

# Water and sanitation interlinkages in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Forth Meeting of the Task Force on the  
Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus

*Geneva, 8 December 2016*

*Federico Properzi*

# Interlinkages in the 2030 Agenda



“The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized”



# Project to upgrade the urban environment in a city in Asia

Example borrowed from Eri Honda  
Asian Development Bank

## Project components:

Flood protection

Wastewater and solid waste management

Public park

Capacity development

## Results:

Public satisfaction with the urban environment increased (based on surveys)

Incidence of dysentery down from 46 to 35 per 100,000 inhabitants, and diarrhea down from 52 to 46 per 100,000 inhabitants

Number of tourists increased from 1.3 million to 2.3 million



# Interlinkages in the 2030 Agenda

## Rationale:

- Many Goals and targets can only be achieved if also Goal 6 is achieved, and vice versa
- Mainstreaming water and sanitation in policies and plans of other sectors is key
- Understanding links first step to collaboration across sectors and institutions

## Scope:

- Map water- and sanitation-related links across the 2030 Agenda
- But just the beginning...



# Interlinkages in the 2030 Agenda

Focus: target-level interlinkages

Framework: social - economic -  
environmental dimensions

Types of links:



**Synergies:** mutually reinforcing,  
positive interdependencies



**Potential conflict:** positive  
aspects, but also potential  
conflicts





# Social dimension interlinkages



- **WASH** → reduced burden of disease and malnutrition / time for, and access to, education, economics activities, politics
  - **Water and ecosystem resources** → access to basic services → increased pressure on natural resources ← **IWRM**
  - **IWRM** ↔ institutional capacity, participation, transparency
- Reduced poverty and inequalities, increased resilience



A case study in Ghana found that a 15-minute reduction in water collection time increased girls' school attendance by 8-12%



# Economic dimension interlinkages

- Water and ecosystem resources → economic growth and development → pressure on natural resources ← IWRM and sustainable practices
- WASH → healthy workforce → economic growth and development
- Disaster risk reduction → resilient economies  
→ Reduced poverty and inequalities + resources for WASH, ecosystem protection, disaster risk reduction



Economic impacts of 2015 California drought (48% less surface water available, compensated by withdrawing 72% more groundwater):

- USD 2.7 billion lost (loss of revenue, additional pumping costs)
- 21,000 jobs lost

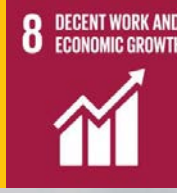




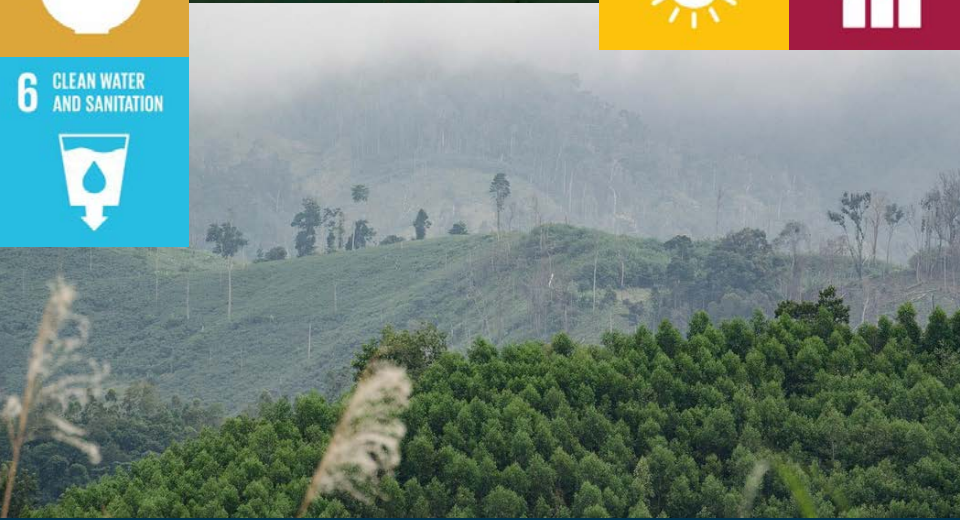
# Environmental dimension interlinkages



- Ecosystem protection and climate change mitigation  $\leftrightarrow$  improved water quality and quantity, disaster protection
- Wastewater treatment and water use efficiency  $\rightarrow$  resilient terrestrial and marine ecosystems
- Social and economic development  $\rightarrow$  pressure on natural resources  $\leftarrow$  IWRM and sustainable practices

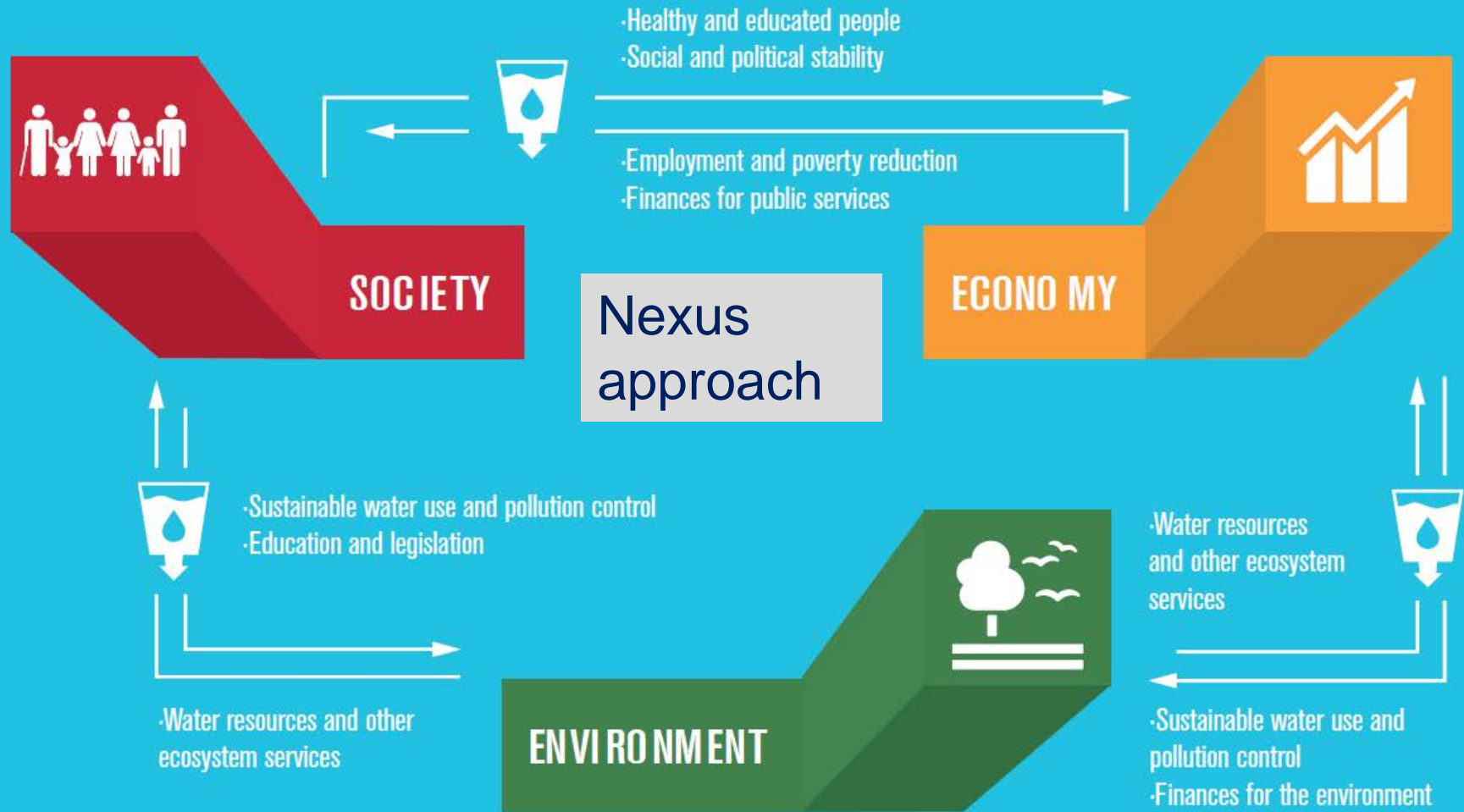


Sweden's largest island has experienced severe drought in the last couple of years, resulting in plans for two desalination plants. However, one of the island communities had water-filled wells throughout the drought periods, thanks to their work on restoring a nearby wetland.





# Integrating the three dimensions of Sustainable Development



# Role of monitoring in the 2030 Agenda

- Optimize implementation by informed policy- and decision-making
  - where, when, on whom and how to focus resources (important with disaggregated data)
- Track progress towards commitments
  - ensure accountability (e.g. to citizens)
  - communicate needs (e.g. to international community)
- Highlight importance of integrated implementation
  - cross-analysis of different datasets

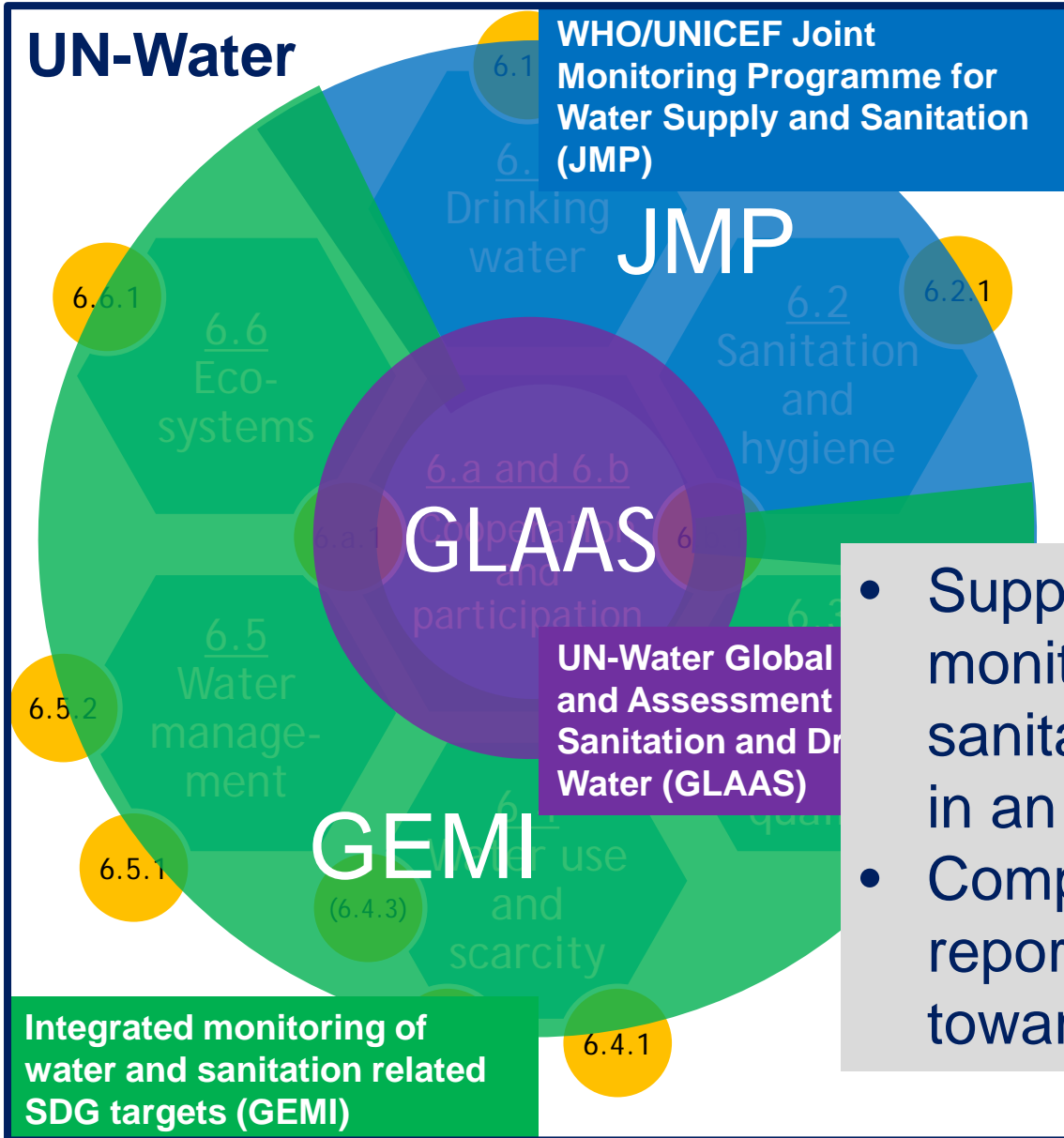
National  
Sub-  
national

Global  
Regional





# Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6



6.1.1	Safely managed drinking water services (WHO, UNICEF)
6.2.1	Safely managed sanitation and hygiene services (WHO, UNICEF)
6.3.1	Wastewater safely treated** (WHO, UN-Habitat)
6.3.2	Good ambient water quality** (UNEP)
6.4.1	Water use efficiency** (FAO)
6.4.2	Level of water stress* (FAO)
6.5.1	Integrated water resources management (UNEP)
6.5.2	Transboundary basin area with water cooperation** (UNECE,

- Support countries monitor water and sanitation related issues in an integrated manner
- Compile country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6

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management (WHO, UNEP, OECD)

# Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6

## Principles:

- Focus on national monitoring efforts
  - build on, and harmonize, what already exists
- Steps of progressive monitoring
  - start simple with flexible methodologies
- Data disaggregation
  - support policy- and decision-making
- Integration
  - working across sectors and institutions







# Next steps

End 2016 - revision of monitoring guide

- Based on feedback from pilot testing and external review

Throughout 2017 - first phase of global implementation

- Integrated data collection for all SDG 6 global indicators in about 50 countries (all to be included in the years to come...)
- Focus on institutional processes and intersectoral collaboration
- Support: monitoring guide, webinars, online helpdesk, communities of practice, regional workshops
- Compilation of country data, validation and analysis

First half of 2018

- Global synthesis of water and sanitation data (UN-Water report)
- 2018 High Level Political Forum includes in-depth review of SDG 6 on theme "Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies"

Armenia
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
India
Japan
Jordan
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Nepal
Philippines
Tajikistan
Timor-Leste
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Albania
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Denmark
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Netherlands
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
Canada
United States of America

# Thank you!

[www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org)

[www.sdg6monitoring.org](http://www.sdg6monitoring.org)