

1 **Chapter 17: Accelerating the transition in the context of**
2 **sustainable development**

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4 **Coordinating Lead Authors:** Fatima Denton (Gambia), Kirsten Halsnaes (Denmark)

5 **Lead Authors:** Keigo Akimoto (Japan), Sarah Burch (Canada), Cristobal Diaz Morejon (Cuba),
6 Fernando Farias (Chile), Joni Jupesta (Indonesia), Petra Schweizer-Ries (Germany), Ali Shareef
7 (Maldives), Fei Teng (China), Eric Zusman (the United States of America)

8 **Contributing Authors:** Morten Andreas Dahl Larsen (Denmark), Antonethe Castaneda (Guatemala)

9 **Review Editors:** Diriba Korecha Dadi (Ethiopia), Hermann Held (Germany)

10 **Chapter Scientist:** Antonethe Castaneda (Guatemala)

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1 **Executive summary**

2 **Accelerating climate actions and the just energy transition are essential to reducing climate risks,**
3 **as well as achieving water, food and human security, as well as other sustainability priorities**
4 **(*robust evidence, high agreement*)**. Acceleration is not merely about moving faster; it requires steadily
5 broadening and deepening support for climate actions. The broader and deeper this support, the more
6 likely the transition is to be sustainable and a more profound and sustainable system transformation can
7 be enabled and implemented. {17.1.1}

8 **A rapid transition to sustainable development pathways is as desirable as it is difficult. Climate**
9 **change stems from decades of unsustainable energy production, land-use, production and**
10 **consumption, as well as governance practices and patterns (*Robust evidence, high agreement*).**
11 Changing these practices and patterns requires a fundamental reframing of development. Sustainable
12 development, by emphasising sectoral integration and social inclusion, offers just such a reframing. A
13 sustainable transition must also be socially equitable and just. This equity principle also applies across
14 countries. Developing countries often craft climate responses in decision-making environments with
15 limited resources, deep social divisions and few advanced technologies (*medium evidence, high*
16 *agreement*). {17.1.1.2}

17 **This reframing must be backed by concrete actions and sincere efforts. Strengthening the**
18 **"response capacities" of different actors to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate will be**
19 **necessary (*robust evidence, high agreement*)**. Response capacities will increase with efforts to align
20 multiple stakeholder interests across levels of decision-making. This alignment will also help achieve
21 synergies and manage trade-offs between climate and other sectoral policies, thus breaking out of
22 sectoral silos and adopting policy-coherent integrated approaches to overcome the challenges involved
23 in promoting cross-sectoral synergies and avoiding trade-offs at multiple levels (*medium evidence, high*
24 *agreement*). {17.1.1.1}

25 **Short- and long-term studies of transformation using macroeconomic models and integrated**
26 **assessment models or IAM have been used to assess the economy-wide impacts of aligning**
27 **development pathways with sustainable development and climate change. IAMs assess climate**
28 **change mitigation and SDGs in a very aggregated manner, but many SDGs are strongly related**
29 **to distribution issues not only between nations but also within them. IAMs have not been able to**
30 **treat them sufficiently thus far, and there are still large limitations on assessments of sustainable**
31 **development by using IAMs (*medium evidence, medium agreement*). {17.3.2}**

32 **Sustainable development and mitigation policies are closely linked in the agricultural, food and**
33 **land-use sectors. Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector offers many low-**
34 **cost mitigation options, but they can also create trade-offs between land-use to produce bioenergy,**
35 **food and biodiversity (*robust evidence, high agreement*)**. Some options can help to mitigate such
36 trade-offs, for example, integrated land management and efficiency improvements. Lifestyle changes,
37 including dietary changes and reduced food waste, have several synergies regarding climate-change
38 mitigation and the SDGs. {17.3.3.1}

39 **The water, energy and food nexus (WEFN) involves tight and complex interlinking. Within it, the**
40 **implementation of options related to water management and water conservation and the added**
41 **coherence of policies within the water, energy and food sectors (among others) will be critical in**
42 **achieving the SDG targets (Rasul, 2016)**. Subsidised fertilisers, energy and crops can drive
43 unsustainable levels of water usage and pollution in agriculture. {17.3.3.2}

44 **Industrial transformation is a core component of accelerating progress toward sustainable**
45 **development. Across all industrial sectors, the development and deployment of innovative**
46 **technologies, business models and policy approaches at scale will be essential to accelerate**

1 **progress in meeting both economic and social development goals, as well as reducing emissions.**
2 **(*robust evidence, high agreement*).** Many industrial mitigation options, like efficiency improvements,
3 waste management and the circular economy, have synergies with the SDGs relating to access to food,
4 water and energy, as well as costs (*robust evidence, high agreement*). Some options like renewable
5 energy promotion and carbon capture and storage could have negative impacts on some of the SDGs.
6 {17.3.3.3}

7 **There are several examples of mitigation options which have synergies between mitigation and**
8 **adaptation, including energy efficiency options, renewable energy, the circular economy,**
9 **sustainable city planning, and efficiencies in industry and buildings. In general, many of the**
10 **mitigation options are assessed as having synergies, with or without trade-offs, with SDGs, but**
11 **some sectors are also reporting trade-offs. (*medium evidence, high agreement*).** This includes some
12 energy-sector options, which are assessed as having high costs and thus could have trade-offs with
13 SDG1 no poverty. Several trade-offs have also been identified in relation to land-use, bioenergy
14 production and access to food in SDG 2 and water in SDG 6 (*medium evidence, high agreement*).
15 {17.3.3.5}

16 **The potential role of digitalisation as a facilitator of a fast transition to sustainable development**
17 **and low-emission pathways is assessed based on sectoral examples. The contributions of digital**
18 **technology could contribute to efficiency improvements, cross-sectoral coordination, including**
19 **new IT services, and decreasing resource use, potentially implying several synergies with SDGs,**
20 **as well as trade-offs, for example, in relation to reduced employment, increasing energy demand**
21 **and increasing demand for services, all implying increased GHG emissions (*low evidence, medium***
22 ***agreement*).** Especially in developing countries, a strong link exists between sustainable development,
23 vulnerability and climate risks, as here limited economic, social and institutional resources often result
24 in low adaptive capacities and high levels of vulnerability (*robust evidence, high agreement*). Similarly,
25 the limitations in resources also constitute key elements leading to weak capacity in relation to climate-
26 change mitigation. {17.3.3.6}

27 **The landscape of transitions to sustainable development is changing rapidly, and we are already**
28 **witnessing multiple transitions. This creates the room to manage these transitions in ways that**
29 **will prioritise the need for workers in vulnerable sectors (land, energy) to secure their jobs and**
30 **to maintain secure and healthy lifestyles, especially as the risks multiply for those who are exposed**
31 **to heavy industrial jobs and all the associated outcomes (*medium evidence, high agreement*).**..The
32 notion of a just transition incorporates key principles, such as respect and dignity for vulnerable groups,
33 the creation of decent jobs, social protection, employment rights, fairness in energy access and use, and
34 social dialogue and democratic consultation with relevant stakeholders, while coping with the effects
35 of asset-stranding and the transition to green and clean economies (*medium evidence, medium*
36 *agreement*). The economic implications of the transition will be felt especially by developing countries,
37 with their high dependence on hydrocarbon products as a revenue stream, as they will be exposed to
38 reduced fiscal incomes, given the low demand for oil, the fall in oil prices and the associated economic
39 fallout resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This link with stranded assets is in danger of being
40 overlooked, but it is important, as countries whose assets are becoming stranded may not have the
41 relevant resources, knowledge, autonomy or agency to design a suitable orientation or decide on the
42 transition. However, in the race to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, some of the other priorities of
43 the transition, like climate change adaptation and its inherent vulnerabilities, might be muted, given the
44 urgency of achieving mitigation at all costs. Consequently, the transition imperative reduces the scope
45 for local priority-setting and ignores the additional risks faced by countries with the least capacity to
46 adapt. The just transitions will depend on local contexts, regional priorities, the starting points of
47 different countries in the transition and the speed at which they want to travel. {17.3.2.3}

1 **A wide range of factors have been found to enable sustainability transitions, ranging from**
2 **technological innovations to shifts in markets, and from policies and governance arrangements**
3 **to shifts in belief systems and market forces (*robust evidence, high agreement*).** All this has been
4 coming together in a co-evolutionary process that has unfolded globally, internationally and locally
5 over several decades (*low evidence, high agreement*). Those same conditions that may serve to impede
6 the transition (i.e., organisational structure, behaviour, technological lock-in) can also ‘flip’ to enable
7 both it and the framing of sustainable development policies to create a stronger basis and policy support
8 (*robust evidence, high agreement*). But it is also important to note that strong shocks to these systems,
9 including accelerating climate-change impacts, economic crises and political changes, may provide
10 crucial openings for accelerated transitions to sustainable systems through fundamental institutional
11 changes. {17.4}

12 **Sustainable development and deep decarbonisation will involve people and communities being**
13 **connected locally through various means, including globally via the internet and digital**
14 **technologies, in ways that form social fields that allow sustainability to happen and prompt other**
15 **shifts in thinking and behaviour consistent with the 1.5°C goal (*medium evidence, medium***
16 ***agreement*).** Individuals and organisations, like institutional entrepreneurs, can function to build
17 transformative capacity through collective action (*robust evidence, high agreement*), but private-sector
18 entrepreneurs can also play an important role in fostering and accelerating the transitions to sustainable
19 development (*robust evidence, medium agreement*). Ultimately, the adoption of coordinated, multi-
20 sectoral policies targeting new and rapid innovation can help national economies take advantage of
21 widespread decarbonisation (*medium evidence, medium agreement*). Industrial policies that focus on
22 building domestic supply chains and capacities can help states prepare for the influx of renewable,
23 carbon-negative technologies, or mechanisms for carbon capture and storage. {17.4.2}

24 **Accelerating the transition to sustainability will be enabled by explicit consideration being given**
25 **to the principles of justice, equality and fairness. Interventions to promote sustainability**
26 **transitions that integrate local spaces into the whole development process are necessary but not**
27 **sufficient in creating a just transition process (*low evidence, high agreement*).** Likewise, greater
28 policy coherence between these three sectors is critical to moving to a sustainable and efficient use of
29 resources. The nexus approach (a systems-based methodology that focuses attention on the many ways
30 in which natural resources are deeply interwoven and mutually interdependent) can strengthen
31 coordination and help to avoid maladaptation. {17.4.6}

32

1 **17.1 Introduction**

2 This chapter looks at how climate policies are related to sustainable development policies, as well as
3 how transition and transformation pathways to sustainable development are linked to climate actions.
4 It considers the interdependence, inter-relativity, connectivity, complexity, and multi-directional and
5 multi-faceted nature of interactions among the significant players, including equality and poverty issues
6 and process to achieve a just transition. It assesses how climate actions could be accelerated in a
7 sustainable development context by examining the relationship, synergies and trade-offs between
8 adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development (Section 17.1).

9 It then views sustainable development through alternative theories of the transition, assessing how long-
10 term sustainable development and climate policy goals may be coordinated and can be achieved, as well
11 as taking into account how different actors are involved in various transitions (Section 17.2). It then
12 looks at case studies in a context of short- and long-term sectoral and cross-sectoral processes of
13 transition, as well as the opportunities and challenges involved in accelerating the transition process
14 (Section 17.3). Finally, the chapter synthesises its findings and conclusions, and identifies the key
15 enabling conditions for acceleration of the transition to sustainable development and to achieving the
16 climate targets (Section 17.4).

17 **17.1.1 Sustainable development as a key composite policy framework globally**

18 Sustainable development has been a topic of great interest ever since it was articulated by the World
19 Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in its report *Our Common Future* of 1987.
20 According to the WCED, “Sustainable development is defined in the Brundtland Commission report
21 as ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future
22 generations to meet their own needs’” (WCED 1987). This definition is also used in the AR5 (Denton
23 et al. 2014) and the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (Roy et al. 2018; IPCC 2018b) linking
24 the three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, and economic, to climate change.
25 The relationships between climate-change impacts and global sustainability policies have also been
26 examined by the IPCC in previous assessment reports.

27 The First Assessment Report (FAR) highlighted the relevance of sustainable development to climate
28 policy. The Second Assessment Report (SAR) went further to include sustainable development with
29 equity and other issues. The Third Assessment Report (IPCC, TAR Climate Change 2001: Mitigation,
30 Chapter 1) concluded that “parties have a right to, and should promote sustainable development” as
31 stated in the text of the UNFCCC 2015 (Article 3.4). One of the main approaches analysed at that time
32 was to assess the climate challenge from a sustainable development perspective. In turn, the next
33 assessment report (IPCC, AR4 Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change, Chapter 12) added
34 further perspectives by acknowledging the existence of a two-way relationship between sustainable
35 development and climate change, that is, between different development choices for climate-change
36 mitigation, each mutually reinforcing the other. IPCCs Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) emphasised the
37 need for transformational changes for climate resilient development.

38 In the face of simultaneous interlinked challenges, the global community is confronted with decisions
39 over alternative pathways for future transformations that constitute critical junctions for sustainable
40 development (Lidskog et al. 2020). In 2019, the declaration of the high-level political forum on
41 sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, called for
42 accelerated action to fulfil Agenda 2030 and the SDGs (General Assembly of the United Nations,
43 2019). In this context, accelerating climate action and a just transition are essential to reducing the risks
44 to human security, including health, water and food, and to achieve the SDGs (U.N.2015; Till Bunsen
45 et al. 2019). Collective action against climate change by businesses, governments, and civil society,
46 reinforced through partnerships and coalitions across departments, industries and in particular supply
47 chains, can deliver impacts at scale and strengthen public policy advocacy (Hoyer 2020). To accelerate

1 the impact of these actions and stimulate transformations (Rashid Sumaila et al. 2019) identify three
2 processes: (1) prolonging or accelerating the impact of one specific initiative (*amplifying within*), (2)
3 impacting more people and places (*amplifying out*), and (3) changing how initiatives create impact
4 (*amplifying beyond*). Further, these amplification processes are described as stabilising, speeding up,
5 growing, replicating, transferring, spreading, scaling up, and scaling deep. The key to successful
6 acceleration are the so-called acceleration effects that describe the maximum compressed time-gaps
7 between investment and desired outcomes by approaching structural constraints (UNDP, UNEP 2020;
8 Roberts et al. 2018) conclude that opportunities for and obstacles to transitions are closely
9 interconnected.

10 Hence, accelerating just transitions for purposes of sustainable development requires the involvement
11 of several disciplines, actors and institutions (Delina and Sovacool 2018), whose roles need to be
12 discussed more thoroughly. (Kern and Rogge 2016). (den Elzen et al. 2019), for instance, show that the
13 full implementation of reported and quantifiable commitments made by non-state and subnational
14 actors, like regions, cities or businesses, can be a strong driver for achieving the Paris climate goals.
15 Furthermore, this involvement is crucial if different policy interests and design-innovative solutions
16 adapted to specific contexts are to be reconciled (Fiack and Kamieniecki 2017).

17 In practice, an enabling environment for stakeholders to be engaged in climate action needs to be
18 supported. For instance, more comprehensive climate-planning processes, financial support or
19 highlighting the co-benefits of climate protection can enhance the engagement of local government
20 (Krause 2013). Showing understanding and addressing the barriers to private-sector engagement in
21 environmental issues – for example, by communicating the business benefits of addressing
22 environmental issues (e.g., cost savings, reduced risks) – can attract businesses to become involved
23 (OECD 2016 a). In sum, besides increasing its speed, accelerating the transition seeks to extend and
24 deepen the transition, increase the range, and modify the modalities of climate action impacts. As a
25 result, a more profound and sustainable systemic transformation can be enabled and implemented.

26 Although climate change has traditionally been portrayed by many authors as an environmental problem
27 to be addressed by governments and their environmental ministries (Munasinghe 2007), as cited in
28 Swart and Raes, (2007); Brown, Hammill and McLeman (2007), this definition has evolved to embrace
29 the wider ramifications of a changing climate for the economy, ecology and people. Consequently,
30 today addressing climate change is widely recognised as an opportunity to contribute to a just transition
31 towards sustainable development (Zhenmin and Espinosa 2019). There is sound scientific evidence that
32 the climate change we are witnessing today is the result of many unsustainable practices in energy
33 production, unsustainable land-use and land-use changes, as well as unsustainable production and
34 consumption patterns, and unreliable and poor governance mechanisms both within and across several
35 disciplines, all of which tend to worsen its impacts (IPCC, 2014). To address these concerns – and since
36 acknowledging climate change as a cross-cutting issue – countries have embraced the concept of
37 sustainable development and started to integrate it into development planning (ECLAC 2017, 2018;
38 Chimhowu et al. 2019; UN Women 2017; GGKP 2016; Fuseini and Kemp 2015). Therefore, sustainable
39 development is perceived as a unifying concept that takes multiple elements of development into
40 account, such as those identified as meeting the SDGs, and that constitutes a coherent, well-integrated
41 and overarching approach to the problem of addressing issues of climate change.

42 The year 2015 was a noticeable turning point in increasing the dynamics of global governance, climate
43 change and environmental policy needed to set the globe on a path towards sustainable development.
44 Two remarkable stepping-stones were laid down: the approval and adoption of the sustainable
45 development goals (SDGs) and of Agenda 2030, which built on the Millennium Development Goals
46 (MDGs); and the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The SDGs were perceived as a
47 novel approach to global governance and as universal agenda for transformation by building an
48 integrated framework for action while addressing the economic, social, and environmental dimensions
49 of sustainable development (Biermann et al. 2017; Kanie and Biermann 2017).

1 After the SDGs were adopted, an extra boost to implementing the goals was provided by the adoption
2 of the Paris Agreement, which recognises sustainable development as intrinsic to achieving its
3 objectives (Sindico 2016; UNFCCC 2016). As part of the “Paris Package”, so-called nationally
4 determined contributions (NDCs) were introduced as one of the key instruments through which
5 countries demonstrate their commitment to climate action. NDCs include mitigation and adaptation
6 efforts and showcase plans that align NDC commitments to national planning processes. By design, the
7 Paris Agreement takes a bottom-up approach, as countries are free to choose their targets and the means
8 and instruments with which to implement them.

9 In the “Paris Package”, an important and key feature of the NDCs was that countries had to submit them
10 every five years, giving them an opportunity to assess themselves on their shortfalls and increase their
11 ambitions. Moreover, another key feature was that countries should not “backslide” in subsequent
12 NDCs, thus ensuring that countries should always be forward-looking in respect of increasing their
13 ambitions to deliver the Paris goals. Höhne et al. (2017) found that in developing countries especially,
14 the NDC preparation process has improved national climate policymaking. However, several
15 assessments of country’s NDCs (Rogelj et al. 2016; UNFCCC 2015; Andries et al. 2017; Vandyck et
16 al. 2016) have declared that they are falling short of delivering the Paris goals. One of the very urgent
17 calls in Paris was to assess the impacts and efforts that need to be undertaken to keep global warming
18 well below 2°C in relation to pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse-gas emission pathways
19 (UNFCCC 2015). Although the initial NDC rounds fell short, the idea was that NDCs would be living
20 documents that increased their ambitions in every iteration of them.

21 Since 2015, several assessments have pointed out the gap in implementation with current national
22 climate policies, possibly leading to an increase in average temperatures beyond the Paris Agreement
23 (Rogelj et al. 2016; Peters et al. 2017; UNEP 2020; Wang and Chen 2019). (Roelfsema et al. 2020)
24 estimate a gap of 22.4 to 28.2 GtCO₂eq by 2030 with the optimal pathways to implement the well below
25 2°C and 1.5°C Paris goals”. Nevertheless, den Elzen et al. (2019) conclude that, given the current status
26 of their implementation of climate policy, six of all G20 members are expected to meet their
27 unconditional NDCs. However, eight other countries need to take further action to meet their targets,
28 while others have provided insufficient information to permit analysis. Since the US, China and the EU
29 produce the majority of global GHG emissions their climate policies have a strong influence on the
30 global GHG inventory and other countries’ policies (Averchenkova et al. 2016). In addition, initiatives
31 by non-state stakeholders can have an important role in implementing mitigation efforts globally
32 (Hermwille 2018).

33 The IPCC special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (Roy et al. 2018; IPCC 2018) concluded that
34 limiting the global temperature to the goals of the Paris Agreement could avert many severe climate
35 extremes. It also noted that mitigation actions will have both positive and negative impacts on achieving
36 the SDGs. The transitions required to bring about the necessary changes will have synergies and trade-
37 offs (Roy et al. 2018). One of the important conclusions of the assessment was that sustainable
38 development policies will enable and support fundamental systems and social transformations, and that
39 for these transformations to take effect, rapid implementation is required to meet the long-term
40 temperature goals.

41 A comprehensive assessment of the links between sustainable development and climate change can be
42 found in the previous assessment, AR5 (Olsson et al. 2014; Fleurbaey et al. 2014; Denton et al. 2014).
43 AR5 argued that the link between climate change and sustainable development is cross-cutting and
44 complex and that the impacts of climate change are threatening the efforts made to achieve sustainable
45 development thus far. Climate change reveals the dependence of all systems on natural capital and
46 jeopardises their sustainable development in terms of, for instance, health (Sweileh 2020), gender
47 (Alston 2014), or existing poverty and inequalities (Olsson et al. 2014).

1 Moreover, drivers of climate change, such as energy production and consumption, also interact with
2 sustainable development in positive and negative ways. One of the key messages of AR5 was that the
3 proper implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation actions could help promote sustainable
4 development. Countries have started to report on their progress with their SDG agendas (UNDESA
5 2018, 2017, 2016; Antwi-Agyei et al. 2018) and their reductions of emissions through the intervention
6 of sustainable development in UNFCCC reports (GHG emissions inventories, Biennial Reports,
7 National Communications and others). The SDG Report for 2019 indicates that 150 countries have
8 developed national urban plans, almost half of them also being in the implementation phase) United
9 Nations General Assembly 2019). Other countries might also be in the phase of development with a
10 view to following suit.

11 The importance of these connections has led countries to start reconsidering their development policies
12 and their relations with other policies, starting a process of integrating the concept of sustainable
13 development into national plans (Galli et al. 2018; Haywood et al. 2019; Chirambo 2018; UNDESA
14 2018, 2017, 2016), extending also to regional and local plans (Hess 2014; Gorissen et al. 2018; Shaw
15 and Roberts 2017). Cross-cutting and integrated approaches, such as circular economies, have been
16 emphasised by some European countries (EESC 2015), and some countries are adjusting their existing
17 policies to build on ideas for sustainable development (Lucas et al. 2016).

18 Most notably, the recent European Green Deal establishes the idea of the circular economy as one of
19 the constituent elements in the deal (EC, 2019). This has also happened in different development areas
20 such as renewable energy and energy efficiency (Kousksou et al. 2015; Fastenrath and Braun 2018),
21 sustainable urban planning (Mendizabal et al. 2018; Loorbach et al. 2016; Gorissen et al. 2018), health
22 systems (Pencheon 2018; Roschnik et al. 2017) and agricultural systems (Lipper and Zilberman 2018;
23 Shaw and Roberts 2017). The implementation of the SDGs as part of national development processes
24 reflects the different priorities, visions and plans of countries (Hanson and Korbla P. Puplampu 2018;
25 P. Puplampu et al. 2017; Tumushabe 2018; OECD 2016a; Srikanth 2018; (Marcotullio et al. 2018). In
26 order to transform them into action, a fundamental paradigm shift from a linear model of knowledge
27 generation to an interdisciplinary model needs to be made that involves the co-production of knowledge
28 by different stakeholders (Liu et al. 2019).

29 Other non-UN-led initiatives have also helped to raise the issue of sustainable development as a
30 framework for mitigation involving international organisations or clusters of countries. The OECD, for
31 instance, relates different types of investments and economic activities to their environmental
32 sustainability (OECD, 2020), while G20 countries have drawn up action agendas with sustainable
33 development at the core (UToronto 2016). The Petersberg Climate Dialogue, a political movement
34 convened by major country-group representatives launched in 2010 by the German government, has
35 also called for sustainability to be an intrinsic part of the transition (UNFCCO, 2020).

36 ***17.1.1.1 Relationships between sustainable development, adaptation, and mitigation***

37 Climate change adaptation and mitigation are linked to sustainable development in many ways,
38 presenting both opportunities and challenges, as described in Chapter 18 of the Working Group II
39 Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR6
40 WGII, 2021). For instance, many links between adaptation and mitigation can be found in agriculture,
41 forestry, and landscape management (Locatelli et al. 2015). Conservation practices, like using crop
42 residues to increase nutrient cycling and thus contribute to carbon sequestration, can help both to
43 mitigate and to adapt to climate change (Lal et al. 2011). There are many ideas about how to harmonise
44 adaptation and mitigation efforts to create co-benefits in different sectors, such energy, transportation,
45 or forest management (Moser 2012).

1 The creation of synergies can increase people's long-term engagement with and acceptance of projects
2 (S et al., 2016). However, apart from neutral and positive relationships, possible conflicts, trade-offs,
3 or negative synergies are also possible (Landauer, Juhola and Söderholm 2015). In overall terms, the
4 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is linked to climate change through its statement that "climate
5 change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all
6 countries to achieve sustainable development". Since the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable
7 Development Agenda are at the heart of global development agendas, countries are pursuing the
8 advantages of this centrality by adopting coherent and integrated approaches to achieve the goals of
9 these agendas (Chimhowu et al. 2019). Advances in sustainable development need balanced actions to
10 accommodate the impacts of both mitigation and adaptation. Enhanced sustainable adaptation can lead to
11 effective emission-reduction benefits, such as climate-smart agricultural technologies (Nefzaoui et al.
12 2012; Poudel 2014) and ecosystem-based adaptation (IUCN 2017; Geneletti and Zardo 2016; Berry et
13 al. 2015) have shown how increases in livelihoods can contribute to climate change mitigation.
14 Comprehensive assessments such as that by Sharifi (2020) and Dovie (2019) showed that there is room
15 for virtuous collaboration between sustainable adaptation and mitigation (Dovie 2019).

16 Fuso Nerini et al. (2019) revealed that climate change can undermine the progress towards other SDGs,
17 while fighting climate change can reinforce efforts in the direction of sustainable development. For
18 instance, climate change could hinder the progress towards SDG 1 – zero hunger – and put food systems
19 at risk (Wheeler and Von Braun, 2013). In turn, reducing local air pollution and GHG emissions can,
20 for example, improve the prospects of achieving SDG 3 and thus global health by decreasing the scope
21 and pattern of medium- and long-term health risks (Haines and Ebi, 2019). Increased CO₂ emissions
22 levels disrupt associated food production, which in turn can hamper the efforts to reduce hunger and
23 poverty (Smith and Myers 2018). Positive synergies and negative trade-offs are directly linked to
24 sustainable development and climate mitigation and adaptation (Thornton and Comberti 2017;
25 Obersteiner et al. 2016; Steen and Weaver 2017; Favretto et al. 2018). When implementing mitigation
26 and adaptation policies, therefore, coherence between policies is key, as otherwise they could prove
27 detrimental to sustainable development efforts (Scobie 2016; Sovacool 2018).

28 Not only are climate actions occurring nationally as indicated before: sub-nationally too, a variety of
29 key actors, including cities, counties and states, depending on each countries' administrative
30 organisations, are working to reduce both the causes of climate change and the preparations for its
31 impact, which are becoming central to the global governance of climate change (Hsu et al. 2019). Many
32 have accordingly developed separate mitigation (low emissions growth) and adaptation (climate-
33 resilient) strategies and measures (Göpfert et al. 2019). In addition, several cities have become active
34 in pursuing strategies for dealing with sustainable development, mostly through the implementation of
35 SDG-related agendas. However, a thorough integration of these strategies to promote synergies and
36 accelerate changes is still lacking.

37 In accelerating the transition to sustainable development, adaptation and mitigation, the development
38 of a "response capacity" enabling populations to mitigate, adapt and react is key. These capacities need
39 to be created accordingly in response to climate change by implementing effective measures to change
40 behaviour, while also helping in the move towards sustainability (Burch and Robinson 2007; Harry and
41 Morad 2013). Initially seen as an artificial division of responsibility, with mitigation as the main
42 challenge for developed countries and adaptation for developing countries, responses to climate change
43 are now acknowledged to be a joint development issue affecting and requiring action from all countries
44 (Swart and Raes 2007).

45 Though there are minor differences, the capacities for both mitigation and adaptation are supported by
46 similar factors (IPCC, 2007). The development of an effective response capacity within a society is
47 conditioned by its own level of development and predicated on its ability to draw on strong and
48 integrated policies and institutions, financial, human and technological resources, and several other

1 enablers (Yohe 2001; Tompkins and Adger 2005; Burch and Robinson 2007). For instance, Romero-
2 Lankao et al. (2013) argue that information and knowledge, participation, networks and legal
3 frameworks are important elements in enhancing institutional response capacities. Response capacities
4 are time- and context-specific, and different social groups will need different characteristics and tools
5 to respond to different hazards and types of climate change (Tompkins and Adger 2005).

6 *17.1.1.2 Transition processes*

7 Significant amounts of attention have been paid to the context of the sustainability transition since the
8 urgency of the climate change problem was recognised (Chang et al. 2017; Markard et al. 2012;
9 Turnheim and Nykvist 2019). In the context of this chapter, we are mainly referring to transition
10 processes that address how to arrive at a given desired future stage. Fazey et al. (2018) highlighted ten
11 essential elements needed for transition: “consideration of shocks and stresses; working horizontally
12 across all sectors; working on gradual vertical scales across social dimensions; drastic measures to
13 reduce carbon emissions; inspiration from successes related to climate change/action; think future
14 oriented; focus on climate disadvantage and reduce inequalities; focus on processes and pathways; and
15 transformative change for resilience.”

16 This suggests that a holistic and systematic approach with complex interactions across multiple
17 dimensions is needed for a sustainable transition. O’Brien (2018) stresses that, for social transition and
18 transformation to occur, leverage points in three related and interacting ‘spheres’ of practical, political
19 and personal needs must work in parallel so that people are treated as subjects or agents of change,
20 rather than as objects to be changed. These spheres of transformation are abstractions that capture both
21 the complexity of the changes needed to realise a particular goal and an outcome such as a temperature
22 target.

23 The practical sphere represents specific actions, interventions, strategies and behaviours that directly
24 contribute to a desired outcome. The political sphere represents the systems and structures that facilitate
25 or constrain practical responses to climate change, while the personal sphere of transformation
26 represents the subjective beliefs, values, world views and paradigms that influence how people perceive,
27 define or constitute systems and structures, as well as their behaviours and practices.

28 This implies paying less attention to the attempt to alter people’s behaviour and instead work towards
29 creating the conditions that promote the development and expression of social consciousness both now
30 and in the future. In addition to the social and technological changes educating or learning approaches
31 is also found to be crucial to the process of transition (Macintyre et al. 2018) in respect of collective
32 decision-making in transition processes. Hjerpe et al. (2017) stress that knowledge could act as a motor,
33 emancipator and guiding beacon in the process of transition. Nevertheless, a critical view needs to be
34 taken of the power relations that are reflected in how certain sorts of knowledge frame an issue in the
35 first place (Nightingale et al., 2020). This includes identification of the different knowledge and
36 potential gaps that might exist (Hulme, 2018). In addition, the accelerative and transformative potential
37 of economic and technical interventions is highly dependent on social and political dynamics (Grandin
38 et al. 2018; Roberts et al. 2018), as the level of acceptance of certain technologies depends on local
39 cultural and discursive factors.

40 Another key element of the transition process is the aspects of equity and justice at all levels. The
41 Brundtland report gave a high priority to poverty alleviation, equity and justice (Lele and Jayaraman
42 2011). Agenda 2030 and the SDGs recognise the importance of leaving no one behind (LNOB) and of
43 endeavouring to reach those left furthest behind in the search to end poverty, fight hunger, curb
44 inequalities and prevent deaths from curable diseases, among other essentials. In this connection, the
45 193 UN member states have confirmed the pledge to improve the lives of the poorest and most
46 disadvantaged and act so as to put this promise into action (UNDP 2018). Inter-generational and intra-
47 generational equity are both important elements in achieving sustainable development (Beder 2000;

1 Dalziel and Saunders 2010). In the context of sustainable development and climate change, equity has
2 been seen as a multi-dimensional challenge, as it can consist, for instance, of spatial, distributional or
3 intergenerational equity (IPCC 2012).

4 However, in AR5 it becomes clear that climate-change impacts on disadvantaged communities will
5 exacerbate their existing poverty and inequalities (Olsson et al. 2014), and that these issues should be
6 included in climate mitigation and adaptation policies and economic goal-setting (Drupp 2018;
7 Baumgärtner et al. 2017), as well as during transition processes, where the transition should be fair and
8 just in sharing the benefits linking equity to developmental justice (Morgan and Waskow 2014;
9 Ngwadla 2014).

10 This involves understanding that the trade-offs require equity to be taken into account, but equity does
11 not always counter strong collective climate action. Yet, for instance, as economic analysis has shown,
12 a more equal distribution of income increases the economic value society attaches to nature and can
13 therefore have a substantial impact on people's attitudes (Drupp 2018, Baumgärtner et al. 2017). Since
14 assessments by Winsemius et al. (2018) and Hallegatte and Rozenberg (2017) show that in the future
15 these impacts will be aggravated further, the roles of multi-level governance structures and of the private
16 sector and civil society should not be overlooked in achieving equity as part of sustainable development
17 (Mathur et al. 2014; Derman 2014). Realising the importance of these concepts, the issue of equity was
18 made a central part of the Paris Agreement and the "Paris Rule Book" (Winkler 2019).

19 20 *17.1.1.3 Relevant policy issues in different time frames (2025, 2030 and 2050), opportunities and* 21 *obstacles*

22
23 Governments have a considerable role to play in accelerating transitions to reach a more sustainable
24 level of development. "Sustainable development requires both radical disruptive technological and
25 institutional changes, the latter including stringent regulation, the integration of disparate goals, and
26 changes in incentives to enable new voices to contribute to new systems and solutions", since advances
27 in achieving sustainable development may be slow and marginal in nature (Ashford and Hall 2018).
28 Stringent regulation has the potential to encourage discontinuous and radical rather than incremental
29 evolutionary change (Ashford et al., 1985; Ashford and Hall, 2011). Governments need to play a strong
30 role in stimulating both radical and disruptive innovations and diffusions of technology, since "neither
31 future generations nor future technologies are adequately represented by the existing stakeholders, and
32 what is missing is political and private-sector will for technology adoption" (Ashford and Hall 2018).
33 Governments should not miss the opportunity to loosen the creative forces that will bring about the
34 innovative changes to simultaneously benefit the economy, the environment, and general welfare
35 (Ashford and Hall, 2018). Other stakeholders may also play a role in transition processes.

36 Developing countries face the additional challenges to policy implementation of their more limited
37 resources (financial, environmental fragility, institutional, skills, etc.), social disparities and less
38 experience and knowledge of state-driven technological development and phasing in. While lock-in
39 effects may be weaker in cases where robust and economically viable technologies exist, market failures
40 may be more pronounced in other cases due to stronger information asymmetries and cost barriers
41 (Kemp and Never 2017), as well as institutional barriers. Furthermore, Pauw et al. (2020) concluded
42 that financing for the implementation of conditional NDCs can be a vulnerability for some countries
43 and their future ambition, and should be considered a potential bottleneck.

44 The sustainable development agenda also calls for policy coherence (targets 17 and 14) as an inherent
45 feature of its successful implementation. Policy coherence and integration between sectors are two of
46 the most critical factors driving sustainable transitions. To break down the sectoral silo mode of
47 working, policy coherence needs to be implemented across the board. Rather than working with
48 individual policy instruments, a mixture of policy instruments can provide the multiple policy effects

1 needed for social and technological change (Edmondson, Kern and Rogge, 2018; Köhler et al., 2019;
2 Rogge and Johnstone, 2017).

3 Given the various actors, players, elements, frameworks and concepts that will play a part in the
4 transition, a sustainable transition is likely to be a highly non-linear, complex and multi-faceted process
5 which certainly cannot be reduced to a single dimension. If an accelerated transition is needed for
6 purposes of sustainable development, a coherent approach among stakeholders at multiple local,
7 national, regional and international levels needs to be established. This requires breaking out of sectoral
8 silos and adopting policy-coherent integrated approaches to overcome the inconsistencies involved in
9 promoting cross-sectoral synergies and trade-offs at multiple levels.

10

11 **17.2 Explaining Transitions**

12 Many studies hold that integrating climate mitigation and sustainable development can increase the
13 speed, scale, and quality of transitions. Views nonetheless differ on how individual beliefs and
14 collective ethos, policymaking institutions and governance arrangements, economic markets and
15 market-correcting policies, and sociotechnical and ecological systems influence transitions. This
16 section describes this rich diversity of views by surveying how several prominent lines of psychological,
17 institutional, economic, and systems thinking explain transitions. It demonstrates that different
18 disciplinary perspectives often implicitly assume which dimensions of sustainable development are
19 integrated with climate change and which actors, interventions, and enabling reforms feature in the
20 integrative process that drives transitions.

21 The implicit assumptions in the theories surveyed below have implications for whether the main
22 conclusions and recommendations are best suited to quickening the pace, expanding the scale, or
23 improving the quality of transitions. Incorporating insights from psychological, institutional, and
24 economic views into overarching system theories may allow us to arrive at recommendations that make
25 transitions quick, scalable and ultimately sustainable. A multi-disciplinary lens on transitions may also
26 enrich the cross-sectoral policies described in Section 17.3.

27 **17.2.1 Psychology, Beliefs and Social Innovations**

28 This subsection focuses on how transitions in individual beliefs and mindsets and related transitions in
29 social consciousness and norms contribute to climate mitigation and sustainable development (Adger,
30 W, Barnett Jon, Brown Katrina, Marshall 2013; Hulme 2009; Ives et al. 2019; O'Brien, 2018). These
31 individual and collective changes often reinforce each other, potentially improving the health and well-
32 being of the individual, community, and planet (Lockhart, 2011; Day et al., 2014; Montuori and
33 Donnelly, 2018). More than the other views surveyed in Section 17.2, these perspectives emphasise
34 how the shifts in individual and collective beliefs and consequent actions improve the quality of
35 transitions.

36 Occurring within the self, an inner transition typically involves gaining a deepening sense of peace and
37 acceptance, a willingness to help others, and an interest in protecting nature and the planet (see e.g.
38 Banks, 2007, Power, 2016). This transition accompanies changes in one's beliefs and actions toward
39 sustainability and climate change—such as a willingness to support sustainable energy initiatives in
40 cities and universities (Banks, 2007; Woiwode, 2016, Hedlund-de Witt et al., 2014). Importantly, while
41 these internal shifts may spur community-level actions, they arise from being “world-citizens” (e.g.
42 Morin, 2016), a “higher-order superordinate identity”, “[living according to the principles] of integrated
43 sustainability” (Schweizer-Ries, 2013), and “[achieving] the good life” (See Section 1.6.4; Gauer,
44 2008). These values share a commitment to improving the well-being of all people and creatures
45 (Chapter 1, Section 1.6.3.1 and Chapter 5; Hannis and Rawles 2013) and “moving from valuing nature
46 only in market and monetary terms and strongly incorporating existential and non-material values”

1 (Neuteleers and Engelen, 2015). It also entails conscious-raising process wherein people feel closer to
2 their true inner selves, each other, and nature (See Chapter 1, Section 1.6.4; Banks, 2007; Woiwode,
3 2016, Hedlund-de Witt et al., 2014).

4 Many of the above beliefs have spread with the growing interest in eastern world-views, aboriginal
5 cultures (see e.g. Lockhart, 2011) and branches of neuroscience and psychology that place a premium
6 on different notions of the self (Hüther, 2018; Seligman and Csikszentmihalyi, 2014; Lewis 2016).
7 Often, as these mindshifts spread they are accompanied by social practices, like meditation or yoga,
8 (Woiwode and Woiwode 2019). At the same time, they focus on the post-development era (Kothari et
9 al. 2019) and de-growth (Sklair 2016; Paech, 2017), which have emerged to challenge carbon-intensive
10 lifestyles and unsustainable development models (Chapter 1, Sections 1.5.1 and 1.6.4). The
11 development of a sustainability culture connecting people and communities, often with help from the
12 internet, digital technologies and or other means of sharing information, have helped these ideas spread
13 (Bradbury, 2015, Scharmer, 2018).

14 Another channel through which these values and beliefs are disseminated is education and research
15 (Scharmer, 2018; Schneidewind and Von Wissel, 2015, Fazey, Schöpke, Ciniglia et al. 2018, Ives,
16 Freeth and Fischer, 2019; Chapter 1.6.4). In terms of research, “social experiments” or “real world labs”
17 are helping to foster shifts in mindsets that can induce transitions in energy, food, transport and other
18 systems (Berkhout et al. 2010; Hoffmann 2011; Bulkeley et al. 2015; Bernstein and Hoffmann 2018).
19 In the above cases, the acquisition of knowledge and transformative learning (Williams, 2013; Pomeroy
20 and Oliver, 2018; O’Neil and Boyce 2018,, Lange, 2018; Walsh, Böhme and Wamsler 2020) has helped
21 contribute to alternative development pathways (Berkhout et al. 2010; Roberts et al. 2018; Turnheim
22 and Kivimaa 2018; Lo and Castán Broto, 2019) (Chapter 1, Section 1.7.2). First-person and action
23 research, in which researchers participate in the change they aim to achieve, can also facilitate
24 widespread changes (see e.g. Dick, 2007; Streck, 2007; Hutchison and Walton, 2015; Bradbury et al.
25 2019).

26 The spread of these values can then form cultures of collaboration and sustainability. These broader
27 shifts can in turn lead to the creation of social fields that allow change to happen (see also Gillard et al.
28 2016) or give rise to thinking and behaviour that are consistent with the low-temperature goals (O’Brien,
29 2018; Veciana and Ottmar, 2018). Often these shifts are not simply about the spread of values: Reese
30 et al. (2020), for instance, show that policymakers and the media have an influence on social norms and
31 their changes, especially during crises. They may also gain adherents due to social or “grassroots
32 innovations” (Seyfang and Smith 2007: XVIII). Both social and technological innovations (Shove et al.
33 2014) can alter everything from personal routines to business models to authority patterns to the belief
34 systems (Westley and Antadze, 2010) that help achieve the climate and sustainable development goals.

35 **17.2.2 Institutions, Governance, and Political Economy**

36 This section focuses on institutions and governance. Institutional and governance arrangements can
37 influence which actors possess authority, as well as how motivated they are to act collectively in finding
38 solutions to climate change and other sustainability challenges. Often collective action is enabled when
39 institutions align climate change with the political and economic interests of national governments,
40 cities, or businesses, and when institutional and governance arguments that support that alignment
41 expand the scale of the transitions.

42 An extensive literature has examined how the international climate agreements and architecture
43 influence collaboration across counties regarding climate and sustainable development concerns
44 (Bradley, et al 2005). For example, international institutions offer opportunities for governments and
45 other actors to share new perspectives on integrated solutions (Cole 2015). For some observers,
46 however, decades of difficulties in crafting a comprehensive climate-change agreement and the
47 resulting fragmented climate-policy landscape have been inimical to the collaboration needed for a

1 transition (Chapters 1 and 13; van Asselt, 2014; Nasiritousi and Bäckstrand 2019). Yet others see the
2 potential for more incremental cooperation across countries, even without a single, integrated forms of
3 climate governance (Keohane and Victor, 2016).

4 A related argument suggests that fragmentation at the global level provides opportunities for
5 cooperation at the national level (Kanie and Biermann 2017). For example, in contrast to the relatively
6 top-down Kyoto Protocol, the bottom-up pledge and review architecture of the Paris Agreement has
7 prompted national governments to integrate climate change with other sustainable development
8 priorities (Nachmany and Setzer 2018; Townshend et al. 2013). Concrete examples included
9 incorporating the SDGs into NDCs as an international response to climate change (TERI, 2017) or
10 bringing climate into sustainable development strategies and so-called voluntary national reviews
11 (VNRs) as part of the SDG and 2030 Agenda process (Elder and Bartalini, 2019; Elder and King, 2018).

12 Another branch of institutional research is concerned with the interactions between multiple levels of
13 governance. In this multi-level perspective, cities and other subnational governments often lead
14 transitions by devising innovative solutions to climate and local energy, transport, environmental,
15 resilience and other sustainability challenges (Rabe 2007; Koehn 2008; Doll and Puppim de Oliveira
16 2017; Bellinson and Chu 2019; van der Heijden et al. 2019). A complementary perspective suggests
17 that national governments can help scale up transitions by allocating resources and provide technical
18 support that can spread innovative solutions (Corfee-Morlot, J., et al 2009; Gordon 2015), though such
19 cooperation may not always be necessary for motivated, well-resourced cities (Bowman, A. O', M.
20 Portney, K.E. and Berry J.M. 2017). This line of thinking is supported by calls to strengthen vertical
21 and horizontal integration within and across government agencies and stakeholders in ways that can
22 enhance policy coherence (Amanuma et al. 2018; OCED 2018; OCED 2019). Others have seen greater
23 potential for collaboration and innovation with less linear or more polycentric forms of governance that
24 lead to the formulation and dissemination of transformative solutions (Ostrom, 2008).

25 Yet another set of channels facilitating integration between climate and other concerns are networks of
26 like-minded actors working across administrative borders and physical boundaries. For instance, city
27 networks such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (Covenant of Mayors 2019),
28 the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (2019), ICLEI (2019), C40 (2019) and UNDRR (2019)
29 have agreed to share decision-making tools and good practices, and sponsor ambition-raising campaigns
30 that help align climate and sustainable development concerns within and across cities (Betsill and
31 Bulkeley, 2006) (see also Chapter 8 and Section 17.3.3.5). This can be particularly important for less
32 capable “following” and “laggard” cities needing greater support (Fuhr, H., Hickmann, T. and Kern, K.
33 2018).

34 Further, sub-national governments may often work together with civil-society groups to create new
35 networked forms of governance (Bäckstrand et al. 2012). Other forms multi-stakeholder partnerships
36 focusing on issues with strong climate synergies, such as forms of air pollution known as short-lived
37 climate pollutants (Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)) or transport (Sustainable Low Carbon
38 Transport Partnership (SLoCaT)), take their cue from global scientific communities or civic-minded
39 advocacy groups that transmit knowledge across boundaries (Keck and Sikkink, 1999). There is also
40 scope for suggesting that international climate regime serve a Global Framework for Climate Action
41 (GFCA) in helping orchestrate the multilateral climate regime and non-state and subnational initiatives
42 (Chan and Pauw, 2014), though questions remain about its actual impacts on mitigation (Michaelowa
43 and Michaelowa, 2017).

44 Though the above work tends to downplay politics and business, others suggest that political economy
45 should feature prominently in transitions. Some branches of political-economy research underline how
46 resource-intensive and fossil-fuel industries leverage their resources and positions so as to undermine
47 transitions (Chapter 1; Moe, 2014; Zhao et al, 2013; Newell and Paterson 2010; Geels 2014; Jones and
48 Levy 2009). These vested interests can lock in *status quo* policies in countries where political systems

1 offer interest groups more opportunities to veto or overturn climate- or eco-friendly proposals (Madden,
2 2014). This suggests that politics can be an impediment to change; other studies argue instead that
3 politics can be harnessed to drive transitions forward. For example, some observers contend that
4 building coalitions around green industrial policies and sequencing reforms to reward industries in such
5 coalitions can align otherwise divergent interests and inject momentum into transitions (Meckling, J.,
6 Kelsey, N., Biber, E. and Zysman, J., 2015). Side payments, such as industrial tax incentives to change
7 production processes can reduce industry's opposition to change and open up sustainable low-carbon
8 pathways (Goldthau and Sovacool, 2012). Similarly, more inclusive institutions empowering organised
9 labour, women's groups, and youth movements can bring about sustainable and socially just transitions
10 (Sovacool et al., 2017).

11 **17.2.3 Systems theories**

12 Systems theories help explain the dynamics of transitions toward sustainable development while
13 explicitly uncovering links between the human and natural worlds, the socio-cultural embeddedness of
14 technology, and the inertia behind high-carbon development pathways. This line of thinking often
15 envisages transitions emerging from complex systems in which many different elements interact at
16 small scales and spontaneously self-organise to produce behaviour that is unexpected, unmanaged, and
17 fundamentally different from the sum of the system's constituent parts.

18 Social-ecological systems theory describes the processes of exchange and interaction between human
19 and ecological systems, investigating in particular non-linear feedback occurring across different scales
20 (Folke, 2006; Holling, 2001). This approach has informed subsequent theoretical and empirical
21 developments, including the 'planetary boundaries' approach (Rockström et al., 2009),
22 conceptualisations of vulnerability and adaptive capacity (Hinkel, 2011; Pelling, 2010), and more recent
23 explorations of urban resilience (Romero-Lankao et al., 2016) and regenerative sustainability (Robinson
24 and Cole, 2015; Clayton and Radcliffe, 2018). Employing a systems lens to address the 'root causes'
25 of unsustainable development pathways (such as dysfunctional social or economic arrangements) rather
26 than the 'symptoms' (dwelling quality, vehicle efficiency, etc.) can trigger the non-linear change needed
27 for a transformation to take place (Pelling et al. 2015).

28 Exploring synergies between climate-change adaptation, mitigation and other sustainability priorities
29 (such as biodiversity and social equity, for instance) (Beg et al. 2002; Burch et al. 2014; Shaw et al.
30 2014) may help to yield these transformative outcomes, though data regarding the specific nature of
31 these synergies is still emerging.

32 Socio-technical transition theory, on the other hand, explores the ways in which technologies such as
33 low-carbon vehicles or regenerative buildings are bound up in a web of social practices, physical
34 infrastructure, market rules, regulations, norms and habits (see, for example, Loorbach et al, 2017).
35 Radical social and technical innovations can emerge that ultimately challenge destabilised or
36 increasingly ineffective and undesirable incumbents, but path dependencies often stymie these
37 transition processes, suggesting an important role for governance actors (Holscher et al., 2019, Burch,
38 2017; Frantzeskaki et al., 2012).

39 This also reveals the large-scale macro-economic, political and cultural trends (or contexts) that may
40 reinforce or call into question the usefulness of current systems of production and consumption. One
41 branch of this theory, transition management (Kern and Smith, 2008; Loorbach, 2010), explores ways
42 of guiding a socio-technical system from one path to another. In particular, it highlights interactions
43 between actors, technologies, and institutions and the complex governance mechanisms that facilitate
44 them (Smith et al, 2005). The challenge, in part, becomes linking radical short-term innovations with
45 longer-term visions of sustainability (Loorbach and Rotmans, 2010) and creating opportunities for
46 collaborative course-correction in light of new information or unexpected outcomes (Burch, 2017).

1 17.2.4 Economic theories

2 This section concentrates on economic theories. Economic thought figures prominently in studies using
3 climate models such as integrated assessment models (IAM), macroeconomic and sectoral models.
4 Some lines of economic thought suggest economic development can complement technological
5 innovation and climate change mitigation, but require interventions to correct for potential market
6 failures. In part because of their reliance on models, economic theories may also miss trade-offs between
7 climate and difficult to model or quantify goals. Economic thought may lend itself best to increasing
8 the speed of transitions.

9 A core argument in economic theory is that, without the application of economics instruments such as
10 CO₂ taxes or regulatory options, markets will fail to motivate profit-maximising firms to reduce
11 emissions. Market-correcting interventions are therefore often required to induce firms to internalise
12 climate and other externalities (Arrow et al. 2004; Chichilnisky and Heal 1998). A similar internalising
13 logic is also often offered to support public investments in low or zero emissions technologies and
14 research. Furthermore, there can be a need to promote a redirection of investments to renewable energy
15 technologies and other low-emission technologies. Based on this, a key issue in studies based on
16 economic models is their assumptions about market adjustment instruments and innovation policies.

17 The above economic arguments and their underlying assumptions are important, as they underpin
18 integrated assessments and the macroeconomic and sectoral model research that informs many climate
19 policy decisions (see Chapters 3 and 4). Other models assume climate mitigation levels should be set
20 where mitigation costs meet estimated reductions in climate change damages, which reflects the social
21 costs of carbon (Nordhaus, 2008; see Chapter 1, Section 1.6.2 on cost-benefit analysis based on
22 aggregated global IAMs). Yet, this view focuses only on the damage of climate change at a very
23 aggregate level and excludes catastrophic climate events and other difficult-to-model adverse impacts
24 on sustainable development (Weitzman, 2009; also see Chapter 1, Section 1.5.2).

25 There have been efforts to expand the scope of IAMs, for example, by incorporating improved
26 improvements to air quality and public health into models (IEA, 2019; 2020; literature), but their
27 coverage of a larger range of impacts on sustainable development is still limited. There is a need to
28 move beyond simple cost-benefit analysis to incorporate issues and enablers featured in this and other
29 chapters, including a wider range of non-climate risks, cost-effective delivery of multiple objectives,
30 varying forms of innovation, and possibilities for behavioural, social change, and feasible policies
31 (Chapter 1, Executive Summary).

32 IAMs and macroeconomic models typically calculate mitigation costs based on the assumption that
33 markets internalise externalities like GHG emissions through carbon prices (IEA, 2017; 2019)
34 (ETP2017, WEO2019 Barker, T. et al.) GDP and employment effects of policies to close the 2020
35 emission gap, *Climate Policy*, (2016),16:4, 393-414). The use of GHG emission taxes as an effective
36 instrument based on modelling results has implications for public policies and private-sector
37 investments. Yet, there are legitimate questions to ask about whether carbon pricing will be efficient if
38 markets are inefficient (WB, 2017). Making this more problematic is the fact that IAMs and
39 macroeconomic models typically do not reflect market inefficiencies. How GHG emissions taxes would
40 actually work is quite uncertain based on the modelling studies (Barker et al., 2016; Fontana and Sawyer,
41 2016; Meyer et al., 2018), though there have been efforts to factor in the impacts of promoting green
42 finance in some recent models (Dafermos, Y. et al., 2017).

43 Despite the shortcomings of conventional economic thoughts and models, some views are beginning to
44 demonstrate a potential for addressing climate and other sustainable development concerns in improved
45 models. For instance, while a conventional perspective might suggest that climate-change mitigation
46 costs can limit investments in sustainability because they reduce the productivity of capital by
47 increasing energy prices and the products in which energies are embodied, another perspective is that

1 innovation can imply increases in efficiency and that the substitution of energy, material and labour can
2 lead to the accumulation of capital and productivity gains. This appears to be occurring with innovations
3 in end-use energy applications generating emissions reductions and delivering on other sustainable
4 development benefits (Wilson et al., 2019).

5 Moreover, Grübler et al. (2018) have developed a climate-friendly, low energy demand (LED) scenario
6 which assumes information technology innovations (such as the internet of things or IOT) and induced
7 social changes (such as the sharing economy) can achieve many SDGs with low marginal abatement
8 costs compared with other scenarios (IPCC SR15, 2018). Nonetheless there are still very important
9 limits on the degree to which these models can integrate ethics, equity, and several other kinds of factors
10 that will determine well-being or happiness (Easterlin et al., 2010; Koch, 2020; Chapter 1, Section
11 1.5.3).

12 **17.2.5 Conclusions**

13 This section has surveyed psychological, governance, economic, and systems theories. The review
14 suggests that there are several differences between the theories. Whether individuals, institutions,
15 markets or full sociotechnical systems are driving or undermining a transition is a key distinction. These
16 differences have implications for the evidence these claims draw on in support of their arguments. For
17 instance, psychological theories tend to employ qualitative and quantitative evidence to understand
18 changes in attitudes at the individual or community levels as paving the way for broader changes to
19 cultures and belief systems. Economic theories tend to use assessment models to identify policies that
20 correct market failures and thereby act as a catalyst of broader changes to economies.

21 While there are indeed significant differences between the theories, there are also important parallels.
22 Such parallels begin with a shared emphasis on the co-benefits. Most theories tend to underline the
23 importance of co-benefits in aligning the climate with broader sustainability agendas. Similarly, many
24 of these theories suffer from similar myopias, paying only limited attention to claims in other schools
25 of thought. The possible exception here is systems theories, which tend to bring in many of the factors
26 stressed elsewhere, without focusing on any one element. Most importantly, many of the theories are
27 complementary with the systems-level discussion in that they offer a broad framework, while the
28 concentrated psychological, technological, social innovation, governance, systems and economic
29 theories offer more specific insights. Hence, moving a transition forward will often require drawing
30 upon insights from multiple schools of thought. Though it is unlikely that a one-size-fits-all set of factors
31 will drive a transition, there is a growing body of empirical evidence that can shed light on which factors
32 matter under which conditions.

34 **17.3 Assessment of the results of studies where decarbonisation transitions 35 are framed within the context of sustainable development**

36 **17.3.1 Introduction**

37 This section assesses studies based on sustainable development as a framework for transitions to low-
38 carbon societies in order to facilitate robust conclusions across methodologies, scenarios, and sectors.
39 Cross-cutting conclusions will be developed based on national and sub-national, sectoral and cross-
40 sectoral, and short- and long-term transition studies based on other studies that have been assessed in
41 previous chapters of this report and on additional literature, including the special reports of the IPCC.
42 The key question is whether sustainable development and decarbonisation transitions can be synergistic
43 or, in the case of studies of major trade-offs, how these can be mitigated.

44 Section 3 focuses initially on issues related to short- and long-term transitions and on transitions in the
45 context of the UNFCCC and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Global-modelling

1 results and economy-wide studies are then assessed, followed by a discussion 1) of cross-sectoral
2 examples of transition issues, which are selected as illustrative examples of key synergies and trade-
3 offs between sustainable development and decarbonisation transitions, and 2) of the key cross-sectoral
4 factors from the viewpoints of the just transition and finance.

5 The assessment of the study results in Chapter 17 will finally be discussed in relation to the conclusions
6 in Chapters 3 and 4, and in light of the sectoral and cross-sectoral chapters (Chapters 5-12) on
7 sustainable development and decarbonisation. An overview of the study results will also be provided
8 with a mapping of synergies and trade-offs between mitigation options and the SDGs.

9 **17.3.2 Short-term and long-term transitions**

10 Sustainable-development policy goals have played an increasingly important role in climate-change
11 policies since the World Commission on Environment and Economy defined sustainable development
12 as a form of development “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of
13 future generations to meet their own needs” (WCED, 1987). Climate change has been recognised as a
14 key threat to achieving inclusive and sustainable development, and in this spirit the Paris Agreement
15 also emphasised that climate-change policies should be integrated into sustainable development
16 agendas. As the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development includes a specific SDG target on climate
17 actions (target 13), it and the Paris Agreement have the potential to support each other. Achievement of
18 the Paris Agreement’s goals will require a rapid and deep worldwide transition in all GHG emission
19 sectors, including land-use, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities, as well as in consumption
20 and behaviour (UNEP, 2020). Meeting the goals of such a transformation requires that the long-term
21 targets and pathways to fulfil the stabilisation scenarios play an important role in guiding the direction
22 and pathways of short-term transitions. There is therefore a need for the close coordination of long- and
23 short-term policies and investment decisions (IPCC, 2018).

24 Countries have submitted their initial plans for the decarbonisation of their economies to the UNFCCC
25 in the form of their so-called national determined contributions (NDCs). The ambitions of the NDCs
26 are closely related to the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations over the financial measures and forms of
27 compensation. Although the Paris Agreement emphasises the links between climate policies and
28 sustainable development, the UN’s 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are not very well represented at present
29 in the NDCs according to Fusso Nerini et al. (2019). Very few of the NDCs include any reference to
30 the SDGs, which Fusso Nerini et al. highlight as a barrier to the successful implementation of the Paris
31 Agreement, and they therefore call for a more holistic policy approach. Campagnolo et al. (2019) have
32 assessed the impacts of the submitted NDCs on poverty eradication and income inequality based on
33 empirical research and a global CGE model. One conclusion is that the NDCs of less developed
34 countries would tend to reduce poverty alleviation, but this can be offset if international financial
35 support is provided for the mitigation actions.

36 As described in Section 1.3.2, (Dubash 2020) emphasises the importance of placing the need for urgent
37 action on climate change in the context of the Paris Agreement, with its emphasis on sustainable
38 development and the approaches that reinforce domestic political priorities and considerations.

39 The alignment of climate-policy targets in the NDCs with sustainable development has also been
40 assessed by means of integrated assessment models (IAMs), i.e. macroeconomic and sectoral
41 modelling. Iyer et al. (2018), based on studies using IAMs, assessed the implications of considerations
42 of sustainable development for comparability across NDCs and concluded that some SDGs can be
43 supported by the implementation of climate-policy targets in NDCs, while others cannot. Furthermore,
44 the regional distribution of efforts across NDCs using emissions-based and cost-based comparability
45 measures and the distributions of the consequences of meeting the NDCs’ domestic mitigation
46 components for a broader set of SDGs are not necessarily the same. This points to the need to design

1 national policies which are not only based on mitigation costs, but rather on policy integration with the
2 SDGs.

3 In the near term, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement provide joint opportunities for systematic
4 transitions in support of both climate change and sustainable development. However, the NDCs
5 submitted to the Paris Agreement have demonstrated the lack of progress that has been achieved in
6 meeting the temperature goals, and, in the context of the UN's 2030 Agenda, the UN Sustainable
7 Development Report 2019 (Sachs et al., 2019) also concluded that there is a particular lack of progress
8 in achieving SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 15 (Life on land). Given
9 the close link between the SDGs and climate-change policies, the current obstacles in meeting the SDGs
10 could also be a barrier to realising transitions to low-carbon societies. Conversely, opportunities to
11 leverage the SDGs could involve climate actions, since policies enabling climate adaptation and
12 mitigation could also support food and energy security and water conservation if they were well
13 designed (IPCC, 2018). These findings point to a specific need to align economic and social
14 development perspectives, climate change and natural systems.

15 A key barrier to the development of national plans and policies regarding how the UN 2030 SDG goals
16 can be achieved is a lack of finance for climate actions. Sachs et al. (2019) conclude that meeting the
17 SDGs to achieve social transformations worldwide would require 2-3% of global GDP and that it would
18 be a huge challenge to ensure that finance is targeted to the world's poorest countries and people.

19 The UN Secretary General has called for the allocation of finance to meet the UN's 2030 Agenda with
20 a strong emphasis on the private sector, but to date no governance frameworks or associated financial
21 modalities have been established in the UN or the UNFCCC context for the formal alignment of
22 sustainable development and transitions to take place in accordance with the low global temperature-
23 stabilisation targets in the Paris Agreement.

24 Based on the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC has invited countries to communicate their mid-century
25 and long-term low greenhouse-gas emission-development strategies by 2020 (UNFCCC).

26 National long-term low-emission development-strategies and their global stock-take in the UNFCCC
27 context provide a platform for informing the long-term strategic thinking on transitions towards low-
28 carbon societies. one specific value of these plans, which are to be submitted during 2020, is that they
29 reflect how specific transition pathways, policies, and measures can work in different parts of the world
30 in a very context-specific way, that is, by taking context-specific issues and stakeholder perspectives
31 into consideration. As a result, the national plans could add important dimensions to the stylised and
32 uniform representation of options in models like IAM, with their high regional aggregations (IPCC
33 AR5, Mitigation policies, Chapter 6 Section 6.6.1). Only a few countries have until now submitted such
34 plans. However, there are already examples of country plans which demonstrate how sustainable
35 development and climate-policy goals could be aligned in a long-term perspective.

36 In the spirit of the Paris Agreement, the plan for Germany states that its climate targets will be part of
37 a broader set of economic and social development goals, and that by setting a longer-term policy
38 framework, planning and security of investments will be created (Germany, 2016). Similarly, in its
39 long-term low-emissions scenario plan, Fiji stresses that long-term sustainable and resilient economy-
40 wide mitigation pathways have been created through a participatory process ensuring that synergies
41 with sustainable economic growth can be provided (Fiji, 2019). More plans will be added when they
42 become available.

43 ***17.3.2.1 Model assessments on the sustainable development pathways for decarbonisation***

44 This section assesses the model evaluations of the sustainable development pathways for
45 decarbonisation, including the co-benefits and trade-offs. There are several synergies and trade-offs on
46 many agendas regarding sustainable development, while quantitative and systematic analyses using

1 models will support understanding the sustainable development pathways for decarbonisation. Short-
2 and long-term studies of transformations using macroeconomic models and other tools have been used
3 to assess the economy-wide impacts of aligning development pathways with sustainable development
4 and climate change. These economy-wide studies have been used to assess how economic development
5 can be more sustainable, with a focus on short-term economic policies, decadal time perspectives and
6 long-term perspectives.

7 Meanwhile, development pathways that focus narrowly on climate mitigation or economic growth will
8 not lead to achievement of the SDGs and long-term climate stabilisation objectives. The best chances
9 of doing this lie in development pathways that can maximise the synergies between climate mitigation
10 and broader sustainable development (Chapter 1, Section 1.3.2). Areas of focal modelling include green
11 investments, technological change, employment generation and the performance of policy instruments,
12 such as green taxes, subsidies, emission permits, investments and finance.

13 There is an emerging modelling literature focusing on the synergistic benefits and trade-offs between
14 low-carbon development pathways and various aspects of sustainable development. The early literature,
15 including that on IAMs, that is, macroeconomic and sectoral models, mainly focused on the co-benefits
16 of mitigation policies in terms of reduced air pollution, energy security and to some extent employment
17 generation (IPCC, AR 5, 2004 WG III, Chapter 6). Some models have been further developed with
18 assessments of a broader range of the joint benefits of mitigation, health, water and land-use, and food
19 security (IPCC 2014, AR 6 WGIII, Chapter 6; IPCC, 2018, IPCC SR 1.5 report).

20 An example of a project that assesses the economy-wide impacts of linking sustainable development
21 with deep decarbonisation is the deep decarbonisation project or DDPP (Bataille et al., 2016), which is
22 undertaking a comparative assessment of studies of sixteen countries representing more than 74% of
23 global energy emissions and the pathway to two-degree stabilisation scenarios. The DDPP's
24 methodology is to combine scenario analysis in different national contexts using macroeconomic
25 models and sectoral models and to facilitate a consistent cross-country analysis using a set of common
26 assumptions. Top-down hybrid models are called for, which encompass macroeconomic completeness
27 and microeconomic realism, supplemented by technological explicitness, as included in bottom-up
28 models (Hourcade et al., 2006).

29 The key conclusions from the DDPP team on the economy-wide impacts are that country studies like
30 South Africa's demonstrate that it is possible to improve income distribution, alleviate poverty and
31 reduce unemployment while simultaneously transitioning to a low-carbon economy (Altieri et al.,
32 2016). The DDPP in Japan explores whether energy security can be enhanced through increases in
33 renewable energy (Oshiro et al., 2016). The reduction of uncontrolled fossil-fuel emissions has
34 significant public-health benefits according to the Chinese and Indian DDPPs, as fossil-fuel combustion
35 is the major source of air pollution.

36 For example, in the Chinese DDPP, deep decarbonisation has resulted in reductions of 42–79% in
37 primary air pollutants (e.g. SO₂, NO_x, particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), volatile organic compounds (VOCs),
38 and NH₃), this meeting air-quality standards in major cities. The deep decarbonisation scenarios include
39 the large and fast energy-efficient improvements required to improve energy access and affordability.
40 The DDPP studies are thus an example of an approach in which national deep-carbonisation scenarios
41 are linked to the development goals of income generation, energy access and affordability, employment,
42 health and environmental policy.

43 Sustainable development scenarios have also been developed by the Low-Carbon Society's (LCS)
44 assessments (Kainuma et al., 2012), in which multiple sustainable development and climate change-
45 mitigation goals were assessed jointly. The scenario analysis was conducted for Asian countries such
46 as South Korea, Japan, India, China and Nepal with a soft linked IAM using economy-wide and sectoral
47 models, and linked to very active stakeholder engagement in order to reflect national policy perspectives

1 and priorities. Some of the models are economy-wide global IAMs, while others are national partial
2 equilibrium models.

3 In addition to more conventional mitigation policies, like renewable energy and efficiency
4 improvements, the analysis also included city development options with structural economic changes
5 in the direction of a larger share of the service sectors in the economy, and consumer behaviour options
6 were also included. The studies concluded that the carbon price in the LCS scenarios would be lower
7 compared with only focusing on mitigation targets due to the co-benefits (Shukla and Chaturvedi 2012).
8 In relation to decision-making, it was concluded that the LCS approach of using a range of soft-linked
9 models representing different geographical scales and sectoral details had been successful in creating
10 more realistic and policy-relevant information. However, the consistency of the scenarios and modelling
11 efforts relies on the coordination of data and storylines. These conclusions were further elaborated by
12 Waisman et al. (2019), who argued that more detailed bottom-up approaches like the LCS studies would
13 benefit from being linked to a consistent interface with global IAMs.

14 The LCS scenarios also include a specific attempt to include ongoing dialogues with policymakers and
15 stakeholders in order to reflect governance and enabling factors and to enable the modelling processes
16 to reflect political realism as far as possible. Diverse stakeholders who acted as validators of the
17 scientific process were included, stakeholder preferences were revealed, and recipients and users of the
18 LCS outputs were included in ongoing dialogues on outputs and in interpreting the results. The aim of
19 the LCS was thus to fill the gap between typical laboratory-style integrated modelling assessments and
20 downscaled but unaligned practical assessments performed at disaggregated geographical and sector-
21 specific scales.

22 The World Energy Outlook by International Energy Agency (IEA 2019; 2020) issued a Sustainable
23 Development Scenario (SDS), which assessed not only SDG 13 (climate change) but also SDG 7
24 (energy access) and SDG 3.9 (air pollution). This scenario takes its starting point in the policy goal of
25 meeting these SDGs and then assesses the costs of meeting an emissions reduction target of 70% of
26 CO₂ from the energy system by 2030. Retrofitting coal-fired power plants with pollution controls is the
27 cheapest option of dealing with local pollution in the short term, but it may lead to long-term emissions
28 to meet the Paris Agreement's long-term goals. Concentrations of the major air pollutants drop
29 dramatically in the SDS: energy-related emissions of NO_x, SO₂ and PM_{2.5} fall by 40–60% by 2030,
30 leading to 2.5 million fewer premature deaths from air pollution in 2030 than in the Stated Policies
31 Scenario (STEPS) (IEA, 2020).

32 The costs of energy-system transitions have been assessed by several energy-system studies. The
33 economic costs of meeting different goals depend on the stringency of the mitigation target, economic
34 (fuel prices etc.) and technological developments (technology availability, capital costs etc). In addition,
35 required changes in infrastructure and behavioural patterns and lifestyles matter. Model-based
36 assessments vary depending on these assumptions and differences in modelling approaches (Krey et al.,
37 2019; Chapter 6, Section 6.7.7). Country characteristics determine the social, economic and technical
38 priorities for low-emission pathways. Domestic policy circumstances impact pathways and costs, e.g.
39 when affordability and energy-security concerns are emphasised (Oshiro et al., 2016). There are several
40 challenges involved in balancing the trilemma of energy security, equity, and sustainability. Fossil fuel-
41 dependent developing countries cannot transit to low carbon without considering the economy-wide
42 effects of doing so (Chapter 3, Section 3.7.3).

43 Climate change has negative impacts on food productivity in general, including unequal geographical
44 distribution. However, climate-change mitigation aimed at achieving stringent climate goals could also
45 negatively affect food access and food security (Akimoto et al., 2012; Hasegawa et al. 2018; Fujimori
46 et al., 2019. If not managed properly, the risk of hunger due to climate policies such as large-scale
47 bioenergy uses increases remarkably if the 2°C and 1.5°C targets are implemented (Chapter 3, Section
48 3.7.1). As a median value across SSPs and IAMs, required carbon dioxide removal (CDR) reaches up

1 to -14.9 GtCO₂ yr⁻¹ for BECCS and -2.4 GtCO₂ yr⁻¹ for afforestation in 2100. Across the different
2 scenarios, median changes in global forest area throughout the 21st century reaches the required 7.2
3 Mkm² increases between 2010 and 2100, and agricultural land used for second-generation bioenergy
4 crop production may require up to 6.6 Mkm² in 2100, enhancing competition for land and potentially
5 affecting sustainable development (Chapter 7, Executive Summary).

6 Reducing climate change can reduce the amount of population exposed to increased stress from
7 reductions in water resources (Arnell and Lloyd-Hughes, 2014) and therefore to water scarcity as
8 defined by a cumulative abstraction-to-demand ratio (Hanasaki et al., 2013). Byers et al. (2018) show
9 that 8–14% of the population will be exposed to severe reductions in water supply if average
10 temperatures increase between 1.5°C and 2.0°C (also see Chapter 3, Section 3.7.2). Hayashi et al. (2018)
11 assess the water availability for different emission pathways, including the 2°C and 1.5°C targets, in
12 light of the various factors on availability. There are very different impacts among nations. In
13 Afghanistan, Pakistan and South Africa, water stress is estimated to increase by 2050 mainly due to
14 increases in irrigation water associated with the rising demand for food; climate change also has
15 relatively large impacts on water stresses after 2030. Other factors, such as changes in the demand for
16 municipal water, water for electricity generation, other industrial water, and water for livestock due to
17 climate change mitigation, are of limited importance.

18 Vandyck et al. (2018) estimate that the 2°C pathway would reduce air pollution and cause the avoidance
19 of 0.7–1.5 million premature deaths in 2050 compared to current levels. It is generally agreed that in
20 both developed and developing countries there are additional benefits to be had from the mitigation of
21 GHG emissions in terms of improved air quality (Chapter 3, Section 3.7.4). Markandya et al. (2018)
22 assessed the health co-benefits of air pollution and the mitigation costs of the Paris Agreement using
23 global scenarios up to 2050. They concluded that the health co-benefits substantially outweighed the
24 policy costs of achieving the NDC targets, and 2°C stabilisation and 1.5°C stabilisation. The ratio of
25 health co-benefits to the mitigation costs ranged from 1.4 to 2.45, depending on the scenario. The extra
26 effort of trying to pursue the 1.5°C target instead of the 2°C target would generate a substantial net
27 benefit in some areas. In India, the co-health benefits were valued at USD 3.28–8.4 trillion and those in
28 China USD 0.27–2.31 trillion. These positive results were not seen in the other regions. Gi et al. (2019)
29 also show that developing countries such as India have a huge potential to produce co-benefits. In
30 addition, it implies that the cost advantages of simultaneously achieving reductions of CO₂ emissions
31 and of PM_{2.5} are clear, but the advantages for integrated measures could be limited, the costs greatly
32 depending on the CO₂ emission reduction target.

33 Grübler et al. (2018) demonstrate a pathway below 1.5°C without CCS, taking end-use changes into
34 account, including innovations in information technologies and changes to consumer behaviour apart
35 from passive consumption. The pathway estimates 245 EJ yr⁻¹ of global final-energy demand in 2050,
36 which is much lower than in existing studies (also see Chapter 5, Section 5.3.3), and also shows the
37 possibilities of increasing the index regarding multiple SDGs like hunger, health, energy access, and
38 land-use. Integrated technological and social innovations will increase the opportunity to achieve
39 sustainable development.

40 The co-benefits and trade-offs of several kinds of SDGs in synthesised modelling results with the 1.5°C
41 target can be seen in Chapter 3, Figure 3.43. While achieving the 1.5°C target would induce a lot of co-
42 benefits, it would also induce some adverse effects, such as decreases in biodiversity and food security
43 due to competition over land resources. In addition, according to many studies, there are very different
44 consequences between nations and regions, and therefore careful policies will be required given the
45 integrated impacts for SDGs targets, nations and regions over time.

46 The World in 2050 Initiative (TWI) includes a comprehensive assessment of technologies, economies
47 and societies embodied in the SDGs (TWI, 2018). The assessment addresses social dynamics,

1 governance and sustainable development pathways within the areas of human capacity and
2 demography, consumption and production, decarbonisation and energy, food, the biosphere and water,
3 smart cities and digitalisation. The report concludes that the 17 SDGs are integrated and complementary
4 and need to be addressed in unison.

5 Studies using global IAMs that were presented in the GEO6 report (UNEP, 2019, Chapter 22) concluded
6 that transitions to low-carbon pathways will require a broad portfolio of measures, including a mixture
7 of technological improvements, lifestyle changes and localised solutions. The many different challenges
8 require dedicated measures to improve access to, for example, food, water and energy, while at the same
9 time reducing the pressure on environmental resources and ecosystems. A key contribution may come
10 from a redistribution of access to resources, where both physical access and affordability play a role.
11 The IAMs cover large countries and regions, and localised solutions are not well covered in the
12 modelling results. This implies that, for example, trade-offs between energy access and affordability
13 are not fully represented in aggregate modelling results.

14 The IAMs assess climate-change mitigation and SDGs with a stylised manner, but many of the SDGs
15 are closely related to distribution issues not only between but also within countries. As the IAMs cannot
16 sufficiently treat them so far, there are still large limitations in assessing sustainable development by
17 using IAMs. The relevance of the IAM modelling results in relation to policy implementation has been
18 addressed in the IPCC special report on stabilisation at 1.5°C (IPCC, 2018). Governance here has been
19 highlighted as an enabling factor in order to support the implementation of policies with synergetic
20 impacts on decarbonisation and sustainable development, and Chapter 3 includes an assessment of the
21 enabling factors. Jakob and Steckel (2016) conclude that a key barrier to policy implementation is the
22 lack of a governance framework to enable joint policy implementation that meets both local and global
23 goals in terms of low stabilisation targets and sustainable development.

24 ***17.3.2.2 Renewable energy penetration and fossil-fuel phase-out***

25 As pointed out in Chapter 6, the achievement of long-term temperature goals in line with Paris
26 Agreement requires the rapid penetration of renewable energy and a timely phasing out of fossil fuels,
27 especially coal, from the global energy system. Limiting the carbon budget implies that global annual
28 emissions must achieve “net zero” in 2050/2060 (IPCC, 2018). Net-zero emissions imply that fossil
29 fuels need to be fully phased out and replaced by renewables and other carbon-neutral primary forms
30 of energy, or else the residue emissions from fossil fuels need to be offset by negative emission
31 technologies (NETs). The 1.5°C scenario requires a 2-3% annual improvement rate in carbon intensities
32 till 2050, though the historical record only shows a slight improvement in the carbon intensity rate of
33 global energy supplies, far from what is required to meet the low temperature targets. While CCS can
34 reduce the pressure to phase out fossil fuels (IEA, 2019), it will not change the carbon budget, and
35 deploying large-scale CCS technologies is no easier than introducing renewables (Sgouridis et al, 2019).

36 Phasing out fossil fuels from energy systems is technically possible and is estimated to be relatively
37 low in cost (Chapter 6). The cost of low-carbon alternatives, including onshore and offshore wind, solar
38 PV and electric vehicles, has been reduced substantially in recent years and has become competitive
39 with fossil fuels (Shen et al. 2020). However, studies show that replacing fossil fuels with renewables
40 can have major synergies and trade-offs with a broader agenda of sustainable development (Swain and
41 Karimu 2020), which have to be addressed. These synergies and trade-offs are related to energy and
42 water access (Swain and Karimu 2020), land use and food security (McCollum et al, 2018), decent jobs
43 and economic growth (Swain and Karimu 2020). IPCC, AR 5, Mitigation Policies, Table 6.7 (IPCC,
44 2014) gives detailed mapping of the sectoral co-benefits and adverse side-impacts of and links to
45 transformation pathways. In section 17.3.3, this is supplemented with a mapping of synergies and trade-
46 offs between the deployment of renewable energy and the SDGs.

1 The general conclusion is that the potential co-benefits of renewable energy end-use measures
2 outweighs the adverse impacts in most sectors and in relation to the SDGs, though this is not the case
3 for the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses) sectors. Some locally negative economic
4 impacts can result in increased energy costs and competition over land areas and water resources. Some
5 sectors may also experience increasing unemployment as a consequence of the transition process.
6 Although the deployment of renewable energy will generate a new industry and associated jobs and
7 benefits in some areas and economies, these impacts will often not directly replace or offset activities
8 in areas that have been heavily dependent on the fossil-fuel industry.

9 The transition to low emission pathways will require policy efforts that also address the emissions
10 locked into existing infrastructure like power plants, factories, cargo ships and other infrastructure
11 already in use: for example, today coal-fired power plants account for 30% of all energy-related
12 emissions (IEA, 2019). Over the past twenty years, Asia has accounted for 90% of all coal-fired capacity
13 built worldwide, and these plants have potentially long operational lifetimes ahead of them. In
14 developing economies in Asia, existing coal-fired plants are just twelve years old on average. Three
15 options to bring down emissions from the existing stock of plants: to retrofit them with carbon capture,
16 utilisation and storage (CCUS) or biomass co-firing equipment; to repurpose them to focus on providing
17 system adequacy and flexibility while reducing operations; or to retire them early. In the Sustainable
18 Development Scenario, most of the 2080 GW of existing coal-fired capacity would be affected by one
19 of these three options.

20 Even though the transition away from fossil fuels is desirable and technically feasible, it is still largely
21 constrained by existing fossil fuel-based infrastructure and stranded investments. The “committed”
22 emissions from existing fossil-fuel infrastructure may consume all the remaining carbon budget with
23 the 1.5°C scenario or two thirds of the carbon budget consistent with the 2°C scenario (Tong et al.
24 2019). The early phasing out of this infrastructure will result in a significant share of stranded assets
25 (Ansari et al. 2020) with an impact on workers, local communities, companies and governments (van
26 der Ploeg 2020). The challenge is thus to manage a transition which delivers the rapid phasing out of
27 existing fossil fuel-based infrastructure and that develops a new energy system based on low-carbon
28 alternatives within a very short window of opportunity.

29 Examples from various countries show that, compared with top-down decision-making, bottom-up
30 policy-making involving local stakeholders could enable regions to benefit and reduce their resistance
31 to the transition. Kainuma et al. (2012) conclude that social dialogue is a critical condition for engaging
32 local workers and communities in managing the transitions with the necessary support from transition
33 assistance. They also point out that macro-level policies, training programmes, participatory processes
34 and specific programmes to support employment creation for workers in the fossil-fuel industry are
35 needed. Examples of challenges in transitions away from using coal are given in Box 17.1.

37 **Box 17.1 Case study: coal transitions**

38 The role of coal in the global energy system is changing fast. Given the global temperature goals of the
39 Paris Agreement, the global coal sector needs a transition to near zero by 2050 and earlier in some
40 regions (IPCC 1.5 SR, IEA, 2017, Bauer et al. 2018). Other global trends, including air quality, water
41 shortages, the improved cost efficiencies of renewables, the technical availability of energy storage and
42 the economic rebalancing of emerging countries, are also driving global coal consumption towards a
43 tendency to plateau and then go into reverse (Sartor, 2018, Spencer et al., 2018). The world should be
44 prepared for a managed transition away from coal and should identify appropriate transition options for
45 the future of coal, which can include both the penetration of renewable energy and improvements to
46 energy efficiency (Shah et al. 2015)

1 The coal transition will impose challenges not only in the power sector, but even more importantly on
2 coal-mining industries. A less diversified local economy, low labour mobility and heavy dependence
3 on coal revenues will make closing down coal production particularly challenging from a political
4 economy perspective. Policy is needed to support and invest in impacted areas to smooth the transition,
5 absorb the impact and incentivise new opportunities. A supportive policy for the transition could include
6 both short-term support and long-term investment. Short-term compensation could be helpful for local
7 workers, communities, companies and governments to manage the consequences of coal closures.
8 Earlier involvement with local stakeholders in a structured approach is crucial and will make the
9 transition policy more targeted and better administered. The long-term policy should target support to
10 the local economy and workers to move beyond coal, including a strategic plan to transform the
11 impacted area, investment in local infrastructure and education, and preference policies to incentivise
12 emerging businesses. Most importantly, ex-ante policy implementation is far better than ex-post
13 compensation. Even without the climate imperative, historical evidence shows that coal closures can
14 happen surprisingly fast.

15 Coal has hitherto been the dominant energy source in China and has accounted for more than 70% of
16 its total energy consumption for the past twenty years, falling to 64% in 2015 (NBS, 2018). In the 13th
17 Five Year Plan (2016-2020), for the first time China included the target of a national coal consumption
18 cap of 4.1 billion tons for 2020, and a goal of reducing the primary energy share of coal to 58% by 2020
19 from the level of 64% in 2015 (The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
20 2016). The main driving forces of the coal transition in China are increasing domestic environmental
21 concerns and the pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Coal combustion contributes about 90%
22 of total SO₂ emissions, 70% of NO_x emissions and 54% to primary PM_{2.5} emissions in China (Yang
23 and Zhang 2018). The early phasing out of coal also delivers a co-benefit in terms of air pollutant
24 reductions consistent with China's goal to improve air quality (Zhang et al. 2019), as well as the
25 reduction of methane (Pfaff et al. 2010) and black carbon (Zhang et al. 2019). The coal transition in
26 China will change the future value of coal-related assets, and both coal power generators in China and
27 coal producers outside China need to identify appropriate responses to avoid and manage the potentially
28 substantial stranding of fossil-fuel assets. A rapid transition away from coal is critical for China to reach
29 the peak in its emissions (Cui et al., 2019). Despite the deployment of CCS and extending the use of
30 coal, retrofitting CCS plant may be more expensive than deploying renewables (EIA, 2019).

31 Kefford et al. (2018) assess the early retirement of fossil-fuel power plants in the US, EU, China and
32 India based on the IEA 2° C scenario and conclude that a massive early retirement of coal-fired power
33 plants is needed, and that two to three standard 500 MW generators will need to come offline every
34 week for fifteen years. This high rate is the result of a very large deployment of coal-fired power plants
35 from 2004 to 2012.

36 Presently, coal-fired power plants play a key role in the German energy system, providing almost 46%
37 of the electricity consumed in Germany. These coal power plants play a crucial role in balancing
38 fluctuations in the electricity production of renewables (Parra et al. 2019). Political and economic
39 considerations, at least regionally, are also of great importance in the coal sector due to the
40 approximately 35,000 people employed within it (including coal mining and the power stations
41 themselves). For a long time, coal-fired power plants were able to protect their position in Germany,
42 but against the background of decreasing public acceptance, economic problems resulting from the
43 growing use of renewables and ambitious GHG reduction targets, the sector cannot resist the political
44 pressure against them any longer. The governing parties have agreed to establish a commission called
45 "Growth, structural change and employment" to develop a strategy for phasing out coal-fired power
46 plants (E3G, 2018). This Commission consists of experts and stakeholders from industry,
47 associations, unions, the scientific community, pressure groups and politicians. Its establishment

1 shows that the phasing out process deserves close attention and that management policies must be
2 implemented to ensure a soft landing for the electricity sector.

3
4 Stranding assets is not without its complications. The transition towards a high penetration of renewable
5 systems faces various challenges in the technical, environmental and socio-economic fields. The
6 integration of renewables into the grid requires not only sufficient flexibility in power grids and
7 intensive coordination with other sources of generation, but also a fundamental change in long-term
8 planning and grid operation (see Chapter 6 for more details on these issues).

9 The transition towards a high-penetration renewable system also raises concerns over the availability
10 of rare metals for batteries. The effective utilisation of these sources of renewable energy requires
11 efficient, low-cost energy-storage systems. Rechargeable batteries have proved to be the most viable
12 storage options, but the rise in the use of electric vehicles and solar panels has increased the demand for
13 them. There have been advances in research to produce economical, high-energy, high-power and high-
14 capacity rechargeable batteries (Manthiram et al. 2015). Lithium ion batteries are by far the most
15 commonly used rechargeable batteries (Kazhamiaka et al.,2019). They are attracting increasing interest
16 as the next generation of energy-storage solutions due to their high capacity, high energy densities and
17 low cost (Liang et al. 2016). Global lithium production rose by roughly 13 percent from 2016 to 2017
18 to 43,000 MT in 2018 (UNCTAD, 2020). Africa has rich reserves of lithium and is expected to produce
19 15% of the world's supply soon (Kazhamiaka et al., 2019). Such reserves are found in Zimbabwe,
20 Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa (Steenkamp, 2017) and the Democratic Republic of
21 Congo (Roker, 2018).

22 Chapter 10 includes a more detailed assessment of the issues with mining these rare metals, as well as
23 the associated social problems, including exploitative working conditions and child labour, the latter a
24 major issue that needs to be taken into consideration in transitions. Recycling batteries is also
25 highlighted as a major supplementary policy if negative environmental side impacts are to be avoided
26 (Rosendahl and Rubiano 2019).

27 The move to renewable energy sources to reduce GHG emissions has increased the demand for non-
28 fossil-fuel resources like lithium and cobalt. While metal reserves are unlikely to limit the growth rate
29 or total amount of solar and wind energy, used battery technologies and the known reserves currently
30 being exploited are not compatible with the transition scenario due to insufficient cobalt and lithium
31 reserves (Månberger and Stenqvist 2018). The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) possesses half
32 the cobalt reserves (van den Brink et al. 2020) in the world and hosts the largest hard rock lithium mine
33 (Roker, 2018), the world's largest source of cobalt (Conca,2018). The world's largest lithium brine
34 deposits are situated in the so-called lithium triangle straddling Chile, Argentina and Bolivia (Roker,
35 2018). The demand for these resources as ingredients in rechargeable batteries is growing rapidly, with
36 global demand for cobalt set to quadruple to over 190,000tn by 2026. The DRC is a mineral-rich country
37 (Smith et al.,2020) with rich reserves of fossil fuels (coal and oil) (Democratique, International Energy
38 Statistics, 2015). The equally large reserves of lithium and cobalt for rechargeable batteries provide an
39 opportunity for the DRC to switch to greener economic opportunities. However, the technological
40 revolution in non-fossil fuels is itself raising environmental concerns and provoking social issues (UPS,
41 2018). In the future, more attention should be paid to reducing vulnerability through the development
42 of technologies that utilise abundant metals and increase recycling (Rosendahl and Rubiano 2019).

43 The extraction of lithium can be environmentally damaging, though its use as a principal component in
44 most rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles and electronic smart grids affords it high sustainability
45 value. There are currently three li-ion mega factories, with a further 33 to be completed by 2023 (Shelley
46 2019). Will lithium mining replace the economic value of oil and coal extraction in resource-rich
47 countries in Africa?

1 *17.3.2.3 Stranded assets and just transitions*

2 As the momentum towards achieving carbon neutrality grows, the risk of assets becoming stranded is
3 on the increase. International policies and the push for low-carbon technologies in the arena of climate
4 change are reducing the demand for and value of fossil-fuel products. Stranded assets are assets that
5 become devalued before the end of their economic lifetime or that can no longer be monetised as a
6 result of changes in policies and regulatory frameworks, technological change, security or
7 environmental disruption. The risks attached to the stranding of fossil-fuel assets have increased with
8 the recent and sustained plunge in oil prices because of the global health pandemic (COVID-19) and
9 the concomitant economic downturn, forcing demand to plummet to unprecedented low levels. Many
10 economies in transition and countries dependent on fossil fuels are going through turbulent times where
11 asset and transition management will be critical (UNEP Production Gap Report, 2020). However,
12 COVID-19 provides a foretaste of what a low-carbon transition could look like, especially if assets
13 become stranded in an effort to respond to the call for action in ‘building back better’ and putting clean
14 energy jobs and the just transition at the heart of the post-COVID-19 recovery (IEA 2020; United
15 Nations Secretary-General 2020).

16 As climate change gathers new momentum and ambition increases, the expectation is that there will be
17 winners and losers across fossil fuel producing countries (Lahn and Bradley, 2016). Findings from
18 University College, London assert that ‘globally, a third of oil reserves, half of gas reserves and over
19 80 per cent of current coal reserves should remain unused from 2010 to 2050 in order to meet the target
20 of 2°C’ (McGlade and Ekins, 2015). Stranded assets are a reminder for most oil producing countries
21 that fossil fuel assets do not have a durable value and are vulnerable to politico-economic forces and
22 fluctuations. The goal of staying within the 1.5°C temperature goal and in-line with the Paris agreement
23 is already part of the policy vision and planning of large fossil fuel consuming economies – but for early
24 fossil fuel producers the reality that their resources may not yield desired returns is often perceived as
25 bad news, particularly in the context of increasing depreciation in value of fossil fuel products.

26 Fossil fuel-dependent countries are doubly exposed to the vulnerability related to climate change
27 impacts and are subjected to the global effort to address the problem (Peszko et al., 2020). Countries
28 that are heavily reliant on oil, coal and gas are also the most at risk from a low-carbon transition that
29 may curtail the activities of their fossil-fuel industries and render the value chains and economies
30 associated with the exploitation of fossil fuels unviable (Peszko et al., 2020). Developing countries in
31 Latin America and Africa that are reliant on revenue streams from fossil fuels may not see these returns
32 converted into much needed infrastructure and other social and economic amenities that can reduce
33 poverty.

34 With global investment in energy expected to shrink by 20% this year, this has created fiscal challenges
35 for countries that are heavily reliant on fossil-fuel products as their main source of revenue. Other
36 disruptions are linked to redundant contracts and postponed or cancelled explorations, as many oil
37 companies are diversifying their production in the wake of the pandemic and are cutting back on
38 planned hydrocarbon investments. These failed concessions and disruptions have implications for the
39 just transition, especially in developing countries without the financial ability to pull out of fossil fuels
40 and diversify with the same urgency as the industrialised nations (Peszko et al. 2020). For instance, in
41 South Africa, which is seeking to divest away from coal and decarbonise the energy sector, if the
42 transition is not properly managed, this could lead to a loss in revenue of R1.8 trillion (USD125 billion),
43 thus compromising the government’s ability to support social spending (Huxham et al. 2019). Emerging
44 oil producers like Uganda are having to postpone the start of production. Eni and Total, two of the
45 largest international oil and gas majors in Africa, have already signalled they are making 25% cuts to
46 their investment in exploration and production projects in 2020, representing a €4bn reduction in
47 foreign direct investment for Total and a USD2bn reduction for Eni (Le Bec 2020).

1 A poorly managed transition will reproduce inequalities contradicting the very essence of a just,
2 sustainable, inclusive transition. Revenues from oil and gas have been ploughed into social safety nets
3 and are supporting free senior high-school education in countries such as Ghana, thus enabling the
4 realisation of SDG 4 on quality education (UNU-INRA, 2020). The move from fossil fuels towards a
5 low-carbon economy has economic implications for lower income countries that are dependent on
6 hydrocarbon resources, are endowed with significant untapped oil and gas reserves, and may not have
7 the transitional tools to move towards low-carbon technologies or economies (Peszko et al, 2020).

8 The energy transition landscape is changing rapidly, and we are witnessing multiple transitions. This
9 creates room to manage the transition in ways that will prioritise the need for workers in vulnerable
10 sectors (land, energy) to secure their jobs and to maintain a secure and healthy lifestyle, especially as
11 the risks multiply for those who are exposed to heavy industrial jobs and all the associated outcomes.
12 The shift to carbon neutrality is driven by convergent factors related to energy security and the benefits
13 of climate mitigation, including the health impacts of air pollution and consumer demand (Svobodova
14 et al., 2021).

15 The ‘Just Transition’ concept has evolved over the years (Sweeney and Treat 2018) and is still
16 undergoing further evolution. It emphasises the key principles of respect and dignity for vulnerable
17 groups, the creation of decent jobs, social protection, employment rights, fairness in energy access and
18 use, and social dialogue and democratic consultation with relevant stakeholders, whilst coping with the
19 effects of asset-stranding or the transition to green and clean economies. The concept has come under
20 increased scrutiny, with its protagonists emphasising the need to focus on the equality of the transition
21 rather than the race to achieve it (Forsyth 2014). The emphasis on justice is also gaining in momentum
22 with a growing recognition that the sustainability transition is about justice in the transition and not
23 simply about economics (Williams and Doyon 2020, Newell and Mulvaney 2013, Swilling and
24 Annecke 2010).

25 From labour to social inclusion, definitions of ‘Just Transitions’ can be quite broad, ranging from energy
26 to land systems, and covering climate and energy security and well-being. The preamble to the Paris
27 Agreement makes reference to the Just Transition with a strong focus on well-being, equity and justice,
28 as well as pointing out the potential inherent disruptions that will result in disproportionate suffering
29 for communities that are dependent on fossil-fuel industries. The concept embraces environmental
30 justice, climate justice, energy justice and even identity justice (McCauley and Heffron 2018).
31 Consequently, the phrase ‘Just Transition’ also alludes to distributive justice (where and how costs and
32 benefits are distributed), procedural justice (whose agency is considered, and who defines ‘just’ and
33 ‘transition,’ and recognition (how recognition, misrecognition and non-recognition are dealt with)
34 (Williams and Doyon 2020).

35 The economic implications of the transition will be felt by developing countries with high degrees of
36 dependence on hydrocarbon products as a revenue stream, as they are exposed to reduced fiscal
37 incomes, given the low demand for oil and low oil prices and the associated economic fallout of the
38 pandemic. This link with stranded assets is important, but it may be overlooked, as countries whose
39 assets are becoming stranded may not have the relevant resources, knowledge, autonomy and agency
40 to design a fresh orientation or decide on the transition.

41 However, in the race to carbon neutrality by 2050, some of the other priorities of the transition, like
42 climate-change adaptation and its inherent vulnerabilities, might become muted, given the urgency of
43 mitigation at all costs. Consequently, the transition imperative reduces the scope for local priority-
44 setting and ignores the additional risks faced by countries with the least capacity to adapt. Equally, the
45 ‘Just Transition’ is often seen through the prism of job losses and the attendant retooling and reskilling
46 imperatives necessary to re-dynamise local businesses, especially those that may fail as a result of mine
47 closures.

1 The ‘Just Transition’ will depend on local contexts, regional priorities, the points of departure of
2 different countries in the transition and the speed at which they will want to travel. Hence, the timing
3 and the scope are important elements that are associated more with a quality transition than a race to
4 the bottom. To date the debate has had some obvious blind spots, not least considerations of power,
5 politics and political economy. Certainly, the transition will create winners and losers, as well as
6 stakeholders that can frame their economic interests to determine the orientation, pace, timing and scope
7 of the transition.

8 The determination of a just transition is complex and not simply dependent on the allocation of
9 perceived risks or solutions, but rather on how risks and solutions are defined (Forsyth). Adopting
10 urgency to environmental solutions or transition imperatives have risk implications given the need to
11 go beyond commonplace definitions of just transition with the emphasis placed on distributive or
12 procedural justice (Forsyth, 2014). The framing of policies to align with fast and low-cost mitigation
13 without sufficient attention to social and economic resilience creates its own potential risks and can
14 enhance social vulnerability rather than address it (Forsyth, 2014). As Forsyth argues, the need to
15 distribute climate change solutions must not delegitimise appropriate economic growth strategies or
16 indeed create additional risks from policy imposition. Imposing fast solutions is not necessarily just,
17 argues Forsyth. Perceptions of justice with regard to environmental problems and solutions matter
18 equally. Hence, the types of transition pathway chosen may have equity implications. Mitigation at all
19 cost, done “cheaply and crudely” can create additional problems for social justice and inclusive
20 development (Forsyth, 2014).

21 The assumption that mitigation benefits are enough to offset trade-offs with other policy objectives can
22 be questioned. If one accepts the argument that not all adaptation address vulnerability concerns
23 (Kjellen, 2006) and that some adaptation strategies can heighten vulnerabilities if there are flaws in the
24 design and implementation, then the same logic applies that not all mitigation is necessarily beneficial,
25 and hence the emphasis on the transition resulting from mitigation should be placed not only on speed
26 or cost effectiveness, but also on legitimacy of the actions, and whether the transition is well designed
27 or not. In short, justice is not always a shorthand for acting ethically, but rather a point of reasoning on
28 what is considered legitimate (Forsyth, 2014). Planning for the transition often discounts human rights
29 and social inclusivity that can occur as a result of a rapid transition. Emphasis should be placed on the
30 management of the transition rather than the speed – for instance, if in the rush to build new hydropower
31 energy sources implies that populations find themselves displaced, then this constitutes human rights
32 violations (Piggot et al, 2019; Castro et al, 2016).

33 Ambitious climate goals can increase the urgency of mitigation and accelerate the speed to arrive at
34 carbon neutrality. However, if the transition is done with speed, then this will leave diversification
35 efforts stymied particularly in developing countries that are highly dependent on fossil fuel revenue
36 streams (Production Report, 2020). Transition decisions and policies, furthermore may have far
37 reaching gendered implications as the closure of mines is often linked to several ancillary businesses
38 impacts, where men are laid off, and women may have to take on multiple jobs to compensate for
39 reduced household income (Piggot et al, 2019, UNU INRA 2019).

40 A just transition holds prospects for alternative high-quality jobs, public health improvements, an
41 opportunity to focus on well-being and prosperity with spill-over benefits to urban areas and economic
42 systems. Nonetheless, countries that transition from fossil fuels experience different challenges,
43 different levels of dependency and have different capacities to transition. There will be countries with
44 lower capacity and higher dependence and countries with higher capacity and lower dependence
45 (UNEP/SEI 2020).

46 Deciding on matters of justice is essential to the transition and there are several inherent questions to
47 consider when thinking through the allocation of costs and benefits as is the case in distributive justice.
48 How matters are defined and who defines matters such as the timing of a phase-down, prioritising which

1 energy sources need to be phased down and who might be affected are political economy questions
2 (Piggot et al, 2019).

3 Similarly, when considering procedural justice, there are matters related to interests, participation and
4 power dynamics that are essential to the process, and these matters may also subvert the process
5 depending on whose rights, whose participation, and whose power are being put in jeopardy (Forsyth,
6 2014 and Piggot et al 2019). Hence, both distribution and procedure matter as does inter-generational
7 and intra-generational equity in transition planning. Six critical variables can shape or inhibit the
8 transition process. These are dependency, timing, capacity, agency, scope and inclusion.

9 **Dependency**- the extent to which a country may depend on revenue streams from fossil fuels will
10 determine their ability to manage the transition from fossil fuels. Countries who rely on proceeds from
11 hydrocarbon resources as economic rents to support fiscal income and spending on public service
12 related needs such as education, health and infrastructure, export earnings and foreign exchange
13 reserves will have greater difficulties to forego their fossil fuel resources.

14 **Timing** – the transition pathway has to be aligned with a timetable which is anchored in national
15 development priorities. For example, the South African Integrated Resource Planning indicates that the
16 transition away from coal, if not aligned with national development priorities, will reproduce new forms
17 of inequalities. In addition, if transition is imposed and its timing is not organic then this might also
18 incur social inequalities.

19 **Capacity** – Transitions need to reflect spaces and planning. If knowledge on the transition pathway is
20 not adequately mastered or in place this can disable the process or steer it in the wrong direction.
21 Capacity also relates to several attributes including technical, governance, institutional, technologies,
22 economic resources to manage the transition. Poorer countries will have difficulties managing all these
23 resources as well as absorbing the costs associated with the transition (UNEP/SEI 2020).

24 **Agency** – transitions are inherently about sovereign rights to determine one’s orientation towards low
25 carbon development. However, with the urgency to stick to the Paris Agreement and new
26 conditionalities related to the post COVID stimulus packages, the absence of agency to deal with the
27 transition might jeopardise the flow, orientation and pace of the transition (Newell et al. 2013).

28 **Scope** – the extent to which the transition is rolled out and its potential impacts. If transition policies
29 are ambitious with commensurate diversification investments this may enable job creation, but it may
30 also affect employees who are insufficiently prepared for new jobs and skills.

31 **Inclusion.** – Who is considered in the transition process and how their interests and risks are assessed
32 are important aspects of the transition pathways. Stakeholders with strong vested interests may resist
33 transition especially as they move towards diversification activities and policies.

34 **17.3.3 Cross-sectoral transitions**

35 Transitions will involve multiple sectoral- and cross-sectoral policies. Section 17.3.3 presents a range
36 of studies and conclusions on the relationship between climate-change mitigation goals and meeting the
37 SDGs in order to identify major synergies and trade-offs. Here we draw on conclusions from sectoral
38 chapters and add additional studies as a basis for drawing more general conclusions about agriculture,
39 food and land use, the water-energy-food nexus, industry, cities, infrastructure and transportation, cross
40 sectoral digitalisation, and mitigation and adaptation relations.

41 **17.3.3.1 Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU)**

42 Sustainable development and mitigation policies are closely linked in the agriculture, food and land-
43 use sectors. We assess synergies and trade-offs between meeting the SDGs and reducing GHG
44 emissions within the sectors based on modelling studies and case studies illustrating how trade-offs

1 between SDG 2 (zero hunger, biomass for energy) and SDG 15 (life on land) can be addressed by cross-
2 sectoral mitigation options.

3 The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, Chapter 7, emphasises the high expectations on land to deliver
4 mitigation, yet the pressures on land have grown with population, dietary changes, the impacts of
5 climate change and the conversion of natural land to agriculture and other land uses. Agriculture,
6 Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) are expected to play a vital dual role in the portfolio of
7 mitigation options across all sectors. The AFOLU sector is also the only one in which it is currently
8 feasible to increase large-scale atmospheric carbon removals, including sequestration in biosystems and
9 CCS/BECCS. The AFOLU sector has a significant mitigation potential, with many scenarios showing
10 net 40 negative GHG emissions already in this century. Total cumulative AFOLU CO₂ emissions vary
11 widely across scenarios, with as much as 415 GtCO₂ sequestered between 2010 and 2100 in the most
12 stringent mitigation scenarios. The largest share of GHG emissions reductions from AFOLU in the
13 1.5°C and 2°C scenarios is from forestry-related measures, such as afforestation, reforestation and
14 reduced deforestation. Afforestation, reforestation and forest management result in substantial negative
15 CO₂ emissions in many scenarios. CO₂ and CH₄ show larger and more rapid declines than N₂O, an
16 indication of the difficulty of reducing N₂O emissions in agriculture (Chapter 3).

17 The Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Report (IPBES, Chapter 5, 2019)
18 assessed the relationship between meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and SDGs 2 (zero hunger),
19 7 (affordable end clean energy) and 15 (life on land). It concluded that a large expansion of the amount
20 of land used for bioenergy production would not be compatible with these SDG's. However, combining
21 bioenergy options with other mitigation options, like more efficient land management and the
22 restoration of nature, could contribute to welfare improvements and to access to food and water.
23 Demand-side climate-mitigation measures like energy-efficiency improvements, reduced meat
24 consumption and reduced food waste were considered to be the most economically attractive and
25 efficient options in order to support low GHG emissions, food security and biodiversity objectives.
26 Implementing such options, however, can involve challenges in terms of lifestyle changes (IPBES,
27 2019).

28 Fujimori et al. (2019), in a study of six global IAMs, assessed the consequences of meeting the goals
29 of the Paris Agreement for stabilising the global temperature increase at 1.5 °C and 2 °C respectively
30 in terms of people being at risk of hunger. They conclude that, if framed as a climate-mitigation effort,
31 meeting these temperature targets could significantly increase the number of people suffering from
32 hunger by 2050. The major arguments are that the carbon prices included in the modelling results would
33 increase food costs and thereby food prices, potentially compromising food access for low-income
34 groups in the least developed countries (Brown et al., 2015). Another major drawback is that climate-
35 change mitigation scenarios imply increased demand for land for bioenergy crops, which again would
36 increase food prices. The authors suggest that the negative consequences of mitigation policies on food
37 access can be offset by agricultural subsidies or aid programmes. Food prices and affordability would
38 be at risk in the case of all shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs), but it is SSPs 2, 3 and 4 that exhibit
39 the greatest risks to food access and its stability.

40 Basing themselves on integrated assessment, (Bleischwitz et al. 2018) modelling conclude that the
41 temperature targets of the Paris Agreement can be achieved by intensifying agricultural production and
42 reducing meat and dairy consumption, which will imply a reduced demand for land and thus more space
43 for nature and biodiversity. Such a pathway could provide more SDG-related co-benefits than land-use
44 scenarios featuring increased demand for land devoted to bioenergy. The authors conclude that
45 implementing these pathways critically depends on demographics and governance in terms of
46 behavioural changes and other critical elements of the transition in different parts of the world.

47 The potential joint contribution of food and land-use systems to sustainable development and climate
48 change has also been addressed in policy programmes by the UN, local governments and the private

1 sector. These programmes address options for pursuing sustainable development and climate change
2 jointly, such as agroforestry, agricultural intensification, better agriculture practices and avoided
3 deforestation. Griggs and Smith (2013) assess production- and consumption-based methods for joint
4 sustainability and climate-change mitigation in food systems, concluding that efficiency improvements
5 in agricultural production systems can provide large benefits. Given the expectations of high levels of
6 population growth and the strong increase in the demand for meat and dairy products, there is also a
7 need for the careful management of dietary changes, as well for those areas which could be used most
8 effectively for livestock and plant production.

9 Loss of biodiversity has been highlighted in several studies as a major trade-off of the low stabilisation
10 scenarios (Prudhomme et al., 2020). A wide range of mitigation and adaptation responses – for example,
11 preserving natural ecosystems such as peatland, coastal lands and forests, reducing the competition for
12 land, fire management, soil management, and most risk management options – have the potential to
13 make positive contributions to sustainable development, ecosystems services, and other social goals
14 (McElwee et al., 2020; Smith 2019) also stressed that agricultural practices (e.g. improving yields,
15 agroforestry), forest conservation (e.g. afforestation, reforestation), soil carbon sequestration (e.g.
16 biochar addition to soils) and the removal of carbon dioxide (e.g. BECCS) could contribute to climate-
17 change mitigation (Smith, 2019). However, there are also options that could improve biodiversity if
18 they were implemented jointly with climate-change mitigation in AFOLU. In a study, Leclere et al.
19 (2020) show that increasing conservation management, restoring degraded land and generalised
20 landscape-level conservation planning could be positive for biodiversity. In general, the ambitious
21 conservation efforts and transformations of food systems are central to an effective post-2020
22 biodiversity strategy.

23 The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (IPCC, 2019) emphasises the need for
24 governance in order to avoid conflict between sustainable development and land-use management. It
25 states: "Measuring progress towards goals is important in decision-making and adaptive governance to
26 create common understanding and advance policy effectiveness". The report concludes that measurable
27 indicators are very useful in linking land-use policies, the NDCs and the SDGs. Various governance
28 issues are often associated with industrial oil palm expansion by large multinational and national
29 companies, and therefore with social problems, such as land-grabbing and conflicts, labour exploitation,
30 social inequalities and declines in village-level well-being (Meijaard et al., 2020; Andrianto, 2020).

31 One example of an area where special governance efforts have been called for is the protection of
32 forestry, ecosystem services and local livelihoods in a context of the large-scale deployment of high-
33 value crops like palm oil, short-term, high income-generating activities and sustainable development.
34 Serious challenges are already being seen within these areas according to (IPBES 2019).

35 Palm oil is one example of a product with potentially major trade-offs between meeting the SDGs and
36 climate-change mitigation in agriculture, forest and other land uses (AFOLU) sector. Palm oil is one of
37 the most productive oil crops in the world in term of oil yield per unit of area. It is used in a wide range
38 of processes, from fast foods, chocolate spread and cereals to toothpastes and animal feed
39 (Rochmyaningsih, 2019). Furthermore, palm oil has become one of the major feedstocks for biofuels
40 in the European Union (Jupesta et al., forthcoming 2021). This crop has nonetheless become one of the
41 most controversial today because, despite its high productivity, high applicability and ability to alleviate
42 poverty, palm-oil development is most often pursued at the cost of deforestation, which causes
43 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and loss of biodiversity (Curtis et al., 2018).

44 Currently the area under oil palms is showing a tremendous increase, mostly in forest conversions to
45 oil-palm plantations (Gaveau et al., 2016, Austin et al., 2019, Schoneveld et al., 2019). The conversion
46 of peat swamp forest and mineral forest to oil palms will yield different amounts of CO₂. A study by
47 Novita et al. (2020) shows that the carbon stock of primary peat-swamp forest was 1,770 Mg C/ha
48 compared to a carbon stock of oil palm of 759 Mg C/ha. The study conducted by Guillaume et al. shows

1 that the carbon stock in mineral soils was 284 Mg C/ha compared to that in rain forest, which was
2 110.76 Mg C/ha (Guillaume et al., 2018).

3 Given that the frequent peat-land fires in Indonesia were caused by land clearing in the replanting
4 season, the multi-stakeholder collaboration between oil-palm plantations, local communities and local
5 governments over practices such zero burning when clearing land might be one of the most effective
6 ways to reduce the deforestation impact of oil palm (Jupesta et al., 2020). Behavioural changes as a
7 mitigation option have been suggested as a major factor in aligning sustainable development, climate
8 change and land management. These options are extensively discussed in Chapters 3 and 5.

9 Economy-wide mitigation costs can be effectively limited by lifestyle, technology and policy choices,
10 but can benefit from synergies with the SDGs. Synergies come from the consumption side *by* managing
11 demand. For example, reducing food waste leads to resources being saved because water, land-use,
12 energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions are all reduced (Chapter 3).

13 IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Chapter 12 emphasised that diets high in plant protein and low in meat,
14 in particular red meat, are associated with lower GHG emissions. Emerging food-chain technologies
15 such as microbial, plant, or insect-based protein promise substantial reductions in direct GHG emissions
16 from food production. The full mitigation potential of such technologies can only be realised in low-
17 GHG energy systems.

18 Demand-side, service-oriented solutions vary between and within countries and regions, according to
19 living conditions and context. Avoiding food waste reduces GHG emissions substantially. Dietary shifts
20 to plant-based nutrition lead to healthier lives and reduce GHG emissions (Chapter 5).

21 The inextricably intertwined factors in decision-making are influenced by the characteristics of the
22 person, in interaction with the characteristics of more sustainable practices and products, which interacts
23 with a particular context that includes the immediate environment (e.g., household, farm), the indirect
24 environment (e.g., community) and macro-environmental factors (e.g., the political, financial and
25 economic contexts) (Hoek et al., 2021). Hence, to influence people to make decisions making in favour
26 of sustainable food production or consumption, a wider perspective is needed on decision-making
27 processes and behavioural change, in which individuals are not targeted in isolation, but in interaction
28 with this wider systemic environment.

29 Springman et al. (2018) conclude that reductions in food waste could be a very important option for
30 reducing agricultural GHG emissions, the demand for agricultural land and water, and nitrogen and
31 phosphorous applications. In addition to the option of reducing food waste, their study analysed several
32 other options for reducing the environmental effects of the food system, including dietary changes in
33 the direction of healthier, more plant-based diets and improvements in technologies and management.
34 It was concluded that, relative to a baseline scenario for 2050, dietary changes in the direction of
35 healthier diets could reduce GHG emissions and other environmental impacts by 29% and 5–9%
36 respectively for a dietary-guideline scenario, and by 56% and 6–22% respectively for a more plant-
37 based diet scenario.

38 A similar study also found a positive impact from zero food waste. The ‘no food waste’ scenario could
39 decrease global average food calorie availability by 120 kcal person⁻¹ d⁻¹ and protein availability by 4.6
40 g protein person⁻¹ d⁻¹ relative to their baseline levels, thus reducing required crop and livestock
41 production by 490 and 190 Mt respectively. This lower level of production reduces agricultural land
42 use by 57 Mha and thus mitigates the associated side effects on the environment. The lower levels of
43 production also reduce the requirements for fertilisers and water by 10 Mt and 110 km³ respectively,
44 and GHG emissions are reduced by 410 MtCO₂eq yr⁻¹ relative to the 2030 baseline. Reducing food
45 waste can contribute to lessening the demand for food, feed and other resources such as water and
46 nitrogen, reducing the pressure on land and the environment while ending hunger (Hasegawa et al.,
47 2019).

1 In 2007, Britain launched a nationwide initiative to reduce household food waste, and the programme
 2 achieved a 21 percent reduction within five years (FAO, 2019). The basis of this initiative was the
 3 “Love Food, Hate Waste” radio, TV, print and online media campaign run by a non-profit organisation,
 4 the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The campaign raised awareness among
 5 consumers about how much food they waste, how it affects their household budgets and what they can
 6 do about it. This initiative collaborated with food manufacturers and retailers to stimulate innovation,
 7 such as re-sealable packaging, shared meal-planning and food storage tips. The total implementation
 8 costs during the five-year period were estimated at GBP 26 million, from which it was households that
 9 derived the most benefit, estimated to be worth GBP 6.5 billion. Local authorities also realised a
 10 substantial GBP 86 million worth of savings in food-waste disposal costs. As for the private sector, the
 11 benefits took the form of increased product shelf lives and reduced product loss. While households
 12 started to consume more efficiently and companies may have experienced a decline in food sales, the
 13 latter also stated that the non-financial benefits, such as strengthened consumer relationships, had offset
 14 the costs.

15 The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group of countries has also created several types of
 16 public–private partnership for food waste and reducing losses. Most of these partnerships are focused
 17 on food-waste recycling in both developed and developing countries (Rogelj et al., 2016). APEC
 18 members stated that knowledge-sharing and improved policy and project management were the most
 19 important advantages of public–private partnerships. Table 17.1 provides an overview of the synergies
 20 and trade-offs between the mitigation options and SDGs assessed in this section based on the authors’
 21 own assessments.

22

23 **Table 17.1 The synergies and trade-offs between mitigation options and SDG's assessed in this section**
 24 **based on the authors assessment**

AFOLU mitigation option	Mitigation	Food	Energy	Biodiversity	Poverty /economy	Remarks
Carbon sequestration in forestry	+	+	-	+	+/-	Refer to Chapter 7. Less land for agriculture and biomass for energy
BECCS etc.	+	-	+	+	+/-	Refer to Chapter 12. Smart fertiliser, Drones, Sensors, Biochar, Artificial Intelligence, etc. Could be high cost due to not yet massive utilisation.
Improved land management and efficiency	+	+	+	+	+	Studies in Chapter 17
Lifestyles and dietary changes (decreased meat)	+	+	+	+	+	Chapters 3 and 5 and studies in Chapter 17
Shifting diets into microbe, plant and insect-based proteins	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	-	Expensive due to low scale
Reduced food waste	+	+	+	+	+	Case study

25

26 Dark blue means that synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red
 27 that trade-offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable, based on the available studies.

28

29 As shown in Table 17.1, the AFOLU sector offers many low-cost mitigation options, which, however,
 30 can also create trade-offs between land-use for food, energy and forest allocations. Some options can
 31 help to mitigate such trade-offs, like agricultural practices (e.g. improved yields, agroforestry), forest
 32 conservation (e.g. afforestation, reforestation), soil carbon sequestration (e.g. biochar addition to soils)
 33 and removal of carbon dioxide (e.g. BECCS) could contribute to climate change-mitigation. Lifestyle
 34 changes, including dietary changes and reduced food waste, are highly embedded in modes of behaviour

1 that are influenced by the immediate environment (e.g., household, farm), the indirect environment
2 (e.g., community) and macro-environmental factors (e.g., political, financial and economic contexts).
3 Achieving zero-food waste could reduce the demands for land (SDG 15), water use (SDG 6) and
4 chemical fertilisers (SDG 9), leading to GHG emissions reductions (SDG 13) by encouraging
5 sustainable consumption and production practices (SDG 12).

6 *17.3.3.2 Water-Energy-Food-Nexus*

7 This section addresses the links between water, energy and food in the context of sustainable
8 development and the associated synergies and trade-offs, with links to related chapters. The focus
9 outline includes scoping and the relationship with the SDGs, general climate-change impacts on global
10 water resources, energy-system impacts and the relationship to renewables, enabling strategies, trade-
11 offs and cross-sectoral implications (see also Chapter 12), nexus-management tools and strategies, and
12 a box with examples from India and South Africa.

13 The continually increasing pressures on natural resources, such as land and water, due to the rising
14 demands from increases in populations and living standards, which also require more energy,
15 emphasises the need to integrate sustainable planning and exploitation (Bleischwitz et al., 2018). The
16 water-energy-food nexus is the epicentre of these challenges, which are of global relevance and are the
17 focus of policies and planning at all levels and sectors of the global society. The nexus between water,
18 energy and food (WEFN) (C. Zhang et al., 2018) is closely linked in a complex manner and needs
19 careful attention and deciphering across spatio-temporal scales, sectors and interests to balance proper
20 management and trade-offs and to pursue sustainable development (Biggs et al., 2015; Dai et al., 2018;
21 Hamiche et al., 2016). The WEFN touches upon the majority of the UN's SDGs, such as 2, 6-7 and 11-
22 15 (Bleischwitz et al., 2018), and deals with basic commodities, thus guaranteeing the basic livelihoods
23 of the global population.

24 The task of gaining an improved understanding of WEFN processes across disciplines such as the
25 natural sciences, economics, the social sciences and politics has been further exacerbated by climate
26 change, population growth and resource depletion. In light of the system interlinkages involved, the
27 WEFN concept essentially also covers land (Ringler et al., 2013) and climate (Brouwer et al., 2018;
28 Sušnik et al., 2018) and can be further assessed in the light of the economic, ecological, social and SDG
29 aspects (Fan et al., 2019). Specifically, SDGs 2 (food), 6 (water), (7) energy, 11 (cities) and 12
30 (production and consumption) are considered essential to the WEFN (Bleischwitz et al., 2018). The
31 nexus approach was introduced in the early 2010s, when it was argued that advantages could be gained
32 by a nexus mind-set with regard to cross-sectoral and human–nature dependencies and taking
33 externalities into account (Hoff, 2011). Hence, within the nexus obvious trade-offs exist with competing
34 interests, such as water availability versus food production.

35 Climate change is projected to impact on the distribution, magnitude and variability of global water
36 resources. A yearly increases in precipitation of 7% globally is expected by 2100 in a high-emissions
37 scenario (RCP 8.5), although with significant inter-model, inter-regional and inter-temporal differences
38 (Giorgi et al., 2019). Similarly, extreme events related to the water balance, such as droughts and
39 extreme precipitation, are projected to shift in the future (RCP4.5) towards 2100: for example, the
40 number of consecutive dry days is projected to increase in the Mediterranean region, southern Africa,
41 Australia and the Amazon (Chen et al., 2014). In impact terms, an increase of 20-30% in global water-
42 use is expected by 2050 due to the industrial and domestic demand for water. Already four billion
43 people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month per year (WWAP-UNESCO, 2019).

44 Globally climate change has been shown to cause increases of 4%, 8% and 10% in the population being
45 exposed to water scarcities under 1.5°C, 2°C and 3°C of global warming respectively (RCP8.5)
46 (Koutroulis et al., 2019). At the same time, climate change is projected to cause a general increase in
47 extreme events and climate variability, placing a substantial burden on society and the economy (Hall

1 et al., 2014). Other than the human influence on the global hydro-climate, human activities have been
2 shown to surpass even the impact of climate change in low to moderate emission scenarios of the water
3 balance (Haddeland et al., 2014). Similar conclusions have been found by Destouni et al., (2013) and
4 Koutroulis et al., (2019).

5 An obvious consequence of the impact of climate change on future hydro-climatic patterns is the fact
6 that the energy system is projected to experience vast impacts through climate change (Fricko et al.,
7 2016; M. T.H. van Vliet et al., 2016; Michelle T. H. van Vliet et al., 2016), see also chapter 6. In the
8 short run, where fossil-fuel sources make up a significant share of the global energy grid, climate
9 impacts related to water availability and water temperatures will affect thermoelectric power generation,
10 which relies mainly on water cooling (Larsen and Drews, 2019; Pan et al., 2018), and water is also used
11 for pollution and dust control, cleaning etc. (Larsen et al., 2019). Currently, 98% of electricity
12 generation relies on thermoelectric power (81%) and hydropower (17%) (M. T.H. van Vliet et al., 2016).
13 Of these thermoelectric sources, the vast majority employ substantial amounts of water for cooling
14 purposes, although there is a tendency towards the implementation of more hybrid or dry forms of
15 cooling (Larsen et al., 2019).

16 The renewable energy conversion technologies that are currently dominant globally and are projected
17 to remain so are less vulnerable to water deficiencies than fossil-based technologies, since no cooling
18 is used. These include, e.g., wind, solar PV and wave energy. Some less dominant renewable-energy
19 technologies do use water for cooling, such as geothermal energy and solar CSP, if wet cooling is
20 employed. Despite the general detachment from water resources, wind and solar PV, for example, are
21 highly dependent on climate-change patterns, including variability depending on future energy-storage
22 capacities and on/off-grid solutions (Schlott et al., 2018). Furthermore, regardless of whether they are
23 based on renewables or not, climate change will affect energy usage across sectors, such as heating and
24 cooling in the building stock. The energy systems in question need to be able to handle variations and
25 extremes in demand (Larsen et al., 2020).

26 For the 2080s compared to 1971-2000, an increase of 2.4% to 6.3% in the global gross hydropower
27 potential, from the hydrological side alone, is seen across all scenarios (M. T.H. van Vliet et al., 2016);
28 see also Chapter 6. Alongside the global increase in hydropower potential, the global mean water-
29 discharge cooling capacity, which also relates to water temperatures, experiences a decrease of 4.5% to
30 15% across scenarios. In very general and global terms, when combined these changes support the shift
31 towards sources of renewable energy, including hydropower, in the energy mix. When it comes to
32 ensuring stability in the management of the electricity grid, hydro-climatological extremes have the
33 potential to pose vast difficulties in certain regions and/or seasons depending on the nature of the energy
34 mix (Van Vliet et al., 2016) showed significant reductions in both thermoelectric and hydropower
35 electricity capacities, exemplified by the 2003 European drought, which resulted in reductions of 4.7%
36 and 6.6% respectively.

37 In terms of the damage costs, the energy sector is found to be especially vulnerable because of the
38 production losses caused mainly by heatwaves and droughts. However, coastal and fluvial or river
39 floods are also responsible for a large relative share of the energy sector's vulnerability, as assessed by
40 Forzieri et al., (2018) for Europe in 2100. In total, heatwaves and droughts will be responsible for 94%
41 of the damage costs to the European energy system compared to 40% today. Similarly, Craig et al.,
42 (2018) show that, despite potentially minor spatiotemporally aggregated differences for various energy-
43 system components, such as demand, thermoelectric power, wind etc., the aggregated impact of climate
44 change across these components will cause a significant impact on the energy system, as currently
45 exemplified by the USA. In terms of investments and management, it is important to unravel these
46 cross-component relations in light of the projected nature of the future climate.

47 In the ongoing transition towards renewable sources of energy (see also Chapters 3, 4 and 6), the impact
48 of the hydro-climate on energy production continues to be highly relevant (Jones and Warner, 2016).

1 As the shares of thermoelectric energy production in the energy grid go down alongside the introduction
2 of thermoelectric cooling technologies using smaller amounts of water, new energy sources and
3 technologies are being introduced and existing sources scaled up. Of these, hydropower, wind and solar
4 energy are the key energy sources currently and in the near future, making up 2.5% and 1.8% of the
5 total global primary energy supply in 2017 respectively (IEA, 2019). Wind and solar energy are directly
6 independent of water in themselves, but are dependent on atmospheric conditions related to processes
7 that also drive the water balance and circulation. Hydropower, on the other hand, is directly influenced
8 by and dependent on the supply of water, while at the same time being an essential counter-component
9 to seasonality and climatological variation, as well as to current and future demand curves and diurnal
10 variations, as against wind and solar energy (De Barbosa et al., 2017).

11 Furthermore, policy instruments in power-system management, here exemplified by hydropower in a
12 climate-change scenario, have been shown to enhance energy production during droughts (Gjorgiev and
13 Sansavini, 2018). The significant influence of variation in the planning of renewable energy for the 21st
14 century has also been highlighted by Bloomfield et al., (2016). At the same time, the integration of
15 renewables must account for lower thermoelectric efficiencies and capacities due to increases in
16 temperature (Michelle T. H. van Vliet et al., 2016), power-plant closures during extreme weather events
17 due to a lack of cooling capacity (Forzieri et al., 2018) and further efficiency reductions and penalties
18 following the implementation of CCS technologies in the effort to reach the GHG mitigation targets
19 (Budinis et al., 2018) alongside higher water usage (Byers et al., 2015).

20 The extraction, distribution and wastewater processes of anthropogenic water-management systems
21 similarly use vast amounts of energy, making the proper management of water essential to reduce
22 energy usage and GHG emissions (Nair et al., 2014); see also Chapter 11. One study reports that the
23 water sector accounts for 5% of total US GHG emissions (Rothausen and Conway, 2011).

24 Within the WEFN there is an obvious trade-off between water availability and food production,
25 competing demands that pose a risk to the supply of the basic commodities of food, energy and water
26 in line with the SDGs (Bleischwitz et al., 2018; Gao et al., 2019). all of which have the potential for
27 inter-sectorial or inter-regional conflicts (Froese and Schilling, 2019). Currently, 24% of the global
28 population live in regions with constant water-scarce food production, and 19% experience occasional
29 water scarcities (Kummu et al., 2014). To counterbalance the demand for food and comestibles in
30 regions that experience constant or intermittent supplies, transportation is needed, which in itself
31 requires suitable infrastructure, energy supplies, a well-functioning trading environment and supportive
32 policies. Of the 2.6 billion people who experience constant or occasional water scarcities in food
33 production, 55% rely on international trade, 21% on domestic trade, and the remainder on stocks
34 (Kummu et al., 2014).

35 The relationship between the influence of hydro-climatic variability and socio-economic conditions and
36 patterns of water scarcity has been addressed by Veldkamp et al., (2015). A key finding of this study
37 was the ability of the hydroclimate and the socio-economy to interact, enforcing or attenuating each
38 other, though with the former acting as the key immediate driver, and the influence of the latter
39 emerging after six to ten years.

40 The trade-offs between competing demands have been investigated on a continental scale in the US
41 Great Plains, highlighting the influence of irrigation in mitigating reductions in crop yields (J. Zhang et
42 al., 2018). Despite crop-yield reductions of 50% in dry years compared to wet years, a key conclusion
43 was that the irrigation should be counterbalanced against general water and energy savings within the
44 context of trade-offs. In East Asia, the WEFN has been quantified, highlighting obvious trade-offs
45 between economic growth, environmental issues and food security (White et al., 2018) . This same
46 study also highlights the concept of a virtual WEFN that includes water embodied within products that
47 are traded and shipped. (Liu et al., 2019) find an urgent need for proper assessment methods, including
48 of trade within the WEFN, due to the significant resource allocations.

1 Within the WEFN, the implementation of policies to achieve low stabilisation targets is strongly linked
2 to sustainable development within the water sector with regard to water management and water
3 conservation, indicating that additional coherence in policies affecting the water, energy and food
4 sectors (among others) will be critical in achieving the SDGs (Rasul, 2016) (see also Chapter 7).
5 Subsidised fertilisers, energy and crops can drive unsustainable levels of water usage and pollution in
6 agriculture. More than half the world's population, roughly 4.3 billion people in 2016, live in areas
7 where the demand for water resources outstrips sustainable supplies for at least part of the year. Irrigated
8 agriculture is already using around 70% of the available freshwater, and the large seasonal variations in
9 water supply and the needs of different crops can create conflicts between water needs across sectors at
10 different time scales (Wada et al., 2016). However, as there is little potential for increasing irrigation or
11 expanding cropland (Steffen et al., 2015), food-production gaps must be closed by increasing
12 productivity and cropping densities on currently harvested land by increasing either rain-fed yields or
13 water-use efficiency (Alexandratos and Bruinsma, 2012).

14 It has been argued that applying an integrated approach to water-energy-climate-food resource
15 management and policy-making is highly beneficial to properly addressing the co-benefits and trade-
16 offs (Brouwer et al., 2018; Howells et al., 2013), accommodating the SDGs (Rasul, 2016) and in general
17 assessing enabling strategies towards improved resource efficiency (Dai et al., 2018). For an integrated
18 approach to analysing the WEFN, a number of modelling approaches, tools and frameworks have been
19 proposed (Brouwer et al., 2018; de Strasser et al., 2016; Gao et al., 2019; Larsen and Drews, 2019;
20 Smajgl et al., 2016), often involving multi-objective calibration. Such tools enable decision-makers to
21 evaluate the optimal water-allocation and energy-saving solutions for the specific geography in
22 question. As an example, Scott et al., (2011) found the higher transportability of electricity, compared
23 to water, pivotal in water-energy adaptation solutions in USA, while arguing for the additional
24 coordination of water and energy policies as a key instrument in balancing the trade-offs.

25 Common to all these integrated efforts is the challenge involved in making comparisons across studies
26 due to the combined complexities of assumptions, model codes, regions, variables, forcings etc. To
27 accommodate these challenges, Larsen et al., (2019) suggest employing shared criteria and forcing data
28 to enable cross-model comparisons and uncertainty estimates, as also highlighted by Brouwer et al.,
29 (2018). Other limitations within current WEFN research are partial system descriptions, the failure to
30 address uncertainties, system boundaries, and evaluation methods and metrics (C. Zhang et al., 2018).
31 The lack of proper WEFN data-accessibility and quality has been highlighted by D'Odorico et al.,
32 (2018) and Larsen et al., (2019). Furthermore, gaps have been identified between theory and end-user
33 applications in the lack of any focus on food nutritional values as opposed to calories alone, in the
34 understanding of water availability in relation to management practices, in integrating new energy
35 technologies, and in the resulting environmental issues (D'Odorico et al., 2018).

36 Therefore, looking ahead, future fields of WEFN research should provide greater insights into all these
37 aspects. Holistic frameworks have been put forward to facilitate methods of WEFN management by
38 focusing on, for example, the geographical complexities with regard to transboundary challenges within
39 hydrological catchments (de Strasser et al., 2016), aligning policy incentives (Rasul, 2016), and making
40 synergies and trade-offs in relation to WEFN SDG targets (Fader et al., 2018) etc. The role of all levels
41 of government in optimal WEFN management is also highlighted in Kurian (2017), especially with
42 regard to shaping the behaviour of individuals. Furthermore, Kurian (2017) highlights the challenges
43 involved in science and policy communicating with one another and in the provision of optimal
44 instruments and guidelines. Engaging non-experts and end-users in scientific processes is seen as
45 essential to capturing previous failures and successes and to ensure that understanding of the challenges
46 is updated to help shape research questions.

47 Coordination of water use across different sectors and deltas are important factors in sustainable water
48 management. Examples of instruments and policies that support this from India and Sub-Saharan Africa

1 in relation to the groundwater crisis are given below. India is the world's largest user of groundwater
 2 for irrigation, which covers more than half of the total irrigated agricultural area, is responsible for 70%
 3 of food production and supports more than 50% of the population (700 million people) (see also Chapter
 4 7). However, excessive extraction of groundwater is depleting aquifers across the country, and declines
 5 in the water table have become pervasive. Improved water-use efficiency in irrigated agriculture is
 6 being considered, both globally and in India, as a way of meeting future food requirements with
 7 increasingly scarce water resources (Fishman et al, 2015).

8 However, the incentives for conservation and efficiency are lacking in India, since electricity for
 9 pumping is highly subsidised, and groundwater use is not regulated. India is currently promoting the
 10 adoption of water-saving technologies in order to reduce the pressure on aquifers and to stabilise falling
 11 water tables, but these options have still not been widely adopted. Using proven technologies such as
 12 drip and sprinkler irrigation could reduce the unsustainable over-extraction of groundwater by half.
 13 Removing the subsidy for groundwater pumping is also being considered as a way of promoting these
 14 options.

15 Sub-Saharan Africa has an undeveloped potential for groundwater exploitation, despite the general
 16 perception of a global groundwater crisis, this being due to the absence of services to support
 17 groundwater development (Cobbing, 2020). It is estimated that most Sub-Saharan countries in Africa
 18 utilise less than 5% of their national sustainable yields (Cobbing and Hiller, 2019). The initial tool for
 19 driving sustainable groundwater exploitation is a change in the narrative of a lack of resources in order
 20 to stimulate increased agricultural production and increased fulfilment of the SDGs (Cobbing, 2020).
 21 Quantitative measures of actual groundwater vulnerability based on multiple indicators have been
 22 calculated by, for example, van Rooyen et al. (2020), showing that 20.4% of South Africa's current
 23 water resources are highly vulnerable and projected to increase fifty years into the future. Despite the
 24 positive perspectives regarding Sub-Saharan groundwater resources, the 2015-2017 water crisis in
 25 South Africa, including in Cape Town, clearly predicts vulnerability to climate variability (Carvalho
 26 Resende et al., 2019), which is predicted to increase. Serving as inspiration for the future mitigation of
 27 water depletion, Olivier and Xu (2019) suggest governance tools to improve the diversification of water
 28 sources and the management of existing supplies. An overview of synergies and trade-offs between
 29 mitigation options related to WEFN and the SDGs, based on the authors' assessment, is given in (Table
 30 17.2).

31 **Table 17.2 Overview of synergies and trade-offs between examples of WEFN mitigation options and food, water,**
 32 **energy access, life on land, and economic impacts**

	Mitigation	Food	Water	Energy	Economy	Life on Land	Remarks
Increased hydropower dams	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	-	Could create land-use conflicts
Increased biomass power	+	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Could create land-use conflicts
Increased solar power	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	Could be costly and only facilitate low supply in off-grid systems
Increased wind power	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	Could be costly and only facilitate low supply in off-grid systems
Improved access to electricity	+	+	+	+	+/-	+	Efficiency improvements and increased income generation could be facilitated

Improved water resource management	+	+	+	n.a.	+	+	Resource savings could be made
Improved access to water	+	+	+	n.a.	+	n.a.	Time savings could be a benefit, and potentially also irrigation in dry areas

1
2 Dark blue signifies that synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red that trade-offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable based on the studies.

3
4
5 The overview provided in Table 17.2 shows that in many cases WEFN options can have positive
6 synergies between mitigation and food, water and energy access, and that these can also create positive
7 impacts in terms of the benefits to low-income groups with poor access today. However, there could
8 also be conflicts over land use in relation to the increased use of hydropower dams and bioenergy.

9 **17.3.3.3 Industry**

10 Industrial transformation is a core component in achieving sustainable development. Across all
11 industrial sectors, the development and deployment of innovative technologies, business models and
12 policy approaches at scale will be essential in accelerating progress with meeting both the economic
13 and social development goals, as well as low emissions. In this section we assess the synergies and
14 trade-offs between mitigation options and the SDGs, with a specific focus on asking whether economic
15 growth and employment creation can work jointly with climate actions and other SDGs in least
16 developed and developing countries. Examples of synergies and trade-offs are provided based on the
17 conclusions of Chapter 9 on the building sector and Chapter 11 on industry. The potential for greening
18 industry is discussed in relation to Eco industrial parks, including examples from Ethiopia, China, South
19 Africa and Ghana.

20 Chapter 11 concludes that achieving net-zero emissions from the industrial sector are possible. It will
21 require the provision of electricity free from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including from other
22 energy carriers, increased electrification, low carbon feedstocks, and a combination of energy
23 efficiency, reduced demand for materials, a more circular economy, electrification, and carbon capture,
24 use and storage (CCUS).

25 Chapter 11 of this report has mapped the potential co-benefits of mitigation options in industry in
26 relation to five categories of such options: material efficiency and reduction in demand for materials,
27 circular economy and industrial waste, carbon capture utilisation and storage, energy efficiency, and
28 electrification and fuel switching (Chapter 11, Figure 11.15). In particular, the first two categories of
29 options are assessed as having several co-benefits for the SDGs, including SDGs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 11, 12,
30 and 15. Some studies also point out the potential trade-offs in respect of employment and the costs of
31 cleaner production processes. The other options primarily impact on climate actions, decent work and
32 employment, and industry as such.

33 Okereke et al. (2019) offer important generic conclusions on green industrialisation and the transition
34 based on a study of socio-technical transition in the context of Ethiopia. The importance of drivers for
35 change in terms of clear policy goals and government support for green growth and climate policies, as
36 well as support from a strong culture of innovation, is emphasised. The study also identifies key barriers
37 in relation to stakeholder interactions, the availability of resources, and the ongoing tension between
38 ambitions for high economic growth and climate change. Green innovation in industry critically
39 depends on regulations. Gramkow and Anger-Kravi (2018) have assessed the role of fiscal policies in
40 greening Brazilian industry based on an econometric analysis of 24 manufacturing sectors. They
41 conclude that instruments like low-cost finance for innovation and support to sustainable practices
42 effectively promote green innovation.

1 Luken et al. (2019) have assessed the drivers, barriers and enablers for green industry in Sub-Saharan
2 Africa, concluding that major barriers exist related to material and input costs, as well as product
3 requirements in foreign markets, and that as a result there are trade-offs between economic and
4 environmental performance. Studies of ten countries are reviewed, and although they suffer from
5 limited information, they conclude similarly that further progress is hindered by poor access to finance
6 and weak government regulation. Greenberg and Rogerson (2014) similarly conclude that that the
7 greening of industry in South Africa is lagging behind, despite its high priority in government planning
8 and among international partners due to economic barriers and weak governance.

9 Ghana has launched a "One District One Factory" (1D1F) initiative, aimed at establishing at least one
10 factory or enterprise in each of Ghana's 216 districts as a means of creating economic growth poles to
11 accelerate the development of these areas and create jobs for the country's increasingly youthful
12 population. The policy aims to transform the structure of the economy from one dependent on the
13 production and export of raw materials to a value-added industrialised economy driven primarily by the
14 private sector (Yaw 2018). The programme is expected to facilitate the creation of between 7,000 and
15 15,000 jobs per district and between 1.5 million and 3.2 million jobs nationwide by the end of 2020
16 (Ohene-Kanadur, 2019).

17 Mensah et al. (2020) have studied the relationship between economic growth and environmental quality
18 in the Ghana One District One Factory programme, with a focus on the impacts of foreign investments.
19 They conclude that the programme has been very successful in creating economic growth, exports, and
20 employment, but also that the environmental impacts have been negative; it therefore recommends
21 imposing environmental regulations on foreign investments. Similar conclusions have been drawn by
22 Solarin et al. (2017) concluding that foreign investors have faced a pollution heaven in Ghana.

23 Eco-industrial parks have been used as a key option to create synergies between industries, including
24 competitiveness, growth, jobs, and environmental improvements. Chapter 11 points to the benefits of
25 industrial parks in relation to overall reductions in both virgin materials and final wastes, implying
26 significant reductions in industrial GHG emissions. Due to these advantages, eco-industrial parks have
27 been actively promoted, especially in East Asian countries such as China, Japan and South Korea, where
28 national indicators and governance exist (Geng et al. 2019; Geng and Hengxin 2009).

29 Zeng et al. (2020) have assessed the role of eco-industrial parks in China's green transformation for 33
30 development zones in relation to contributions to GDP, industrial value added, exports, water and
31 energy consumption, CO₂ levels, and sulphur emissions. It was concluded that industrial parks have
32 played a very important role in China's industrialisation, and that this structure has supported the
33 decoupling of economic growth, energy- and water consumption from the environmental impacts.
34 However, improved environmental performance would require better access to finance and a higher
35 priority by management.

36 Industrial parks have been promoted in Ethiopia by the government and UNIDO based on the
37 expectation that they could help to boost the economy (UNIDO, 2018). One of the success stories is an
38 industrial park in Hawassa, a nation-level textile and garment industrial park with a "zero emission
39 commitment" based on renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies. However, the concept of
40 the industrial park, including feasible policies and institutional arrangements, is new to Ethiopia's
41 regulatory processes, and this has created for management, knowledge, and governance, hindering their
42 fast implementation.

43 A number of business associations have developed strategies for sustainable development and climate
44 change, including cooperate social responsibility (CSR). International initiatives have included the
45 promotion of CSR initiatives by international investors in low-income countries to support a broad
46 range of development priorities, including social working conditions, eliminating child labour and
47 climate change (Lamb et al. 2017). Leventon et al. (2015) evaluated the role of mining industries in

Zambia in supporting climate-compatible development and concluded that, although the industry has played a positive role in avoiding migration and pressure on forest resources, there is a lack of coordination between government and industry initiatives.

Table 17.3 provides an overview of the synergies and trade-offs between climate-change mitigation options and the key SDG impacts, based on the authors' assessment.

Table 17.3 Overview of synergies and trade-offs between examples of industrial mitigation options and food, water, energy access, and economic impacts.

	Mitigation	Food	Water	Energy	Poverty/ Economy	Remarks
Efficiency and demand reduction	+	+	+	+	+	Could reduce costs
Circular economy and waste management	+	+	+	+	+	Could reduce costs and several pollutants
Carbon capture and storage	+				-	Costly new technology
Electrification and renewable energy	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	Increased reliability of services
Industrial parks	+	+	+	+	+	Requires complex governance and management

Dark blue signifies that synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red that trade-offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable based on the studies.

Based on Table 17.3, it can be concluded that most of the mitigation options in industry considered in this section could have synergies with the SDGs, but also that some of the renewable-energy options could indicate some trade-offs in relation to land use, with implications for food- and water security and costs. Carbon capture and storage could also be costly.

17.3.3.4 Cities, Infrastructure and Transportation

With 80% of the global population expected to be urban by 2050, cities will shape development paths for the foreseeable future (United Nations, 2018). The challenge for many policymakers is to construct development paths that make cities clean, prosperous and liveable while mitigating climate change and building resilience to heatwaves, flooding and other climate risks. The IPCC 1.5 report sees achieving these objectives as feasible: cities could potentially realise significant climate and sustainable-development benefits from shifting development paths (Wiktorowicz et al., 2018). The section assesses the synergies and trade-offs between meeting the SDGs and climate-change mitigation, as well as providing a general overview of mitigation options in cities and of enabling factors, including city networks and plans for jointly addressing the SDGs and climate-change mitigation.

Chapter 8 concludes that urban areas potentially offer several joint benefits between mitigation and the SDGs, and that since AR5, evidence of the co-benefits of urban mitigation continues to grow. In developing countries, a co-benefits approach that frames climate objectives alongside other development benefits are increasingly being seen as an important concept justifying and driving climate-change actions in developing countries (Patterson et al. 2017; Seto et al. 2014).

Evidence for the co-benefits of urban mitigation measures on human health has increased significantly since the IPCC AR5, especially through the use of health-impact assessments in cities like Geneva, where energy savings and cleaner energy-supply structures based on measures for urban planning, heating and transport have reduced CO₂, NO_x and PM10 emissions and increased the opportunities for physical activity for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

There is increasing evidence that climate-mitigation measures can lower health risks that are related to energy poverty, especially in vulnerable groups, such as the elderly (Monforti-Ferrario et al. 2018). Moreover, the use of urban forestry and green infrastructure as both a climate mitigation and adaptation

1 measure can reduce heat stress (Kim 2017; Privitera and La Rosa 2018) while removing air pollutants
2 to improve air quality (Scholz et al. 2018; De la Sota et al. 2019) and enhancing well-being, including
3 contributions to local development and possible reductions of inequalities (Lwasa et al. 2015). Other
4 studies evidence the potential to reduce premature mortality by up to 7,000 in 53 towns and cities with
5 93,000 net new jobs and lower global climate costs, as well as lower personal energy costs based on
6 roadmaps for renewable energy transformations (Dollinger and Jose 2019).

7 The co-benefits of energy-saving measures described by 146 signatories of a city climate network due
8 to improved air quality have been quantified as 6,596 avoided premature deaths (with a 95% confidence
9 interval of 4,356 to 8,572 avoided premature deaths) and 68,476 years of life saved (with a 95%
10 confidence interval of 45,403 and 89,358 years of life saved) (Monforti-Ferrario et al. 2018). Better air
11 quality further reinforces the health co-benefits of climate-mitigation measures based on walking and
12 bicycling, since the evidence suggests that increased physical activity in urban outdoor settings with
13 low levels of black carbon improves lung function (Laeremans et al. 2018). Chapter 9 shows that
14 mitigation actions in buildings have multiple co-benefits resulting in substantial social and economic
15 value beyond their direct impact on reducing energy consumption and GHG emissions, thus
16 contributing to the achievement of almost all the United Nation's SDGs. Most studies agree that the
17 value of these multiple benefits is greater than the value of the energy savings, while their quantification
18 and inclusion in decision-making processes will strengthen the adoption of ambitious reduction targets
19 and improve coordination across policy areas.

20 There are several examples of cities that have developed plans for jointly meeting the SDGs and
21 mitigation, which demonstrates the feasibility of meeting these objectives jointly. Quito, Ecuador, a city
22 with large carbon footprints (Go Explorer, 2019) and climate vulnerabilities, has adopted low-carbon
23 plans that aim to achieve the climate goals while introducing net-zero energy buildings and reducing
24 water stress (Ordonez et al., 2019; Marcotullio et al., 2018). Several cities in China, Indonesia, and
25 Japan have invested in green city initiatives by means of green infrastructural investments in cities,
26 which is claimed to be a form of smart investment. Through this type of investment, economic growth
27 and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions can be achieved in cities (Jupesta and Wakiyama,
28 2016). Multi-level governance arrangements, public-private cooperation, and robust urban-data
29 platforms are among the factors enabling the pursuit of these objectives within countries (Corfee-
30 Morlot, J., et al 2009; Gordon 2015; Creutzig et al., 2019, Yarime 2017).

31 In addition to the mostly domestic enablers listed previously, some cities have also benefited from
32 working with international networks. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (Energy
33 2019), the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (2019), ICLEI (2019), C40 (2019), and UNDRR
34 (2019) have provided targeted support, disseminated information and tools, and sponsored campaigns
35 (Race to Zero) to motivate cities to embrace climate and sustainability objectives. Despite this support,
36 it should be stressed that most cities are in the early stages of climate planning (Climate-ADAPT, 2019;
37 D. Reckien et al., 2014; D. Reckien et al., 2018). Further, in some cases city policymakers may fail to
38 highlight the synergies and trade-offs between climate and sustainable development or rebrand GHG-
39 intensive practices as 'sustainable' in relevant plans (Tozer 2018). Six priorities are highlighted within
40 the focus on mitigation and adapting urban climate change: increasing the number of observations,
41 understanding climate interactions, studying informal settlements, harnessing disruptive technologies,
42 supporting the transformation, and recognising the context of global sustainability (Creutzig et al.
43 2019).

44 With regard to city networks, Chapter 8 concluded that the importance of urban-scale policies for
45 sustainability has increasingly been recognised by international organisations and national and regional
46 governments. For example, in 2015, more than 150 national leaders adopted the UN's 2030 Sustainable
47 Development Agenda, including stand-alone SDG 11, to "make cities and human settlements inclusive,
48 safe, resilient and sustainable" (United Nations 2015, p. 14). The following year, 170 countries agreed

1 to the UN New Urban Agenda (NUA, a central part of which is recognising the importance of national
2 urban policies (NUPs) as a key to achieving national economic, social, and environmental goals (United
3 Nations 2015, 2017). Similarly, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction identifies the need
4 to focus on unplanned and rapid urbanisation to reduce exposure and vulnerability to the risks of
5 disasters (UNISDR 2015).

6 For many cities, a key to reorienting development paths will be investing in sustainable, low-carbon
7 infrastructure. Because infrastructure has a long lifetime and influences everything from lifestyle
8 choices to consumption patterns, decisions over an estimated USD 90 trillion of infrastructure
9 investment (from now to 2030) will be critical in order to avoid becoming locked into unsustainable
10 paths (The New Climate Economy 2016). This is particularly true in developing countries, where
11 demands for new buildings, roads, energy, and waste management systems are already surging. To
12 some extent, policies that accelerate building renovation rates, including voluntary programmes (Van
13 der Heijden, 2018), can support transitions down more sustainable paths (Kuramochi et al., 2018).
14 Factoring climate and sustainable development considerations into policy tools that facilitate
15 quantitative emission performance standard (EPS) and the inclusion of climate and sustainable
16 development benefits and risks in infrastructure assessments or risk-adjusted returns on investments in
17 development banks could also prove useful (Rydge, 2015). Strong policy signals from the UNFCCC
18 and from national climate policies and strategies (including NDCs) could facilitate the uptake of the
19 relevant policies and the use of these tools.

20 Infrastructural investments will also have wide-ranging implications for sustainable, low-carbon urban
21 development, namely transport and mobility. To some extent, decision-making frameworks such as
22 Avoid-Shift-Improve could help make these patterns low carbon and sustainable (Dalkmann and
23 Brannigan 2007; Wittneben et al. 2009). Mixed land-use planning and compact cities can not only help
24 avoid emissions or shift travellers into cleaner modes (Cervero 2009), they can also improve air
25 quality, reduce commuting times, enhance energy security, and improve connectivity (Choksi et al.
26 2014; Zusman et al. 2012).

27 Chapter 10 of this report concludes that transport systems are also socio-economic systems and not just
28 technological ones and that there are a range of systemic factors that are developing into potentially
29 important factors for change: urban forms that minimise dependence on automobile; behaviour change
30 programs that emphasise shared values and economies; smart technologies that enable better options
31 for transit and active transport, as well as integrated approaches to using autonomous vehicles; new
32 ways of enabling electric recharge systems to fit into electricity grids so as to balance grids and reduce
33 anxieties about the range of electric vehicles; and new concepts for the future economy, such as the
34 circular economy, dematerialisation, the shared economy and decoupling, which are beginning to
35 reduce GHG emissions from transport.

36 Policy tools that can help recognise these climate and other co-benefits will also help to make transport
37 planning sustainable and low carbon. At the same time, policy signals from international and national
38 policymakers can help mobilise investments for improved land-use planning and make public transport
39 more attractive, especially for city and subnational officials. Another major shift coming under the ‘I’
40 in the ‘ASI’ framework, involves the transition to electrification. Additional advances in battery
41 technology and engine performance appear poised to accelerate the transition to electrification (IEA,
42 2019; Crabtree 2019). Electric vehicles can deliver significant reductions in greenhouse gases (GHGs)
43 and air pollution, provided the electricity needed to operate the cars comes from renewable resources.
44 Forward-looking companies such as Tesla, which are seeking to increase the market for electric
45 vehicles, have made recent efforts targeting China. Governments from Norway to South Korea have
46 used a combination of increasingly stringent regulations (fuel-economy standards) and pricing policies
47 (tax incentives for purchases). These could be coupled with some of the policy signals mentioned
48 previously to accelerate the transition to electrification.

1 Table 17.4 provides an overview of the synergies and trade-offs between climate-change mitigation
 2 options and key SDG impacts based on the authors' assessment. As shown in Table 4 the mitigation
 3 options for cities, infrastructure, and transportation are assessed as having many synergies between
 4 mitigation and energy, and water access. There are, however, a number of trade-offs in relation to the
 5 economic impacts, due to the high costs.

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Table 17.4 The mitigation options for cities, infrastructure, and transportation are assessed as having many synergies between mitigation and energy, and water access

Cities, Infrastructure and Transportation Options	Mitigation Impacts	Food	Water	Energy	Mobility	Economic	Remarks
Urban waste management	+	+	+	+	n.a	-	The cost for waste disposal might occur and burden to citizen
Urban data sharing	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	-	Data sharing will be useful for better design and planning on mitigation actions
Urban water management	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	-	The water treatment for recycling and reusing
Innovative building design	+	n.a	+	+	n.a	-	The upfront cost for green building might be high and return of investment would take several years
Retrofitting old building	+	n.a	-	-	n.a	+	New buildings might increase GHG emissions from cements etc, retrofitting will decrease GHG emissions
Using lightweight building materials (timber and bamboo) and green corridors to reduce the heat	+	n.a	+	+	n.a	-	The low carbon building will reduce GHG emission significantly from building sector
Low carbon transportation	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	-	Shifting from fossil fuels based into renewable energy (e.g.: biofuel, battery) could decrease GHG emissions
Transport sharing application	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	This online platform could improve air quality and social inclusion and reduced congestion
More charging stations for electric vehicle	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	The more number of charging stations will enabling more passengers shifting from fossil fuel based

							vehicle into electric vehicle
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2 Dark blue signifies that synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red that trade-offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable based on the studies.

3 4 5 **17.3.3.5 Mitigation-adaptation relations**

6 The section will consider the links between mitigation and adaptation options in the context of
7 sustainable development and the associated synergies and trade-offs. Cross-cutting conclusions will be
8 drawn based on Chapter 3, the sectoral chapters of this report and WGII Chapter 18: Climate-resilient
9 development pathways, before highlighting specific issues related to enabling. The focus will be on the
10 following sectors.

- 11
12
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14
15
16
- agriculture, food and land use.
 - water-energy-food.
 - industry and the circular economy.
 - Urban areas.

17 WG II Chapter 18 addresses the mitigation-adaptation relationship in the context of climate-resilient
18 development pathways. Adaptation and mitigation are discussed in the context of underlying
19 development choices and sustainable development, the conclusion being that coherent and integrated
20 policy-planning is needed. Chapter 4, Section 4.4.2, similarly assesses development pathways and the
21 specific links between mitigation and adaptation and concludes that there can be co-benefits, and trade-
22 offs, where mitigation implies maladaptation. However, adaptation can also be a prerequisite for
23 mitigation. It is therefore concluded that making development pathways more sustainable can build the
24 capacity for both mitigation and adaptation.

25 Climate actions, including climate-change mitigation and adaptation, are highly scale-dependent, and
26 solutions are very context-specific. Especially in developing countries, a strong link exists between
27 sustainable development, vulnerability and climate risks, as limited economic, social and institutional
28 resources often result in low adaptive capacities and high vulnerability. Similarly, the limitations in
29 resources also constitute key elements weakening the capacity for climate-change mitigation (Jakob et
30 al., 2014)). The change to climate-resilient societies requires transformational or systemic changes,
31 which also have important implications for the suite of available sustainable-development pathways
32 (Kates et al., 2012; Lemos et al., 2013). Thornton and Comberti (2017) points to the need for social-
33 ecological transformations to take place if synergies between mitigation and adaptation are to be
34 captured, based on the argument that incremental adaptation will not be sufficient when climate-change
35 impacts can be extreme or rapid, and when deep decarbonisation simultaneously involves social change
36 (WG II, SOD Chapter 18).

37 As discussed in WG II, Chapter 18 Section 18.4.2.2, there are synergies and trade-offs between
38 adaptation and sustainable development, as well as between mitigation and sustainable development.
39 Furthermore, links between mitigation and adaptation options are identified, such as expected changes
40 in energy demand due to climate change interacting with energy-system development and mitigation
41 options, changes to agricultural production practices to manage the risks of potential changes in weather
42 patterns affecting land-based emissions and mitigation strategies, or mitigation strategies that place
43 additional demands on resources and markets. This increases the pressures on, and costs of adaptation
44 or ecosystem restoration linked to carbon sequestration and the benefits in terms of the resilience of
45 natural and managed ecosystems, but also could constrain mitigation options and increase costs.
46 Chapter 3 of this report similarly concludes that the connectedness and coherence of actions to mitigate
47 climate change could support the conservation and adaptation of ecosystems and meet wider sustainable
48 development goals.

1 Options to reduce agricultural demand (e.g., dietary change, reducing food waste) can have co-benefits
2 for adaptation through reductions in the demand for land and water (SRCCCL Chapter 6). For example,
3 Grubler et al. (2018) show that stringent climate-mitigation pathways without reliance on BECCS can
4 be achieved through a fundamental transformation of the service sectors, significantly reducing the
5 demands for energy and food.

6 Agriculture, food and land-use is the sector where most climate policy options can simultaneously
7 generate impacts on mitigation, adaptation and the SDGs. Bryan et al., (2013) identified a range of
8 synergies and trade-offs across adaptation, mitigation and the SDGs given the diversity of climatic and
9 ecological conditions in Kenya. Improved management of soil fertility and improved livestock-feeding
10 practices could provide benefits to both climate-change mitigation and adaptation, as well as increase
11 income generation from farming. However, other improvements to agricultural management in Kenya,
12 for example, soil water conservation, could only provide benefits across all three domains in some
13 specific sub-regions.

14 Conservation agriculture can yield mitigation co-benefits through improved fertiliser use or the efficient
15 use of machinery and fossil fuels (Cui et al. 2019; Harvey et al. 2014; Pradhan et al. 2018a) and can
16 help build adaptive capacity (Pradhan et al. 2018a; Tyszczuk and Smith 2018). Climate-smart
17 agriculture (CSA) ties mitigation to adaptation through its three pillars of increased productivity,
18 mitigation and adaptation (Lipper et al. 2014), although managing trade-offs among the three pillars
19 requires care (Thornton et al. 2017; Soussana et al. 2019). Sustainable intensification also complements
20 CSA (Campbell et al. 2014).

21
22 Agroforestry can sustain or increase food production in some systems and can increase farmers'
23 resilience to climate change (Hummelbrunner and Jones, 2013). Some sustainable agricultural practices
24 have trade-offs, and their implementation can have negative effects on adaptation or other ecosystem
25 services. Agricultural practices can supply both mitigation and adaptation on the ground, but yields may
26 be lower, and the interconnections within the global agricultural system may lead to deforestation
27 elsewhere (Erb et al. 2016). Implementation of sustainable agriculture can increase or decrease yields,
28 depending on context (Pretty et al. 2006) (Chapter 4).

29 Land-based mitigation and adaptation will not only help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the
30 AFOLU sector, but also help augment the sector's role as a carbon sink by increasing forest and tree
31 cover through afforestation and agroforestry activities and other nature-based solutions. This is because
32 land acts as a natural carbon sink, with carbon stored in both the soil and above-ground biomass (forests
33 and plants) (Chapter 7; Keramidas et al. 2018). If managed and regulated appropriately, the land use,
34 land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector could become carbon-neutral as early as 2020–2030,
35 being a key sector for emissions reductions beyond 2025 (Keramidas et al. 2018). However, the large-
36 scale deployment of intensive bioenergy plantations, including monocultures, replacing natural forests
37 and subsistence farmlands are likely to have negative impacts on biodiversity and can threaten food and
38 water security, as well as local livelihoods, including by intensifying social conflicts (Díaz et al. 2019).

39 Based on a literature review, Berry et al. (2015) identified water-saving and irrigation techniques in
40 agriculture as attractive adaptation options with positive synergies with mitigation in increasing soil
41 carbon, reducing energy consumption, and reducing CH₄ emissions from intermittent rice-paddy
42 irrigation. These measures could, however, reduce water flows in rivers and adversely affect wetlands
43 and biodiversity. The study also concluded that afforestation could reduce peak water flows and implies
44 increased carbon sequestration, but trade-offs could emerge in relation to the increased demand for
45 water.

46 Fast-growing tree monocultures or biofuel crops may enhance carbon stocks but reduce downstream
47 water availability and the availability of agricultural land (Harvey et al. 2014). Similarly, in some dry

1 environments, agroforestry can increase competition with crops and pastureland, decreasing
2 productivity and reducing the yield of catchment water (Schroback et al. 2011); (Chapter 7).

3 Hydro-power dams are among the low-cost mitigation options if only the cost of constructing the plant
4 is taken into account, but they could have serious trade-offs in relation to key sustainable-development
5 aspects, since in respect of water and land availability dams can have negative effects on ecosystems
6 and livelihoods, thereby implying increased vulnerabilities. Section 17.4.3.2 on the water-energy-food
7 nexus includes examples of trade-offs between the benefits of producing electricity from hydro-power
8 dams and the trade-offs with ecosystem services and land-use for agriculture and livelihoods.

9 There are several potentially strong links between climate-change adaptation in industry and climate-
10 change adaptation. Various supply chains can be affected by climate change, energy supply and water
11 supply, and other resources can be disrupted by climate events. Adaptation measures can influence
12 GHG emissions in their turn and thus mitigation because of the demand for basic materials, for example,
13 as well as by influencing outdoor environments and labour productivity (Chapter 11).

14 Implementing adaptation options in industry can also imply increasing the demand for packing
15 materials such as plastics and for access to refrigeration. These options are among the adaptation options
16 that are dependent on temperature and storage possibilities, as well as being major sources of GHG
17 emissions.

18 An increasing number of cities are becoming involved in voluntary actions and networks aimed at the
19 development of integrated plans for sustainable development and climate-change mitigation and
20 adaptation, including cities in both high- and low-income countries in the world. Grafakos et al., (2019)
21 and Sanchez Rodriguez et al., (2018) concluded that cities are an obvious place for the development of
22 plans that can capture several synergies between sustainable development and climate-resilient
23 pathways. Kim and Grafakos (2019) and Landauer et al. (2019) similarly concluded that cities are an
24 obvious platform for the development of integrated planning efforts because of the scale of policies and
25 actions, which could potentially match the different policy domains. Kim and Grafakos (2019) assessed
26 the level of integration of mitigation and adaptation in urban climate-change plans across 44 major Latin
27 American cities, concluding that the integration of climate-change mitigation and adaption plans was
28 very weak in about half the cities and that the limited donor finance was a main barrier. The authors
29 also mention barriers in relation to governance and the weak or lack of legal frameworks. The
30 integration of SDGs with adaptation could help increase the willingness of politicians to implement
31 climate actions, as well as providing stronger arguments for investing the required resources (Sanchez
32 Rodriguez et al., 2018).

33 The local integration of planning and policy implementation practices was also examined by Newell et
34 al. (2018) in a study of eleven Canadian communities. It was concluded that, in order to put plans into
35 practice, a deeper understanding needs to be established of the potential synergies and trade-offs
36 between sustainable development and climate-change mitigation and adaptation. A model was applied
37 to the evaluation of key impacts, including energy innovation, transportation, the greening of cities, and
38 city life. The impact assessment came to the conclusion that multiple benefits, costs, and conflicting
39 areas could be involved, and that involving a broad range of stakeholders in policy implementation was
40 therefore to be recommended.

41 There are several links between mitigation and adaptation options in the building sector, as pointed out
42 in Chapter 9, Section 9.7. Adaptation can increase energy consumption and associated GHG emissions
43 (Kalvelage et al., 2013; Campagnolo and Davide et al., 2019), for example, in relation to the demand
44 for energy to meet indoor thermal comfort requirements in a future warmer climate (de Wilde and
45 Coley, 2012; Li and Bou-Zeid 2013;Clarke et al., 2018). Mitigation alternatives through passive
46 approaches may increase the resilience to the impacts of climate change on thermal comfort and could
47 reduce cooling needs (Wan et al. 2012b; Andrić et al. 2019). However, climate change may reduce their
48 effectiveness (Ürge-Vorsatz et al., 2014).

1 Mitigation and the co-benefits of adaptation in urban areas in relation to air quality, health, green jobs,
2 and equity was dealt with in Chapter 8, Section 8.2, where it was concluded that most mitigation options
3 will have positive impacts on adaptation, with the exception of compact cities, with trade-offs between
4 mitigation and adaptation. This is because decreasing urban sprawl can increase the risks of flooding
5 and heat stress. Detailed mapping between mitigation and adaptation in urban areas shows that there
6 are many, very close interactions between the two policy domains and that coordinated governance
7 across sectors is therefore called for.

8 Rebuilding and refurbishment after climate hazards can increase energy consumption and GHG
9 emissions in the construction and building materials sectors, as could making the existing building stock
10 more climate resilient (Hallegatte 2009; de Wilde and Coley 2012; Pyke et al. 2012b). Climate changes
11 such as extreme high temperatures, intense rainfall leading to flooding, more intense winds and/or
12 storms, and sea level rises (SLRs) can seriously impact transport infrastructure, and the operations and
13 mobility of road, rail, shipping and aviation; Chapter 10 documents the impacts on subsectors within
14 transportation. At the same time, these sectors are major targets for GHG mitigation options, and many
15 countries are currently examining what to do in terms of combined mitigation-adaptation efforts, using
16 the need to mitigate climate change through transport-related GHG emissions reductions and pollutants
17 as the basis for adaptation action (Thornbush et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2020). For example, urban sprawl
18 indirectly affects climate processes, increasing emissions and vulnerability, which worsens the ability
19 to adapt (Congedo and Munafò, 2014; Macchi and Tiepolo, 2014). Hence greater use of rail by
20 passengers and freight will reduce the pressures on the roads, while having less urban sprawl will reduce
21 the impacts on new infrastructure, often in more vulnerable areas (IPCC, 2019; Newman, Beatley, and
22 Boyer, 2017).

23 Despite many links between mitigation and adaptation options, including synergies and trade-offs,
24 Chapter 13 concludes that there are few frameworks for integrated policy implementation. One review
25 of climate legislation in Europe found that a lack of coordination between mitigation and adaptation,
26 implementation varying according to different national circumstances (Nachmany et al. 2015).

27 In developing and least developed countries, there are many examples of climate policies in the NDCs
28 that have been drawn up in the context of sustainable development and cover both mitigation and
29 adaptation (Beg et al., 2002; Duguma et al., 2014); also Chapter 13. However, there are many barriers
30 to joint policy implementation. Despite the emphasis on both mitigation and adaptation policies, there
31 is very limited literature on how to design and implement integrated policies (Di Gregorio et al. 2017;
32 Shaw et al. 2014). For example, the links within the water, energy and food nexus require coordination
33 among sectoral institutions and capacity-building in innovative frameworks linking science, practice
34 and policy at multiple levels (Shaw et al. 2014; Cook and Chu 2018; Nakano et al. 2017).

35 Another challenge is the fact that limited financial, technical and human resources exist for
36 implementing joint A&M (Kedia 2016; Bellinson and Chu 2019; Antwi-Agyei et al. 2018; David and
37 Venkatachalam 2019; Satterthwaite 2017). Several studies have stressed that the lack of finance for
38 integrating policy implementation between sustainable development and climate-change mitigation and
39 adaptation may constitute barriers to the implementation of adaptation projects to protect least
40 developed countries with many vulnerabilities.

41 Locatelli et al., (2016) come to similar conclusions regarding finance based on interviews with
42 multilateral development banks, green funds, and government organisations in respect of the
43 agricultural and forestry sectors. International climate finance has been totally dominated by mitigation
44 projects. Those who were interviewed were asked about their willingness to change this balance and to
45 commit more resources to projects that address both climate-change mitigation and adaptation. More
46 than two-thirds of those interviewed, however, raised concerns that integrated projects could be too
47 complicated and that a greater alignment of financial models across different policy domains could
48 entail greater financial risks. Another barrier mentioned in respect of finance was that mitigation

1 projects were primarily aimed at GHG emissions reductions, while adaptation projects had more
2 national benefits and were also more suitable for community development and promoting equity and
3 fairness.

4 Table 17.5 provides an overview of how the options assessed in this section impact on mitigation,
5 adaptation, food, water, energy, and poverty-alleviation, based on a qualitative assessment by the
6 authors.

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Table 17.5 Overview of synergies and trade-offs between examples of mitigation-adaptation options and food, water, energy access, and economic impacts

Adaptation-Mitigation Option	Mitigation Impact	Adaptation Impact	Food	Water	Energy	Poverty
Agriculture, food land-use						
Improved management of soil fertility and livestock feeding	+	+	+	+/-	n.a	+
Conservation agriculture, smart systems	+	+	+	+	+	+
Agroforestry	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
Afforestation/efficient agriculture	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
Large-scale bioenergy plantations	+	-	-	+/-	+	+/-
Dietary changes and services	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-
Water-energy-food						
Irrigation	+	+	+	-	+/-	+
Fast-growing monocultures	+	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-
Hydropower	+	-	-	-	+	+
Industry						
Efficient construction processes and material use	+	+	+	+	+	+
Plastics protection of food, recycling	+	+	+	-	+	

10 Notes: The assessment is based on reports from sectoral chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11. Dark blue signifies that
11 synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red that trade-
12 offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable based on the studies.

13

14 As shown in Table 17.5, there are several examples of options in the agriculture, food and land-use
15 sectors, which, despite having positive impacts on both mitigation and adaptation, have both negative
16 and positive impacts on access to food and water and poverty alleviation. These are particularly
17 advanced production methods, like agroforestry and large-scale bioenergy plantations. The same is the
18 case for the water-energy-food nexus, where fast-growing monocultures and hydropower plants can
19 compromise access to food and water, as well as poverty alleviation. The options for industry and urban
20 areas have few negative impacts, with the exception of adaptation in energy-intensive industries, which
21 could increase energy consumption and thus emissions, as well as urban sprawl. That could imply
22 increased emissions from transportation, as well as impacting on different income segments both
23 positively and negatively.

24 **17.3.3.6 Cross-sectoral digitalisation**

25 In this section the potential role of digitalisation as a facilitator of a fast transition to sustainable
26 development and low emission pathways is assessed based on sectoral examples. The contributions of

1 digital technology could contribute to efficiency improvements, cross-sectoral coordination, including
2 new IT services, and decreasing resource use, implying several synergies with the SDGs, as well as
3 trade-offs, for example, in relation to reduced employment, increasing energy demand and the
4 increasing demand for services, possibly increasing GHG emissions.

5 The cost of new services provided by digitalisation can also be high. Altogether this implies that any
6 assessment of the contribution of digitalisation to supporting the SDGs and low-carbon pathways will
7 only be able to provide very context-specific results.

8 Digital technologies could potentially disrupt production processes in nearly every sector of the
9 economy. However, as an emerging area experiencing rapid penetration of many sectors, there could
10 be a window of opportunity for integrating sustainable development and low emission pathways.
11 TWI2050 (2020) concludes that the digital revolution is characterised by many innovative technologies,
12 which can both create synergies and trade-offs with the SDG's (TWI2020, 2020).

13 WBSD (2019) has assessed the potential of communication technologies (ICT) to contribute to the
14 transition to a global low-carbon economy in the energy, transportation, building, industry, and other
15 sectors (Energy, 2019). The potential is estimated to be around 15% CO₂-equivalent emissions
16 reductions in 2020 compared with a business as usual scenario. A range of ICT solutions have been
17 highlighted, including smart motors and industrial process-management in industry, traffic-flow
18 management, efficient engines for transport, smart logistics and smart energy systems.

19 The TWI2050, 2019 report assessed both the positive and negative impacts of digitalisation in the
20 context of sustainable development. It found that efficiency improvements, reduced resource-
21 consumption and new services can support the SDGs, but also that there were challenges, including in
22 respect of equality, facing the least developed and developing countries because of their low access to
23 technologies. The necessary preconditions for successful digital transformation include prosperity,
24 social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance of sustainability transitions.
25 Negative impacts could include the loss of jobs, rising levels of inequality, and the replacement of
26 labour by capital. Another negative impact of digitalisation could be the rebound effects, where easier
27 access to services could increase demand and with it GHG emissions. Digitalisation in the
28 manufacturing sector could also provide a comparative advantage to developed countries due to the
29 falling importance of labour costs, while the barriers to emerging economies seeking to enter global
30 markets could accordingly be increased.

31 In respect of governance, Balasubramaniam (2020) points out that the creation of synergies between
32 sustainable development and low-emission urbanisation based on digitalisation could face barriers in
33 the form of inadequate knowledge of structures and value creation through ecosystems that would need
34 to be addressed through smart digitalising, requiring organisational measures to support transformation
35 processes.

36 Urban areas are one of the main arenas for new digital solutions due to rapid urbanisation rates and high
37 concentrations of settlements, businesses and supply systems, offering great potential for large-scale
38 digital systems. The emergence of smart cities has supported the uptake of smart integrated energy,
39 transportation, water and waste management systems, while synergies have been created in terms of
40 more flexible and efficient systems. In its 2018 Policy and Action document, the Japanese Business
41 Federation (Keidanren) launched Society 5.0, which include plans for smart city development
42 (Keidanren Japanese Business Federation 2018). To achieve smart cities, Society 5.0 aimed to facilitate
43 diverse life-styles and business success, while the quality of life offered by these options will be
44 enhanced. It also aims to offer high-standard medical and educational services. Autonomous vehicles
45 will be available and integrated with smart grid systems in order to facilitate mobility and flexibility in
46 energy supply with a high share of renewable energy. The energy system will include microgrids,
47 renewable with demand-side controls aligned with local conditions.

Chapter 6 of this report on “Energy Systems” points out that there are many smart energy options with the potential to support sustainable development by facilitating the integration of high shares of fluctuating renewable energy in electricity systems, potentially storing energy in EV batteries or fuel cells, and applying load shifting by varying prices over time. It is concluded that very large efficiency gains are expected to emerge from digitalisation in the energy sector (Figure 6.18).

Chapter 9 Section 9.9.2 concludes that improved energy efficiency and falling costs in the building sector, which could result from digitalisation, could have rebound effects, where energy consumption and comfort levels are both increased. Increasing GHG emissions could be the result, but if low-income consumers are given faster access to affordable energy, this could agree with the SDGs, making it desirable to integrate policies targeting mitigation.

Section 10.2 discusses how the sharing economy, which, for example, could be facilitated by ICT platforms, could influence both mitigation and the SDGs. On the one hand, sharing has the potential to save transport emissions, especially if EVs are supplied with decarbonised grid electricity. However, an increase in transport emissions could be the result if increasing demand and higher comfort levels are facilitated, for example, by making access to EVs relatively easy compared with mass transit. Another possible trade-off is that the supply of transport services would be limited to the elderly and other user groups.

Green innovation in agriculture is another emerging area in which digitalisation is making huge progress. From the perspective of water provision, weather data can be used to predict rain amounts so that farmers can better manage the application of farm chemicals to minimise polluting aquifers and surface water systems used for drinking water. Meanwhile, smart meters, onsite and remote sensors, and satellite data connected to mobile devices allow real-time monitoring of crop-water and optimal irrigation requirements. On the supply side, remote tele-control systems and efficient irrigation technologies enable farmers to control and optimise the quantity and timing of water applications, while minimising the energy-consumption trade-offs of pressurised irrigation in both rural and urban agricultural contexts (Germer et al., 2011; Ruiz-Garcia et al., 2009).

Technology-driven precision agriculture, which combines geomorphology, satellite imagery, global positioning, and smart sensors, enables enormous increases in efficiency and productivity. Taken together, these technologies provide farmers with a decision-support system in real time for the whole farm. Arguably, the world could feed the projected rise in population without radical changes to current agricultural practices if food waste can be minimised or eliminated. Digital technologies will contribute to minimising these losses through increased efficiencies in supply chains, better shipping and transit systems, and improved refrigeration. The following table (Table 17.6) provides an overview of the impact of the digitalisation options discussed in this section on mitigation and key aspects related to the SDGs based on the authors’ assessment.

Table 17.6 The impacts of digitalisation options on mitigation and aspects of the SDGs, including food, water, energy, mobility, and the economic impacts.

Digitalisation Option	Mitigation Impact	Food	Water	Energy	Mobility	Poverty/Economy	Remarks
High shares of fluctuating renewable energy	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	The renewable potential is increased, but with potentially high costs
Time-flexible demand management	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	Consumers could pay a high price at times when they prefer to consume
Integrated energy and transport systems with storage based on	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+/-	+/-	Driving could be increased due to the decreasing costs of EVs

charging electric vehicles							
ICT transportation platforms for car sharing	+/-	n.a	n.a	n.a	+/-	+	Driving could be increased due to the low-cost availability of EVs
Platform for information exchange on sharing economy	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	Sharing could be increased, but old and inefficient technologies could be given extended lifetimes
Smart buildings	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+/-	Efficiency improvements, but the rebound effect could increase demand
Smart agricultural irrigation	+	+	+	+/-	n.a	+	Decreasing water demand due to optimal location and timing
Nexus management	+	+	+	+	+	+	Pressure on land resources could come from bioenergy crops, but digitalisation supports integrated management

Notes: The assessment is based on reports from the sectoral chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11. Dark blue implies that synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red that trade-offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable based on the studies.






As illustrated in Table 17.6, in most cases the digitalisation options may have both positive synergistic impacts on mitigation and the SDGs and some negative trade-offs. Energy-sector options are assessed primarily as having synergies, while some digitalisation options in transport could increase the demand for emission-intensive modes of transport. Digital platforms for the sharing economy could have both positive and negative impacts depending on the goods and services that are actually exchanged. The options assessed for agriculture and the energy-water-food nexus could help manage resources more efficiently across sectors, which could create synergies.

17.3.3.7 Cross sectoral overview of synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and the SDGs

Based on the conclusions of the sectoral chapters of this report, Table 17.7 provides an overview of the synergies and trade-offs between sectoral mitigation options and the SDGs.

1

Table 17.7 Trade-offs and synergies between sectoral mitigation options and the SDGs

Sector/System	Mitigation option	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17		
 Energy systems	Solar Energy	+	+/-	+	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+		
	Wind energy	+	+/-	+	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	-	n.a	n.a	+		
	Hydroelectric power	-	+/-	+/-	n.a	n.a	+	+	+/-	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a		
	Nuclear	+/-	n.a	+/-	n.a	n.a	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	+/-	n.a	n.a		
	Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, & Storage	-	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	-	+/-	+	+	n.a	n.a	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+/-		
	Bioenergy	+/-	-	+/-	n.a	n.a	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	
	Fossil fuel phaseout	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+	+	+/-	n.a	+	
	Geothermal	+	n.a	+/-	n.a	n.a	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+/-	+	n.a	-	n.a	n.a	
	Energy storage for low-carbon grids	+/-	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	-	n.a	n.a	-	n.a	+	
	Demand side mitigation	+	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	
System integration	+/-	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+/-	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
 Agriculture, Forestry & Land use	Healthy balanced diets, rich in plant-based food (less animal-based)	+/-	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	n.a	+/-	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	
	Reduce non-CO2 emissions from agriculture	+/-	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+/-	+/-	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	
	Restore forests and other ecosystems	+	-	+	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	-	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	
	Enhance carbon in agricultural systems	+	+	+/-	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+/-	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	
	Protect and avoid conversion of forests and other ecosystems	+/-	-	+	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	+/-	n.a	+	+	+	+	-	n.a	
	Sustainably manage forests and other ecosystems	+	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	+	+/-	+	+	n.a	+/-	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a
	Bioenergy and BECCS	+/-	-	+/-	n.a	n.a	+/-	+	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	n.a	n.a	
 Buildings	Envelope improvement	+/-	+	+/-	+	n.a	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	+		
	Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)	+/-	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+/-	-	+/-	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Efficient Appliances	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	-	+/-	n.a	+/-	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a		
	Change in construction methods and materials	+/-	n.a	+/-	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	n.a	+	+	+/-	n.a	
	Active and passive management and operation	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Digitalization	+	+	+	+	n.a	+	+	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Flexible comfort requirements	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	n.a		
	Circular and shared economy	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a		
Renewable energy production	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	n.a	+	+	+			
 Transport	Fuel efficiency	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	+	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Electromobility	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Heavy vehicle transition fuels	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Demand reductions	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
 Industry	Energy efficiency	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Materials efficiency and Demand management	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+/-	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Circular economy	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a		
	Electrification fuel switching	+	+	+	n.a	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	CCU	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
CCS	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a			
Cross sectional	Direct air capture	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
	Enhanced weathering	+	+	+	n.a	n.a	+	n.a	+	n.a	n.a	n.a	+	+	+	+	+	n.a		
	Reduce overconsumption	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		

2

3 Notes: The assessment is based on reports from the sectoral chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11. Dark blue implies that
 4 synergies are expected, light blue that both synergies and trade-offs could be expected, and brown/red that trade-
 5 offs can be expected. Grey is used to indicate that the measure is not applicable for the particular SDG based on
 6 the studies.

7

8 The sectoral overview provided in Table 17.7 shows that for most sectors there are many synergies
 9 between mitigation and the SDGs, for example, in relation to SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy).
 10 Some SDGs, including SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) face several trade-
 11 offs in relation to mitigation in the energy sector and AFOLU, which reflects conflicts over land-use
 12 between bioenergy production and other land-uses. Trade-offs can also be identified in relation to SDG
 13 9, industry, innovation and infrastructure for the building and energy sector. In many cases places there
 14 may be both synergies and trade-offs between sectoral mitigation options and the SDGs, reflecting the
 15 fact that such impacts may emerge jointly and also that the impacts are context-specific and can vary
 16 from place to place. It is important to recognise that this assessment critically depends on the number
 17 of mitigation options and studies assessed in the sectoral chapters.

18

1 **17.4 Key barriers and enablers of the transition: synthesising results**

2 This section provides a deep and broad synthesis of theory (Section 17.2) and evidence (Section 17.3)
3 in order to identify the conditions that either enable or inhibit the transition to sustainable low-carbon
4 futures. Following the literature on sustainability transitions, the section finds that there is rarely a single
5 factor promoting or preventing such a transition. Rather, such marked departures from business as usual
6 typically involve several factors, ranging from technological innovations to shifts in markets, and from
7 policies and governance arrangements to changes in belief systems and market forces. All this comes
8 together in a co-evolutionary process that unfolds at globally, internationally and locally over several
9 decades (Hansen and Nygaard 2014; Rogge et al. 2017). While transitions necessarily follow context-
10 specific trajectories, more general lessons can be drawn by comparing the empirical details with both
11 the system level and narrower explanations for change.

12 Sections 17.2 and 17.3 show that transitions often face multiple barriers. Previous sections also
13 underline a related need to move beyond focusing on “rational” assessments of the costs and benefits
14 of policies and technologies in order to overcome these multiple barriers. For example, the case of coal-
15 fired power in China (Section 17.3) shows that a transition to a lower carbon system is unlikely to
16 happen even if models find it to be technically feasible and cost-effective with a carbon tax and feed-in
17 tariffs. Rather, achieving a transition requires breaking locked-in high-carbon technological trajectories,
18 path dependencies and resistance to change from the industries and actors that benefit from the current
19 system (Rogge et al. 2017). Lock-in effects may be weaker in sectors and policy areas where fewer
20 technologies exist, potentially opening the door to innovations that embed the climate into broader
21 sustainability objectives (e.g., technologies and innovations that support the integration between food,
22 water and energy goals). Such effects may still happen when there are significant information
23 asymmetries and high-cost barriers to action, as can occur when working across multiple climate and
24 development-related sectors (Kemp and Never 2017b).

25 However, the same conditions that may serve to impede a transition (i.e., organisational structure,
26 behaviour, technological lock-in) can also be ‘flipped’ so as to enable it (Burch, 2010; Lee et al., 2017),
27 while the framing of policies relevant to the sustainable development agenda can also create a stronger
28 basis and policy support. The technological developments and broader cultural changes that may
29 generate new social demands on infrastructure to contribute to sustainable development will involve a
30 process of social learning. However, it is also important to note that strong shocks to these systems,
31 including accelerated climate-change impacts, economic crises and political changes, may provide
32 crucial openings for accelerated transitions to sustainable systems through fundamental institutional
33 changes (Broto, et al. 2014). Key enabling conditions appear to be individual and collective action,
34 including leadership and education; financial, material and technical driver that foster innovation;
35 supportive policy and governance dynamics at multiple levels that permit both agility and coherence;
36 measures to recognise and address the challenges to equality inherent in the transition; and long-range,
37 holistic planning that explicitly seeks synergies between climate change and sustainable development
38 while avoiding trade-offs. The sections that follow integrate and assess these key categories of the
39 barriers to and enablers of an accelerated transition to sustainable development pathways.

40 **17.4.1 Behavioural and lifestyle changes**

41 Transitions toward more sustainable development pathways are both an individual and a collective
42 challenge, requiring an examination of the role of values, attitudes and beliefs that shape behaviour, and
43 of the dynamics of social movements and education. Individual action suggests aggregated but
44 uncoordinated actions taken by individuals, whereas collective action involves coordination, a process
45 of governance that may ensure more efficient, equitable, and effective outcomes. Indeed, individual
46 action is necessary but insufficient to deliver transformative mitigation and must be coupled with
47 collective action to accelerate the transition to sustainable development (Dugast et al., 2019). Actors

1 with conflicting interests will compete to frame mitigation technologies that either “build or erode” the
2 legitimacy of the technology, contested framing sites that can occur between incumbent and emerging
3 actors or between actors in new but competing spaces (Rosenbloom et al., 2018). How narratives are
4 built around specific emerging technologies and how local values are integrated into visions of the
5 future have relevance for how these experiments are managed and enabled to expand (Lam et al., 2020;
6 Horcea-Milcu et al., 2020).

7 *17.4.1.1 Social movements and education*

8 Sustainable development and deep decarbonisation will involve people and communities being
9 connected locally through various means – including globally via the internet and digital technologies
10 (Bradbury, 2015, Scharmer, C, Kaufer 2015, Scharmer, 2018) – in ways that form social fields that
11 allow sustainability to happen (see also Gillard et al. 2016) and prompt other shifts in thinking and
12 behaviours consistent with the 1.5°C goal (O’Brien, 2018; Veciana and Ottmar 2018). This does not
13 apply only to adults: as seen in the “Fridays for Future” marches, children are also starting to take over
14 responsibility and involve themselves politically (Peterson, 2019).

15 It was Theory-U (Scharmer, 2008, building on the work of scholars like Schein, Lewin or Senge) that
16 inspired a so-called “massive open online course” (MOOC) jointly initiated by the Buthan Happiness
17 Institute and German Technical Assistance (GIZ) in 2015, since when it has been developed further and
18 adapted to transform business, society and self. It joins people from different professions, cultures and
19 continents in shared discussions and practices of sustainability. The Presencing Institute at the
20 Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT) has also employed action research and cultivated a large
21 international community of change toward similar ends.

22 Moreover, approaches like the “Art of Hosting” (Sandfort and Quick, 2015) and qualitative research
23 methods like storytelling and first-person research, as well as second-person inquiries (e.g., Varela,
24 1999; Scharmer and Kaufer, 2015), have been employed to bridge differences in cultures and science,
25 as well as to forge connections between those working on climate change and sustainable development.
26 Likewise, experiential tools, simulations, and role-playing games have been shown to increase
27 knowledge of the causes and consequences of climate change, the sense of urgency around action, and
28 the desire to pursue further learning (Ahamer, 2013; Eissack and Reckien, 2013; Hallinger et al, 2020;
29 Rooney-Varga et al, 2020).

30 The results from this research community reveal how experiential learning takes place and how it
31 encourages bonding between people, society and nature. This can be achieved by going jointly and
32 consciously into nature (Gioacchino, 2019) and by creating spaces for intensive dialogue sessions with
33 colleagues (Goldman-Schuyler et al., 2017) in one country and across continents, working with people
34 from North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa (Schuyler et al., 2017), and forming an u.lab
35 hub, which involves following the MIT-u.lab course with a local community (Pomeroy and Oliver
36 2018). Others have pointed to social networks such as the “transition initiative” (Hopkins, 2010), eco-
37 village networks (see e.g., Barani, et al. 2018), civil-society movements (Seyfang and Smith, 2007) and
38 intentional communities (see e.g., Grinde, et al. 2018) as ways of generating the shared understandings
39 that are central to inner and outer transitions.

40 In some cases, these networks build on principles like permaculture to encourage people to “observe
41 and interact,” “produce no waste” and “design from patterns to details”, not only in agriculture and
42 gardening, but also in sustainable businesses and technologies (see e.g., Lessem, 2018; Ferguson and
43 Lovell, 2014).

44 A related line of inquiry involves education for sustainable development (ESD). This builds on the
45 UNESCO programme on ESD for 2030 and involves core values like peace culture, valuing cultural
46 diversity and living the global citizenship. One of the core insights from research on ESC is lifelong
47 education continuing outside the classroom, a lifelong learning process that involves sustained actions

1 by all ages and social segments (e.g., Hume and Barry, 2015) and achieving collaboration (Münger and
2 Riemer, 2012). Some authors have pointed to good levels of communication either directly or through
3 the internet as the key to facilitating this learning (Sandfort and Quick, 2015). Others have noted that
4 transformative learning—a deepening of the learning process—is critical because it helps to induce both
5 shared awareness and collective actions (e.g., Brundiens and Wiek, 2010; Singleton, 2015; Wamsler et
6 al., 2018). A final area of work points to the importance of moving toward the knowledge production
7 that underpins awareness-raising (Pelling et al. et al., 2015). The accumulation of applied knowledge is
8 leading increasingly to the co-designing of participatory research with local stakeholders who are
9 investigating and transforming their own situations in line with climate action and sustainable
10 development (see e.g., Wiek et al., 2012; Abson et al., 2017; Fazey et al., 2018a).

11 **17.4.1.2 Habits, values and awareness**

12 Many of the cases that explore transitions to sustainable development point to engrained habits, values
13 and awareness levels as among the most persistent yet least visible barriers to a transition. For example,
14 in the transport sector individuals can quickly become accustomed to personal vehicles, making it
15 difficult to transition to sustainable, low-carbon modes of public transport. This is made all the more
16 challenging because car-manufacturing “incumbents” utilise information campaigns directed at the
17 public, pursue lobbying and consulting with policy-makers, and set technical standards that privilege
18 the status quo and prevent the entry of more sustainable innovations (Smink et al. 2015; Turnheim and
19 Nykvist 2019b).

20 Complicating the problem further is that even well-intentioned top-down programmes initiated by an
21 external actor may in some cases ultimately hinder transformative change (Breukers et al. 2017). For
22 instance, in Delhi, India, attempts to introduce ostensibly more sustainable bus rapid transit (BRT)
23 systems failed in part due to an arguably top-down approach that had limited public support. It may
24 nonetheless be difficult to gather public support (Bachus and Vanswijghoven 2018), and even
25 grassroots initiatives may themselves may be contested and dynamic, making it difficult to generate the
26 collective push to drive a bottom-up transition forward (Håkansson 2018).

27 However, dominant, top-down approaches and local, grassroots "alternative" approaches and values do
28 overlap and interact. In Manchester, UK, dominant and alternative discourses interact with each other
29 to create sustainable transformations through re-scaling (decentralising) energy generation, creating
30 local engagement with sustainability, supporting green infrastructure to reduce costs, re-claiming local
31 land, transforming industrial infrastructure, and creating examples of sustainable living (McMeekin et
32 al. 2019).

33 Embedding local values into higher-level policy frameworks is similarly of significant concern for
34 forest communities in Nepal and Uganda. Even so, policy intermediaries are not confident that these
35 values will be advanced due largely to an emphasis on carbon accounting and the distribution of benefits
36 (Reckien et al., 2018). In this case, however, norm entrepreneurs were able to promote the importance
37 of local values through the formation of grassroots associations, media campaigns and international
38 support networks (ibid.).

39 **17.4.2 Technological and social innovation**

40 Individuals and organisations, like institutional entrepreneurs, can function to build transformative
41 capacity through collective action (Brodnik and Brown 2018). The transition from a traditional water
42 management system to the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) model in Melbourne offers an
43 illustration of how whole systems can be changed in an urban system (ibid.).

44 Private-sector entrepreneurs also play an important role in fostering and accelerating transitions to
45 sustainable development. Sustainable entrepreneurs (SEs), for instance, are described as those who
46 participate in the development of an innovation while simultaneously being rooted in the incumbent

1 energy-intensive system. SE actors who have developed longer term relationships, both formal and
2 informal, with the public authorities can have considerable influence on developing novel renewable
3 energy technologies (Gasbarro et al. 2017). Institutions and policies that nurture the activities of
4 sustainable entrepreneurs, in particular small- and medium-sized enterprises (Burch et al. 2016), can
5 facilitate and strengthen transitions toward more sustainable development pathways.

6 The creation and growth of sustainable energy and clean-tech clusters enable economic development
7 and transformation on regional scales. Such clusters can put pressure on incumbent technologies and
8 rules to accelerate energy transitions. Successful clusters are nurtured by multi-institutional and multi-
9 stakeholder actors building institutional support networks, facilitating collaboration between sectors
10 and actors, and promoting learning and social change. Notably, regional economic clusters generate a
11 buzz, which can have a strong influence on public acceptance, support and enthusiasm for
12 sociotechnical transitions (McCauley and Stephens 2012).

13 In Norway, many incumbent energy firms have already expanded their operations into the alternative
14 energy sector as both producers and suppliers (who often follow the lead of producers). Producers are
15 responding to perceptions of larger-scale changes in the energy landscape (e.g., the green shift), along
16 with uncertainties in their own sectors. While these firms are expanding out of self-interest, the
17 expansion provides more legitimacy to new forms of technology and enables transfers of knowledge
18 and resources to be introduced within this developing niche (Steen and Weaver 2017). Many large,
19 well-established firms are pursuing sustainability agendas and opting for transparency with regard to
20 their greenhouse gas emissions (Kolk et al. 2008; Guenther et al. 2016), supply chain management
21 (Formentini and Taticchi 2016) and sustainable technology or service development (Dangelico et al.
22 2016).

23 Experiments with the transition open up pathways that can lead to energy transitions on broader scales.
24 Experiments can build capacity by developing networks and building bridges between diverse actors,
25 leveraging capital from government funds, de-risking private- and public-sector investment and acting
26 as hubs for public education and engagement (Rosenbloom et al, 2018).

27 Material barriers and spatial dynamics are other critical obstacles to innovation: often infrastructure and
28 built environments change more slowly than policies and institutions due to the inherently long lifespans
29 of fixed assets (Turnheim and Nykvist 2019b). The example of transport infrastructure in Ontario,
30 Canada, illustrates the need to integrate climate change into these infrastructural decisions in the very
31 short term to combat the risk of being left with unsustainable planning features long into the future,
32 especially combustion engines, significant road networks and trends towards suburbanisation (Birch,
33 2016).

34 **17.4.3 Financial systems and economic instruments**

35 Market-oriented policies, such as carbon taxes and green finance, can promote low-carbon technology
36 and encourage both private and public investment that enables transitions. Policies that are currently
37 being tested include loan guarantees for renewable energy investments in Mali, policy insurance to
38 reduce credit default within the feed-in tariff regime in Germany, or pledge funds to fully finance or
39 partner private firms in order to advance renewable energy projects (Roy et al., 2018). Carbon-pricing
40 is an important instrument that helps to avoid the market failures that have hindered low-carbon
41 investments. However, there may be some limitations in using carbon-pricing alone where market
42 failures hinder low-carbon investments (Campiglio, 2016; Svobodova et al. 2020) high political costs
43 (van der Ploeg, 2011).

44 Many forms of transformational change to energy systems are not possible when financial systems still
45 privilege investing in unsustainable, carbon-intensive sectors. One of the root causes of the failure of
46 traditional financial systems is the undervaluation of natural capital and unsettled property right issues
47 that are associated with it. The exclusion of proper rents for scarcities or for global and local

1 externalities, including climate change, can undermine larger-scale changes to energy systems (Clark
2 et al. 2018). But even smaller-scale low-carbon energy and infrastructure projects can fail to get off the
3 ground if uncertainty and investment risk discourage project planning and bank-lending programmes
4 (Bolton et al. 2016). The EU's previous actions regarding the "shareholder maximisation norm" and
5 non-binding measures have created path dependencies, limiting the EU's flexibility in creating
6 sustainable financial legislation. However, the Sustainable Finance Initiative and the Single Market may
7 prove to be "policy hotspots" in encouraging sustainable finance (Ahlstrom, 2019). Taking advantage of
8 these hotspots may be crucial in overcoming path dependencies and setting new ones in motion.

9 One possible positive turn in this regard is the acceleration in investing in the environment (impact and
10 ESG) globally: for instance, there is evidence that some institutional investors are divesting from coal,
11 potentially auguring well for the future. The encouragement of governance and policy reforms that
12 could facilitate similar expansions of investment in sustainable firms and sectors (Owen et al. 2018;
13 Clark et al. 2018) could contribute to the dynamic feedback that gives a transition lift and injects
14 momentum into it. Also, the degrowth movement, with its focus on sustainability over profitability, has
15 the potential to speed up transformations using alternative practices like fostering the exchange of non-
16 monetary goods and services if large numbers of stakeholders want to invest in these areas (Chiengkul,
17 2018). However, thus far the movement may be attracting attention because it has not grappled with the
18 underlying structures of the international political economy.

19 **17.4.4 Institutional capacities and multi-level governance**

20 Ultimately, the adoption of coordinated, multi-sectoral policies targeting new and rapidly developed
21 innovations can help national economies take advantage of widespread decarbonisation. Industrial
22 policies that focus on building domestic supply chains and capacities can help states prepare for the
23 influx of renewable (Zenghelis, 2019) and carbon-negative (or carbon capture and storage) technologies
24 (Quarton and Samsatli, 2020). Policies that govern green finance need to improve their guidance and
25 regulation of investment to prevent asymmetries of information and balance ecological and financial
26 goals better (Zhou et al. 2016).

27 Complicating matters further is the likelihood that pulling together different projects may require
28 complementary changes to policies and institutions. For example, in Argentina decentralised renewable
29 energy is in an advanced stage of development, but giving consumer electricity subsidies handicaps
30 supporters of renewable energy, as they have to compete with the existing firms. A lack of government
31 funds to cover ongoing maintenance costs over the geographical expanse of the country, along with
32 resource shortages in rural locations, poses an additional set of constraints (Schaube et al. 2018).

33 Sustainability transition policies place high demands on the public sector, while a lack of consensus can
34 result in a tension between institutional accountability and stability (Haley, 2017). One of the ways in
35 which institutions acquire influence is by determining whether government agencies with climate and
36 other sector-specific remits work together over the design and implementation of policies. In some
37 contexts, the absence of structures that could build a consensus across different agendas has undermined
38 policy changes that may be conducive to such a transition. In developing megacities, the lack of
39 mechanisms promoting vertical integration across levels has proved to be a constraint (Canitez 2019).

40 Crafting an acceptable cross-agency agreement is often challenging because of mutually reinforcing
41 interactions between institutions and ideas: that is, long-standing, dominant discourses, like grow-now-
42 clean-up later, are embedded within the agency rules and standard operating procedures that shape
43 narrowly focused development plans. These rules and procedures can also determine the interests of
44 key decision-makers (e.g., the head of an environmental agency) in a policy process, leading to
45 incoherent outcomes or policy conflicts. For some, this suggests a need to look not just at ideas and
46 interests, but at broader institutional changes, recognising that there is no 'one size fits all' but only
47 carefully crafted institutional reforms (Kern 2011).

1 However, introducing these reforms may not be purely a technical exercise. Political, economic and
2 other overarching power relations can lock in structures, making it difficult to integrate the climate and
3 development agendas. For example, the distinct lack of integration and movement on the energy
4 transition in Australia has developed historically from the country's politico-economic situation,
5 including the polarisation of climate policy, the perception that energy is a national jurisdiction and a
6 matter of national security, neoliberal policies in the energy sector, reliance on fossil fuels, and
7 traditional priorities in energy management regarding supply and affordability (Warren et al. 2016).
8 Furthermore, the pre-existing institutional context (or capacity) may either enable or inhibit accelerated
9 transitions to sustainability. For instance, the status-quo orientation of leaders (including decision-
10 makers' disciplinary backgrounds, world views and risk perceptions) (Willis, 2018), as well as the
11 organisational culture and management paradigms within which they operate, affect the ambition and
12 speed of mitigation policy outcomes (Rickards et al., 2014).

13 While prices, subsidies and other economic factors influence sustainable development both positively
14 and negatively, Arranz (2017) found that intentional higher-level (or, in the language of socio-technical
15 transitions, "landscape") pressures were the most effective in destabilising transitions to sustainable
16 development (Falcone and Sica 2015). This suggests that the state can play a key role in destabilising
17 incumbent energy regimes, a role which is significantly strengthened when it has public support (Arranz
18 2017; Avelino et al. 2016). However, regime outsiders have also played a role in destabilising regimes
19 by being able to combine persuasive narratives with considerable market influence (Arranz 2017).
20 Regulatory taxation, especially if applied at the "acceleration" phase of a transition, can be an important
21 enabling factor by influencing change in long-term social practices and behaviours. Environmental
22 taxes can remove "locked-in" technology and pressure dominant regimes (Bachus and
23 Vanswijgenhoven 2018).

24 It is clear that political coalitions affect the speed of transitions (Hess 2014). Incumbent industry
25 coalitions, once monolithic due to their financial resources, are now competing with 'green' coalitions
26 in terms of campaign spending. The capacity to attract financial support for green ballot proposals is
27 crucial to the ability of these green coalitions to compete with industry coalitions (ibid).

28 In South Korea, where the state was its initiator and enabler, the electricity transition initially took much
29 longer than anticipated and encountered private-sector resistance. However, when policy-makers took
30 adaptive learning and flexibility into their decision-making processes, public- and private-sector co-
31 evolution occurred, emphasising the need for collaboration as well as top-down policy-making (Lee et
32 al. 2019).

33 Ultimately, complementary policies that simultaneously address the multiple jurisdictions and
34 dimensions of a carbon-intensive energy system are more likely to succeed (Burch 2010). In addition,
35 a realistic exit strategy for incumbents is required, as are interventions (or a lackof them) to provide
36 long-term incentives for renewable energy firms (de Gooyert et al. 2016; Hamman 2019). Despite the
37 transformative potential of novel governance approaches, however, and a trend in climate governance
38 towards greater integration and inclusivity, traditional approaches to governance and a tendency to
39 incrementalism remain dominant (Hölscher et al., 2019). Institutions and organisations must play a key
40 role in prioritising climate change across all sectors and scales, while thorough mainstreaming that
41 prioritises the climate is needed in order to destabilise the influence of entrenched interests and put
42 pressure on existing norms, rules and practices (ibid.).

43 At least three themes require further research in the scholarship on transitions: the role of coalitions in
44 encouraging amenable conditions for transitions, positive and negative feedback on certain policies,
45 and the importance of local contextual conditions (governance structures, culture, etc.) (Roberts et al.,
46 2018). Importantly, these themes maybe both barriers to and opportunities for transitions.

1 **17.4.5 Equity in a just transition**

2 Energy justice, although increasingly being emphasised (Pellegrini-Masini et al., 2020), has been under-
3 represented in the literature on sustainability and in debates on energy transitions. Energy justice
4 includes affordability, sustainability, equity (accessibility for current and future households) and respect
5 (ensuring that innovations do not impose further burdens on particular groups) (Fuso Nerini et al.,
6 2019). Furthermore, it raises that prospect that a just transition will be enabled by wealthy industrialised
7 countries making more rapid progress towards net negative emissions, thus allowing more time for
8 developing and emerging economies to improve health, well-being and prosperity (van den Berg et al.,
9 2020). Looking at climate change from a justice perspective means placing the emphasis on a) the
10 protection of vulnerable populations from the impacts of climate change, b) mitigating the effects of
11 the transformations themselves, and c) envisaging an equitable decarbonised world. Neglecting issues
12 of justice risks a backlash against climate action generally, particularly from those who stand to lose
13 from such actions (Patterson et al., 2018). Combining the concept of energy justice with a multi-level
14 perspective framework reveals the dynamics of justice versus injustice at the niche, regime and
15 landscape scales (Jenkins et al., 2018). Explicit interventions to promote sustainability transitions that
16 integrate local spaces into the whole development process are necessary but not sufficient in creating a
17 just transition (Ehnert et al. 2018; Breukers et al. 2017).

18 Renewable energy transitions in rural, impoverished locations can simultaneously reinforce and disrupt
19 local power structures and inequities. Policy interventions to help the most impoverished individuals in
20 a community gain access to the new energy infrastructure are critical in ensuring that existing
21 inequalities are not reinforced. Individuals who are empowered by energy development projects can
22 influence the onward extension of sustainable energy to other communities (Ahlborg 2017). In
23 Denmark, for example, grassroots windmill cooperatives in the 1970s opened a pathway to the creation
24 of one of the world's largest wind-energy markets. The unique dynamics of grassroots-led changes
25 mean that new technologies and low-carbon initiatives develop strong foundations by being designed,
26 tested and improved in the early stages with reference to the socio-political contexts in which they will
27 grow later (Ornetzeder and Rohrer 2013).

28 Intersectional theory can shine a light on the hidden costs of resource extraction (as well as renewable
29 energy development – see, for instance, Chatalova and Balmann, 2017), which go beyond
30 environmental or health risks to include the socio-cultural impacts on both communities adjacent to
31 these sites and those who work in them (Daum et al., 2018). Indeed, development decisions often do
32 not appropriately integrate the burdens and risks placed on marginalised groups, like indigenous
33 peoples, while risk assessments tend to reinforce existing power imbalances by failing to differentiate
34 between how benefits and risks might impact on certain groups (Kojola, 2019; Healy et al., 2019).

35 **17.4.6 Holistic planning and the nexus approach**

36 Poor sectoral coordination and institutional fragmentation have triggered an unsustainable use of
37 resources and threatened the long-term sustainability of food, water and energy security (Rasul 2016).
38 Greater policy coherence among the three sectors is critical to moving to a sustainable and efficient use
39 of resources. The nexus approach – a systems-based methodology that focuses attention on the many
40 ways that natural resources are deeply interwoven and mutually interdependent – can strengthen
41 coordination and help to avoid maladaptive pathways (Cremades et al., 2019). A major shift is required
42 in the decision-making process in the direction of taking a holistic view and developing institutional
43 mechanisms to coordinate the actions of diverse actors and strengthen complementarities and synergies
44 (Rasul, 2016). However, currently the application and implementation of nexus approaches are in their
45 infancy. Liu et al., (2018) have suggested the need for a systematic procedure and provided perspectives
46 on future directions. These include expanding nexus frameworks that take into account interaction
47 linkages with SDGs, incorporating overlooked drivers and regions, diversifying nexus toolboxes, and

1 making these strategies central to policymaking and governance in the integrated implementation of the
2 SDGs.

3 In respect of processes, Seyfang and Haxeltine (2012) found a lack of realistic and achievable
4 expectations among both members (internally) and the wider public (externally), which hampers
5 movement development and growth. This movement could strategically concentrate on developing and
6 promoting short-term steps towards shared long-term visions. Sustainability science must link research
7 on problem structures with a solutions-oriented approach that seeks to understand, conceptualise and
8 foster experiments in how socio-technical innovations for sustainability develop, are diffused and are
9 scaled up (Miller et al. 2014).

10 Various strategies and processes have been explored that might facilitate the translation of barriers into
11 enablers, thus accelerating a transition to sustainable development. Common themes include frequent
12 monitoring and system evaluation to reveal the barriers in the first place, the collaborative co-creation
13 and envisioning of pathways toward sustainable development, ambitious goal-setting, strategic tackling
14 of sources of path dependence or inertia, iterative evaluations of progress, adaptive management, and
15 building in opportunities for agile course-correction at multiple levels of governance (Burch et al., 2014;
16 Halbe et al., 2015). Given the political infeasibility of stable, long-term climate policies, the better
17 choice may be to embrace uncertainty in specific policies but entrench the low-carbon transition as the
18 overarching goal. Framing climate policy too narrowly, rather than taking a more holistic, sustainable
19 development-oriented approach, may tie success to single policies, rather than allowing for system-
20 wide change.

21 Decarbonisation may be encouraged by embedding the transition in a broader socio-economic agenda,
22 focusing on constructing social legitimacy to justify the transformation, encouraging municipalities
23 with a material interest in the transition, and reforming institutions to support the long-term transition
24 goals (Rosenbloom et al. 2019). While other factors may also be impeding the energy transition in
25 Australia, in jurisdictions where climate and energy policy have been integrated and harmonised, such
26 as the UK, progress has been made towards transitioning to sustainable energy, perhaps indicating a
27 way forward for Australia and other countries (Warren et al. 2016).

28 Developing countries that are rich in fossil fuels now have an opportunity to reset their development
29 trajectories by focusing on those opportunities that will offer resilient development in land-use change,
30 renewable energy generation, and not least more efficient resource-planning (UN- UNDRR 2019).
31 Resource-rich developing countries can choose an alternative pathway by deciding to monetise carbon
32 capital and diversifying away from the high-carbon aspects of risk. Countries rich in hydrocarbons can
33 diversify their energy mix and maximise their renewable energy potential. For instance, Namibia, a net
34 importer of electricity, is seeking to reduce its current dependence on hydrocarbons by promoting solar
35 energy. The government has issued permits allowing independent power producers (IPPs) to sell
36 directly to consumers, thus ending the monopoly hitherto enjoyed by the state utility company
37 NamPower.

38 Cities are important spaces where the momentum to achieve low-carbon transitions can be built (Shaw
39 et al. 2014; Holscher et al. 2019; Burch 2010), especially where centralised energy structures and
40 national governance and politics are posing deep-rooted challenges to change (Dowling et al. 2018;
41 Meadowcroft 2011). Cities can enter networks and partnerships with other cities and multilevel actors,
42 spaces that are important for capacity-building and accelerating change.

43 Addressing the uncertainties and complexities associated with locally, regionally and nationally
44 sustainable development pathways requires creative methods and participatory processes. These may
45 include powerful visualisations that make the implications of climate change (and decarbonisation)
46 clear locally (Sheppard et al. 2011; Shaw et al. 2014), other visual aids or “progress wheels” that

1 effectively communicate the relevant contexts (Glaas et al. 2018), storytelling and mapping, and both
2 analogue and digital games.

3

4 **Frequently Asked Questions**

5 **FAQ 17.1 Will decarbonisation efforts slow or accelerate sustainable development transitions?**

6

7 Sustainable development offers a comprehensive pathway to achieving ambitious climate change
8 mitigation goals. Sustainable development requires the pursuit of synergies and the avoidance of trade-
9 offs between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, and can thus provide
10 pathways that accelerate progress towards ambitious climate change mitigation goals. Factoring in
11 equity and distributional effects will be particularly important in the pursuit of sustainable policies and
12 partnerships and accelerating the transition to sustainable development. Using climate change as a key
13 conduit can only work if synergies across sectors are exploited, and if policy implementation is
14 supported by national and international partnerships.

15 The speed, quality, depth and scale of the transition will depend on the developmental starting point,
16 explicit goals as well as the enabling environment – individual behaviour, mindsets, beliefs and actions,
17 social cohesion, governance, policies, institutions, social and technological innovations etc. The
18 integration of both climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in sustainable development is also
19 essential in the establishment of fair and robust transformation pathways.

20 **FAQ 17.2 What role do considerations of justice and inclusivity play in the transition towards 21 sustainable development?**

22 Negative economic and social impacts in some regions as a consequence of ambitious climate change
23 mitigation policies could emerge if these are not aligned with key sustainable development aspirations
24 such as those represented by the SDG's no poverty, energy-, water-, and food access etc, which could
25 in turn, slow down the transition process. Nonetheless, many climate change mitigation policies could
26 generate incomes, new jobs, and other benefits. Capturing these benefits could require that specific
27 policies and investments are targeted directly towards including all parts of society in the new activities
28 and industries created by the climate change mitigation policies, and that activities, which are reduced
29 as part of transitions to low carbon including industries and geographical areas are seeing new
30 opportunities. Poor understanding of how governance at multiple levels can meet these transition
31 challenges may fail to make significant progress in relation to national policies and a global climate
32 agreement and may therefore support or weaken the climate architecture, thus constituting a limiting
33 factor.

34

35 **FAQ 17.3 How critical are the roles of institutions in accelerating the transition and what can 36 governance enable?**

37

38 Institutions are critical in accelerating the transition towards sustainable development. Institutions can
39 help to shape climate change response strategies both in terms of adaptation and mitigation. Local
40 institutions are custodians of critical adaptation services ranging from mobilisation of resources, skills
41 development and capacity building as well as dissemination of critical strategies. Transitions towards
42 sustainable development are mediated by actors within a given institution, the governance mechanisms
43 they use as implementing tools and the political coalitions they form to enable action. Patterns of
44 production and consumption have implications for a low carbon development and many of these
45 patterns can act as barriers or opportunities towards sustainable development. Trade policies,
46 international economic issues and international financial flows can positively support the speed and
47 scale of the transition or they can negatively impact on policies that may inhibit the process.

1 Nonetheless, contextual factors are a fundamental part of the change process, and institutions and their
2 governance systems provide pathways that can influence contextual realities on the ground. For
3 instance, politically vested interests may lead powerful lobby groups or coalition networks to influence
4 the direction of the transition or could put pressure on a given political elite through the imposition of
5 regulatory standards, taxation, incentives, and policies that may speed or delay the transition process.
6 Civil society institutions, for example, NGOs or research centres can constitute effective governance
7 ‘watch dogs’ in the transition process, particularly when they exercise a challenge function and question
8 government’s action in the transition process related to sustainable development.

9

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