State and Outlook for Europe's Environment Report 2020 and EEA contribution to SDGs

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25 1994-2019 European Environment Agency

Introduction – SOER has a long history at the EEA

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SOER 1995
- report (151 pp) + summary
- addresses 5 EAP targets
- focus on sectoral integration

SOER 1999
- big report (446 pp) + summary
- addresses environmental trends
- focus on DPSIR, link between issues

SOER 2005
- bigger report (569 pp, Parts A, B & C)
- addresses air, water, land
- focus on DPSIR, core set of indicators

SOER 2010
- several reports (Parts A, B, C + Synthesis)
- addresses 6EAP priority areas
- focus on systemic challenges

SOER 2015
- several reports (A, B, C + Synthesis), largely web-based
- addresses 7EAP priority areas
- focus on the need for systemic transitions

→ *Problem focused*

SOER 2020

SOER 2020
- Integrated Assessment report (2019)
- stakeholder process (2019/2020)
- focus on 7EAP priority areas, sustainability prospects

→ *Solution oriented*

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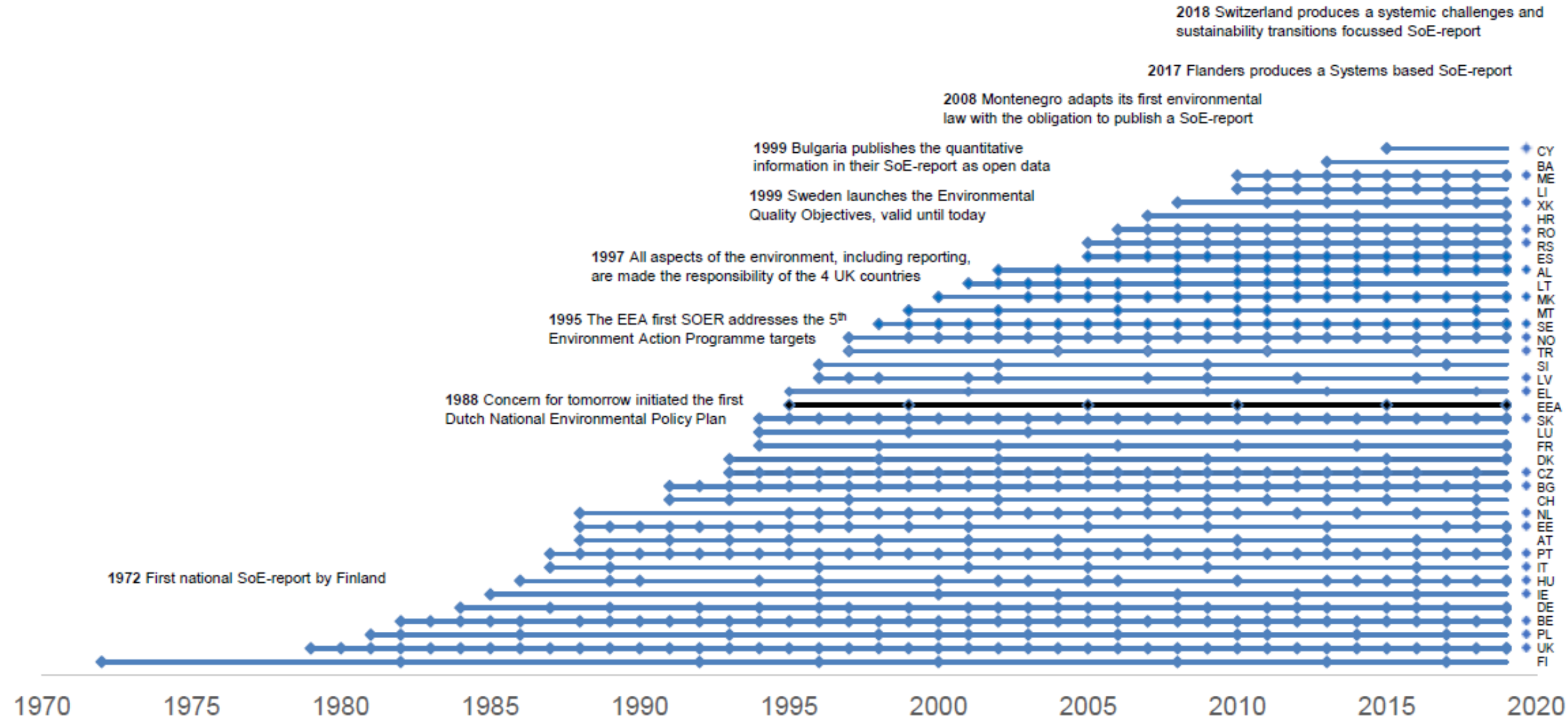
Introduction – national level SoE reporting in parallel



Introduction – what is an integrated environmental assessment

In striving to be **credible**, **salient** and **legitimate**, integrated environmental assessments aim for the following characteristics:

(1) provide an assessment **across thematic issues**

(2) assess issues **across geographical scales**

(3) address the **past, present and future**

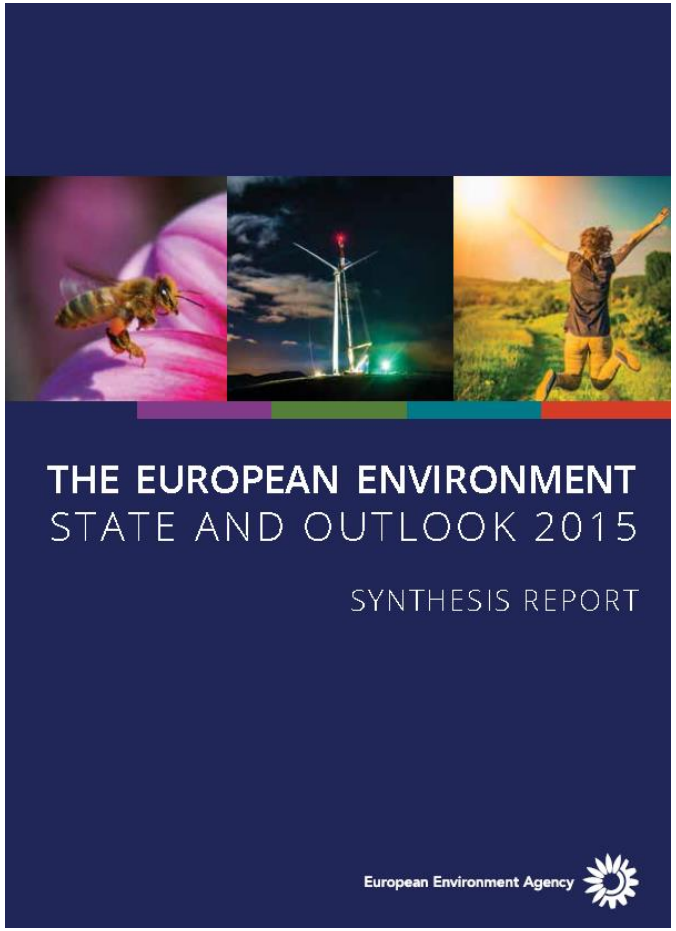
(4) include **stakeholder perspectives**

(5) be **multidisciplinary** in their analytical approaches

(6) be for the benefit **for decision-making**

(7) be **transparent** (re: values, assumptions and uncertainties)

Key messages from SOER 2015



- **Policies have delivered substantial benefits** for the environment, economy and people's well-being, yet major challenges remain
- **Europe faces persistent and emerging challenges** linked to production and consumption systems, and the rapidly changing global context
- **Achieving the 2050 vision requires system transitions**, driven by more ambitious actions on policy, knowledge, investments and innovation
- **Doing so presents major opportunities** to boost Europe's economy and employment and put Europe at the frontier of science and innovation

Continuity from SOER 2015

SOER 2015: **The long-term outlook is not as positive as recent trends suggest**, because of:

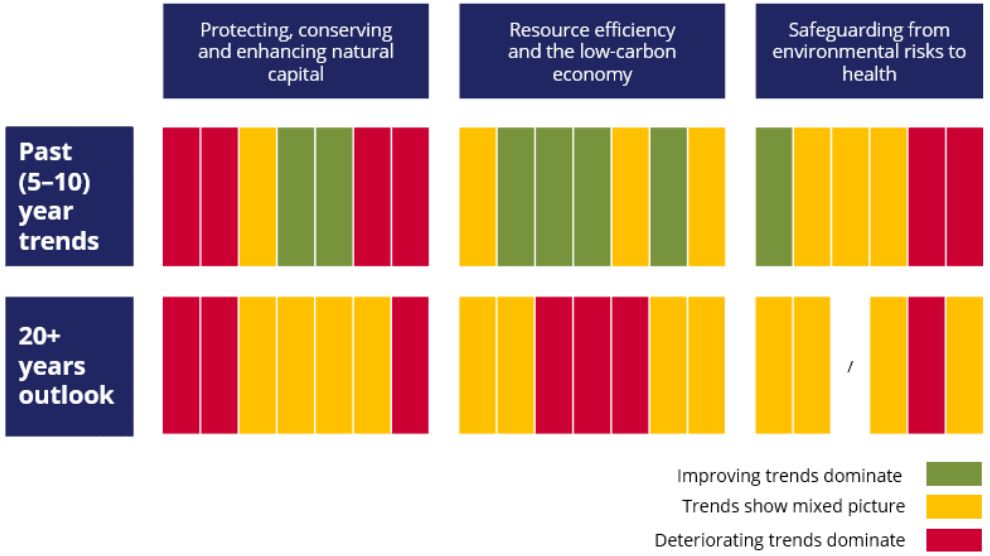
1. **Interdependences with global developments**

   Pressures from outside Europe/Global Megatrends

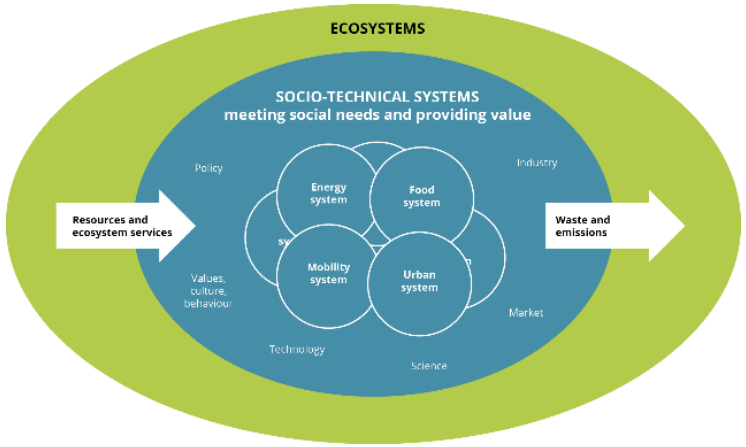
   World pushing up against planetary boundaries

2. **Systemic characteristics of environmental challenges**

   Complexity and uncertainties, interdependencies within and across systems, lock-ins, feedbacks, trade-offs



Living well within the planet's ecological limits in 2050 will **require fundamental transitions in systems of production and consumption** (e.g. energy, mobility, food) that are the root cause of environmental and climate pressures.



SOER 2020 overall project structure

SOER 2020

Integrated Assessment report (2019)

- State of Europe's environment (context: drivers and policy responses)
- Sustainability prospects (systems perspective, transitions to long-term policy goals)

Stakeholder contributions, consultations

Stakeholder interaction process

(2019-2020)

EEA Knowledge to action report (2020)

EEA/Eionet strategy 2021–2030 (2020)

SOER 2020 outreach activities (2020 onwards)

SOER 2020 Integrated Assessment – development principles

PART 1
Setting the scene

PART 2
Environment and climate trends

PART 3
Sustainability prospects

PART 4
Conclusions

Development principles

1. Matching **structure and evidence**

2. **Integrated assessment** across all sections

3. **Summary assessments** developed where feasible

4. Three overarching **integration foci**:

- **Environment**: natural capital
- **Economy**: resource efficient, low-carbon, circular & bio- economy
- **People**: health, well-being, cities

5. Integration of **country information** (data, case studies)

6. Visibility of **EEA-Eionet work** in synergy with other **EU work** (e.g. JRC) and some **international organisations**

SOER 2020 Integrated Assessment – overview of contents

PART 1
Setting the scene

2 chapters, addressing:

- **Assessing the global-European context and trends**
- **Europe's policy frameworks and long-term sustainability goals**

PART 2
Environment and climate trends

12 chapters, addressing:

- **10 thematic assessments**
- **Environmental pressures and sectors**
- **Summary assessment of progress to 7th EAP objectives**

PART 3
Sustainability prospects

3 chapters, addressing:

- **Sustainability through systems lenses**
- **Understanding sustainability challenges**
- **Responding to sustainability challenges**

PART 4
Conclusions

1 chapter, addressing:

- **Overall assessment of outcomes and reflections on implications**

Overall SIP aims and process

- Reflect on SOER 2020 outcomes and implications with key stakeholders (share ideas, explore challenges, opportunities & pathways for action)
- Support key EU Policy processes and actions (strategic priorities of next Commission, 8EAP, FP9, EU SDG strategy)
- Generate inputs to 'Knowledge-to-Action' report and move towards implementation-oriented assessments
- Inform the new EEA strategy
- Strengthen/build stakeholder networks through SIP events:
  - Five interconnected stakeholder events that build on each other with keynote, interactive sessions & plenaries
  - Professionally designed & facilitated events co-organised in collaboration with EEA's stakeholders to maximise the added-value

Overview of planned SIP events

Sep 2019	Oct 2019	4 Dec 2019	Feb 2020	Mar 2020
ENV, CLIMA	SC, RTD, JRC, ENV, CLIMA	ENV, CLIMA	ENV, EESC, EEB	MB, SC, Eionet
Policy-making for sustainability transitions	Knowledge for the XXI century	Long-term policies	The role of civil society	Synthesis & input into EEA/Eionet Strategy

Annual NRC-SoE meeting (April 2019) – SDGs & SoE reporting

- The **usage of SDGs in published SoE-reports is very limited**. There is a common acknowledgement that linkage with SDGs is an important development in SoE-reporting.
- **SDGs and SOER processes are split among various governmental departments** in the EEA countries; particularly SDG indicators and SoE indicators (except in France where both are in the same department). Cooperation in the environmental domain varies and is shaped based upon the national set-up.
- On the level of indicators currently **some mapping exercises are undertaken** to look if SoE and SDG indicators can be harmonized (e.g. Germany, North Macedonia). In the integrated environmental assessments that are currently produced the **SDGs are mainly used to underline the need for an integrative approach** and frame the mid-term (2030) perspective (e.g. Ireland).
- There is **a need for knowledge exchange** – among EEA countries – to gain knowledge of current and planned approaches/processes for the harmonization (maybe integration) of SDG and SoE-reporting, **on how to make use of and incorporate SGDs into SoE-reports and the development of relevant indicators**.

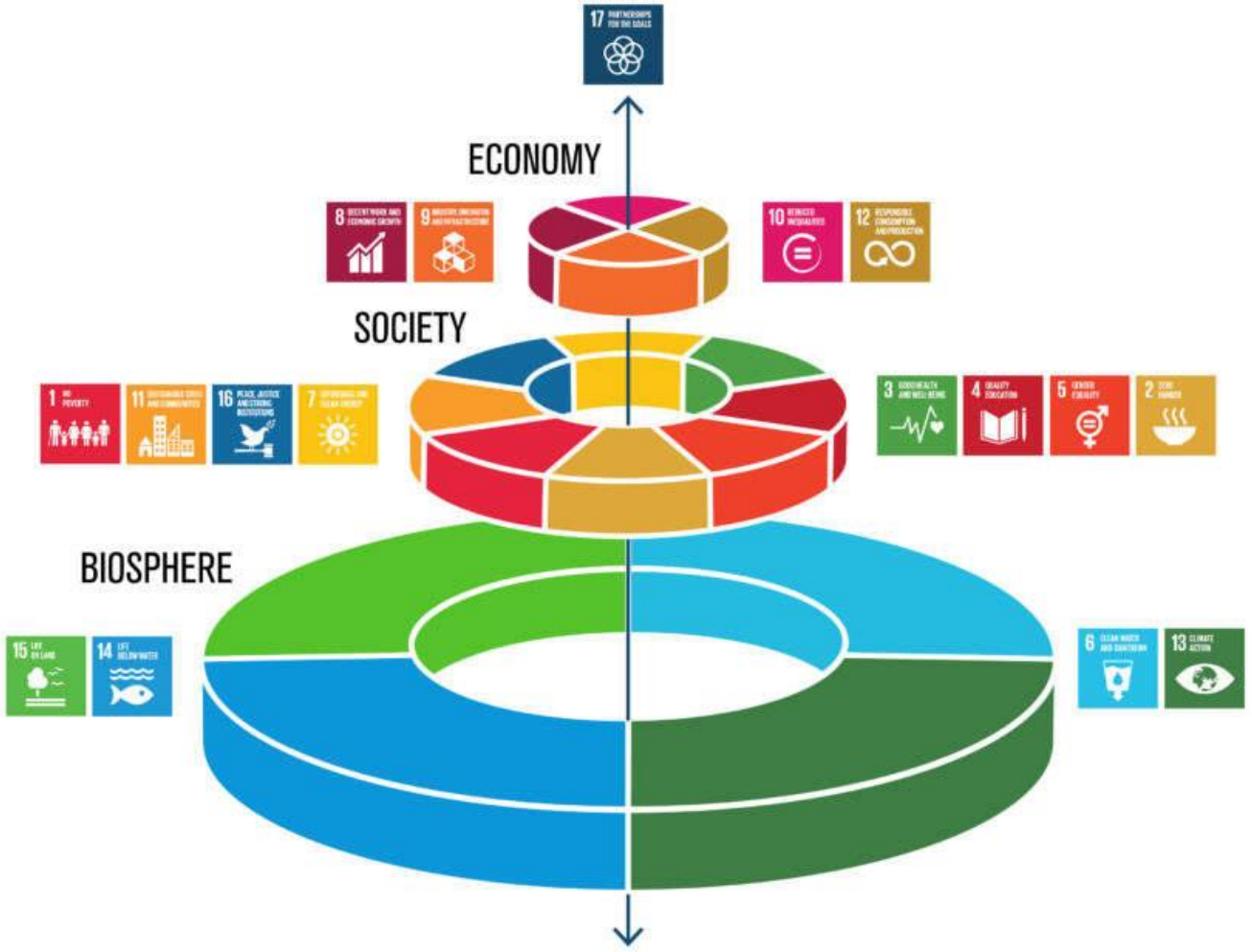
Place of SDGs in the SOER2020

- Importance of the SDGs as one of the three key long-term frameworks/agreements that provide directionality towards sustainability for Europe, along with the 7th EAP vision and the Paris Agreement (Chapter 2)
- Reference to the relevant SDGs (at goal or target level) in each of the thematic chapters
- Use of the SDGs framework to illustrate the need to address broader sustainability, systemic issues when dealing with persistent environment problems, and hence the need to address them in SOE reporting – which means a different kind of knowledge base, methodological and assessment approaches
- Highlighting the importance of using and integrating more strongly the SDGs framework in the upcoming European policy cycle (tentative)

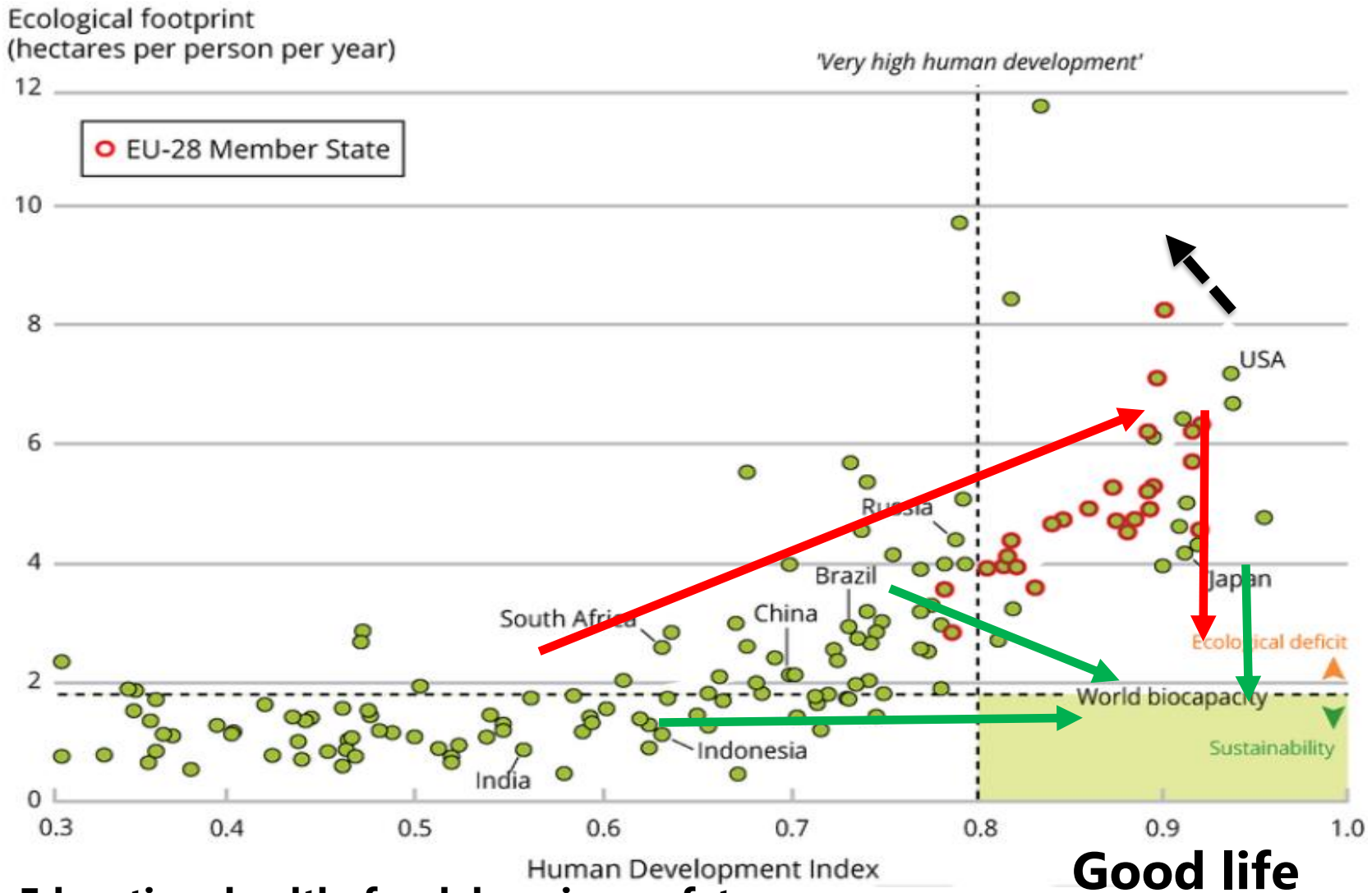
EEA contribution to SDGs

- Fundamental role to play in contributing to the evidence and knowledge base that support informed decision-making on sustainability transitions
- Act as a `science-policy interface` in the range of SDG governance mechanisms at EU level
- Since 2016, EEA has been supporting the development and review of EU SDG indicators and the EU SDG Monitoring Report, led by Eurostat, and providing knowledge support to the European Commission on the environmental dimension of the SDGs
- In 2017, EEA initiated a study on the SDG implementation in 33 EEA member and 6 co-operating countries (final draft and country profiles presented to the network)
- In January 2019 EEA contributed to a workshop on the use of Copernicus in support of the UN SDGs
- In the course of 2019, EEA is co-organising with JRC and DG ENV a series of participatory workshops on the future of environmental policies in the context of ENV internal reflection process on the post 7thEAP, with clear reference to the SDGs process

Implicit order?



Challenge of 21st century: 10 billion people, 1 planet



Education, health, food, housing, safety

Good life

(Global Footprint Network, 2012; UNDP, 2014)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Water, forests, oceans, biodiversity climate, resources

Within limits of the planet

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This could be our best century ever, or our worst

Dr James Martin, founder Oxford Martin School

THANK YOU!

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