



# Interlinkages EGM

Recap and outline of key messages  
from day 1



## Session 2

- Conceptualization: progress achieved in thinking about interlinkages in a more integrated and holistic way
- Operationalization: formalizing interlinkages and putting synergies into practice involves trade-offs that are political
- Understanding relationships is necessary to implement coherent policies
- Models and scenarios are useful to assess alternative paths towards sustainable development
- Values and social priorities of communities can influence prioritization and operationalization



## Session 2

- It is critical to build inclusivity, equity and sustainability into the process of decision making
- All models and frameworks have limitations; more important than the results of these models is the process to develop and use them
- There must be a balance between finding the "perfect model" and a model that is useful and responds to the needs of policy makers and delivers results.
- Operationalization must be linked to assessment frameworks, which need to be capable of effectively evaluating progress and challenges as these evolve over time



## Session 3

- Inherent challenges of governance at all levels— there is no global mechanism to guide water policy
- Transboundary nature of many water issues reveals need for regional governance structures
- Link to national and regional sustainable development plans
- Any of these governance structures—global, regional, national, local— must commit to an integrated approach to water issues
- Change the way policy and budgets are set
- Ministries, parliaments, local governments must all incentivize cross-sectoral action and budgeting



## Session 3

- An effective framework will make room for the involvement of all relevant stakeholders
- A multi-stakeholder approach is especially important when actions to advance one SDG involve tradeoffs for another
- Public-private partnerships and other multistakeholder partnerships will need clear principles, guidelines and learning from past failures and successes
- Gender issues are inextricable from water and sanitation
- A human rights approach to water issues will acknowledge that inclusivity will need to be prioritized above efficiency



## Session 4

- Difficult to advance SDG 15 despite strong interlinkages of terrestrial ecosystems with most SDGs
- Diverse and healthy ecosystems could be cost-effective solutions to climate change adaptation
- Practitioners on the ground are aware; local communities must be involved as custodians
- Conservation and biodiversity is an issue of inequality for indigenous peoples, who are often among those who are considered “left behind”
- Beyond the local level, challenges include inadequate understanding of the true value of nature, lack of integrated thinking and spatial planning, and accessing public finance



## Session 4

- Addressing interlinkages requires addressing underlying indirect drivers— institutions, governance, societal changes, different values and preferences
- Few policy instruments have successfully addressed indirect drivers
- Institutional and governance structures have not yet been adequately adapted
- True transformational change is going to be painful
- Powerful levers for change:
  - Gender-responsive resource and land-management, women-led initiatives, land tenure
  - Diversifying diets- moving away from animal protein and a small number of staple crops
  - Deploying GIS and other modern technologies more effectively



## Session 5

- Challenges in tradeoffs, e.g. deforestation, pollution, GHG emissions
- The impact on local communities should be taken into account, e.g. when a river is dammed for a hydro-electric project
- Progress in SDG 7 needs a holistic approach that considers environmental benefits as well as livelihoods and economic growth
- With the private sector, motivating changes through incentivizing investment decisions that take these factors into account is critical
- Need innovative financing options to encourage more investment in sustainable projects, address issues such as stranded assets, and realize the potential for leapfrogging



## Session 5

- It is not enough to generate new jobs, in solar energy for example—there must also be a way forward for those displaced by fossil fuel industries
- Vocational training and re-training must be coordinated with job availability
- The gender perspective is again critical, in terms of the benefits to women when energy access is expanded, and in addressing the gender disparity in employment in the power sector
- Consider the full range of energy when discussing policy—not only electricity, but also transport, etc.



**End of day question:** How can we convert concepts into investment and financing models?

We will have to quantify how much money is required to realize these synergies, and the effect that would have on other outcomes such a livelihoods and employment. This can lead the way to greater coherence.



Questions from the concept note—is the discussion addressing them? Are there clear answers emerging?

- What are the most significant interlinkages among the cluster of goals under review and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?
- Do they vary across countries in different circumstances, or impact specific population groups differently?
- How can they lead to practical policy recommendations?
- What are some practical ways to leverage these interlinkages for effective action at different levels?
- Where can data availability, STI, finance, and capacity development be improved?