

# Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together

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# Increasing recognition of climate and SDG synergies

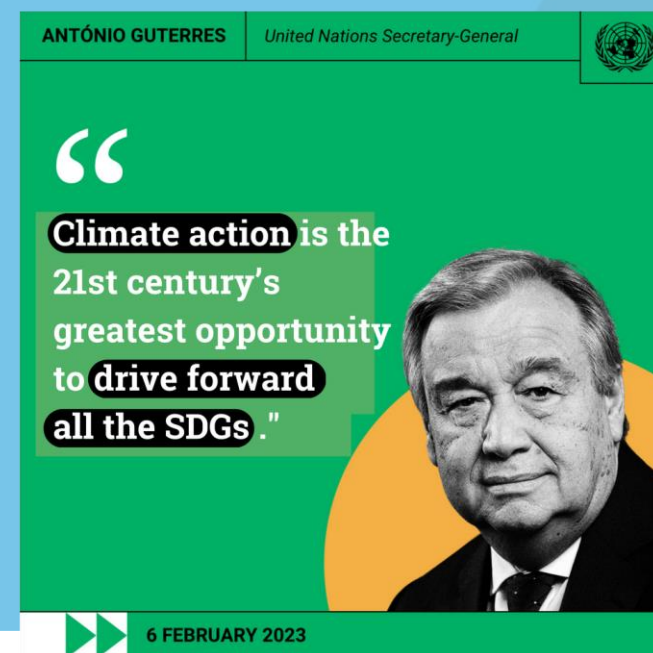
## SDGs and climate action are not on track

The IPCC and SDG Report 2023: Special Edition – global progress assessments on climate change and sustainable development – underscore the necessity of a systems approach to attain the 2030 global targets.



## UN SG's call for synergistic action

In his priorities for 2023, UN Secretary-General has called for an urgent course correction, urging world leaders to come together behind a rescue plan for people and planet — a rallying cry for synergistic action.



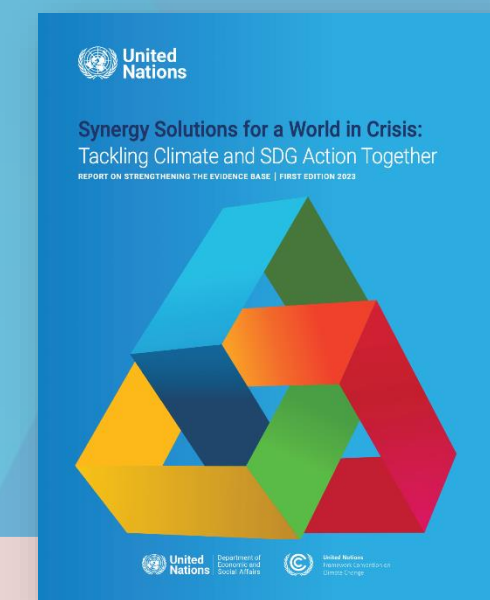
## UN DESA and UNFCCC build a plan for action

The inter-agency partnership aimed at fostering synergistic action between the SDGs and climate agenda, and the outcomes of three Global Synergy Conferences held since 2019, provide the essential platform, rationale, and urgency for this report.



## Expert Group prepares the global report

An international group of 14 experts was co-convened by UN DESA and UNFCCC to draft the first global report. It is the first collaborative effort to systematize knowledge on synergistic climate and SDG implementation, charting the course for accelerated action.



# Work of the Expert Group

**Composition:** Independent group of 14 experts from diverse thematic and geographic backgrounds.

**Objective:** To prepare the first global report that builds on evidence-base and demonstrates win-win solutions of addressing climate and sustainable development challenges synergistically.

Learn more [here](#).



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# Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together

REPORT ON STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE

SEPTEMBER 2023



Launched on: 13 September, SDG Studio, New York

Co-convened by: UN DESA and UNFCCC

Prepared by: Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy

Watch it here: [bit.ly/SynergyReportLaunch](https://bit.ly/SynergyReportLaunch)

1.

# The Challenge

We must solve the climate emergency and sustainable development challenges together, or we will not solve them at all.

# Addressing multiple crises on a short deadline

**Need for accelerated action:** Halfway to the 2030 Agenda, a mere 15% of SDG targets are on track and the climate crisis is worsening as GHG emissions continue to rise.

**Breaking siloed approaches:** Progress away from siloed approaches and towards integrated planning, implementation, and reporting is underway but needs to move much faster.

**4.3 trillion**

**USD** shortfall in financial flows by 2030 to achieve a 1.5°C global climate scenario and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change

**When acting in silos...**

**80 million**

**jobs** are put at risk with a shift to a low-carbon and resource efficient economy without a just transition

**84 million**

**more people** at risk of hunger by 2050 without SDG integration in climate efforts

# 2.

## The Opportunity

Pursuing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in concert can significantly and efficiently advance both agendas.

# Synergistic action will help to course correct

**Reduce financial gaps:** Pursuing development and climate targets together reduces investment gaps.

**Achieve targets faster:** Integrating social dimensions enhances chances of reaching climate targets.

**Facilitate long-term vision:** Synergistic co-benefits balance short- and long-term gains, gaining stakeholder support.

**Ensure just transition:** Synergistic planning will ensure a just transition and limit the trade-offs of climate action.

**43 trillion**

USD can be gained in economic output by 2070 when aligning climate and SDG actions

**70%**

of SDG targets are attainable with climate adaptation measures focused on co-benefits

When acting in synergy...

**24 million**

new jobs created by 2030 through renewable energy

**4x**

economic gains in co-benefits through transitioning to a green economy

**40%**

of global population could meet WHO air quality standards with strict air pollution and GHG mitigation measure

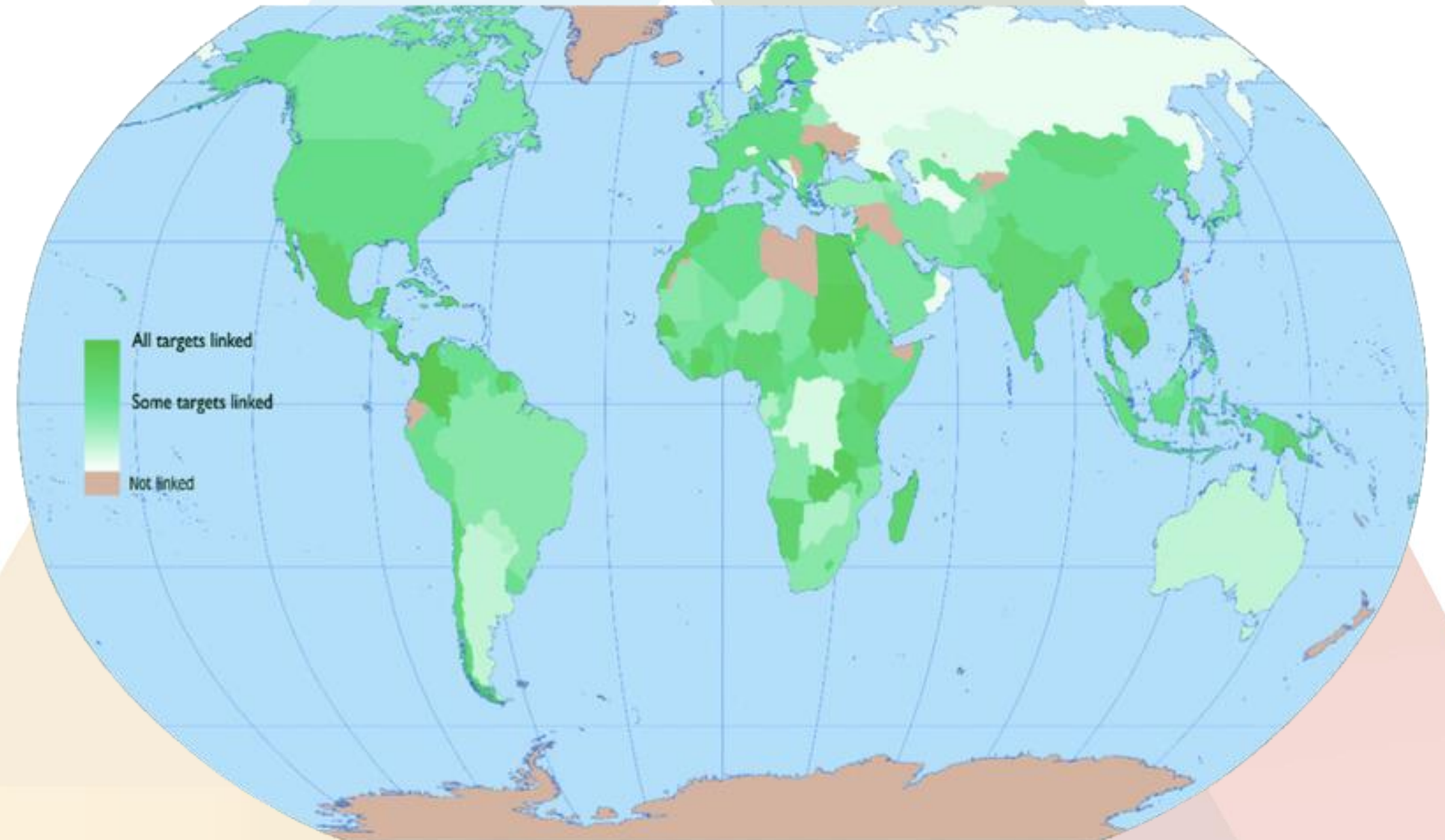


# The evidence indicates strong synergies

Evidence shows synergies between climate action and 80% of 2030 Agenda targets.

Significant overlaps found between NDC climate activities and SDGs 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17.

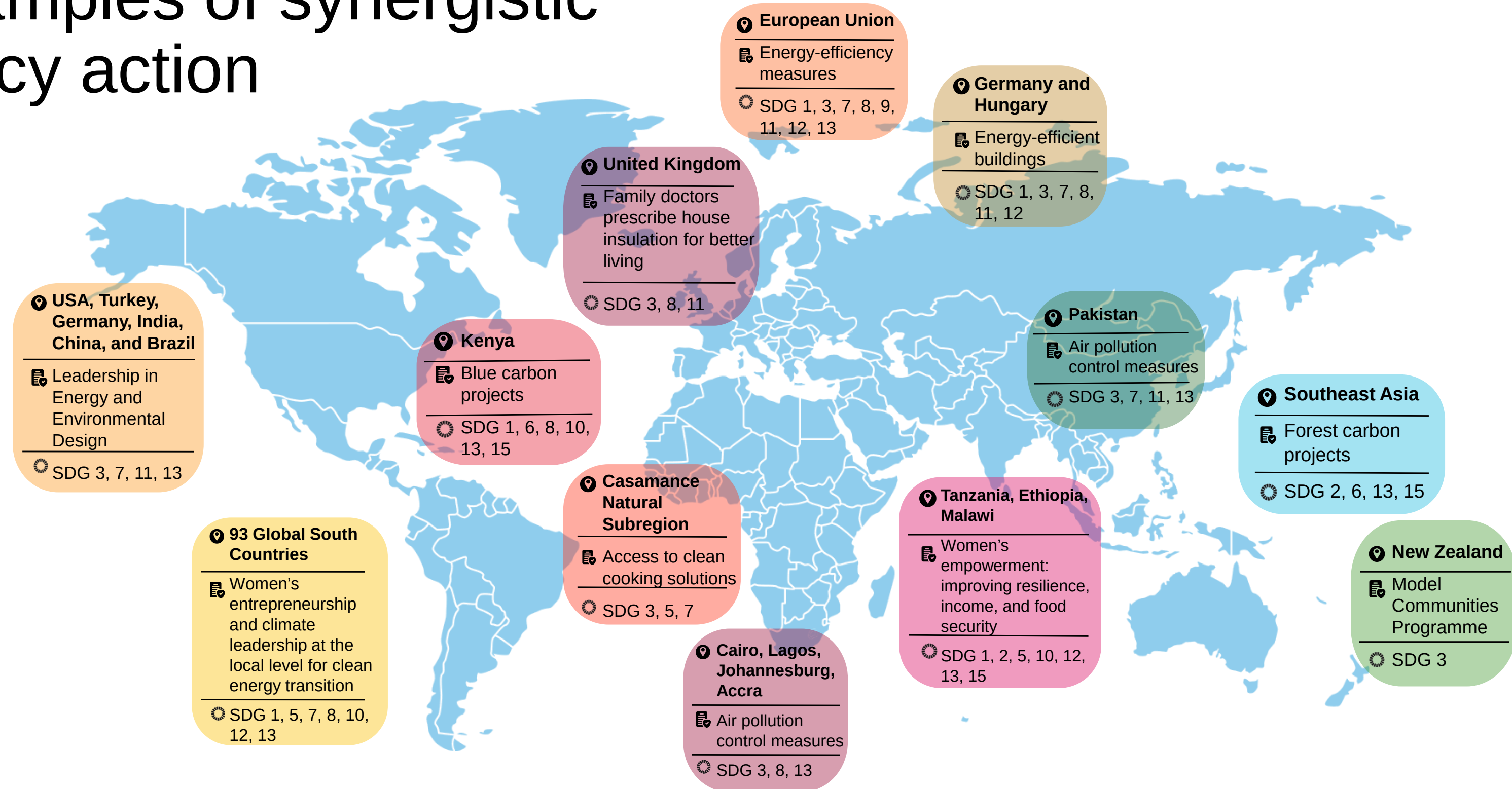
Overlaps between SDGs and NDC climate activities are more pronounced for low-income and lower-middle-income countries.



Linkage of SDGs with the countries' NDCs

Source: [Climate Watch](#)

# Examples of synergistic policy action



# 3.

## Unlocking progress

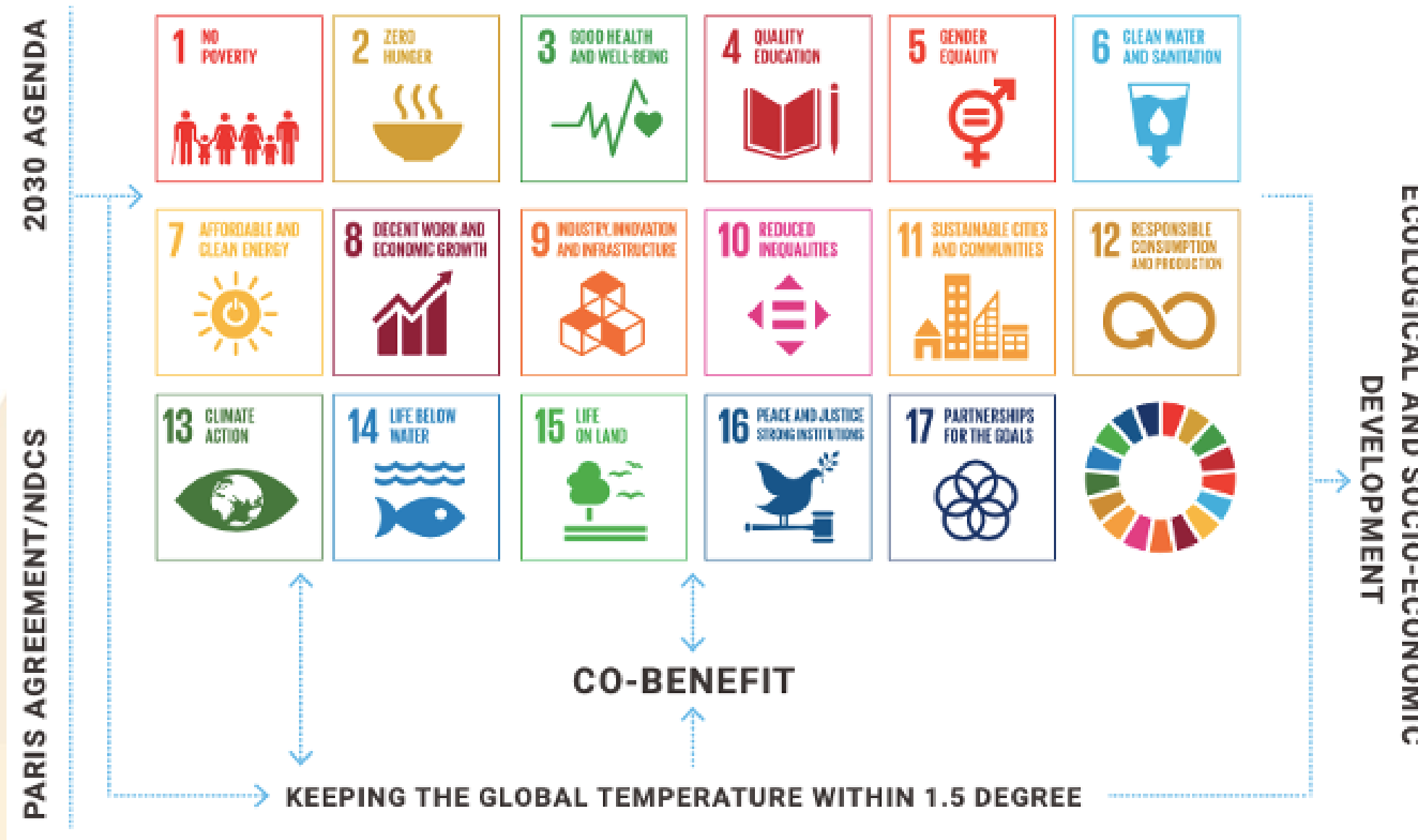
Co-benefits of synergistic action significantly outweighs trade-offs. Their evaluation is key for cost-effectiveness and a just and equitable transition.

# Overcoming existing barriers towards integrated solutions

**Easier knowledge access:** addressing the sizable disconnect between scientific evidence and applied policy action.

**Improved political planning and reporting:** offering a framework for coordination and reporting across agencies on synergistic action.

**Adequate financial mechanisms:** promoting strategies for synergistic climate and SDG investment, particularly for low, lower middle-, and middle-income countries with deeper co-benefits.



# 4.

## Key Recommendations

Integrated climate and development action offers a vital opportunity for the course correction, addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities.

# Ten Recommendations

01

**Enhance** collective resilience against current and future global crises.

02

**Strengthen** science-policy-society interaction to advance synergistic action.

03

**Promote** institutional capacity building and cross-sectoral and international and national collaboration.

04

**Ensure** policy coherence and coordination among policy makers across sectors and departments.

05

**Develop** a 'framework for action' that can help decision makers in public, private, and civil society sectors identify synergistic action for systems change.

06

**Use** the 'framework for action' and to other means to ensure a just transition.

07

**Address** the large investment gaps in the climate and development agendas to enhance the necessary synergies.

08

**Utilize** COP 28 in Dubai to initiate and accelerate synergistic action on climate and SDGs.

09

**Prioritize** the role of synergies in the work of the UN and international financial institutions, including an improved system for sharing information to help countries in their reporting responsibilities.

10

**Treat** cities, sites of major population growth and expansion of economic activities, as an opportunity for focusing on climate and development synergies.

# Read the report



[bit.ly/UNSynergyReport2023](https://bit.ly/UNSynergyReport2023)

For further information, please contact:  
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