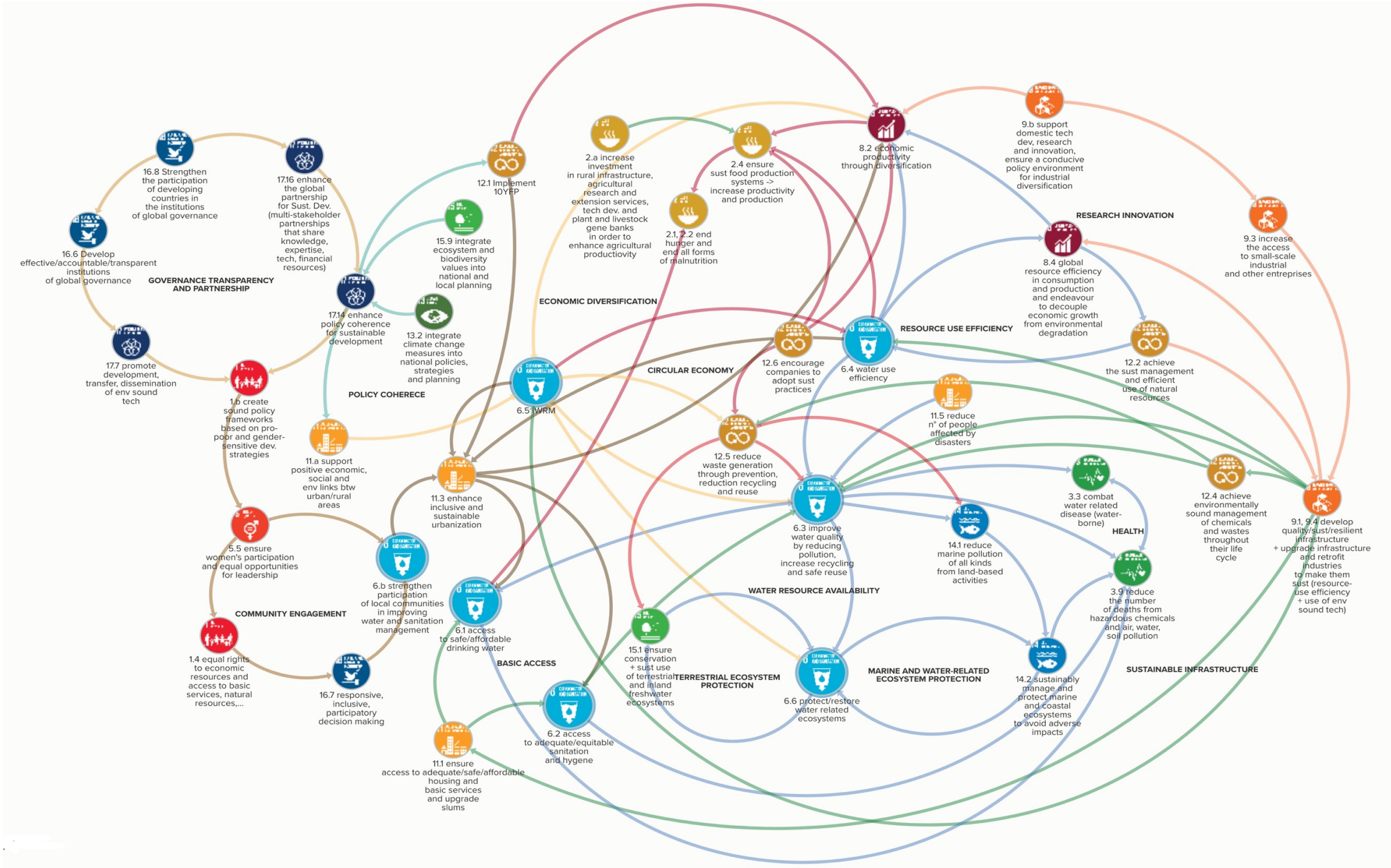
Visualisation map of the interlinkages between SDG 6 and the other SDGs*



*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 interlinkages between the SDG targets related to governance, and policy setting and coherence (target 16.6, target 16.7 and target 17.14), and community involvement in management of water resources (target 6.b and target 1.b) while using Integrated Water Resources Management principles (target 6.5) with overall benefits for poverty reduction (target 1.2) are presented in what can be considered as the "software" of the water resources management system. On the other hand, the interlinkages between SDG targets related to provision of access to, and supply of clean water (target 6.1, target 9.4, target 9.a), and proper waste water disposal and management (target 6.2) in urban (target 11.6) and rural environment with critical importance for human health (target 3.2 and target 3.3) are described in what is considered the "hardware" of the water resources management system. Target 6.3 on improving water quality by reducing pollution and untreated wastewater, eliminating dumping, minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials is one of the most important leverage points in this systems model of interlinkages. The model also shows that utilizing wastewater (target 6.3) for energy generation (target 7.1) through innovation (target 9.b), contributes to creation of new decent jobs (target 8.5) and economic growth in general (SDG 8). Another significant impact is on sanitation and hygiene (target 6.2) and on using waste waters for food production (target 2.4 and target 12.4) in peri-urban areas.