

Vision and Mission statement

IAHS-HELPING Strategic UN Synergy (SUN) Working Group

Our motivation

The Science for Water Solutions Decade, IAHS-HELPING (2023-2032), has inspired the hydrological community to align their efforts and actions through three themes and seven goals. HELPING aims to serve as a platform for translating science into action, guided by local hydrological scientists and open science principles. Moreover, HELPING recognizes the necessity of co-creation with stakeholders and users in a creative process to effectively address water-related challenges.

In this vein, the establishment of the Strategic UN Synergy Working Group (SUN) is proposed to support the implementation of HELPING goals within its dynamic strategic plan. At the core of the SUN WG, we emphasize the synergistic integration of hydrological science, policy, and practice, guided by the principles of co-creation and open science. Therefore, “Synergy” and “Hydrological Science-Policy-Practice Programs (HSP3)” are the core inspiring concepts in SUN WG. We define these concepts in the context of HELPING as below:

- **Synergy** refers to the combined effect produced when different stakeholders, work together in harmony to achieve a result that is greater than the sum of their individual efforts.
- **Hydrological Science-Policy-Practice Programs (HSP3)** are capacity-building initiatives that facilitate interaction and collaboration between the scientific community, policymakers, and practitioners (including local experts) to address water-related challenges.

On the other hand, Many UN-affiliated organizations run various scientific, policy and practice programs related to climate, hydrology, and water management (i.e. HSP3). Consequently, there is potential to synthesize these HSP3 efforts within the HELPING framework. However, local HSP3 programs also need to be identified, analyzed, and aligned with HELPING Goals. To provide better direction and focus for our community initiative, we present a structured vision and mission statement. Moving forward, we will (re)define clear goals and actions based on our vision and mission.

Our vision

A vision statement is an aspirational description of what it wants to achieve in the future. A good vision statement provides a clear picture of what our group aspires to achieve in the long term. Here, the SUN WG vision is defined as:

Supporting the implementation of HELPING goals through synergistic interactions and co-creation processes with both local and global, including UN, hydrological science-policy-practice programs.

Our mission

A mission statement is a concise explanation of the group's reason for existence. It describes the group's purpose and its overall intention. The mission statement supports the vision and without a mission, our group lacks the why and how. Here, the SUN WG mission is defined as:

SUN WG works to cultivate synergies among hydrological science, policy, and practice through facilitation of co-creation, synthesis work, knowledge exchange and capacity-building programs. Aligned with the HELPING Goals, our efforts aim to leverage successful initiatives within the United Nations (UN) and local hydrological science-policy-practice frameworks.

Resources that supported writing the Vision and Mission statement

- Arheimer, B. et al. (2024). The IAHS Science for Solutions decade, with Hydrology Engaging Local People IN a Global world (HELPING). *Hydrological Sciences Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2024.2355202>
- Cudennec, C., Sud, M., & Boulton, G. (2022). Governing open science. *Hydrological Sciences Journal*, 67(16), 2359-2362.
- Maas, T. Y., Pauwelussen, A., & Turnhout, E. (2022). Co-producing the science–policy interface: towards common but differentiated responsibilities. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 9(1), 1-11.
- Shafiei, M., & Arheimer, B. (2023). Strategic approach for co-creating goals and actions for IAHS-HELPING. https://iahs.info/uploads/HELPING/Strategic%20planning_HELPING.pdf
- Tambe, S., Ballal, A., Tomar, R., Wyborn, C., DeFries, R., Ganguly, S., & Scarlett, L. (2023). Bridging science, policy and practice for sustainability: Towards a conceptual framework. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 145, 208-216.
- UN Climate SDG Synergies Report. (2023). Available at <https://sdgs.un.org/synergy-solutions-world-crisis-tackling-climate-and-sdg-action-together>.

Edited by Mojtaba Shafiei. 25.05.2024