

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

SDGs Stakeholder Meeting

Tokyo, March 6, 2024

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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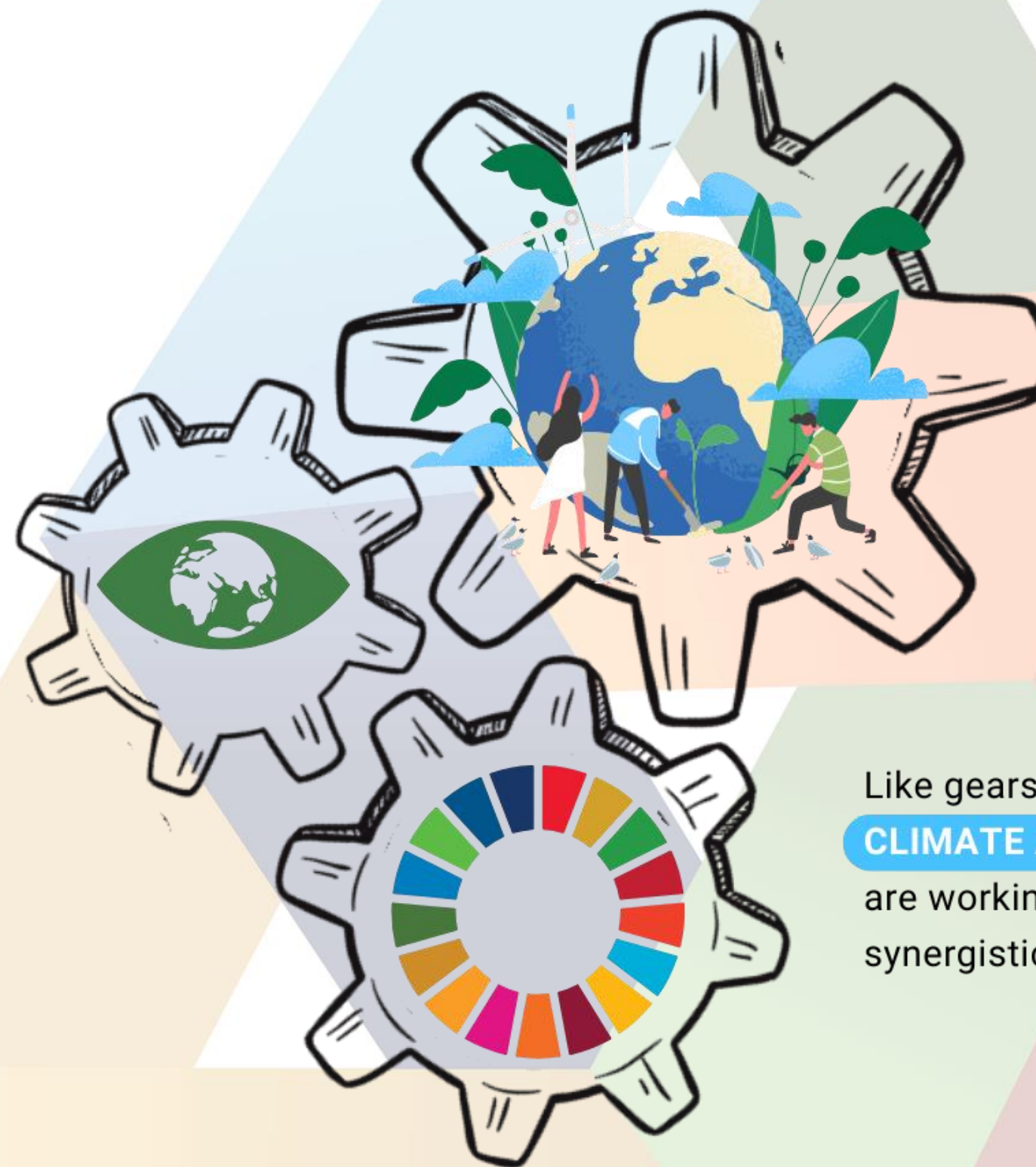


Diana Urge-Vorsatz

What is climate and SDG synergy?

Definition: Synergies occur when multiple actions combine to produce a result greater than their individual contributions.

In the context of climate change and SDGs, adopting a synergistic approach means addressing these challenges together, **amplifying the impact of policies** by addressing them jointly rather than in isolation.



Like gears in a well-oiled machine,
CLIMATE ACTION and the SDGs
are working together for
synergistic, greater benefit

Building on Outcomes of 3rd Global Synergies Conference in Tokyo

The following were considered essential for advancing synergies:

- Strengthening the evidence base for synergistic action
- Enhancing integrated planning
- Importance of scaling up capacity building and sharing of good practices
- Developing and promoting partnerships for transformation
- Convening multi-stakeholder dialogues at all levels
- Informing key intergovernmental processes on climate and the SDGs.

Challenges that the Report Addresses

- Increasing recognition that synergies can result in win-win situations, but evidence is dispersed, scattered and often not easily accessible – **Should a platform that gathers this evidence be created?**
- The absence of practical tools for a) identifying and enhancing synergies, and b) for policy makers to enable, promote and implement synergies – **Would a policy framework for synergistic action that is easy to use by policy makers be a good solution?**
- How can finance be reformed to advance this agenda – **Can the current debate on the need for reform of the global finance architecture make this a critical component of that debate?**
- The adequacy or inadequacy of reporting mechanisms - if synergies are so essential for the success of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 – **Should reporting on them be made more prominent?**
- How can the topics of just transitions, leaving no one behind and equality be given higher attention in this and other debates? – **Should not this be permanent goals towards which to aspire?**

Overcoming Existing Barriers

The Need for Easier Knowledge & Data Access

- Insufficient knowledge of SDG and climate interactions
- Lack of accessible and applicable methodologies and tools that map the nature and magnitude of interactions
- Challenges in understanding and aligning climate actions across all SDGs to ensure synergies and impacts

Economic and More Financial Mechanisms

- Limited national budgeting on addressing synergies
- Lack of enabling financial instruments
- Lack of clarity and evidence on the benefits and costs of co-benefits and trade-offs
- Lack of climate finance flowing to those countries facing highest risk and greatest adaptation needs

The Need for Better Political Planning and Coordination

- Political cycles that cause changes in political priorities
- Lack of political motivation towards climate policies
- Lack of transparency in responsibility for implementation
- Lack of collaboration between governments and other actors
- Lack of consistency on commitments to equity, gender equality and other social justice and rights commitments across all indicators that would underpin climate justice and therefore advance synergy and impact on climate action and all SDGs

1.

The Message

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

The Urgency

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.

The impact of acting in silos: The report presents a list of potential negative impacts in terms of shortfalls in financial resources, jobs that are put at risk and people at risk of hunger

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

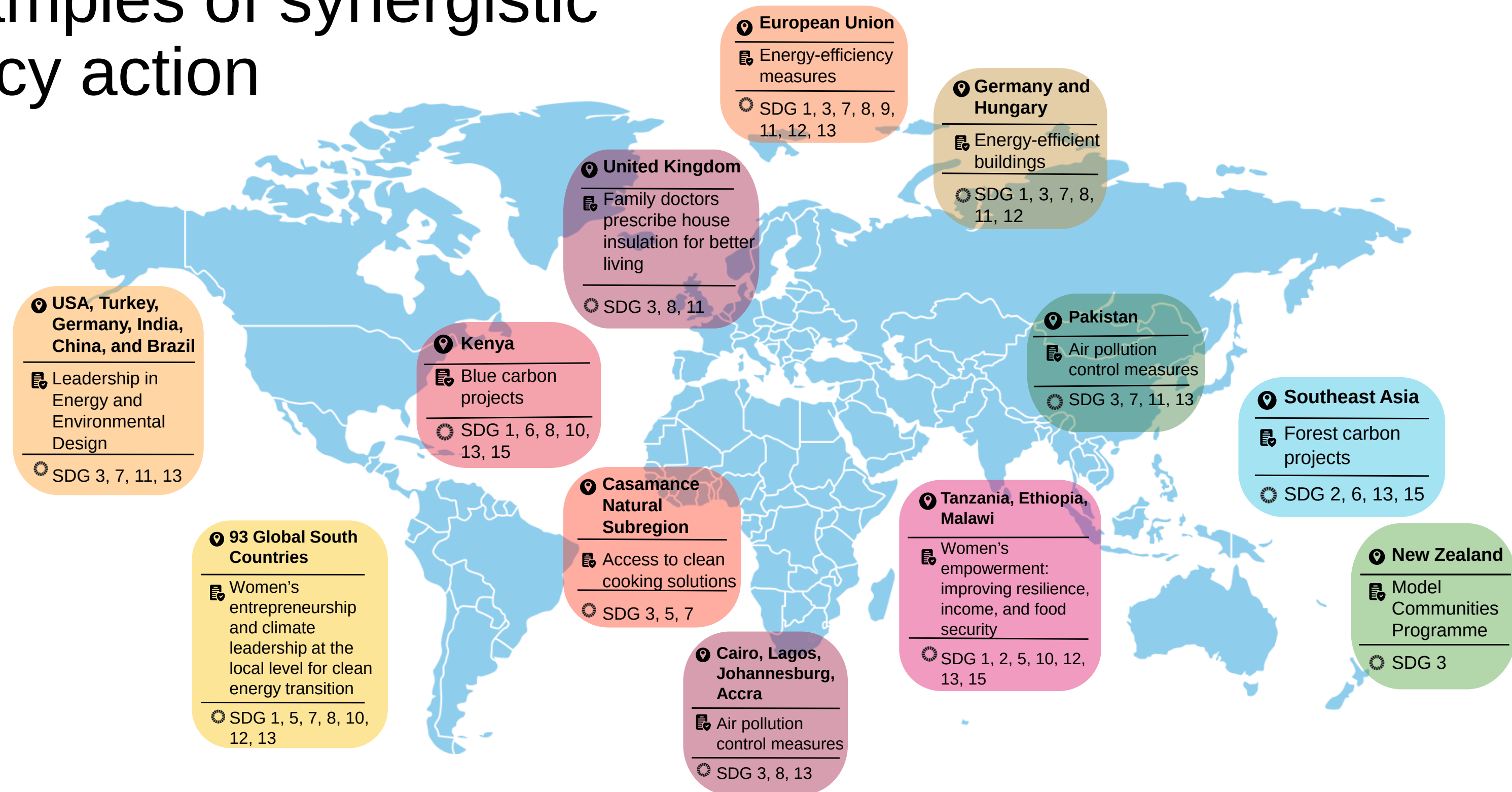
more people at risk of hunger by 2050 without SDG integration in climate efforts

2.

The Evidence

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

Examples of synergistic policy action



3.

The Opportunity

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

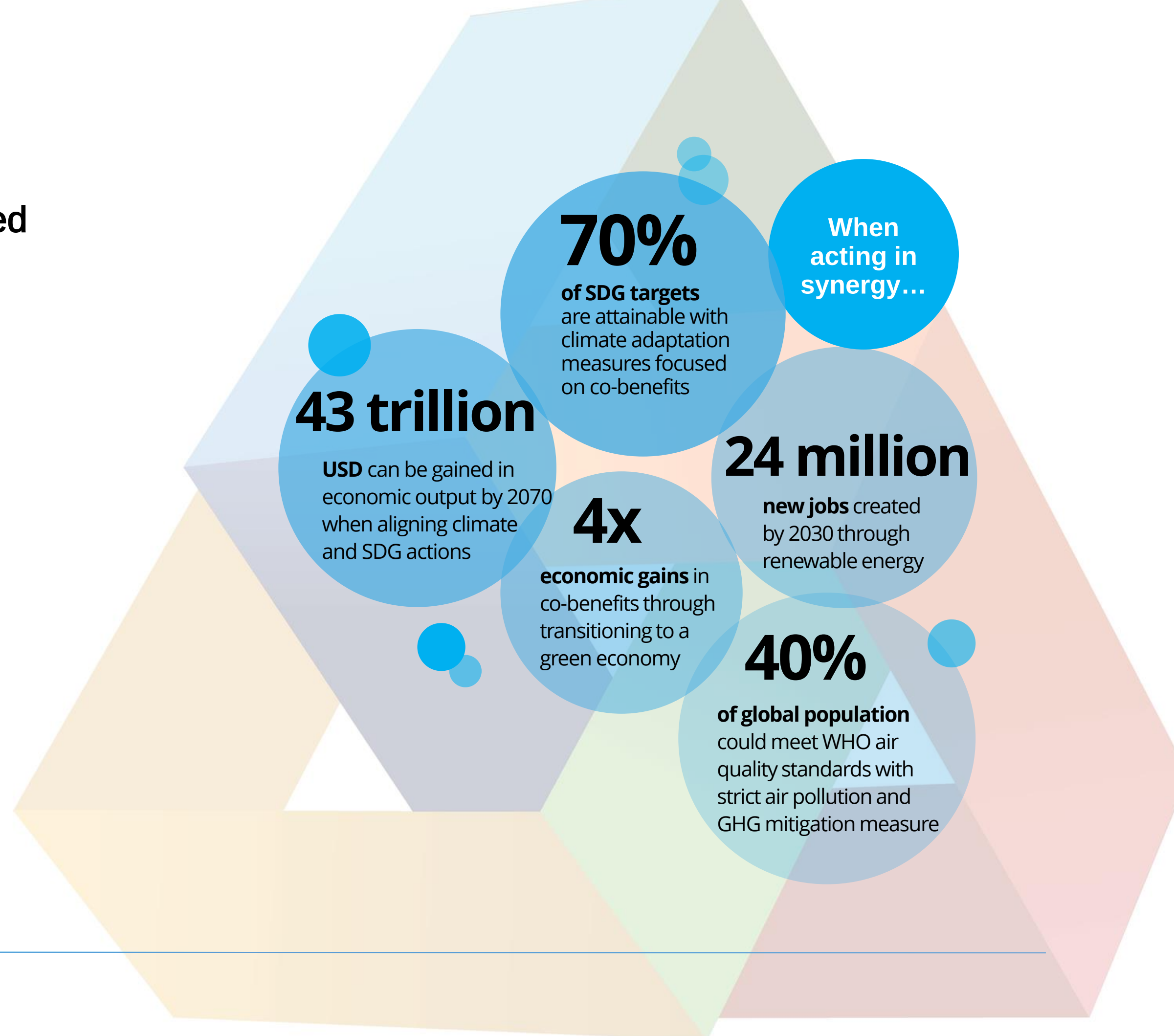
Synergistic action will have major positive impacts that are much needed

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.



State of synergy implementation: NDC-SDG overlaps

- Only 23 of the 173 NDCs explicitly refer to SDGs; none go into detail about how climate policy affects the SDGs' accomplishments.
- Significant overlaps between NDC climate activities and SDGs 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17
- > these SDGs also receive the most climate-related official development assistance (ODA).
- Overlaps between SDGs and climate activities are more pronounced for low-income and lower-middle-income countries.
- > Specifically, more associations (>200 NDC activities) between NDC activities and SDGs 2, 7, 15, and 17 for low-income countries
- > For high income countries, less than 200 NDC activities linked to SDGs, mostly across SDGs 7, 9, 11, and 15
- Not many overlaps were reported between NDC activities and SDGs 1, 5, 10, and 16.

This shows the need for reporting the synergy more systematically in the NDCs and VNRs

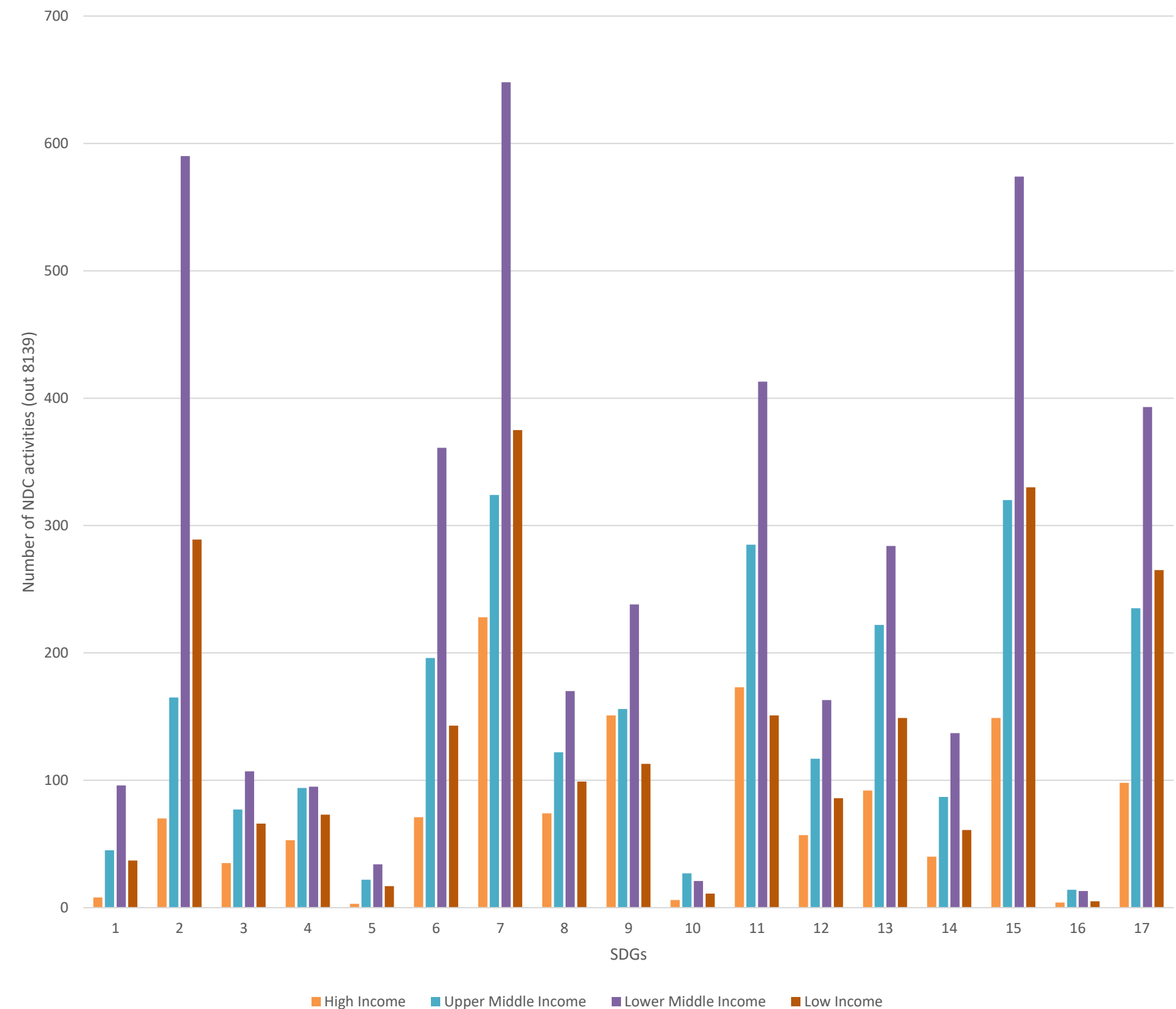
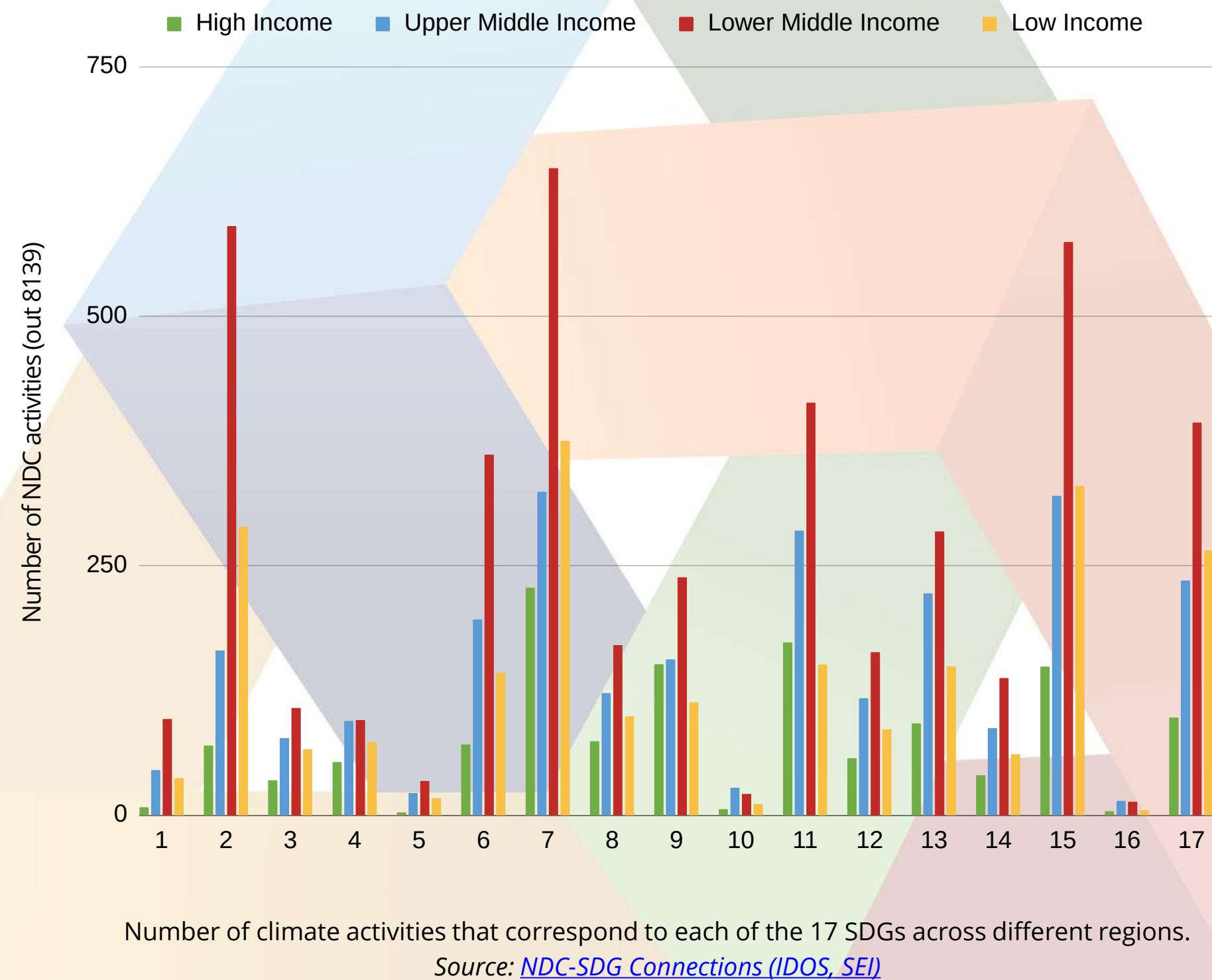


Figure. Number of climate activities that correspond to each of the 17 SDGs across different regions. Data obtained for the graph from <https://klimalog.idos-research.de/ndc-sdg/>.

Context-specific analysis and localization of progress and impacts of climate action and SDGs will maximize co-benefits

- North and South:** Low-income and lower-middle-income countries experience stronger interlinkages, as SDG progress and financing challenges outweigh climate change impacts.
- Urban settings:** Cities present a major opportunities for addressing climate and development challenges in synergy, as the global urban population is projected to reach 70% by 2050.
- Tailored financial mechanisms:** Measures like encouraging MDBs and IFIs to introduce synergy-enhancing instruments can reduce the existing investment gaps in climate and development sectors.



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.

Second Report – Substantive Themes and Focus

Synthesis Report

covering all 4 thematic areas with evidence and deep analysis, providing conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the political processes of 2024

Cross-cutting themes

MEASURES FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION –GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AND DATA PLATFORM

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO POLICYMAKERS

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION AS PART OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

Deep-dive theme

CITIES AS PLATFORMS FOR SYNERGISTIC ACTION

Thematic Report

1. Background paper for online consultation
2. Online consultation

Read the report



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For further information, please contact:
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