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United Nations Framework Classification for Resources

Sustainable management of all resources

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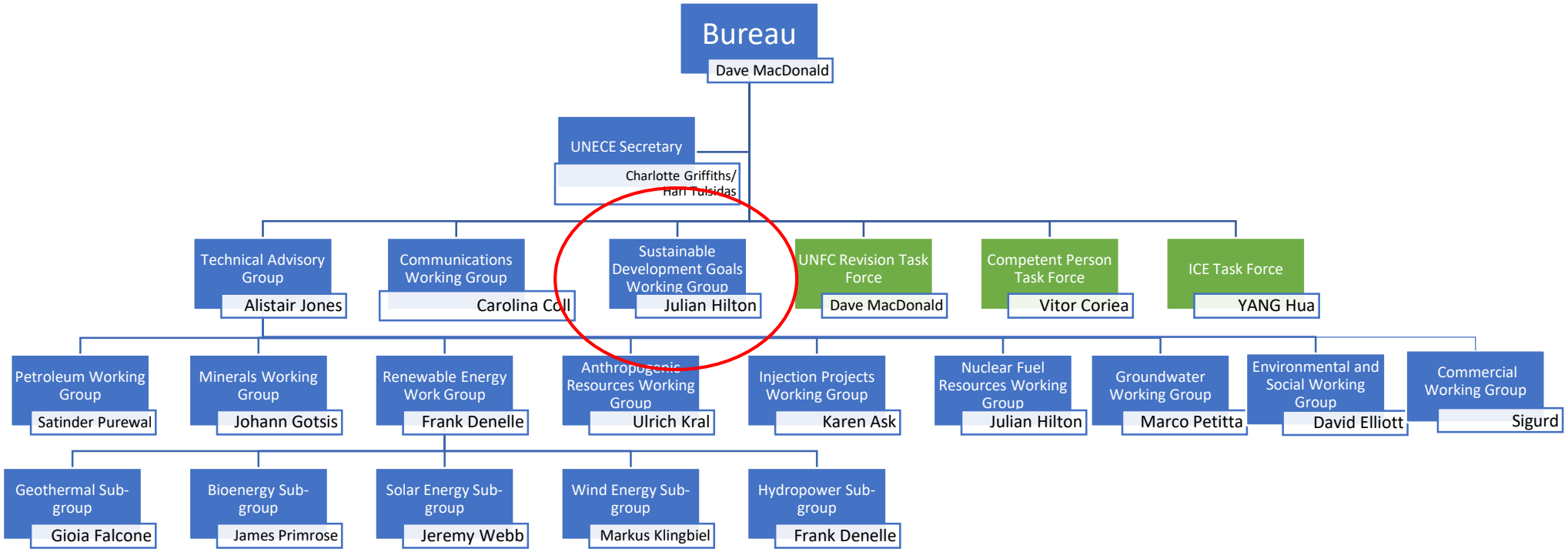
The UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management: Structure and Cross-functional SDG Delivery WG



Dr. Julian Hilton, Chair SDG Delivery Working Group

The Great Transition: Towards the UN Resource Management System (UNRMS)

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Existing Systems → "Bold and Transformative… Balanced and Integrated Resource Management" Agenda 2030 Vision Statement, 2016 → **UNRMS**

No Strategic Vision (Projects only)	Sustainable Development Goals led (programmatic)
Resource(s) (unrecovered)	Need(s) (unmet)
Linear- tangible values	Circular – tangible and intangible values
Push (Shareholder interests)	Pull (Stakeholder interests)
Commodity (Liner processes, Negative externality)	Utility/ Service (Circularity, Continuously Reusable raw materials)
One-dimensional (ROI/ IRR/NPV/ TSV) – diachronic - winners and losers (Friedman)	4D – synchronic – equilibrium – win/win (Nash); Development Economics, Nobel Prize for Economics 2019
Value release at sale	Continuous value-add (tangible and intangible)
Classification only (Necessary but not Sufficient)	Classification and Management (Necessary and Sufficient)
No artisanal and small-scale operations	Artisanal and small-scale integrated
Investor/ Operator led (supply side)	Customer-/ Consumer-driven (demand/ need side)
Mines and production plants	Integrated industrial eco-systems with food-water-energy (FEW) linkages
Non-systems view (Single resource projects)	Systems view (Integrated natural resource management programmes)

Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus

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- Fundamental to meeting all SDGs, but focus on 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13
- Maps to Maslow Hierarchy of Needs – if these are not met all else is at risk or will fail
- Of these water has been out of scope until 2018 for EGRM
- Now in scope
- Has W (Water) primacy among the FEW?

Nobel Prize for Economics, 2019

Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

Michael Kremer
Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

"for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty"

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2019/press-release

Resource nexus perspectives towards the UNSDGs,

Bleischwitz et al, Nature Sustainability Dec 2019

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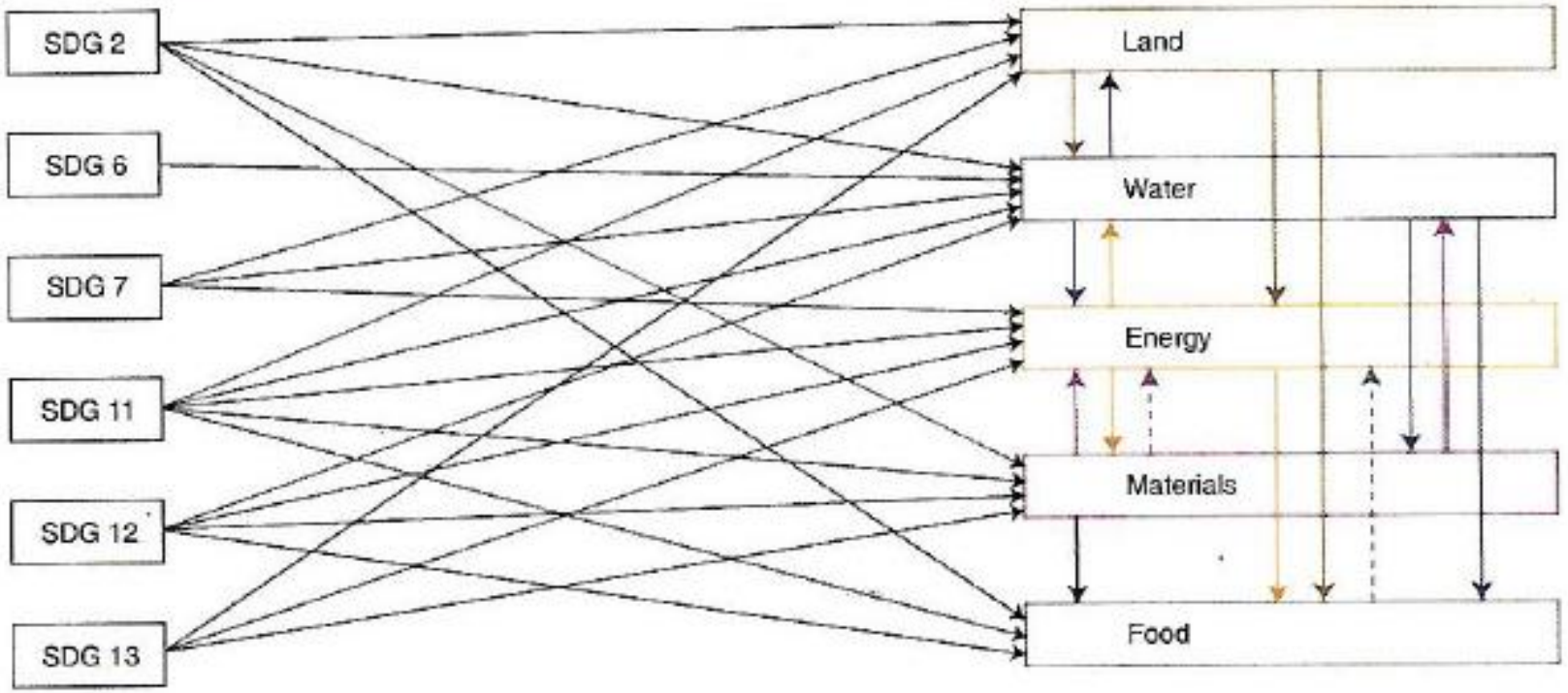
NATURE SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE



SDGs delivery requires… integration across related UNECE work streams

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- If water management is not integrated end-to-end it fails… and/or causes conflict
- Please nominate one or two to join UNRMS consultations process and SDG WG
- Review changing role of water as perhaps the defining component of the FEW nexus in understanding and mapping:
  - Circular economy transition
  - Reference case for materials flow and iterative life-cycle analysis

Bridging the gap

United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS)

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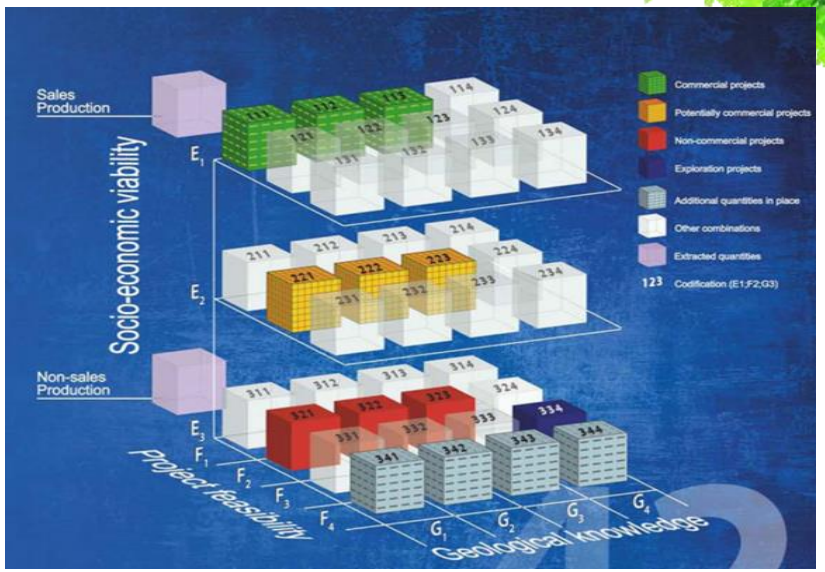
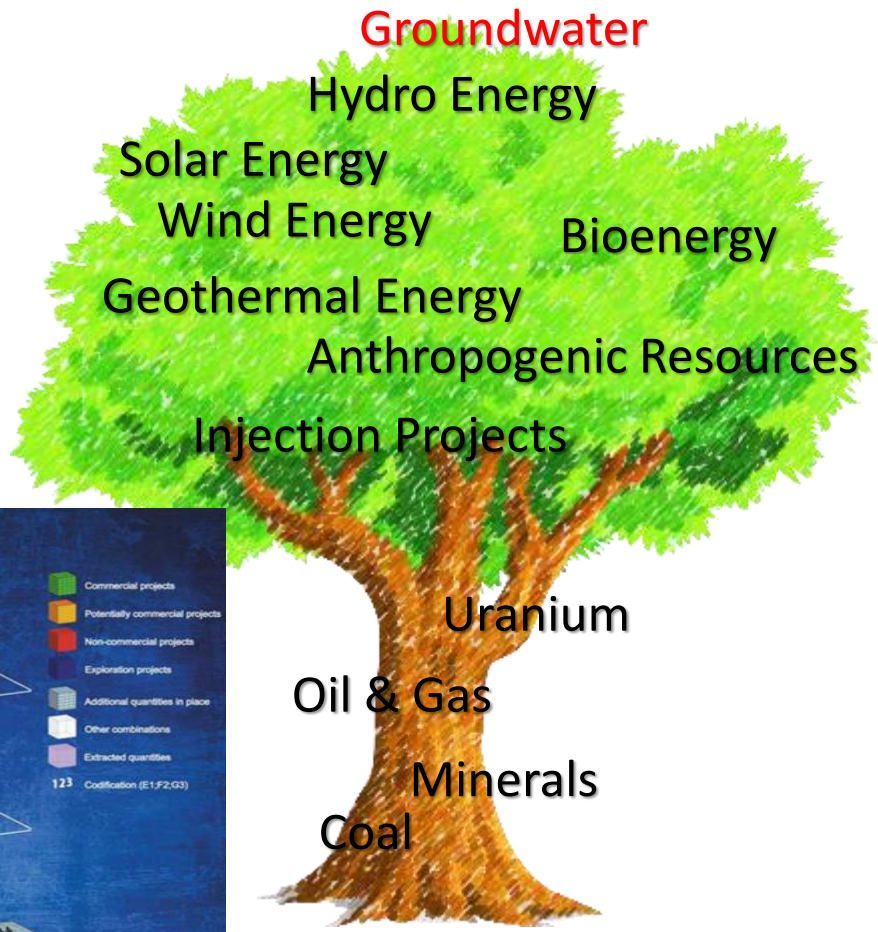
- Applicable to all resources
- Aligned to the 2030 Agenda
- Derive good social, environmental and economic outcomes
  - Comprehensive Resource Recovery
  - Zero waste
  - Zero harm
- Work on groundwater specifications initiated
- Improve resilience through new business models
- Obtain social license to operate





Thank you!

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Delivery Working Group
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Date 23 I 10 I 2019, Geneva

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