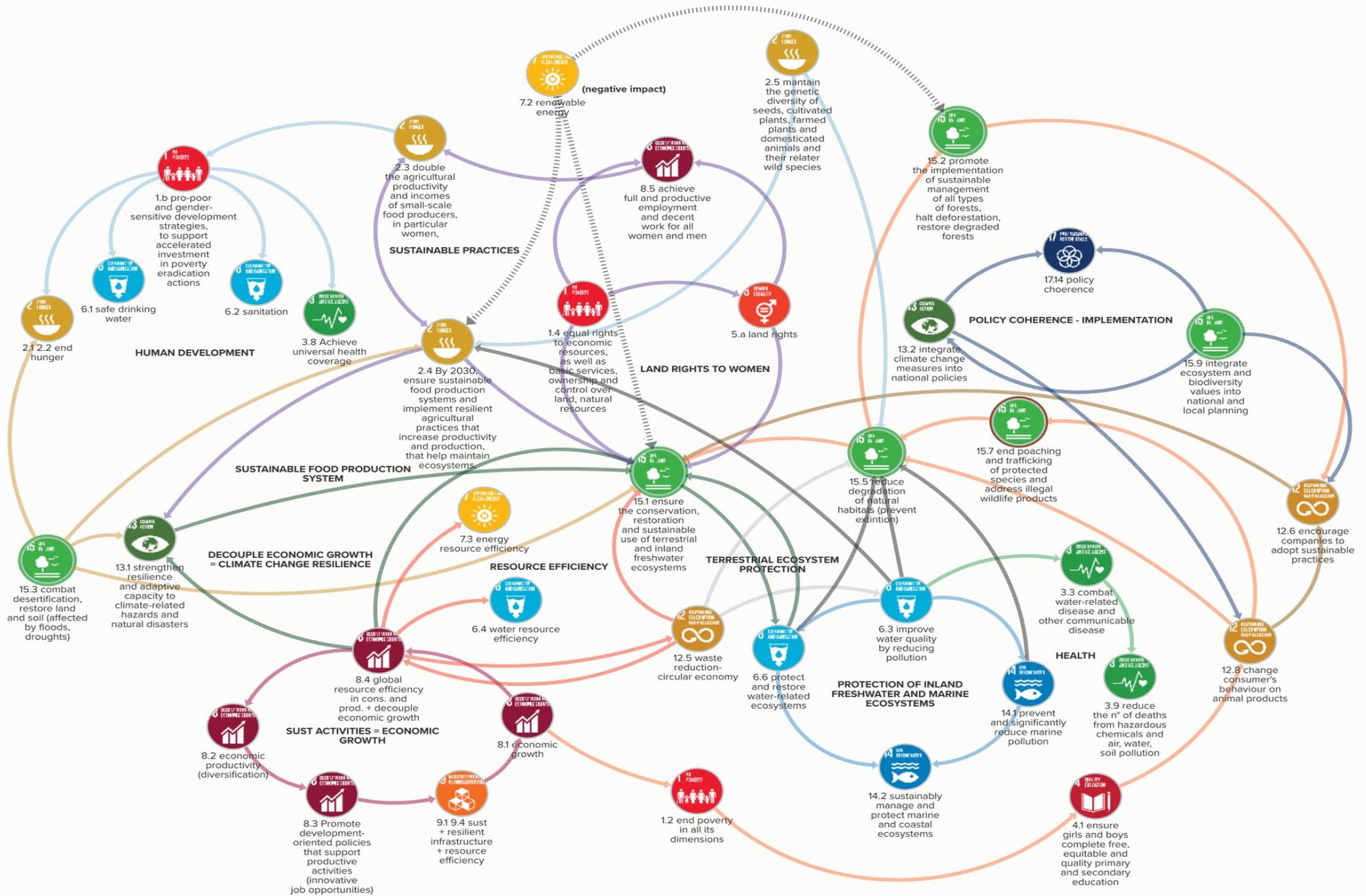


# Visualisation map of the interlinkages between SDG 15 and the other SDGs



\*This visualisation map is to stimulate discussion and does not provide a comprehensive overview of all interlinkages

This diagram, visually laid out using an online web-based systems diagram-mapping tool, called Kumu (<https://kumu.io/>), illustrates interlinkages between the targets of SDG 6 and the targets of the other 16 SDGs, and describes a cause-and-effect relationship of these interlinkages based on ESCAP developed analytical methodology. ESCAP's methodology launched in 2016, using systems thinking approach facilitates the process of understanding and analyzing the directionality and strength of the interlinkages within the targets of a specific SDG and with the targets across the rest of the 16 SDGs. The causal loop diagram describes the positive and reinforcing relationships between the interlinked SDG targets, which is to guide overall SDG implementation planning in synchronized, holistic and integrated manner. The directional characteristic of the arrows defines whether a target is a driver or is being driven by the specific target.

## **A guide through the visualization map**

The analysis of the interlinkages between the SDG 15 and the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals have underlined the importance of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity that underpin the wellbeing of the human society. Another side of the described interlinkages relates to the increasing pressures from unsustainable consumption and production practices, conflicting use of natural resources for food and energy, and contamination with hazardous chemicals calling for urgent and integrated action throughout all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For example, large scale palm oil plantations for 'renewable' energy have contributed to critical and irreversible damage to systems and indigenous forest cover in this region. Protection and restoration of water-related ecosystem, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes (target 6.6) and the promotion of recycle and reuse of wastewater (target 6.3) is crucial to protect our ecosystems. Solutions are within reach as offered by sustainable food production systems (target 2.4). It is also a viable option to water resource efficiency and provides opportunities for sustainable and renewable energy production (target 7.2). Another dimension is the importance of continuous conservation of terrestrial ecosystems (target 15.1 and 15.2), which ensures conservation of the finite water resources (target 6.6) and reducing water scarcity (target 6.4). Another critical aspect is the need for better understanding (targets 4.1 and 4.7) and awareness raising (target 12.8) about the need to curb the demand for animal products for example, which will slow down/end trafficking of protected species (target 15.7), while preventing further species extinction (target 15.5), as well as, loss of natural habitats.