

Before ISAP: Thematic Tracks 1 (BT-1)

**“How To Promote Synergies in Asia Pacific - Messages from
the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies”**

Framing Presentation

President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



COP28UAE

Organized by UNDESA and UNFCCC

Official COP28 Side Event

Redefining Success: A Just and Equitable Transition through greater Climate Action and SDGs Synergies

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

13:15-14:45 (Dubai time)

SE Room 7, Blue Zone

UNFCCC COP28 Side Event

Climate-Biodiversity-SDGs Synergistic actions in Asia-Pacific

Organized by IGES and MOEJ



8th December, Friday, 2023, 14:45-16:00 (UAE time UTC+4), 19:45-21:00 (Japan Standard Time UTC+9)

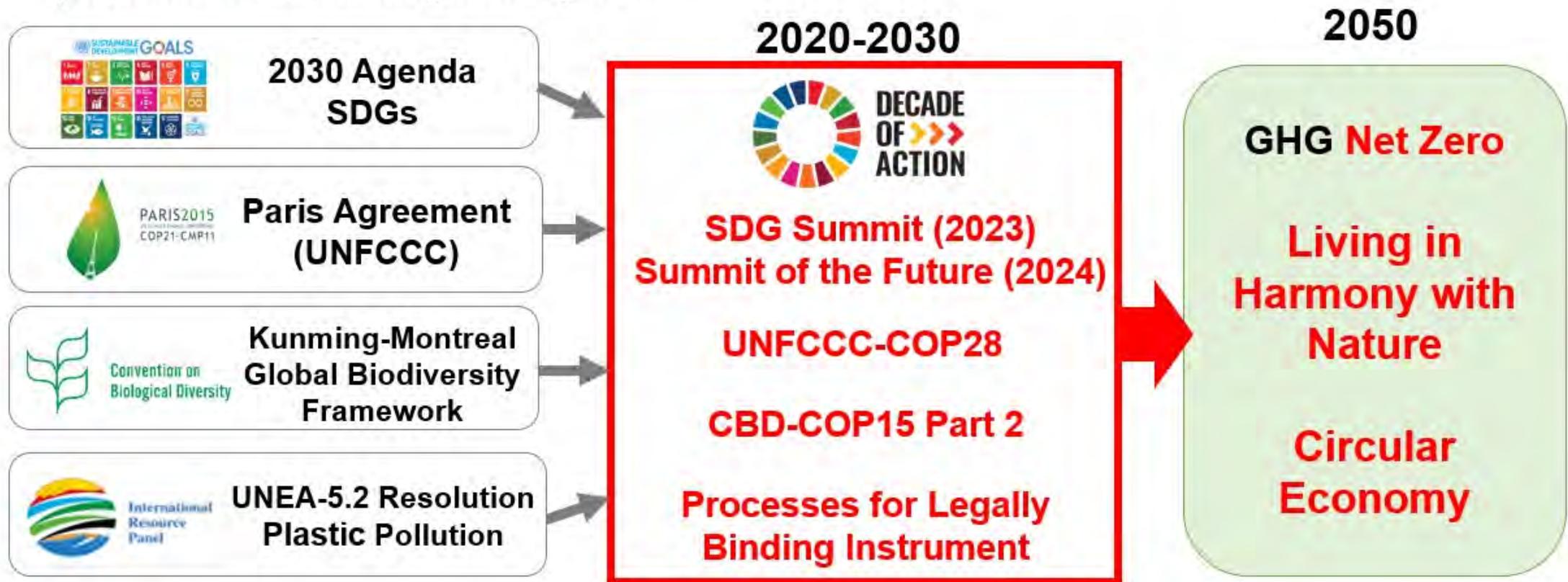
[+ Add to Calendar](#)

Synergy Initiative in COP28, Dubai



The Decisive Decade for a Sustainable Future

- Envisioning a sustainable world in **2030 and 2050**
- **Green recovery** from the COVID-19 crisis
- **Synergies** can accelerate progress and raise ambition on climate, biodiversity, pollution and other global goals



The 3rd Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference (Tokyo, July 2022)

co-convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC, hosted by MOEJ, in partnership with UNU, IGES

Key Outcomes

- 1) Strengthening the **evidence base for synergistic action**
- 2) Convening **multi-stakeholder dialogues** at all levels
- 3) Enhancing **integrated planning**
- 4) **Partnerships** for transformation
- 5) Informing **key intergovernmental processes** on climate and the SDGs



“Circulating and Ecological Spheres” and “Decarbonization Leading Areas” were introduced as existing integrated approaches

“Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies”
co-convened by UN DESA and UNFCCC Secretariat
to prepare a report, aiming to maximize action impact



The 4th Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference (NY, July 2023)



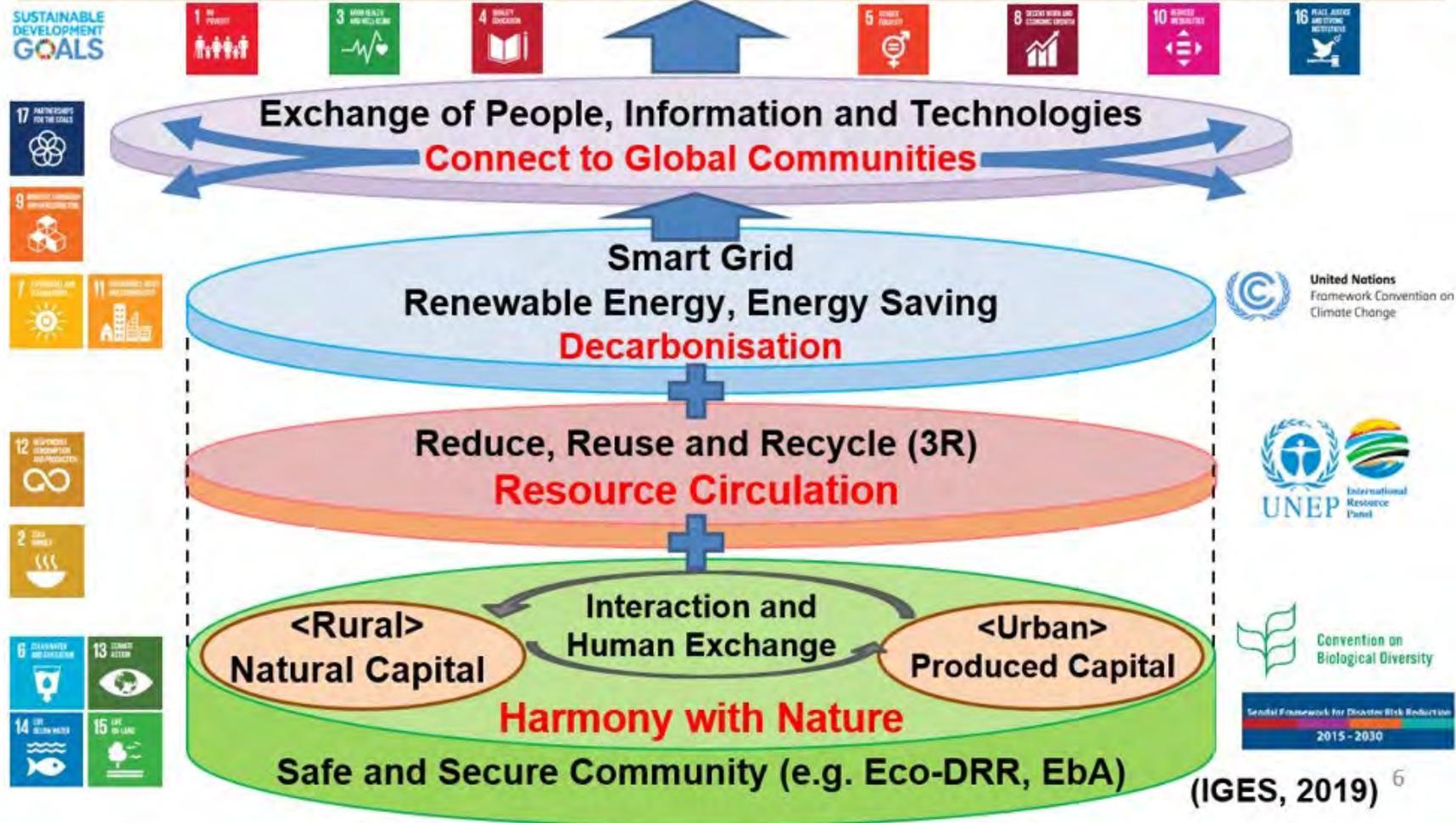
Key Messages

- 1) **Breaking down silos** and synergistic approaches to climate, environmental actions and SDGs
- 2) **Growing scientific evidence** supporting the pursuit of 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement together can advance both
- 3) **Enhanced policy coherence** is fundamental for maximizing synergies and minimizing trade-offs
- 4) **Stakeholder engagement** is a core element of a just transition to net-zero and climate-resilient future
- 5) Just transition poses challenges for all, with **developing countries** facing difficulties and requiring tailored support

Shared importance of **deepening the evidence base** and **analytical work** related to synergies across sectors; **Expert Group** aimed to launch **“Global Report”** upon SDG Summit

Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)

Integration of environmental, economic and social dimensions
 Integrated response to declining and ageing population, Local revitalisation
CES to achieve *integrated solution* for those local issues



“Three Areas” with Potential for Synergies

1. Synergies between SDG 6 & 7

- **Regional Circulating and Ecological Spheres (Regional-CES)** calls for optimising resource flows between urban and rural areas while promoting decarbonization, circular economy, and living in harmony with nature.

2. Sustainable cities and communities under SDG 11

- Localization through **VLRs**, a critical vehicle to take stock of progress of local SDGs.
- VLRs can be used to make connection with **national level (VNRs)** and key stakeholders such as **businesses (VBRs)**

3. Response to world crises

- Necessity to step up efforts to show that working across the SDGs is good for **environmental and global** security.



Three Institutional Reforms to **Close Science-Action Gaps**

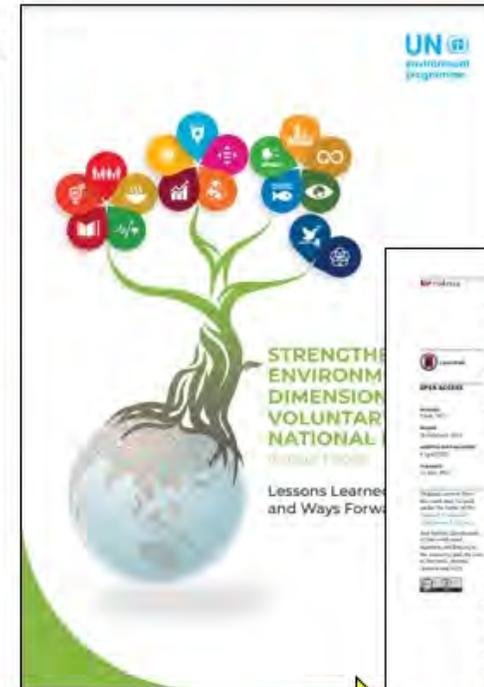
IGES is leading a multi-year research project funded by the MOEJ that highlights three institutional keys to synergies

1. **Follow-up and review** of synergies



2. **Strengthening interagency coordination** (line ministries, audit and statistics offices)

3. **Expanding stakeholder engagement** (youth, women, parliamentarians, academia, etc.)

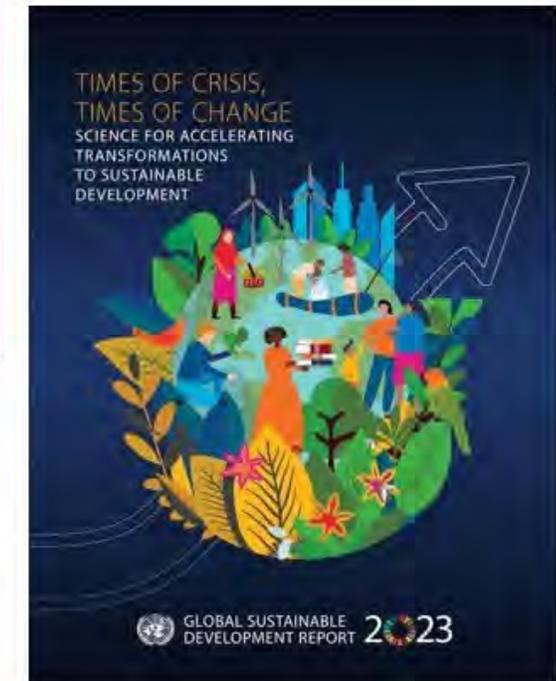
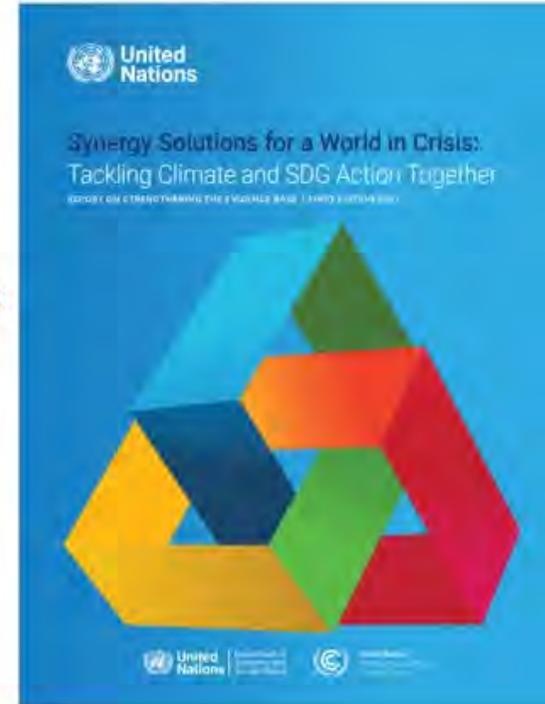


Some **Local Governments** are Reflecting Synergies in Climate and Other Relevant Plans

Asian Co-benefits Partnership Good Practice Map

Opportunities and Challenges of **Synergies**: Scientific Knowledge-1

- “**Synergy Solutions for a World Crisis**” (by Expert Group on Synergies) noted **growing scientific evidence** on synergies, but it is also critical to develop **the means to apply synergies to policy**
- **Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)** shows “**Entry Points**” to **accelerate multiple SDGs**: human well-being and capabilities; sustainable and just economies; sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns; energy decarbonization with universal access; urban and peri-urban development and global environmental commons



Opportunities and Challenges of **Synergies**: Scientific Knowledge-2

- **IPCC: AR 6 Synthesis Report (Section C.4):** “Accelerated and equitable action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development. Mitigation and adaptation actions have more **synergies** than **trade-offs** with SDGs. **Synergies and trade-offs** depend on context and scale of implementation. (high confidence)”
- **IPBES: Nexus Assessment Report:** Nexus Assessment looks into the **interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change** mitigation and adaptation, including relevant aspects of **the energy system, water, food and health**. (Currently working on 2nd draft of the chapters and 1st draft of SPM)
- **IRP: Global Resources Outlook (GRO):** GRO2019 analyzed the impacts and effects of **resource use**, indicating it makes up 1/2 of the global GHG emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress. (GRO2024 to be published)

ご清聴ありがとうございました。
Thank you very much for your attention.