

# **PART III**

// Exploring Regional  
Ecosystems

# TOOL 1

## CHECKLIST

### REGIONAL CHALLENGES



#### Question

What SD activities are already being conducted in Governing?

#### Complexity

high

#### Completion time

1-2 days

#### Materials

Pen & template

#### Note

Engage key actors from regional ecosystems by initiating knowledge exchange formats that facilitate transdisciplinary collaborations to achieve long-term effects.

#### What is it for?

The 'Regional Challenges' checklist is a great tool for identifying the most important sustainability challenges within your region, assigning dimensions, and linking them to relevant SDG targets. By better understanding the distinct regional challenges, your HEI can align its SD activities with regional demands to take on social responsibility.

#### How to use it?

Initially, you or your HEI need to examine national and local sustainability strategies in policy and business and initiate discussions with regional stakeholders, including companies, residents, town officials, and politicians. Employ scenario planning to construct sustainable futures, analyse trends and societal climate, and establish meaningful indicators across the four dimensions of sustainability: economic, ecological,

social, and cultural. Instead of attempting to map all challenges, focus on the most pressing ones that require immediate action to drive future sustainable development. Additionally, try to identify meaningful categories for the different challenges.

Then, determine how strongly the identified regional challenges affect the four sustainability dimensions (social, economic, ecological, and cultural), ranging from strong (+++), medium (++) , and low impact (+) to no impact (0).

Finally, link the identified challenges to specific SDG targets and either formulate new measures that your HEI could take to overcome the challenges or find activities already being conducted.



Checklist Regional Challenges

Regional Challenges	Social	Economic	Ecological	Cultural	SDG targets addressed	Possible Measures
<b>Resource Management</b>						
Example: Insufficient social cohesion	+++	+	+	+	SDG target 16.1 (Reduce Violence Everywhere); Target 5.4 (Value Unpaid Care and Promote Shared Domestic Responsibility)	
Resource-intensive industries	+	+++	+++	+	SDG target 8.4 (Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation)	
<b>Health &amp; Well-Being</b>						
<b>Poverty</b>						
<b>Renewable Energy</b>						

strong (+++), medium (++), low impact (+), no impact (0)

# TOOL 2

## CHECKLIST

### ECONOMIC POTENTIALS



#### Question

What is the baseline within your regional ecosystem?

#### Complexity

high

#### Completion time

1-2 days

#### Materials

Pen & template

#### Note

Engage key actors from regional ecosystems by initiating knowledge exchange formats that facilitate transdisciplinary collaborations to achieve long-term effects.

#### What is it for?

The 'Economic Potentials' checklist will help you identify economic potentials within your region, assign dimensions, and link them to relevant SDG targets. By mapping the distinct potentials, your HEI can use its SD activities to strengthen sustainable regional development and support a green and just economy and a good quality of life.

#### How to use it?

In a first step, you or your HEI initiate discussions with regional stakeholders, including companies, residents, town officials, and politicians, to explore the following questions. Guiding questions comprise:

- How is your regional ecosystem organised (production/consumption, value chains, employment patterns)?
- Which actors (spin-offs, entrepreneurs, NGOs, etc.) generate social or environmental value?
- Is your region specialising or has specialised in a certain sector or field?
- Do sustainable 'cross-innovations' exist in your region?

You should also analyse trends and societal climate and establish meaningful indicators across the four dimensions of sustainability: economic, ecological, social, and cultural. Additionally, try to find meaningful categories for the different potentials.

Then, determine how strongly the identified economic potentials affect the four sustainability dimensions (social, economic, ecological, and cultural), ranging from strong (+++), medium (++) , and low impact (+) to no impact (0).

Finally, link the identified challenges to specific SDG targets and either formulate new measures that your HEI could take to overcome the challenges or find activities already being conducted.



Checklist Economic Potentials

Regional Potentials	Social	Economic	Ecological	Cultural	SDG targets addressed	Possible Measures
<b>Division of Labour</b>						
			+	+		
				+		
<b>Regional Specialisation</b>						
<b>Transdisciplinary Collaborations</b>						
<b>Green/Social Start-ups</b>						

strong (+++), medium (++), low impact (+), no impact (0)

# TOOL 3

## LINKING ACTIVITIES TO SDG TARGETS



### Question

Which of your ongoing SD activities contribute to what SDG target(s)?

### Complexity

high

### Completion time

120 minutes

### Materials

Pen & template

### Note

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### What is it for?

Linking activities to SDG targets is useful for illustrating the connection between your HEI's efforts and broader sustainability objectives, ultimately contributing to more effective and impactful sustainable development initiatives. In particular, by mapping activities to specific SDG targets, you gain clarity on your objectives and focus areas. This linkage helps prioritise initiatives and resources towards areas where your HEI can make the most significant impact in advancing sustainable development.

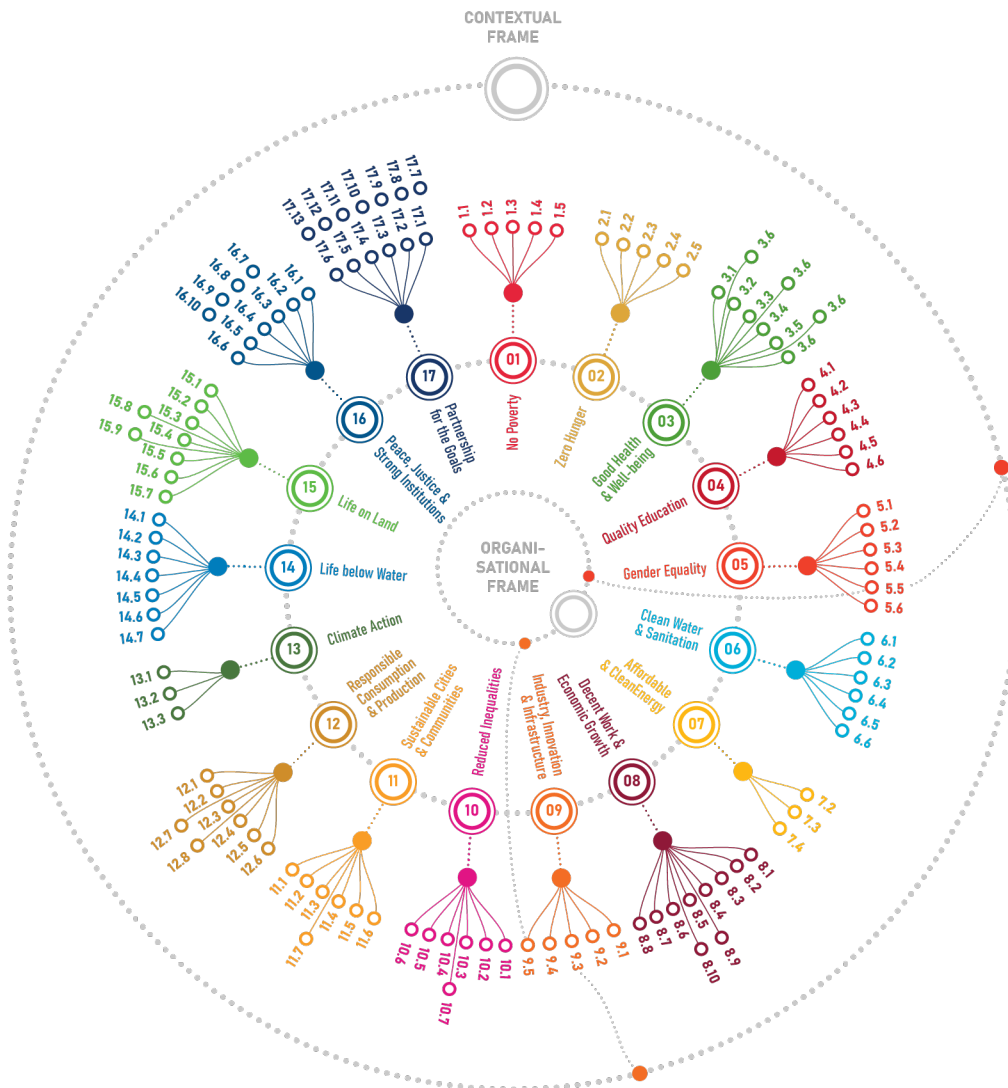
### How to use it?

In the figure below, the inner circle represents the organisational framework, while the outer one represents the regional ecosystem. Between these two circles, the SDGs and their associated targets are displayed.



For instance, your organisation's SD activities are depicted as an orange dot and connected to SDG 5, target 5.5, to 'Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making' (shown as a grey dotted line between the orange dot and the SDG target).

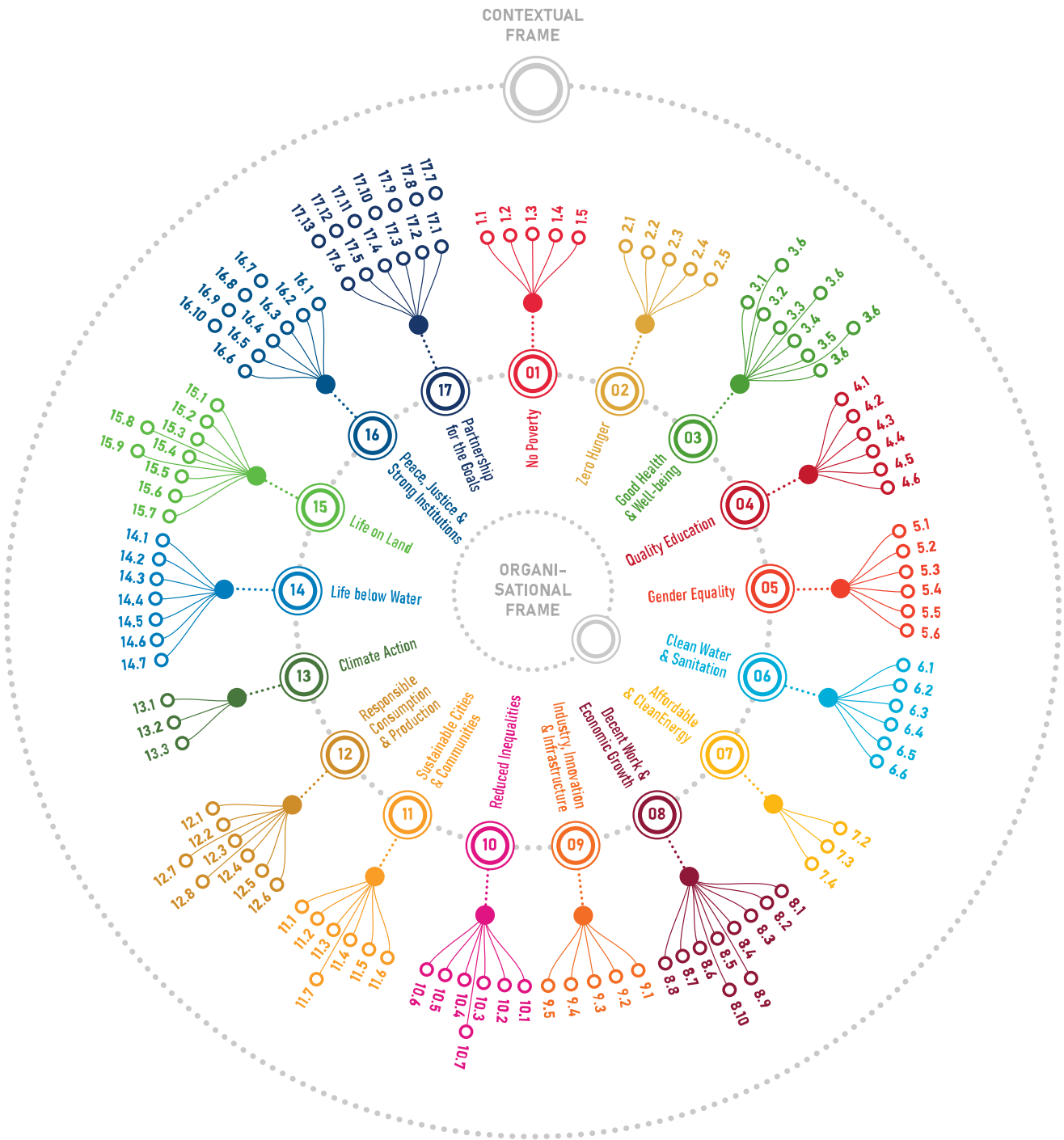
A similar approach is taken concerning regional challenges, represented by orange dots in the contextual framework. While your SD activities and regional challenges may align, they can also diverge, as illustrated in the second example. Which SDG target(s) are reoccurring and thus could function as focal areas?



Linking Activities to SDG target(s)



SDG target(s) Linking Wheel





## Overview SDG Targets

SDG 1. No Poverty		SDG 2. Zero Hunger		SDG 3. Good Health & Well-being	
1.1	Eradicate extreme poverty	2.1	Universal access to safe & nutritious food	3.1	Reduce maternal mortality
1.2	Reduce poverty by at least 50%	2.2	End all forms of malnutrition	3.2	End all preventable deaths under 5 years age
1.3	Implement social protection systems	2.3	Double the production of productivity & income of small farmers	3.3	Fight communicable diseases
1.4	Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources	2.4	Sustainable food production & resilient agricultural practices	3.4	Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health
1.5	Build resilience ecological, economic, social disasters	2.5	Maintain the genetic diversity	3.5	Reduce and prevent substance abuse
SDG 4. Quality Education		SDG 5. Gender Equality		3.6	Reduce road injuries and death
4.1	Free primary and secondary education	5.1	End discrimination against women and girls (w/g)	3.7	Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning and education
4.2	Equal access to pre-primary quality education	5.2	End all violence against and exploitation of w/g	3.8	Achieve universal health coverage
4.3	Equal access to affordable, technical, vocational & higher education	5.3	Eliminate forced marriage and genital mutilation	3.9	Reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and pollution
4.4	Increase the number of people with skills for financial success	5.4	Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities		
SDG 4. Quality Education		SDG 5. Gender Equality		SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation	
4.5	Universal literacy & numeracy	5.5	Ensure full participation in leadership & decision-making	6.1	Safe and affordable drinking water
4.6	Education for SD and global citizenship	5.6	Universal access to reproductive health & rights	6.2	Open defecation and provide access to sanitation ...
SDG 7. Affordable & Clean Energy		SDG 8. Decent Work & Economic Growth		6.3	Improve your water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse
7.1	Universal access to modern energy	8.1	Sustainable economic growth	6.4	Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies
7.2	Increase global percentage of renewable energy	8.2	Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity	6.5	Implement integrated water resources management
7.3	Double improvement in energy efficiency	8.3	Promote policies to support job creation & growth enterprises	6.6	Protect & restore water-related ecosystems
SDG 9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure		8.4	Improve resource efficiency in production & consumption	SDG 10. Reduce Inequalities	
9.1	Develop sustainable, resilient & inclusive infrastructure	8.5	Full employment and decent work with equal pay	10.1	Reduce income inequalities
9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation	8.6	Improve youth employment, education & training	10.2	Promote universal social, economic & political inclusion
9.3	Increase access to financial services & markets	8.7	End modern slavery, trafficking & child labour	10.3	Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination
9.4	Upgrade all industries & infrastructure for sustainability	8.8	Protect labour rights & promote safe working enviro.	10.4	Adopt fiscal and social policies that promote equality
9.5	Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies	8.9	Promote beneficial and sustainable tourism	10.5	Improve regulation of global financial markets & instruments
SDG 11. Sustainable Cities & Communities		8.10	Universal access to banking, insurance, financial services	10.6	Enhance representation for developing countries in financial institutions
11.1	Safe and affordable housing			10.7	Responsible & well-managed migration policies
11.2	Affordable and sustainable transportation systems			SDG 13. Climate Action	
11.3	Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation			13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters
11.4	Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage			13.2	Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning
11.5	Reduce adverse effects of natural disaster			13.3	Build knowledge & capacity to meet climate change
11.6	Reduce the environmental impact of cities			SDG 15. Life on Land	
11.7	Provide Access to safe & inclusive green public spaces			15.1	Conserve and restore terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption & Production		SDG 14. Life below Water		SDG 15. Life on Land	
12.1	Implement the 10-year sustainable consumption & production framework	14.1	Reduce marine pollution	15.2	End deforestation & restore degraded forests
12.2	Sustainable management & use of resources	14.2	Protect and restore ecosystems	15.3	End desertification & restore degraded land
12.3	Have global per capita food waste	14.3	Reduce ocean acidification	15.4	Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems
12.4	Responsible management of chemicals & waste	14.4	Sustainable fishing	15.5	Protect biodiversity & natural habitats
12.5	Substantially reduce waste generation	14.5	Preserve coastal and marine areas	15.6	Promote access to genetic resources and fair sharing of the benefits
12.6	Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting	14.6	End subsidies contributing to overfishing	15.7	Eliminate poaching & trafficking of protected species
12.7	Promote sustainable public procurement practices	14.7	Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of maritime resources	15.8	Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water
12.8	Promote a universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles			15.9	Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity in governmental planning

SDG 16. Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions		SDG 17. Partnership for the Goals	
16.1	Reduce violence everywhere	17.1	Mobilise resources to improve domestic revenue collection
16.2	Protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking & violence	17.2	Implement all development assistance commitments
16.3	Promote the rule of law & ensure equal access to justice	17.3	Mobilise financial resources for developing countries
16.4	Combat organised crime and illicit financial & arms flows	17.4	Assist development countries in attaining debt sustainability
16.5	Substantially reduce corruption & bribery	17.5	Invest in least developed countries
16.6	Develop effective, accountable & transparent institutions	17.6	Knowledge sharing & cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive & representative decision-making	17.7	Promote sustainable technologies to developing countries
16.8	Strengthen the participation in global governance	17.8	Strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity of least-developed countries
16.9	Provide universal legal identity	17.9	Enhance SDG capacity in developing countries
16.10	Ensure public access to information & protect fundamental freedoms	17.10	Promote a universal trading system under the WTO
		17.11	Increase the export of developing countries
		17.12	Remove trade barriers for least developed countries
		17.13	Enhance global macroeconomic stability