

The importance of SDG 17 in addressing SA's biodiversity challenges



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Research Background

Often ranked as the lowest of the priorities of the SDGs, SDG 17 is in fact the SDG which the achievement of the other SDGs relies on.

Without partnerships that cross-cut geographical boundaries and sectors we will not achieve the implementation of the SDGs.



Research Questions

- 1) Who are the key role players in South Africa with regards to implementing and achieving the SDGs, and how are they organised?
- 2) What are the roles and responsibilities of specific clusters of actors towards the implementation, monitoring and reporting of development objectives and targets outlined in the SDGs from a South African perspective?
- 3) What are the relationships between groups of actors in the clusters and between the clusters?
- 4) What are the opportunities and constraints to achieving the SDGs in the South African context?
- 5) How can South Africa start overcoming the challenges it faces to achieving the SDGs?

Research Findings

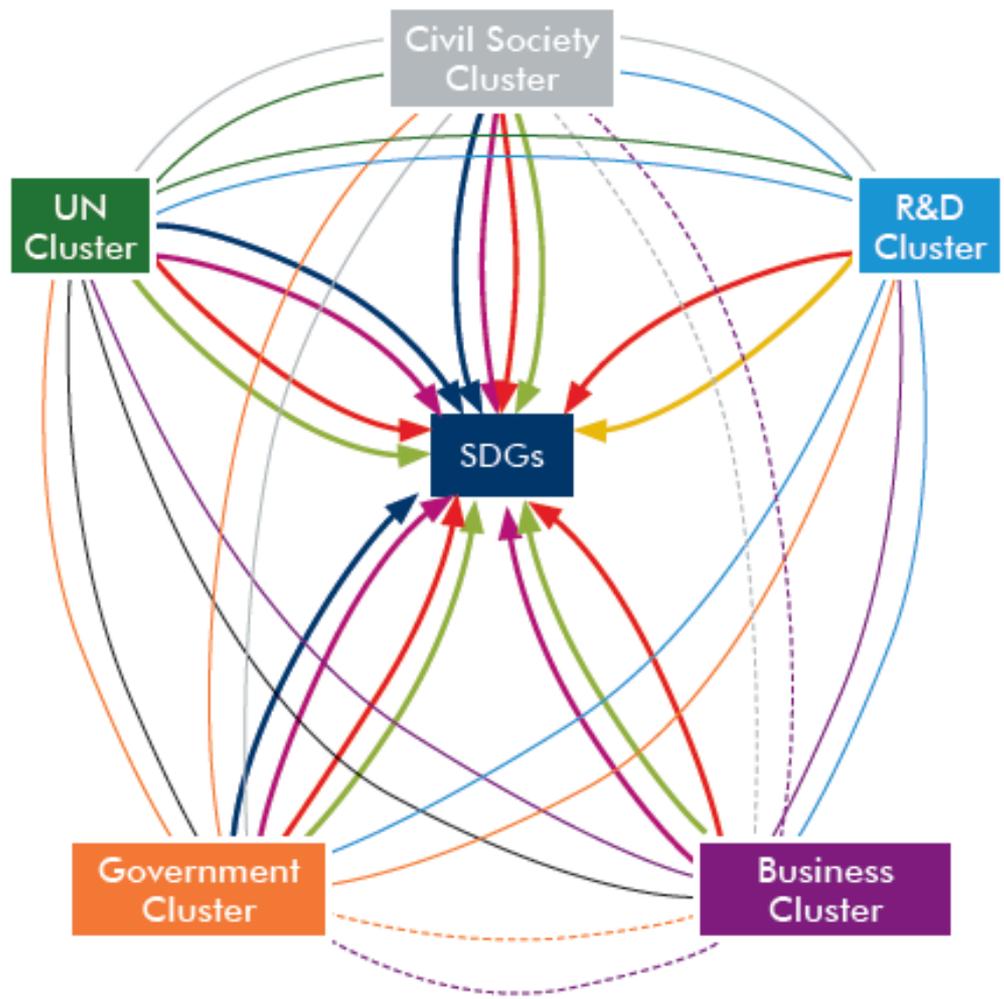
Our research highlights that there are five key clusters of actors that need to be involved with achieving each of the SDGs.



Research Findings



Currently there is a lack of partnerships and cooperation between clusters, specifically within government (i.e. between national, provincial and local levels), and between government, the private sector and civil society.



Blue: —> Negotiation; Red: —> Implementation;
Green: —> Monitoring; Pink: —> Reporting;
Yellow: —> Analysis/research/knowledge growth

Continuing Research on Partnerships

Currently we are:

- Conducting a literature review to establish what has been written about partnerships in the academic and popular literature and which international SDG partnership initiatives exist;
- Working with government to investigate the possibility of establishing a multi-stakeholder partnership under the UN High-Level Political Forum;
- Continuing engagements with stakeholders to establish what that challenges to partnership building are; and
- Conducting a mapping exercise to map out the relationship between the NDP, SDG and Agenda 2063 and identify which partnerships are necessary and where they need to happen

The ultimate aim of this three-year research is to devise a transdisciplinary evidence-based approach for establishing and implementing partnership relationships.

Research alignment with NBRES

Management of South Africa's biodiversity assets and infrastructure and their specific contribution towards the economy, development objectives, and social well-being of the country is intrinsically linked to stakeholders addressing all of the SDGs.

Our research suggests that in order to address the targets specifically associated with SDG 14 and 15 (life below water and life on land), we need to strengthen and grow the connections and relationships needed to form partnerships.