



**in collaboration with**



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Energy



**International Workshop of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability**

**Linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)  
and the GBEP Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy (GSI)**

**July 3-4, 2017 in Bonn, Germany**

**Conclusions**

## Background

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the GBEP Sustainability Indicators (GSIs) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to contribute to the Technical Paper being prepared for GBEP, and that will highlight the linkages between the SDGs and the GSIs and determine how they may be mutually reinforcing.

## Main discussions

The participants were first introduced to the SDG indicators, the interplay between them, and potential synergies and conflicts. Mr. Olle Olsson, Stockholm Environment Institute, presented an overview of work on SDG interaction analysis and the 7-point typology of interactions. It is important to take into consideration that interactions are context-dependent. It was noted that it would be interesting to translate this work into guidance for policy makers to understand how policy decisions have implications for specific SDG targets.

Mr. Jeffrey Skeer, IRENA, introduced the background to bioenergy for sustainable development and the potential for increasing bioenergy through integrated systems, sustainable intensification and landscape planning.

Ms. Ivonne Lobos, TMG, discussed the key trade-offs and opportunities for biomass within the SDG framework. She noted that competition between different biomass used might lead to incoherent policies and implementation issues. However, there is opportunity for GSIs to contribute to increasing accountability and to supporting monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

Ms. Louise Baker, UNCCD Secretariat, introduced the indicators for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), under SDG 15.3. She noted that there was need for better data on soil organic carbon for the measurement of LDN indicators, and that there was the potential for collaboration in this area.

A panel discussion, moderated by Horst Fehrenbach, IFEU, was held on Bioenergy's role in SDG implementation. Panelists included Maria R. Murmis, Argentina, Suani Coelho, Brazil, Andrea Rossi, GBEP Secretariat and Justo Vargas, Paraguay.

Mr. Uwe R. Fritsche and Ms. Ulrike Eppler, IINAS, presented the first draft of the report on the linkages between the SDGs and the GSIs, currently under development as a contribution to GBEP. Although the SDGs do not specifically mention bioenergy, out of 17 SDGs, 15 are directly or indirectly linked to land and bioenergy. In terms of data for measuring indicators, many of the SDG indicators that correspond most closely with the GSIs are Tier III indicators, meaning that there is no established methodology. Proxies for GSIs (best practices etc.) could support SDG Tier III discussion and be linked to national SDG implementation.

Two parallel Working Groups discussed the ***“Conceptual development of SDG-GSI linkages and trade-offs”*** (with input from Ms. Tina Beuchelt, ZEF and Mr. Michael Bruentrup, DIE) and ***“Practical views on SDG-GSI linkages: opportunities for GSI implementation”*** (with inputs from Mr. Elmar Dimpl, GIZ and Mr. Andrea Rossi, GBEP Secretariat). Working Group 1 discussed how

to streamline the approach to the GSIs with the SDG approach of consumption-based measurements. Best practices were also discussed as potential proxies for indicators. Working Group 2 discussed the mutual benefit for GSI and SDG application by sharing data.

Participants were given an overview of the UNSE4ALL Global Tracking Framework and the IEA Renewable Energy Indicators by Mr. Gerry Ostheimer, UN SE4ALL and Mr. Adam Brown, IEA.

A final panel discussion on lessons learnt for the GBEP TFS work on Indicator Guidance. It was moderated by Uwe R. Fritsche, IINAS, and panellists included Maria R. Murmis, Argentina, Suani Coelho, Brazil, Andrea Rossi, GBEP Secretariat, Horst Fehrenbach, IFEU and Justo Vargas, Paraguay. In the ensuing plenary, moderated by Andrea Rossi, GBEP Secretariat, examples were given of how the implementation of the GSIs raises awareness of broader issues and sheds light on the sustainability of the agricultural and forestry sectors. It could be interesting to collect further examples, to be added as an Annex to the SDG-GSI report.

## Main conclusions and next steps

***The report on the linkages between SDGs and GSIs*** should incorporate the following suggestions:

- The linkages should include reference to how the GSIs correspond not only to the specific SDG indicators but also to the SDG targets. This will demonstrate how measurement of GSIs can play an important role in monitoring progress towards SDG targets and measuring the contribution of bioenergy towards such targets, even where indicators do not exactly correspond.
- Reference should be made to how data and experiences from GSI implementation can be utilised for monitoring progress against the SDGs and the related targets;
- The trade-offs between SDG indicators and GSIs should also be highlighted in the report.

Another general recommendation regarding linkages was that efforts could be made by GBEP Partners and Observers to reach out to the relevant person(s) in each country/organization responsible for the implementation of the SDGs, in order to raise their awareness about the GSIs and their relevance in the SDG context.

The workshop also led to recommendations for the content of ***the Implementation Guide for the GSIs***. It was suggested that the Implementation Guide include:

- a summary of the report on SDG and GSI linkages, including reference to how each specific GSI relates to both SDG indicators (matching where indicators can contribute to one another in terms of data and measurement) and targets;
- proxies for the indicators where data is not available for measurement, these proxies could be in the form of agreed good practices; and
- information on dissemination and uptake of the indicators, and how they can fit within national monitoring frameworks.

A final version of the GSI-SDG report will now be prepared based on the recommendations from this workshop for approval during the GBEP regular meetings in Rome, November 2017.