

# **Report of the Sub-Regional Workshop on Strengthening Coordination for Measuring Progress on Responsible Consumption and Production and Policy Coherence, West Africa 23-25 November 2021 Venue: Kudo, VIRTUAL**

## **Background**

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development has elevated the profile of the environmental dimension of development and how we monitor this dimension. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has implemented Phase I of the project on Enhancing Capacity for Measuring Progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Phase I focused on the methodological development of SDG indicators under UNEP's custodianship and the reclassification of these indicators into Tier II or Tier I. Due to the nature and complexity of some environmental indicators, further capacity building is needed to equip member states with the necessary tools and knowledge to put in place the necessary data collection systems.

UNEP is currently implementing Phase II of the project (2020-2022), funded by the European Commission, that focuses on enhancing national capacities to measure SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production and strengthening policy coherence. One of the project's activities focuses on conducting workshops to enhance capacities of member states through hosting data producers and users together to emphasize the need for cooperation, as well as improving the understanding of the efforts made to collect data and the need for data for evidence-based policymaking. The West Africa Sub-Regional Workshop on Strengthening Coordination for Measuring Progress on Responsible Consumption and Production and Policy Coherence serves as one of the tools of development and training capacity under the projects activities.

***Day 1, Tuesday 23 November 2021, 10:00 – 13:00 EAT***

## **Session 1: Opening session**

**Therese El Gemayel, Programme Management Officer, Science Division, UNEP** opened the workshop and welcomed the representatives of the various West African countries to the 3-day sub-regional workshop. She then introduced Dr. Ludgarde Coppens and invited her to provide her opening speech. The workshop was attended by 18 participants from the following countries (in alphabetical order): Capo Verde, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. A full list of participants is presented in Annex I.

**Ludgarde Coppens, Senior Programme Management Officer, Science Division, UNEP** welcomed the participants and focused on how circular economy is gaining prominence in achieving the SDGs and the African Union 2063 Agenda. She highlighted how the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCE) is developing the African Green Stimulus Programme and how SDG 12 on SCP provides an opportunity to rethink how resources are used. She focused



on how countries pledged at UNEA-4 to scale up efforts in addressing environmental challenges in a balanced and integrated manner through sustainable resource use and management. Her speech also focused on identifying available data, understand measurement gaps, and the importance of developing evidence-based policies and sound policy-based management strategies to advance SCP and waste management. Her remarks were concluded by highlighting the importance of policy coherence to foster synergies and maximize benefits across policy areas.

**Therese El Gemayel** gave a summary on the European Commission project on Enhancing capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals – Phase II. She explained the objectives, needs and outcomes of the project, as well as activities that were implemented to date and upcoming activities. She also provided an overview on the scope of the project, which has a global, regional covering Africa and Asia, and national scope including six beneficiary countries where activities will be implemented in 2022 (Ghana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Senegal and Uganda).

## **Session 2: WASTE SDG INDICATORS: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE**

**Dany Ghafari, Programme Management Officer, Science Division, UNEP** presented the respective internationally adopted methodologies of the seven waste-related SDG Indicators (11.6.1, 12.3.1.a, 12.3.1.b, 12.4.1, 12.4.2, 12.5.1 and 14.1.1.b), including a high-level overview on how to calculate these indicators, their institutional custodian agencies and the level of data availability.

**Therese El Gemayel** gave a presentation on the importance of policy instruments and how the seven waste SDG Indicators can be used for evidence-based policies and their contribution to the circular economy approach. The presentation highlighted how sound waste policies contribute to a reduction in natural resource exploitation, waste generation, and pollution concentrations, while improving human health and reducing adaptation costs related to environmental damages, health care, infrastructure, agriculture, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

## **Q&A Session**

A representative from the Cape Verde's National Directorate of Environment highlighted the efforts that the country has made to reduce marine pollution, including beach cleanups. However, the transboundary nature of waste pollution continues to compete with these efforts, due to marine pollution being introduced to the island state from other nations. The participant inquired on how waste reaching the oceans can be reduced, thereby reducing pollution in islands countries.

UNEP highlighted the importance of shifting from a linear to a circular economy approach to reduce waste production. Additionally, working with governments and research institutions to identify the key sources of waste by which countries are being affected through river flows and



ocean tides is vital. Capacity building in countries was also considered as an important tool in reducing marine pollution.

### **Session 3: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE**

**Dany Ghafari** presented the twelve SCP SDG indicators (7.3.1, 8.4.1/12.2.1, 8.4.2/12.2.2, 12.1.1, 12.3.1.b, 12.5.1, 12.6.1, 12.7.1, 12.c.1 and 17.7.1). A high-level overview of the internationally adopted methodology and the level of data availability for each indicator was highlighted. He further pointed out that the three main objectives of SCP are to decouple environmental degradation from economic growth, to apply a life-cycle thinking, and to seize opportunities for developing countries.

**Therese El Gemayel** gave a presentation on the relevance of the twelve SCP SDG indicators to sound-policy making. The presentation highlighted the importance of SCP in transitioning to a circular economy, which aims at keeping products, materials, and resources, when possible, within the economy. She also provided examples on how these indicators could be used in developing national policies.

### **Q&A Session**

A representative from The Gambia's National Environment Agency highlighted the importance of the country to be involved in future projects, especially related to waste and circular economy, as the country lacks proper waste management systems.

A representative from the Cape Verde's National Directorate of Environment pointed out that most African countries lack waste recycling systems and proposed the idea of exporting hazardous waste while preparing countries to recycle the waste themselves. The representative further highlighted the need for countries to collaborate and learn from each other through capacity building.

UNEP encouraged countries to develop waste management actions plans with a focus on recycling facilities instead of exporting waste, to ensure that they do not miss out on the economic recycling benefits.

### **Session 4: SDG POLICY COHERENCE**

**Hyun Sung, Programme Management Officer, Law Division, UNEP** presented a comprehensive summary on policy coherence in the SDG context. The presentation highlighted the methodology of SDG indicator 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development. She emphasized the importance of institutionalization of political commitment with the aim of ensuring the achievements of the objectives of policy coherence. She presented steps taken by various countries such as Finland, Bangladesh, and Burkina Faso in ensuring proper monitoring, reporting, and financing towards policy coherence.



## Session 5: DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS

**Llorenc Mila I Canals, Programme Management officer, Life Cycle Initiative, UNEP** gave a presentation on the SCP Hotspots Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT) (<http://scp-hat.lifecycleinitiative.org/>), which is an online tool to provide science-based support on key areas in the economy that are driving unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and therefore generate more impacts (hotspot-areas). The tool is based on a multi-regional input-output model and highlights two perspectives: Domestic production and consumption footprint. It is not targeted at providing reporting but can help setting priorities and can be used to inform in policy areas such as resource efficiency and climate action. The presentation was concluded with a live demonstration of the SCP-HAT tool and selected The Gambia as an example to analyse its decoupling of the economy from material use.

### Q&A Session

A representative from the Gambia's National Environment Agency asked how the data used for the SCP-HAT is generated.

Llorenc Mila I Canals responded that the underlying data comes from the multi-regional input-output model (Gloria), which combines input-output tables of countries and extrapolates for countries where tables do not exist. The model is then coupled with satellite-accounts.

**Sofie Clausen, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, One Planet Network, UNEP** presented the SDG 12 Hub (<https://sdg12hub.org/>), which is a one-stop-shop for progress on SDG 12. It is the result of a UN inter-agency collaboration for more coherence across SDG indicators and aims to raise the profile of SDG 12 and encourage its implementation, streamline, and simplify reporting processes for member states, and inform voluntary national reviews and policy interventions. Links to other platforms and initiatives that are of help in the implementation of SDG were also provided. In 2022, a dynamic country report and toolboxes to support member states and UN Country Teams in implementing SDG 12 will be introduced. The presentation concluded with a live demonstration of the SDG 12 Hub.

### Q&A Session

Representatives from The Gambia's National Environment Agency and the Department of Biodiversity inquired how the funding, technical assistance, and capacity building for the reporting on SDG 12 can be accessed.

UNEP stated that the SDG 12 HUB is a compiler of all information that countries need in the implementation of SDG 12 and highlighted the role of the respective custodian agencies in providing capacity building to countries.



## Session 6: WORKING GROUP

This session focused on having a moderated working group with the objectives of discussing challenges faced by data producers and data users in the respective countries, as well as opportunities to improve the current situation. The moderator guided the discussion with a set of questions that focused on encouraging countries' representatives to share their experience. The main discussion points were then collected and disseminated to representatives through an online whiteboard tool, "Mural", and are presented in Annex III.

**Day 3, Thursday 25 November 2021, 10:00 – 13:00 EAT**

### Session 6 continued: WORKING GROUP

Countries' representatives were presented with a summary of Day 2 discussions and continued to discuss the need and implementation of a framework for collaboration at the national level, where all stakeholders might be involved, its structure and its objectives. The findings of the discussion were also introduced on Mural and are presented in Annex III.

## Session 7: WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION

**Ralf Heidrich, Associate Programme Manager, Science Division, UNEP** summarized the results of the working group. Most of the challenges for data producers are centered around lack of certain capacities, such as financial resources, technical skills and equipment, infrastructure, human resources, and skilled personnel. However, some countries are facing specific challenges in relation to natural phenomena or anthropogenic interventions, for example fire incidents and chemical use. Moreover, the lack of intergovernmental collaboration is another challenge faced by data producers.

The most prominent challenges faced by data users, based on the discussions, are lack of data availability, data reliability, and databases to publicly access, use, and store data. Participants emphasized the challenges with data quality. Furthermore, the lack of capacity seems to be the most stringent problem to assimilate data among users or to identify the right end-users. In some cases, various databases are available, but no harmonization between them is being implemented. The organization and maintenance of these databases seem to be a significant challenge, also caused by the lack of inhouse training.

In addition to challenges, the most prominent opportunity discussed is stakeholder collaboration to ensure sound data collection and data sharing. Additionally, technical trainings, political will to strengthen data capacity, the creation of additional statistical departments and employing more skilled personnel and research centers for more regular data collection, and the



strengthening of collaboration with international partners such as UNEP were opportunities mentioned by the participants.

Finally, more specific frameworks that can be used for collaboration among various national institutions to enhance the quantity and quality of data collected and data shared were discussed as a basis for informed and targeted policy making. Participants presented already existing working groups in their countries to further enhance environmental statistics. Moreover, assessing commitment among the different stakeholders in the national working groups was discussed. Participants mentioned that a shift in personnel attending the working groups make fruitful outcomes difficult. Hence, it was suggested that it is necessary to have a stable group and focal points assigned from the different institutions among the working groups.

In The Gambia, different working groups exist because of the cross-cutting nature of environmental issues. The working groups work at national level, including institutions that are represented among different regions. Participants emphasized again that collaboration among these different working groups is key. Participants from Guinea-Bissau second this issue. Different entities are not working together in a sound manner and further capacity building is needed. Moreover, participants offered to show and assist on strategies and best practices related to hospital and municipal solid waste treatment. This also includes the potential of recycling as an economic asset, which alleviates environmental pressures at the same time.

Participants from Guinea-Bissau stressed that collaboration among governmental bodies and the private sector is non-existent yet. The lack of communication and collaboration lead to adverse effects for human health and the environment. Hence, this collaboration needs to be strengthened. There is a need for a framework of collaboration between the ministry of environment, private companies, and the public to deal with the amount of waste that is discarded in residential areas in an unsound manner. It was also stressed that transnational collaboration among African countries would enhance national waste treatment capacities.

Legal agreements between national institutions can be a tool for better collaboration, which eventually facilitates data sharing and strengthens data producing. The communication among ministries, statistical institutions and environmental institutions seems to be difficult sometimes. However, the better these intra-institutional relations are, the better the data production and sharing.

**Therese El Gemayel** presented three main recommendations and action plans based on the outcomes of the working group discussion. First, she pointed out the need to have better capacity building at national level, including financial resources. There is also a need for more commitment from government officials with regards to the work that they are doing, as well as investment in human resources. Second, the possibility of a South-South coordination among African countries was highlighted, to enhance the exchange of knowledge and best practices. Third, there is a need to have working groups or other institutional arrangements to facilitate collaboration among various institutions.

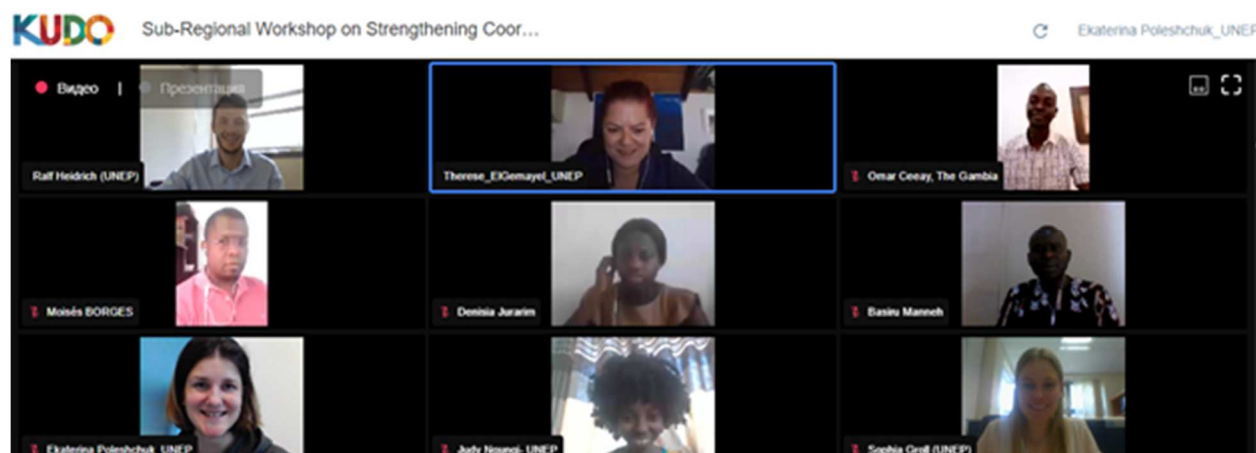


Finally, she pointed out that UNEP is always ready to assist in capacity building. She advised countries that would like to receive capacity building to use official channels to request technical assistance. Capacity building requests concerning the 25 environment-related SDG indicators under UNEP custodianship can be directed to UNEP, using the following email address: [unep-science-sdgs@un.org](mailto:unep-science-sdgs@un.org). UNEP will then coordinate with the respective UNEP regional office and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to agree with the country on the best targeted approach to enhance the needed capacities. She also advised about directing requests for other SDG indicators to the respective custodian agencies, which can be found on the following link: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

In terms of immediate needs, she pinpointed to the available technical resources that UNEP recently worked or is working on. The Environmental SDG Indicators Online Course, which was launched earlier this year, provides users with 10 modules related to environment statistics. This free, self-paced online training material is accessible on the following link: <https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/environmental-sdg-indicators>

She also advised participants to use the manuals that were developed by UNEP with the purpose of providing detailed information on how to collect data and calculate SDG indicators, specifically the Global Manual on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting (<https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/handle/20.500.11822/36253>), and the Global Chemicals and Waste Indicators Review Document (<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/36753>).

**Therese El Gemayel** closed the workshop by thanking the representatives of the different countries and the presenters for their participation and the fruitful discussions. She also encouraged countries' representatives to fill the evaluation of the workshop. A group photo was taken prior to closing of the sub-regional workshop.



## Workshop evaluation

A total of six participants filled in the evaluation form of the workshop. 83.3% of participants evaluated the overall value of the workshop as excellent or good and 83.3% rated good the extent to which the workshop objectives were reached. 83.4% of respondents viewed the quality of material shared as excellent or good and all respondents assessed the quality of the presentations to be excellent or good. All respondents assessed excellent or good the balance between discussed topics and 83% stated excellent or good the clarity of the conclusions reached.

In terms of workshop organization, 67% of respondents assessed excellent or good the overall planning and organization of the workshop, 50% assessed excellent or good the format of the workshop, 83% assessed excellent or good the video conferencing tool used, 83% considered excellent or good the registration procedure, and 66.7% considered excellent or good the timely distribution of materials.

Respondents suggested that a face-to-face training would have been more effective, share the link to the workshop ahead of time and stated the need to implement the suggested recommendations. Detailed responses are presented in Annex IV.



## Annex I - List of Participants

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## Annex II - Workshop Agenda

Tuesday 23 November 2021	
<b>SESSION 1</b>	<b>OPENING AND INTRODUCTION</b>
10:00 – 10:20	<b>Welcome and opening addresses</b> - Dr. Ludgarde Coppens, UNEP <b>Project Overview and activities</b> Therese El Gemayel, Project Manager, UNEP
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<b>WASTE SDG INDICATORS: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE</b>
10:20 – 11:15	<b>Sustainable Development Goals Waste Indicators, Methodologies and data availability</b> (Dany Ghafari, UNEP) <b>Waste SDG Indicators – Policy importance</b> (Therese El Gemayel, UNEP) <b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>11:15 – 11:20</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>SESSION 3</b>	<b>SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPORTANCE</b>
11:20 – 12:30	<b>SCP SDG Indicators, Methodologies and data availability</b> (Dany Ghafari, UNEP) <b>SCP SDG Indicators – Policy importance</b> (Therese El Gemayel, UNEP) <b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>SESSION 4</b>	<b>SDG POLICY COHERENCE</b>
12:30 – 12:55	<b>Policy coherence in the SDG context</b> (Hyun Sun, UNEP) <b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>12:55 – 13:00</b>	<b>CLOSING OF DAY 1</b>
Wednesday 24 November 2021	
<b>SESSION 5</b>	<b>DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS</b>
10:00 – 11:10	<b>SCP-Hat</b> (Llorenc Mila I Canals, UNEP) <b>Q&amp;A</b> <b>SDG 12 Hub</b> (Sofie Clausen, UNEP) <b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>11:10 – 11:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>SESSION 6</b>	<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>
11:10 – 12:55	<b>Moderated working groups</b>
<b>12:55 – 13:00</b>	<b>CLOSING OF DAY 2</b>



Thursday 25 November 2021	
<b>SESSION 6 - <i>continued</i></b>	<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>
10:00 – 11:10	<i>Moderated working groups</i>
<b>11:10 – 11:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>SESSION 7</b>	<b>WORKING GROUPS PRESENTATIONS</b>
11:15 – 12:15	<i>Presentations of each working group</i>
12:15 – 12:45	<b>Main Recommendations and Action Plans</b>
<b>12:45 – 13:00</b>	<b>CLOSING OF WORKSHOP</b>

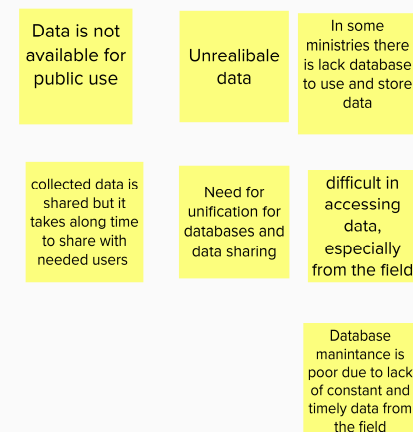


## Annex III - Working Groups Discussion Outcomes (Mural)

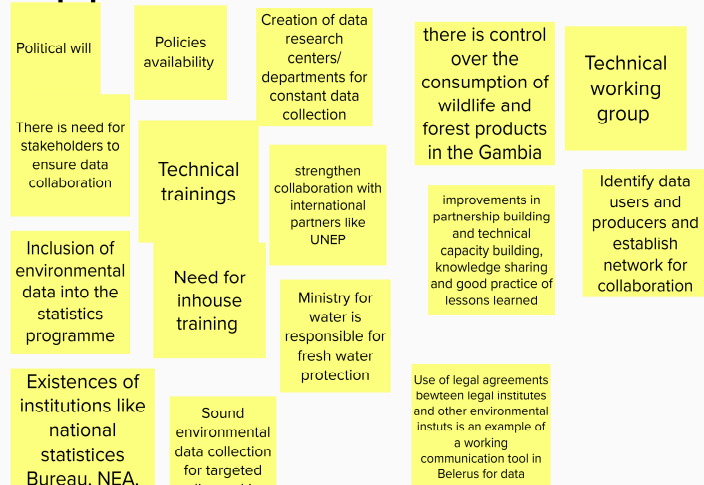
### Data Producers



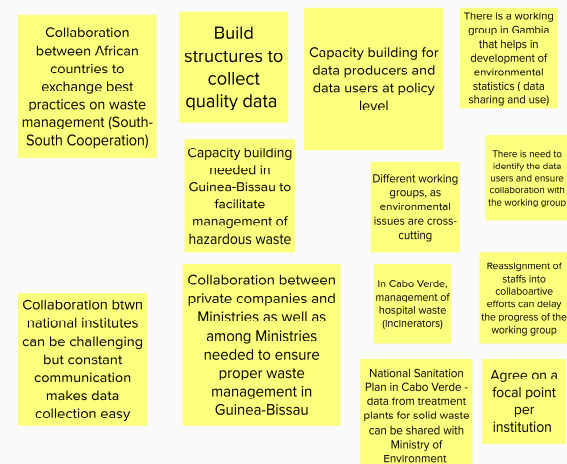
### Date Users



### Opportunities



### Framework for collaboration



## Annex IV – Detailed Evaluation Responses

### 1. Content and conduct of the workshop

Options Questions	Excellent	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory	Not applicable
Quality of presentations	1	4	1	0	0
Adequate time for discussion and participation	3	3	0	0	0
Balance between topics	2	3	1		
Clarity of conclusions reached	2	3	1	0	0
Extent to which workshop objectives were reached	0	5	1	0	0
Overall value of the workshop	3	2	1	0	0

### 2. Comments or suggestions on the content and conduct of presentation

- I suggest the future workshop look into in-person workshop
- There is a need to push the recommendations for implementation at different levels to improve on the current circumstances discussed.
- presentations were well delivered and well understood

### 3. Comments or suggestions on the content and conduct of break-out rooms

- It was an excellent forum where we were able to express our views, experiences, concerns etc.
- Suggestion for face to face meeting

### 4. Organization of the workshop

Options Questions	Excellent	Good	Fairly good	Unsatisfactory	Not applicable
Timeliness distribution of materials	3	1	2	0	0
Registration procedures	3	2	1	0	0
Duration of each session	3	3	0	0	0
Video conferencing tool	2	3	1	0	0
Format of the workshop	1	2	2	1	0
Overall planning and organization of the workshop	2	2	2	0	0



#### 5. Comments or suggestions on the organization of the workshop

- The overall organization was good. However, internet connectivity and time differences in different countries interrupted the full participation of some participants. In the subsequent workshops, in person or face to face could also be an alternative option
- I would like to suggest that we can travel to each of the countries to get to know the local reality, see the experiences and share among ourselves. Training among people who speak the same language is more productive. South-south cooperation is very welcome.
- In this regard, I think we should start with the planning process. I am Cape Verdean and, having participated in the elaboration of the National Basic Sanitation Plan of Cabo Verde, I am available to go to Guinea Bissau to support the preparation of the National Basic Sanitation Plan, for example.

#### 6. Additional comments

- I recommend that next time to do the workshop in person and let it be done in a country where solid waste management is well coordinated or organized like highlighted by our colleague from Cape Verde. I, therefore, thank all the organizing team for the well-organized workshop.
- For subsequent workshops, it will also be great if the links are sent earlier. It will be a good idea if the workshop programme schedules are shared week before the actual event. This will enable participants to adequately prepare and contribute effectively

