

African Dialogue on The World In 2050

Multi-Actor Dialogue on Agriculture, Agro-Biodiversity and Reaching Agenda 2030 within the Planetary Boundaries

The UN Agenda 2030 has been argued to be technically feasible, but there is still not yet any fact-based integrated pathway in which all SDGs are reached within the Planetary Boundaries. The World in 2050 (TWI2050) is a newly formed global research initiative designed with the aim to provide such pathways. For TWI2050 to be relevant in the Agenda 2030 processes, it needs to reflect a diversity of African perspectives. This multi-actor Dialogue is the first TWI2050 Dialogue, with the opportunity to bring African Perspectives on potential *Sustainable Development Pathways* and define relevant research agendas.

Box 1: The World In 2050 Narrative and Sustainable Development Pathways

The TWI2050 Initiative aims at developing integrated sustainable development pathways that meet the SDGs within the planetary boundaries for all regions of the world, including the African continent. It integrates new quantitative analysis by world-class models of key sectors such as energy, food, population, education, macro-economics, biodiversity, climate, and combine these with global assessments and national scenarios. *Sustainable Development Pathways* (SDP) are scenarios that include that the world reaches all the SDGs within the Planetary Boundaries. This is in line with the framing narrative that is being developed within TWI2050. The ultimate objective of the narrative is to identify a portfolio of measures that are needed to achieve all SDGs jointly, accounting for synergies and trade-offs across the goals. The initiative goes beyond 2030 towards 2050 in order to account for Earth system processes in response to human activity in the longer run.

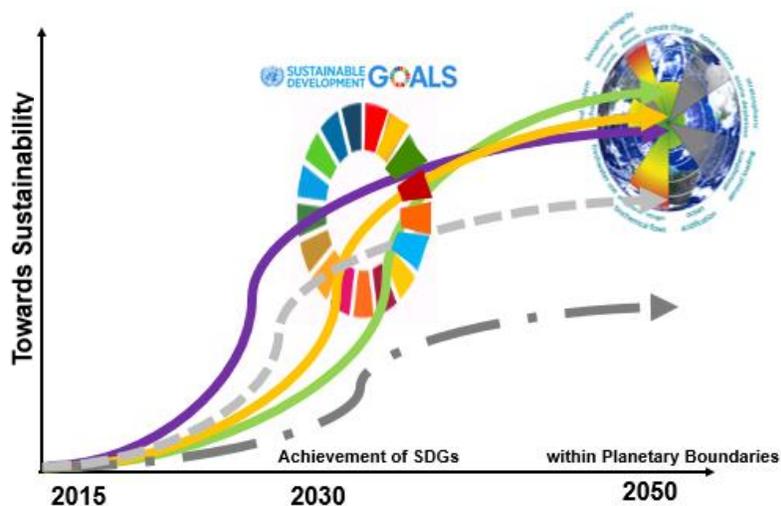


Figure 1: Purple, yellow, green: Sustainable Development Pathways (SDP) which achieve SDGs and PB. Grey: Pathways not meeting SDGs and/or PB. Source: based on *World in Transition – A Social Contract for Sustainability*. Berlin, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), 2011.

The Focus: Agriculture in nexuses of SDGs

There are different relevant categories of SDGs such as the Water-Energy-Food Nexus. The African Dialogue focuses on the role of agrobiodiversity and farming systems for transformations to sustainable development. Agriculture is a cross-cutting theme that spans over all SDGs, and no *Sustainable Development Pathway* (see Box 1) for agriculture can be reached without considering its interlinkages with other SDGs. This includes acknowledging the roles of agriculture and its interlinkages to, and functions for, social-ecological resilience and human well-being. As examples of such interlinkages, agriculture employs 60 % of the African work force and over 60 % of the African population live in rural areas. Furthermore, agriculture, land use change and deforestation are the largest sources of Africa's combined emissions of greenhouse gases. (Brahmbhatt et al., *Africa's New Climate Economy: Economic Transformation and Social and Environmental Change*, 2016)

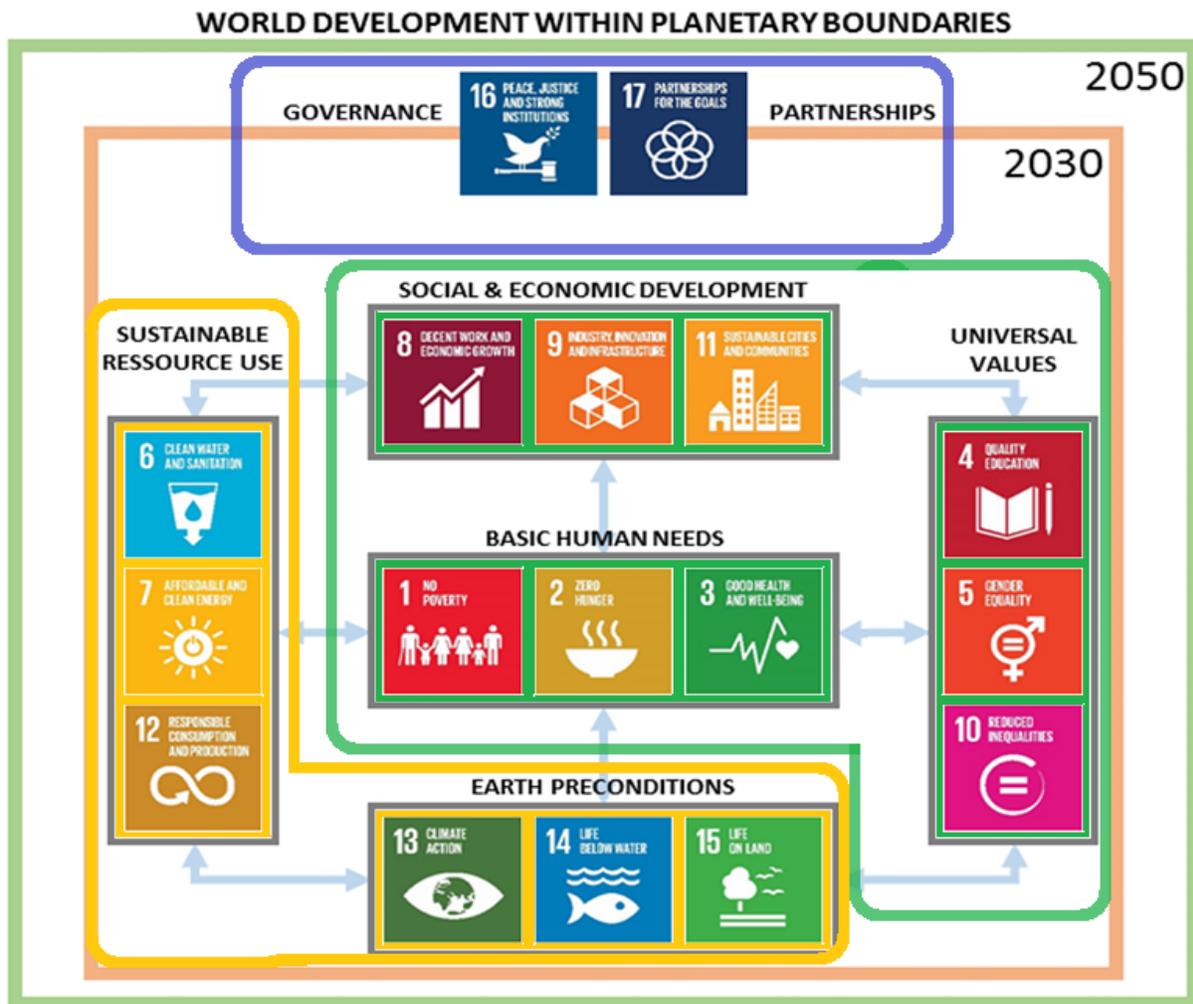


Figure 2: Planetary Boundaries are boundaries within which humanity is expected to be able to operate safely (Rockström et al. 2009, Steffen et al. 2015). Departing from agriculture, this two days Dialogue divides the SDGs into three subcategories. Jointly, the categories put light on the different aspects and roles of agriculture for pathways to sustainable development. The blue, yellow and green boxes in the middle indicates the three parts of the Dialogue Agenda: Values, social-economic development and basic human needs (in the green box); (2) The resilience of Africa's life-supporting systems (in the yellow box) and (3) Governance of socially inclusive, resilient agriculture (in purple at top).

Purpose

The purpose of the Dialogue is to explore pathways for how agriculture can contribute to meeting the SDGs in the context of social-ecological resilience and the conservation, and sustainable use, of agrobiodiversity in Africa.

Expected Outcome

The Dialogue is expected to contribute to The World In 2050 by:

- (i) Acquiring African perspectives and getting sufficient information to develop one, or a diversity of, sustainable development pathways within the TWI050 framework
- (ii) Giving input on/suggest research agendas for TWI2050

The Dialogue is also expected to provide the participants with:

- (iii) Improved understanding of the Planetary Boundaries, as well as the role of biodiversity in reaching sustainable food systems in Africa,
- (iv) Enhanced information sharing and networking amongst the stakeholders.

The documented output of the two-day Dialogue will be a Co-chairs' report. The report will add value to the content of the overarching TWI2050 Narrative, and will provide insights about Agenda 2030 that are applicable in national and regional policy contexts across the continent.

Practicalities

The African Dialogue will be a workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, scheduled for 28-29 August 2017. It will be co-chaired by Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director of the SDG Center for Africa, and Prof. Johan Rockström, Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre. The event will bring together a wide variety of participants including policy makers, academicians, business leaders and civil society, invited from diverse organizations across Africa. They will share expertise and experiences from a wide variety of perspectives. The workshop is divided into three main sessions focusing on different SDGs from the perspective of agriculture and the biospheres boundaries for sustainable resource use, not neglecting the importance of institutions, governance and universal values, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Organizers

The SDGC|A, headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda, is part of the research team involved in TWI2050. The Center is an international organization whose mandate is to support African governments, civil society, businesses and academic institutions in achieving the SDGs. The Center focuses on (1) research and policy advice on the SDGs; (2) education and capacity building to strengthen national institutions; (3) support in spurring of technology and innovation for the SDGs, including ICT; and (4) establishing platforms to engage academics, citizens and communities with the SDGs. The Center's activities are aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as the African Union Agenda 2063, all of which require more expansive and complex solutions. SDGC|A is also the regional node of SDSN in Africa.

The Stockholm Resilience Centre is an international centre that advances transdisciplinary research for governance of social-ecological systems with a special emphasis on resilience. SwedBio, that is financing the African Dialogue, is a knowledge interface at Stockholm Resilience Centre contributing to poverty alleviation, equity, sustainable livelihoods and social-ecological systems rich in biodiversity that persist, adapt and transform under global change such as climate change. SwedBio enables knowledge generation, dialogue and exchange between practitioners, policy makers and scientists for development and implementation of policies and methods at multiple scales.