



Saving resources:

How water, sanitation and other policies can achieve synergies across the SDGs

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“At the mid-point: Policies and measures for achieving SDG6”

The big tasks for SDG 6



The main tasks of SDG 6

- ✓ Safe drinking water
- ✓ Adequate sanitation
- ✓ Restore good water quality in the environment



Some progress (2015-2022)

- Safe drinking water: + 687 M (mostly rural)
- Adequate sanitation: + 911 M (mostly rural)



But still much to do (2022 data)

- 2.2 B lack safe drinking water (mostly urban)
- 3.5 B lack adequate sanitation (mostly urban)

As implement SDG 6 up to 2030 → Mindful of interlinkages between SDG 6 other SDGs → Potential savings, big side benefits

Strong link: Water (SDG 6) & health (SDG 4) & food security (SDG 2) & biodiversity (SDG 15)



Links water (SDG 6) & health (SDG 4)

Diseases associated with contaminated water : Diarrhoeal disease: (2 M deaths/yr); cholera: (> 50 countries); Schistosomiasis (~ 260 M people infected)

Exposure routes:

1. Contaminated drinking water (Target 6.1)
2. Contact with contaminated rivers, lakes (Target 6.3) → washing, cleaning, bathing, collecting water



Links water (SDG 6) & inland fisheries

Link with freshwater biodiversity (SDG 15)

Water pollution drastically reduces fish habitat → 21% freshwater fish species in Africa threatened (IUCN)

Link with food (SDG # 2):

95% inland fishery production in developing world; 200 million Africans consume fish regularly
Inland fishery: Substantial contribution to diet e.g. > 40% of animal protein in Malawi, Bangladesh, Cambodia

>10% rural
GS

Are interlinkages important?

So, what is importance of interlinkages?

Why important to SDG 6 policies?

Policies to implement SDG 6 could lead to:

- No impact on other SDGs
- Big negative impact → Trade-off
- Big positive impact → Synergies

Policies for SDG 6: Trade-offs or synergies? e.g. Sanitation policy alternatives



Inadequate
sanitation



Health
SDG 3



Biodiversity
in rivers
SDG 15



Freshwater
fishery
SDG 2

Policies for SDG 6: Trade-offs or synergies? e.g. Sanitation policy alternatives



Inadequate sanitation



Health
SDG 3



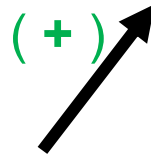
Biodiversity
in rivers
SDG 15



Freshwater
Fishery
SDG 2

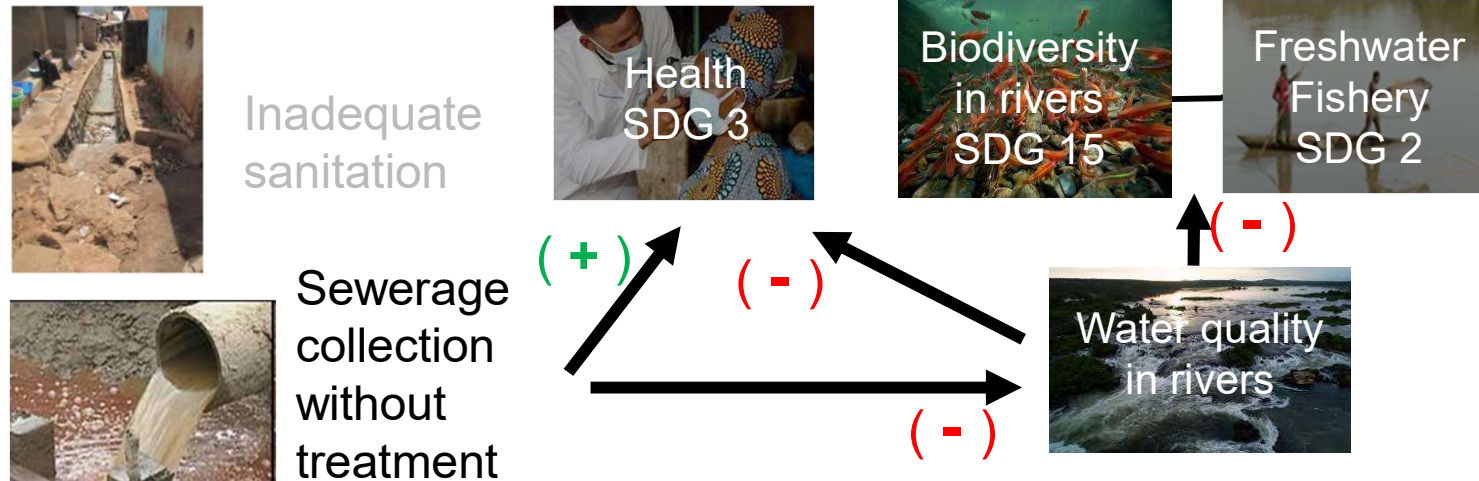


Sewerage
collection
without
treatment



<20 sewered ssh
8% treat GS

Policies for SDG 6: Trade-offs or synergies? e.g. Sanitation policy alternatives



Policies for SDG 6: Trade-offs or synergies? e.g. Sanitation policy alternatives



Inadequate sanitation



Sewerage collection without treatment



Sewerage collection with conventional treatment



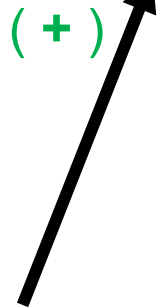
Health
SDG 3



Biodiversity
in rivers
SDG 15



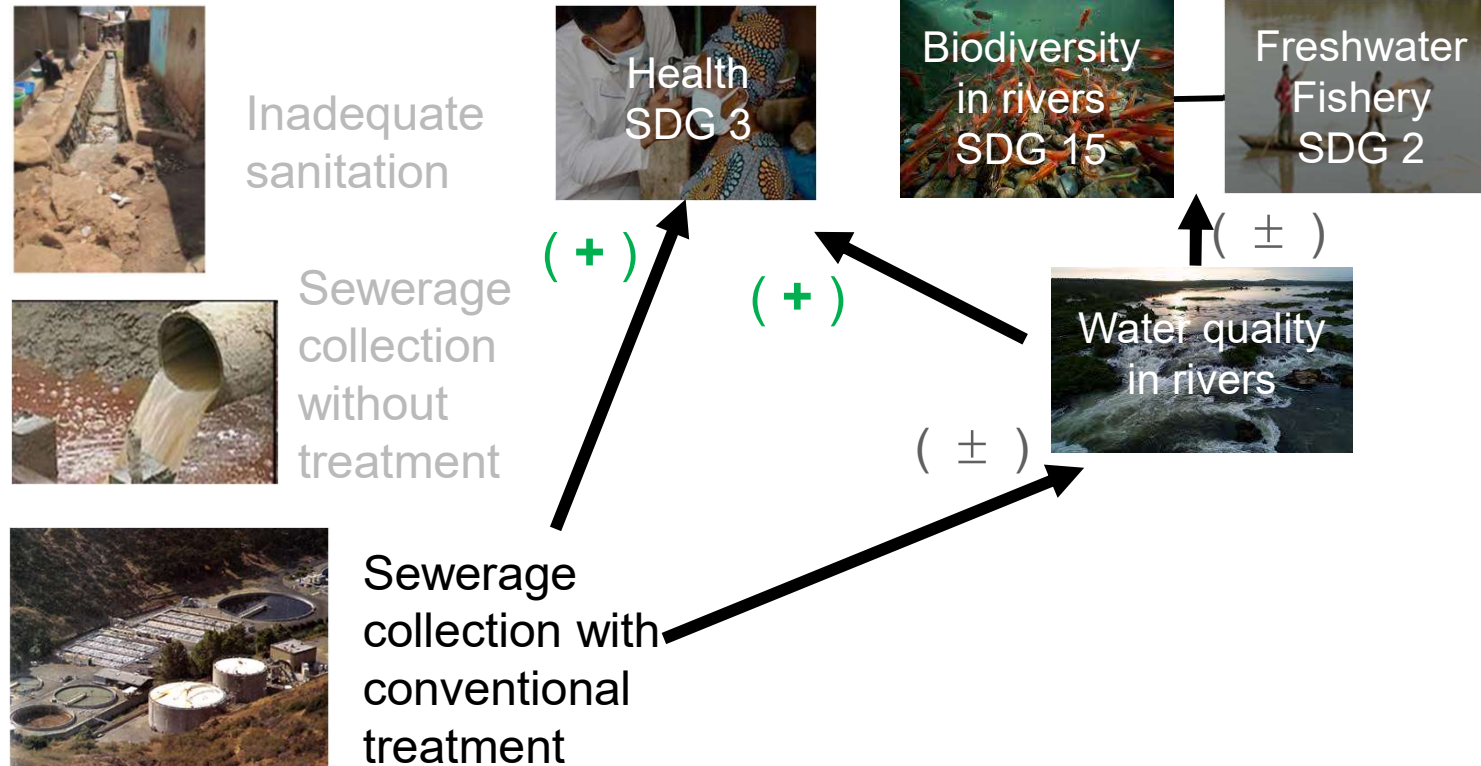
Freshwater
Fishery
SDG 2



<20 sewered ssh
8% treat GS

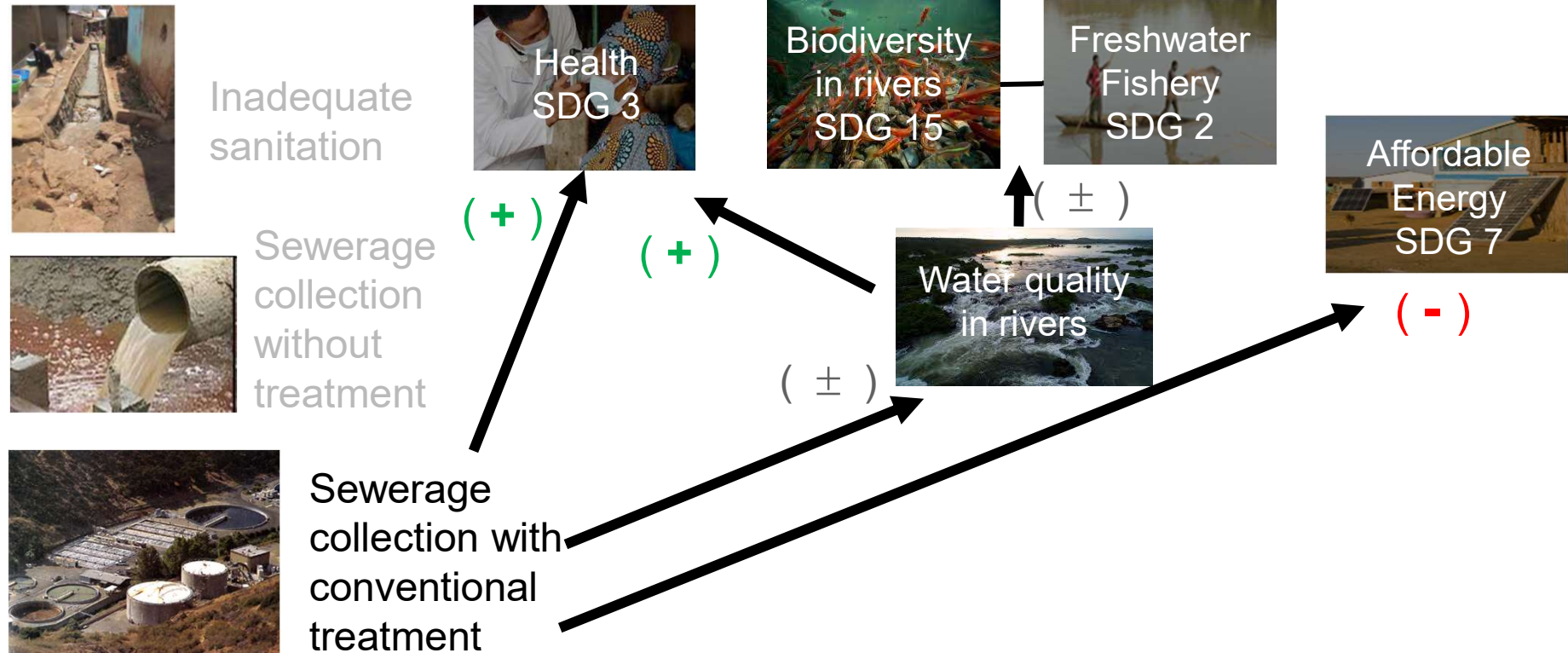
Policies for SDG 6: Trade-offs or synergies?

e.g. Sanitation policy alternatives



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Inadequate sanitation



Health
SDG 3



Biodiversity
in rivers
SDG 15



Freshwater
Fishery
SDG 2



Affordable
Energy
SDG 7



Sewerage
collection
without
treatment



Sewerage
collection with
conventional
treatment

(+)

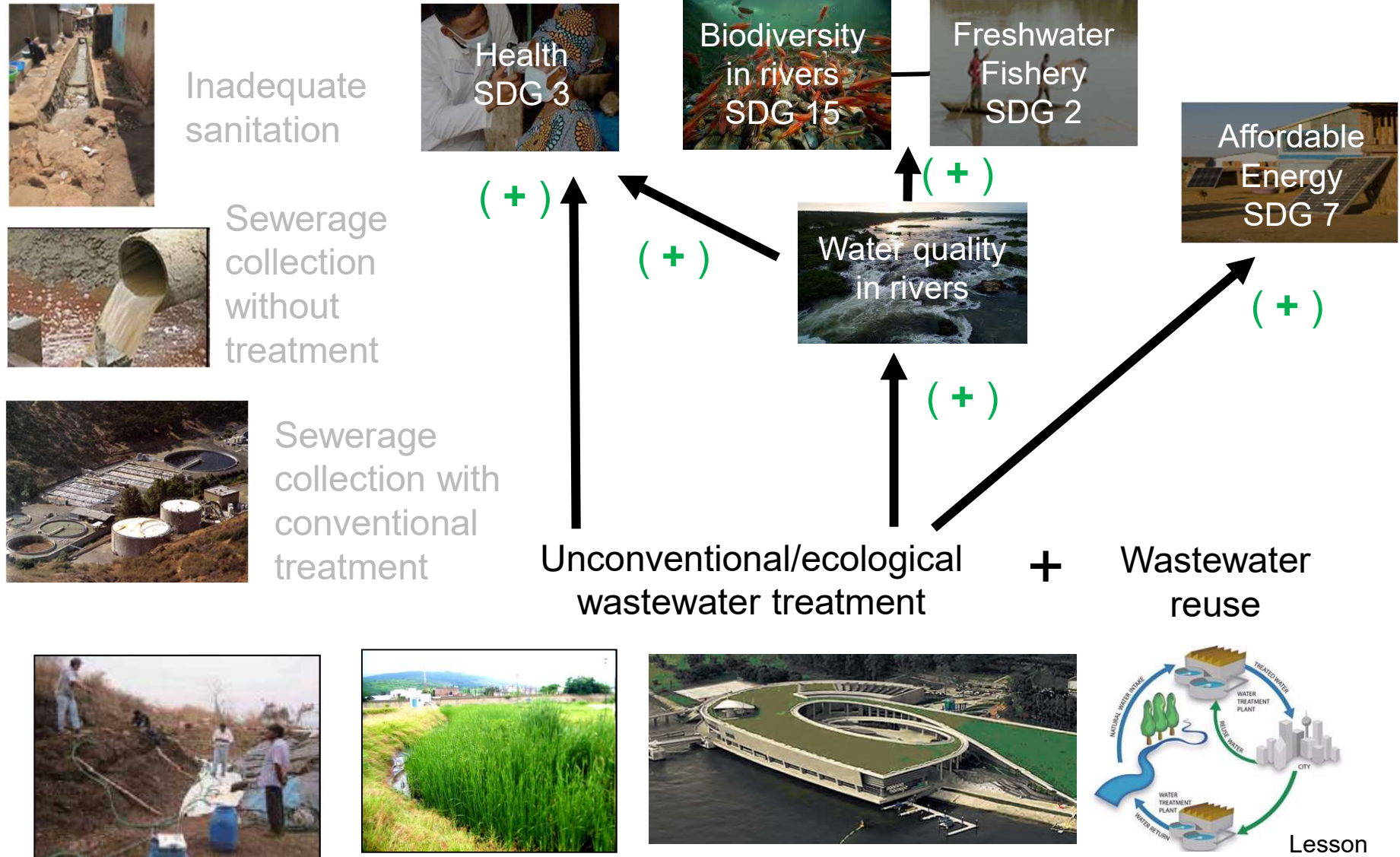
Unconventional/ecological
wastewater treatment

+

Wastewater
reuse



Policies for SDG 6: Trade-offs or synergies? e.g. Sanitation policy alternatives



How to harness synergies?



Unconventional wastewater treatment →
“Synergy Driver” → A policy that advances multiple SDGs

Establish national/regional cross-sector task forces →
Commission & act on studies → Identify synergy drivers

How synergy drivers save resources:

- Avoids duplication of policies
- Benefits from pooling resources, sharing data, policy learning,
- Maximise return on investments in infrastructure ...

Other- WASH, rain harvest
resp scattered

How to harness synergies?

How? Policy coherence - Consistency in policies across departments ...



Policy coherence in SDGs: Target 17.14 “Enhance policy coherence for sustainable develop.”

Institutional arrangements → promote policy coherence for SDGs

- Ghana High level inter-Ministerial Committee for SDGs
- Turkey Task force integrates SDGs into public documents at all levels
- UK Interdepartmental group on the SDGs
- Viet Nam Intersector working group on SDGs; coherence SDG & NDCs

UN Water Conference 2023 recommendations

- Special UN Envoy Water
- Water “inter Conference of Parties”

Conclusions

SDG 6: Achieving synergies across the SDGs



Much to be done to achieve SDG 6

As developing further policies ...

Take into account interlinkages between SDG 6 & other SDGs

Enhance policy coherence

Identify and exploit policies that will achieve multiple SDGs