



Presentation on the case study publications

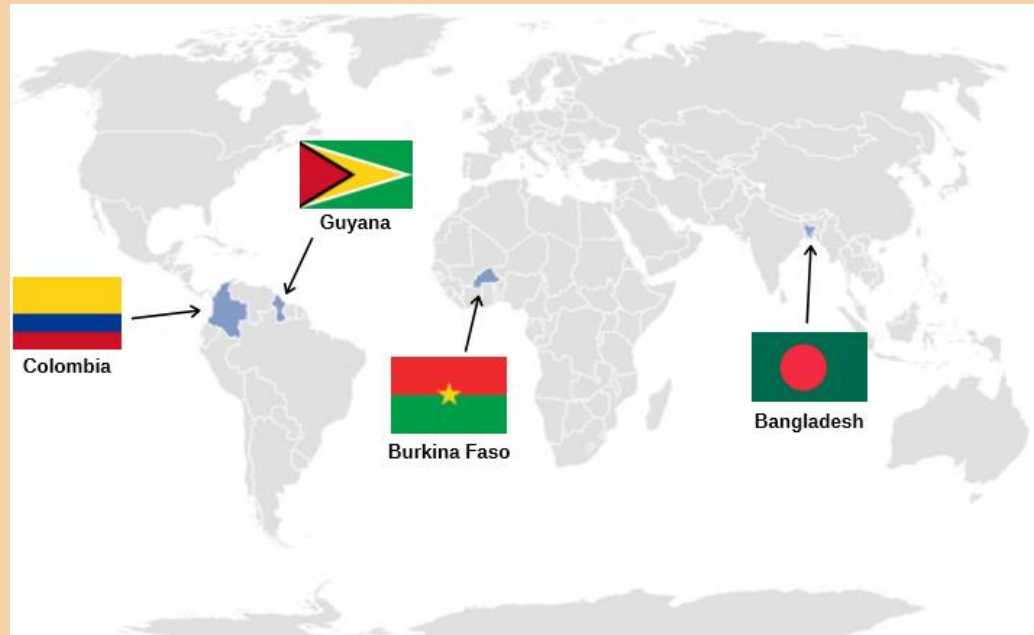
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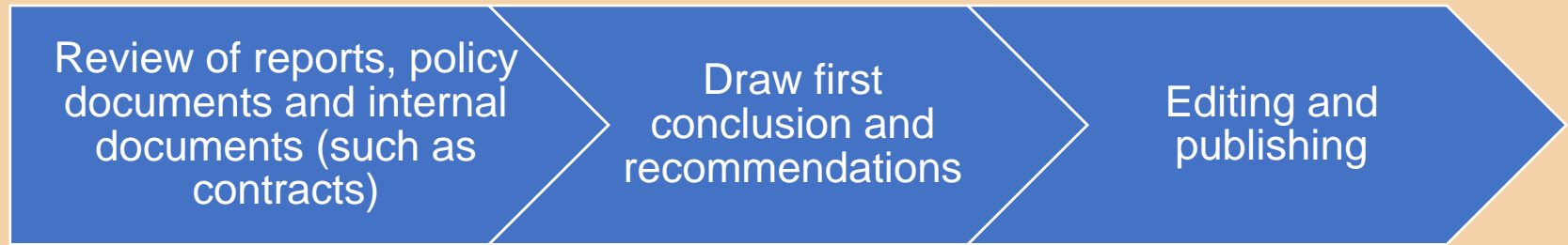


The case study publications (Andreas Obrecht)





Approach



- ✓ Not a project evaluation
- ✓ Showcase good practises
- ✓ Insights and lessons for future projects and activities
- ✓ Recommendations




Structure

1. Context
2. Description of the country with a focus on policies relevant for SDG implementation
3. Environmental data
4. UNEP action for strengthening environmental data and policy coherence
5. Results (including project lessons and recommendations)

Case studies (not yet designed)

UN environment programme
22 August 2021, AO, internal working document

Environmental data, policy, and the SDGs – the Case Study of Burkina Faso



→ A healthy environment is the precondition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve environmental objectives, governments need accurate and reliable environmental data.

→ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ^{UNEP} led by UNDA, partnered with Guyana, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Colombia to enact coherent and integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimension of the SDGs.


→ In Burkina Faso, UNEP worked with different government entities to build capacities on environmental data and accounting at national and local levels and to enhance the environmental aspect of national sustainable development policies.

1. CONTEXT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – charts a new path of balance for humanity and the planet. The highly interconnected SDGs are integral to the functioning of the biosphere, which is vital for human livelihoods, well-being, and resilience.

Countries need to be well equipped in understanding the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and their linkages with other commitments; they also need to be able to translate this understanding into concrete measures to realize environmental objectives in an integrated manner.

Access to accurate information and knowledge, cross-sectoral collaboration, and coordination both within and across institutions, as well as more inclusive mechanisms, are necessary.



This figure illustrates the contribution of SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 15 (Life on land) to other SDGs in terms of its benefits (blue and trade-offs (red)). The data are the result of a systematic compilation of the current state of knowledge about interactions among the SDGs. The size denotes how either gaps in knowledge or weaker interactions.

UN environment programme
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5. RESULTS

Success factors of the project were building of country ownership by tailoring the project activities to the specific requirements and needs of Burkina Faso at an inception workshop. The project built on recent developments in the country, such as the prioritizing of the SDGs. Through multiple workshops, the project management could benefit from regular feedback by the beneficiaries of the project. The project was accompanied by media outreach which was facilitated by early planning of such outreach. Many workshops were designed to be of interest and relevance to both higher hierarchical levels and technical experts.

The approach chosen for this project in Burkina Faso shows how a project can at the same time address technical challenges and achieve visibility at higher political levels.

Achievements of this project include:

- The **timely trainings of producers and users of environmental data** which allowed them to increase the relevance of a study on the development of Environmental Fiscal Reform for Sustainable Development and Poverty, to evaluate of the sustainability of communal development plans, applying analytical tools, as well as to assess the sustainability of other planning documents such as the current and the next PNDES.
- The **sensitization of elected policy makers** at local and national levels to the opportunities arising from reflecting international goals such as the SDGs and those of MEAs in local planning. This contributes directly to the achievement of the objectives of the PNDES at the local level.
- The **definition of indicators** to evaluate the implementation of the PNDES. Among these indicators are those relating to (i) the proportion of sectoral policies integrating the environment and sustainable development, (ii) the proportion of regional development plans integrating the environment and sustainable development, and (iii) the proportion of municipal development plans integrating the environment and sustainable development.
- Laying the ground for the **next phase of the PNDES** by building on experiences with current project activities, which are mainly based on capacity building of central and local actors, will not only facilitate the integration of sustainable development, sustainability and climate change into regional development plans and communal development plans. The application of these tools could contribute to the evaluation of the first phase of the PNDES to detect any possible inconsistencies in order to propose new related guidelines.
- **Addressing challenges in implementing multilateral environmental agreements:** Government entities in charge of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements identified common themes, e.g. land degradation neutrality, climate change and sustainability and developed solution for including them in local development plans. The subnational workshops raised the awareness of the potential of multilateral environmental agreements for local development plans.
- The SDG indicator 17.14.1 "Policy coherence for sustainable development" was tested and promoted. The relevance of this indicator was recognized by Burkina Faso and the methodology developed by UNEP was tested at two instances. The methodology includes a scoring system which was found useful. The already existing policy coherence mechanisms of Burkina Faso resulted to a relatively high evaluation but potential for further improvement remains.

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Project Lessons

Project partner ownership was created early on with an inception workshop in March 2016. At the same workshop, questions of project sustainability were already addressed. This meeting was also important to clarify roles and expectations. It was agreed that the project is considered a pilot and does not require an extensive project management set-up besides a steering committee and a network of focal points among different ministries. The government of Burkina Faso was required to contribute in-kind but not financially. Recognizing the importance of outreach and communication, a media engagement plan has been developed from the outset of the project and implemented.

The activities and workshops were focused on technical staff but senior officials of the government entities also participated which helped increasing the awareness of the SDGs and the environmental dimensions. The subnational workshops helped related government levels and enhanced mutual understanding.

BOX B: RECOMMENDATIONS

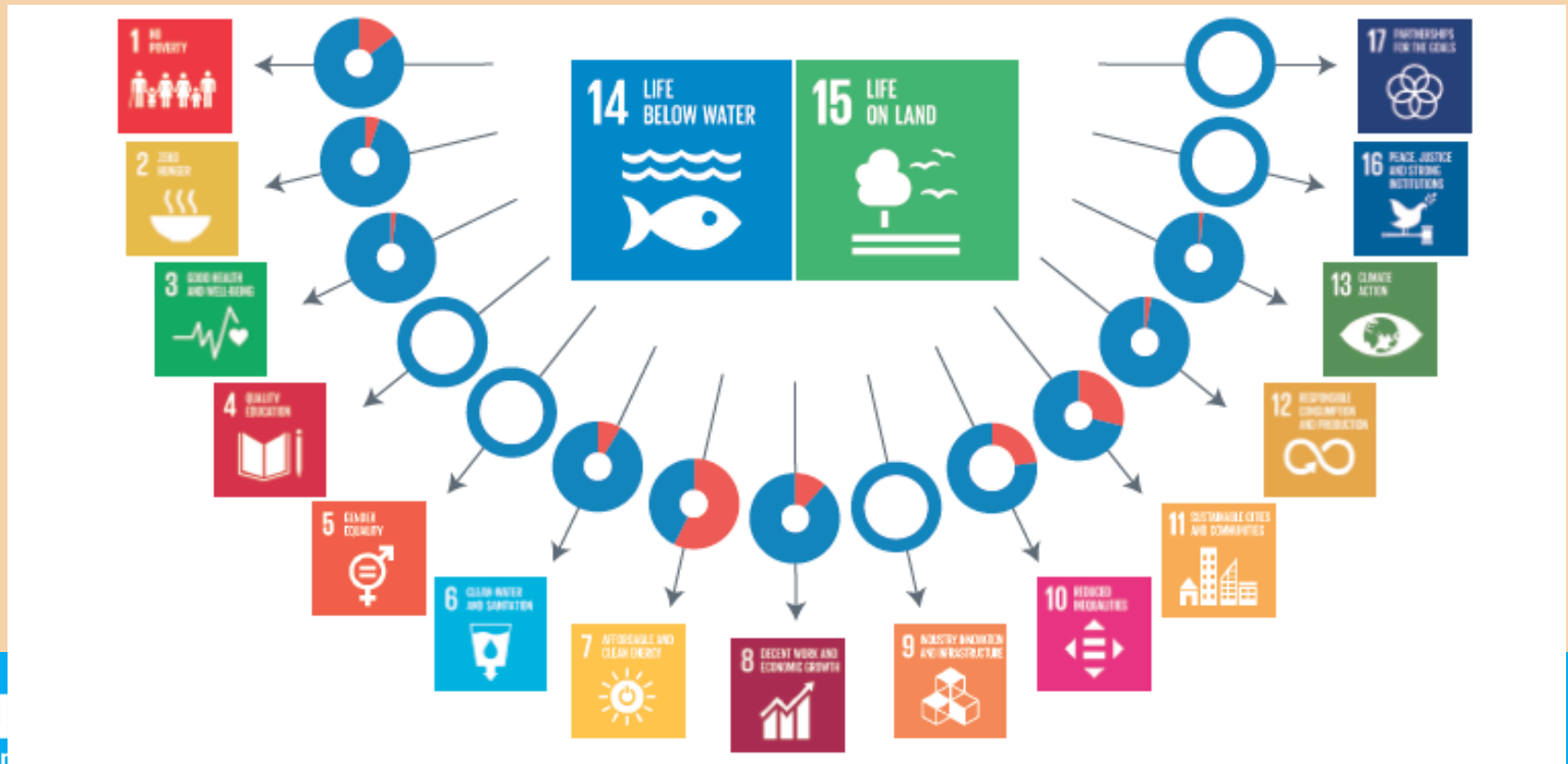
- Many participants in the project activities expressed the need for Burkina Faso to have a **large-scale project** for building capacities at national and subnational levels. Such a project could build on the countries' strong legal and institutional basis for the collection of official data and:
 - facilitate the definition of parameters for coherent and quality data collection;
 - build the capacities of local government actors to produce quality data for aggregation at national level, but also to develop context specific data sets;
 - improve the already well-established tools and databases in order to enhance the accessibility to data and the timeliness and relevance of data collection.
- The project could also aim for **upscaling the pool of regional trainers** that has been set up under a different project in three pilot regions (East, Center-West, Hauts-Bassins) whose mandate is to replicate training at the municipal level to facilitate decentralization process to the whole country.
- Burkina Faso could consider participating in the early application of UNEP's **Data Reporting tool for MEAs-DART**. DART provides Parties to MEAs with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and maintain information, data and knowledge across conventions and across reporting purposes.
- Include data collection and indicators in local development plans which would serve a dual purpose: support local authorities in including sustainable management of natural resources in their work and to obtain data for national reporting purposes.
- Government plans could emphasize the support of a **synergistic approach to the SDGs**. The SDGs and other internationally agreed goals provide opportunities to think across ministries and sectors.
- Burkina Faso recognized the importance of ex-ante assessments. **Guidelines and tools for ex-ante assessments** could be developed by UNEP and other international organizations to inform the design of projects in the lights of maximizing the contribution to the SDGs.
- The **development of a next PNDES** is an opportunity for strengthening the environmental aspect of development policies and foster an integrated approach to sustainable development. Links between environmental issues with poverty-related issues as well as disaster risk reduction and other security issues could be reflected stronger in the PNDES¹. Trade-offs should be avoided. For instance, the development of export commodities or industrialization of agriculture should be brought in line with environmental conservation in order not to jeopardize livelihoods.

¹ **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** is developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with support of the ICED, was endorsed by the Intra-MEA Initiative which brings together Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

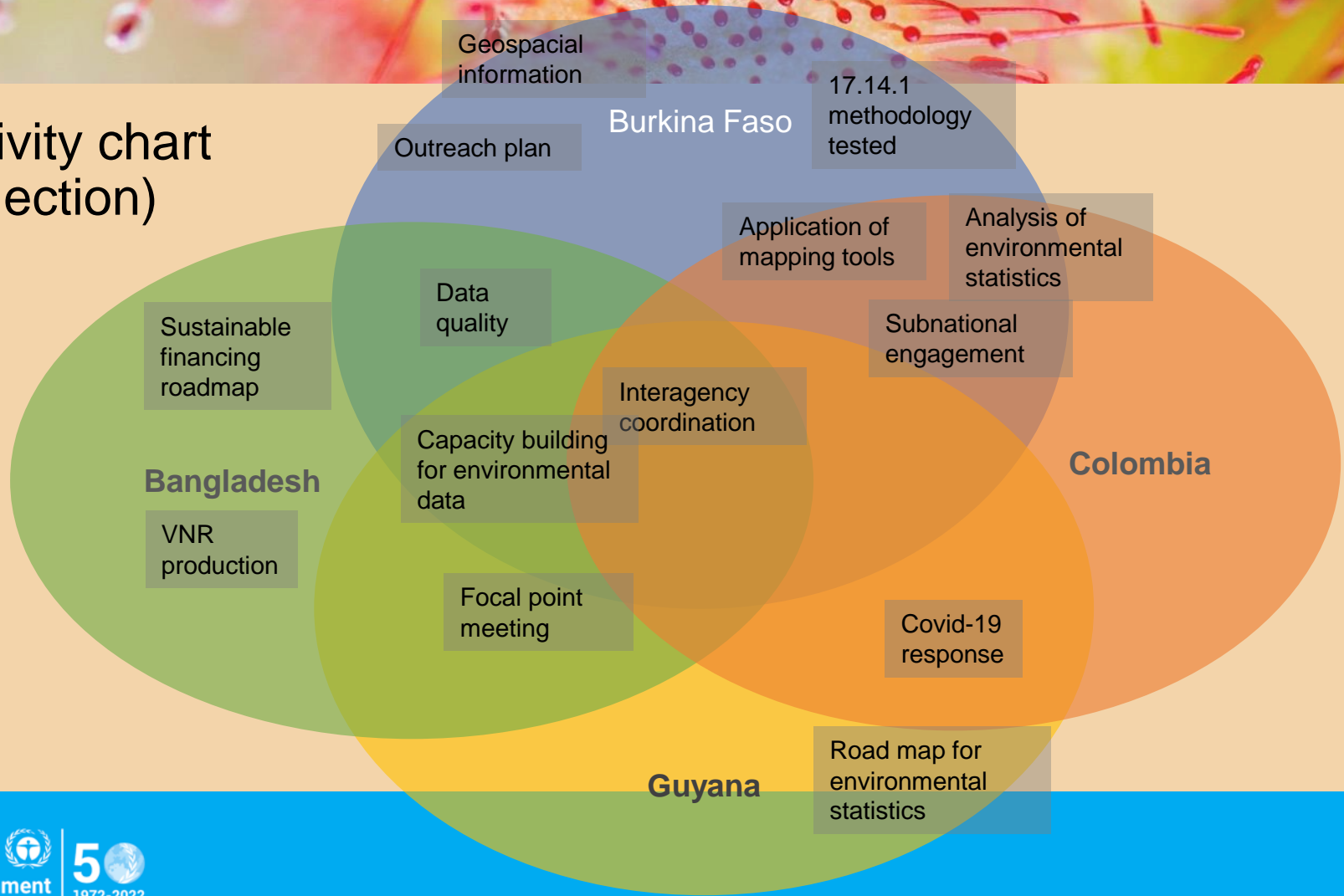
² The Axis 3 of the PNDES includes the Strategic Objective: "Sustainably develop a productive and resilient agro-livestock, aquaculture and fisheries sector more market-oriented and based on the principles of sustainable development" and "Reverse the environmental degradation trend and sustainably ensure the natural and environmental resource management"



The importance of the environmental dimension



Activity chart (selection)





Examples of achievements

- In Guyana, UNEP supported a data and statistics report that can be integrated in the national low carbon strategy and other new national policies
- In Bangladesh, UNEP supported a financial roadmap and the preparation of the Voluntary National Review
- In Burkina Faso, UNEP support capacity building at subnational level to integrate env information in the Plan National de Développement Économique et Social PNDES 2
- In Colombia, UNEP supported exploring SDG interactions at national and subnational levels

→ *These are just examples, many more achievements will be compiled in the case study publications*



Lessons learned: Communalities across the four countries

- long-term continuation of inter-agency coordination on environmental statistics at technical and policy levels (incl. sub-national levels)
- Building of technical capacities
- Communication and outreach
- Legislation
- Institutional accountability
- Apply internationally developed tools
- Ex-ante assessments considering potential contributions of SDGs
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Thank you

Comments and questions

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