



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

**MINAMATA CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY**



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



Stockholm Convention  
on **persistent organic  
pollutants (POPs)**

# Facilitating synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements towards sustainable development

## GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop



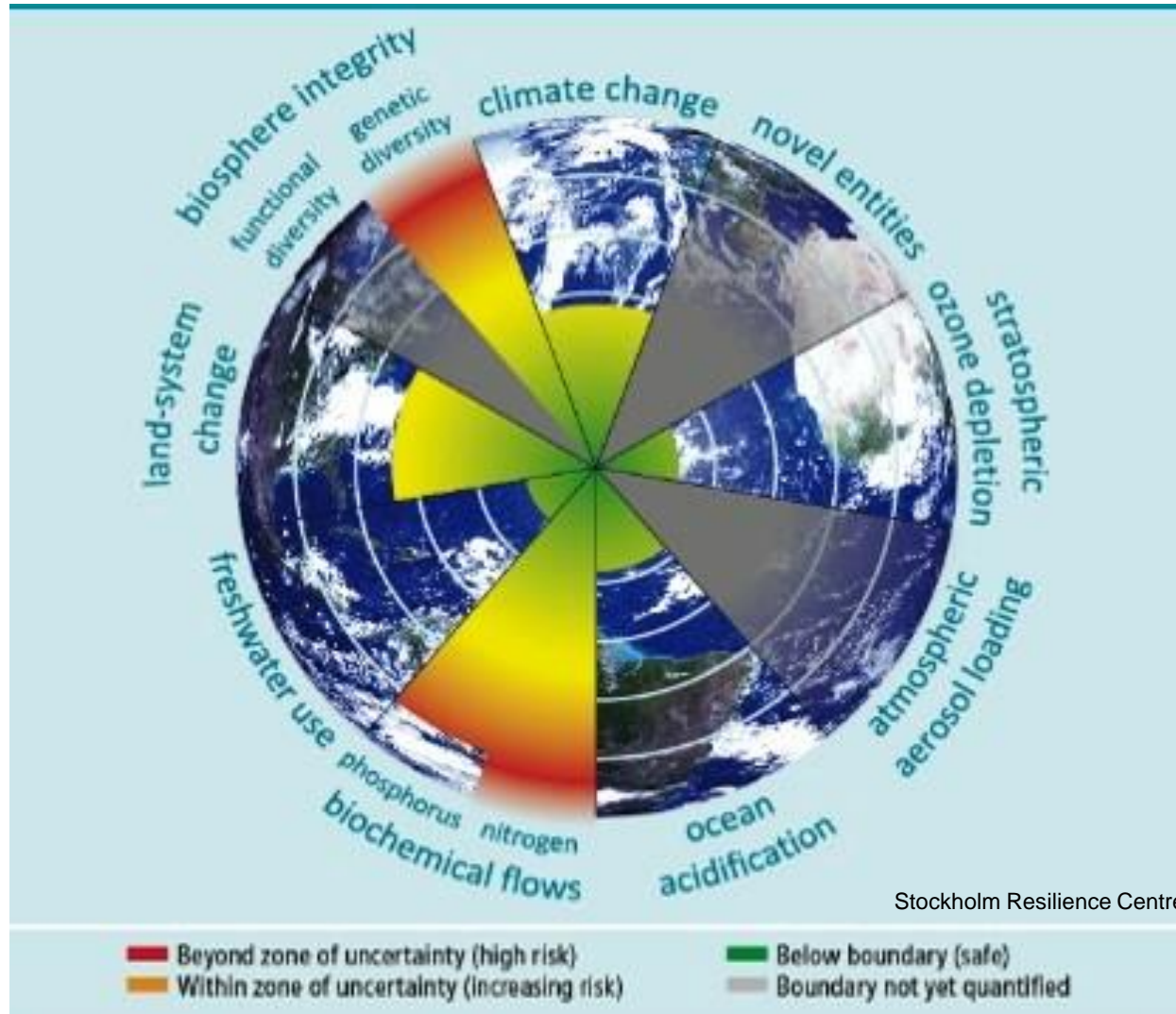
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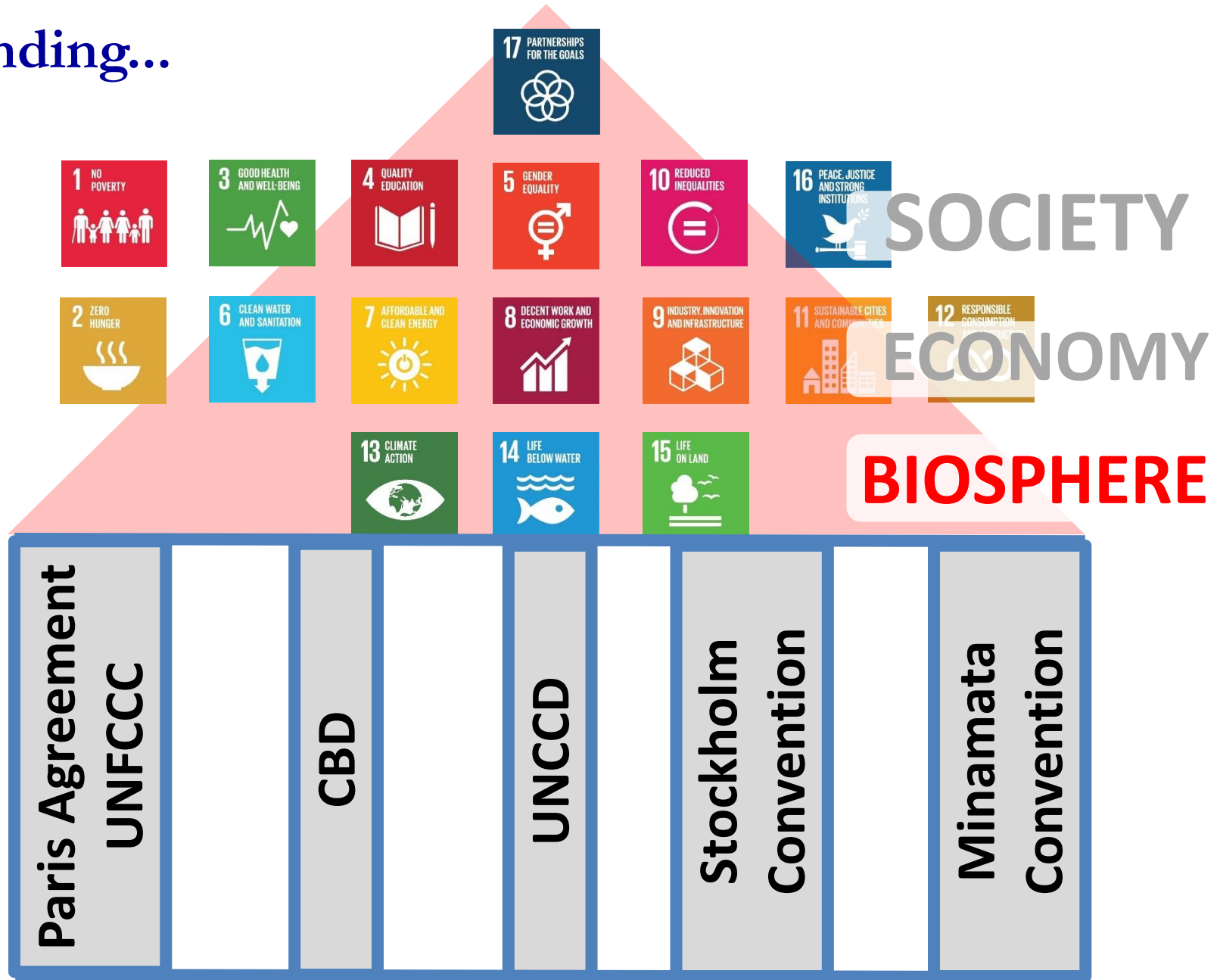
# MEAs and SDGs: Coordinating response to safeguard planet

Continued, rapid deterioration of the **global commons...**

- Holocene → Anthropocene
- Urgent action required to avoid tipping points and irreversible damage



The world is  
responding...



# Session objectives?

1. To understand **milestone global agreements** and **recent MEA guidance** to the GEF;
2. To **enhance synergies among MEAs** and **promote GEF program integration**;
3. Discussion around the Convention synergies.



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# Convention Guidance



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## UN General Assembly:

- Noted the **need for enhanced cooperation among the Rio Conventions (2009);**
- Adopted The Future We Want (Rio+20), encouraging **coordination and cooperation between MEAs.**



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## Convention on Biological Diversity:

- “Encourages Parties to **promote synergies between biodiversity and climate-change** policies and measures” (*decision XI/21*);
- “Requests the Global Environment Facility [...] to **support projects and activities to improve synergies** among relevant multilateral environment agreements” (*decision XI/6*);



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## Convention on Biological Diversity:

### *GEF to provide financial resources for:*

- “**Capacity-building** with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their **commitments under the CBD, UNFCCC, and the UNCCD**, inter alia, **by applying the ecosystem approach**”
- “**Developing synergy-oriented programmes** to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication” *(decision X/24)*



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## UN Framework Convention on Climate Change:

- **“Encourages the Global Environment Facility [...] to align [...] programming with [...] nationally determined contributions, where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas.”**
- **“Requests the Global Environment Facility [...] to take into consideration climate risks in all its programmes and operations [...]”** (*decision 11/CP.22*)
- ✓ *(I)NDCs frequently mention biodiversity, ecosystem-based approaches, land degradation...*



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## Stockholm Convention and Minamata:

- “Stressed that the **sound management of chemicals and wastes has a global environmental benefit** and is an essential element of sustainable development;
- “Encouraged the Facility to **continue to enhance synergies in its activities**”
- “Identification of possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the GEF that also address the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions.”

*(decision SC-7/21)*



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# Key agreements and GEF guidance

## UN Convention to Combat Desertification:

- “Invites the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the convention [...] in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **in particular target 15.3**”;
- “Invites the GEF to [...] consider technical and financial support for voluntary **national land degradation neutrality target-setting**”
- “Invites country Parties to formulate and **integrate in their National Adaptation Plan voluntary targets to achieve LDN** in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities.” (COP 12)



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# Example: Land as a central element

## SDG 15, Target 15.3: Land Degradation Neutrality

→ “by 2030, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world.”

- Land agenda embodies the importance of tackling complex, interdependent issues in an integrated manner
- How we protect and manage land resources sustainably will have impacts on multiple goals
- UNCCD COP 12 (2015):
  - ✓ Addressing LDN will be priority area for GEF support;
  - ✓ LDN guiding principle for implementation of Convention.



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# Practical Action: Synergy and Multiple Benefits



Growing interest by countries in cross-cutting projects with multiple benefits

- **47 out of 74 land degradation projects (FY13-15) are multi-focal;**
- \$227 million from land degradation, \$300 million from biodiversity, climate change, SFM, etc.
- **41 more projects addressing land agenda supported by funds for climate change (LDCF, SCCF, AF)**
- \$297 million from climate-related funds



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# Practical Action: Synergy and Multiple Benefits

*Example of institutional arrangements at the national/regional level:*

- Informal and/or formal **committees** to coordinate between national focal points, different ministries and agencies, and other stakeholders.
- **National GEF committees** as mechanisms for national focal points to foster the coherent implementation of the MEAs and SDGs.
- **National strategy for the implementation across MEAs and SDGs.**
- **Regional initiatives** including learning and peer-to-peer exchange, regional centers of excellence in data monitoring and reporting, implementation of large-scale, cross-cutting impact programs.



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# Practical Action: Synergy and Multiple Benefits

## *Additional entry points for synergies at the national level:*

- **Sustainable Development Goals:** Coordinating framework for achieving multiple goals. Integration of MEAs and SDGs in national development.
- **Implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation:** EbA enable people to adapt to the impacts of climate change by sustainably managing, conserving and restoring ecosystems.
- **National planning and reporting** (e.g. links between UNFCCC NAPs, CBD NBSAPs, and UNCCD NAPs, national reports)
- **Sustainable land management:** links with biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, relevant to all 3 Rio Conventions.
- **Landscape restoration:** contributes to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and combatting land degradation, relevant to most MEAs.



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# GEF-6 Programming Structure

## Integrated Approach Pilots:

- Sustainable Cities
- Food Security
- Commodity Supply Chain

## Other cross-cutting initiatives:

- Sustainable fisheries
- Illegal wildlife trade
- Amazon sustainable landscapes

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Climate Change

Sustainable Forest  
Management

International Waters

Chemicals & Waste



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# Questions for today's discussion

- 1) We think the IPs are one of the ways of achieving these convention synergies is there another way?
- 2) What are some of the challenges you have faced in implementing Convention synergies the ground?
- 3) How do you see the CBD Convention blending with the other Conventions and vice versa?



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