Enhance coherence, synergies, and efficiency.

## Economic Efficiency

### ELD Initiative Study Findings:

- Coordinated implementation can reduce transaction costs of land restoration by nearly 56%.
- Estimated annual savings: \$45.6 million USD.

## Proposed Mechanisms

1. Joint Inter-agency Working Group
2. Information Exchange Platform
3. Joint Monitoring and Evaluation System
4. Joint Planning and Fund Mobilization
5. Joint Research on Land Activities

## Key Message

Coordinated implementation of land-focused activities under the Rio Conventions presents a significant opportunity for Rwanda to enhance economic efficiency and achieve sustainable development goals through strategic synergies.

# Benin: Building LDN around a biosphere reserve

## LDN Target Setting

### Forest and Savanna Cover Reduction:

- 1990-2010: 21% decline
- 2010-2030: Aim to reduce decline to 5%

### Wetland Conservation:

- Halt all conversion to other land uses

## NBSAP Commitments

- **Deforestation Reduction:** 20% reduction by 2020
- **Expansion:** Increase forests and protected areas
- **Soil Fertility:** Promote integrated soil fertility management techniques

## Synergy Initiative

### Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve:

- **Area:** 345,000 hectares
- **Location:** Delta of the Mono River (Benin-Togo boundary)
- **Significance:** Protects endangered flora and fauna; Supports 2 million people; Addresses issues of unsustainable farming, fishing, and tree harvesting.

## Current Efforts

### Projects for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

- Focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Support the livelihoods of local communities

## Key Message

Benin's harmonization of environmental policies through initiatives like the Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve demonstrates a commitment to sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and community support.

# Peru: Integrating Forests in Climate and Biodiversity Planning

## Forests' Role

- Carbon Sinks
- Resilient Ecosystems
- Biodiversity Preservers
- Sources of Ancestral Knowledge

## National Plans and Strategies

- **National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2030:** Forests as one of the seven priority areas
- **NDC:** 26 measures linked to Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
- **National Forest and Climate Change Strategy 2030**
- **Preparatory Work for National Climate Change Strategy 2050**

## Indigenous Stakeholder Engagement

- **Indigenous Peoples Platform for Climate Change (IPPCC)**
- **Key Examples:** National Forest Conservation Programme for Climate Change Mitigation:
- **IPPCC Participation in NAP Construction**

## Key Message

Peru's integrated approach, linking forest conservation with climate change strategies and Indigenous knowledge, highlights the critical role of forests in achieving sustainable development and resilience.

# Agenda

- 01 The three Rio Conventions: Context and inter-linkages
- 02 Key international frameworks and planning processes bound to the Rio Conventions
- 03 Entry points for synergies: What are the key opportunities to promote integrated planning?
- 04 Synergies in practice: What practical examples exist that show how to build synergies?
- 05 Recommendations for policymakers and practitioners

