

# Academy 2030—Partnerships for transformative knowledge and policy

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## Background and rationale

The endorsement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** provided a new vision for the future of the world with a shared normative reference for development through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the SDGs provide a development compass, they **cannot be seen as sectoral independent goals**. Rather the different goals and targets are highly interrelated and may constrain or reinforce each other through trade-offs or synergies. As a result this project addresses the SDGs in concrete development contexts for more **informed policy processes** by nurturing a **cross-sectoral and trans-disciplinary research approach** through the following three components:

- 1) Long lasting **collaborative partnerships** that link disciplines for data provision and analysis as well as education and policy outreach are indispensable for addressing SDG trade-offs and co-benefits for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. We pool resources and competences of seven partners to provide a multi-sectoral perspective within the nexus of land resources, health, and social conflicts.

## Goals, objectives, and approach

1. A partnership consortium with a nexus approach
2. Analysis of development debates, policy processes, and knowledge gaps
3. Expanding the data ecosystem for context analysis and SDG monitoring
4. Pilot of a multi-sectoral platform
5. Nurturing the science-policy interface
6. Training and capacity development

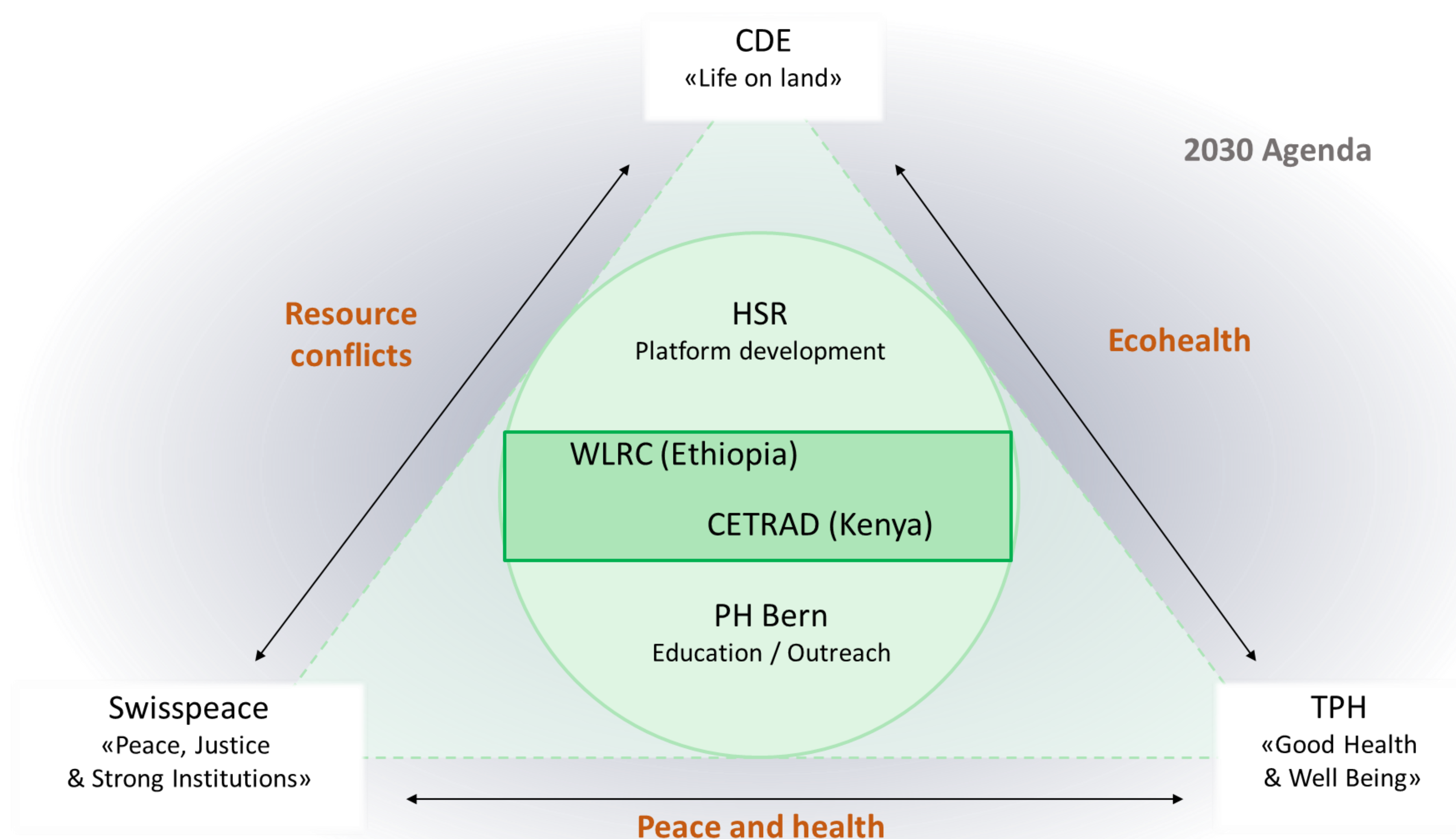


Figure 1: Project partnership consortium and embedment in the nexus approach

- 2) The availability of **sound and timely data, information, and knowledge from multiple sectors** and research disciplines are indispensable in tracking progress and steering the implementation of the SDGs. By integrating knowledge from traditional data and information sources (e.g. censuses and other periodical surveys) and big data that offers near real-time information on relevant socio-economic and bio-physical processes, the project aims at enhancing multi-sectoral knowledge with potential for analysing specific contexts and their development dynamics.
- 3) Knowledge only becomes valuable and can only serve as compass for shaping transformations through joint learning processes and negotiations of development pathways. To **nurture such science-policy processes**, multi-sectoral data and knowledge platforms need to be combined with innovative trans- and interdisciplinary education and training that adequately link research and policy debates.

## Novelty and innovation

### Data innovation

Development of a showcase as an incubator for scaling out new knowledge within a multisectoral setting and by amalgamating periodical official data sources with near-real time big data from earth observation and social media sources.

### Focus on trade-offs and benefits

With the Agenda 2030 as the frame, we will emphasize the identification of trade-offs and co-benefits between three SDG targets (land-conflict-health nexus) by testing new approaches and processes in handling conceptual challenges inherent in the 2030 Agenda.

### Education and capacity building

Integration of didactic and methodological innovations into all proposed training and capacity building activities, including the design of the user platform, which will go beyond the usual 'user friendliness' considerations of such online platforms

### Policy processes and networks

Going beyond SDG monitoring and platform development, the project provides a basis for a broad-based dialogue and policy processes in support of steering towards SDG achievements.

