

SSRP
SUSSEX SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Acting on SDG Interactions

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Sussex Sustainability Research Programme

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
July 12, 2018 UN Headquarters, NY

Side Event of ICSU on *Managing interactions between SDGs to drive SDG implementation from local to global levels, and long-term transformations*



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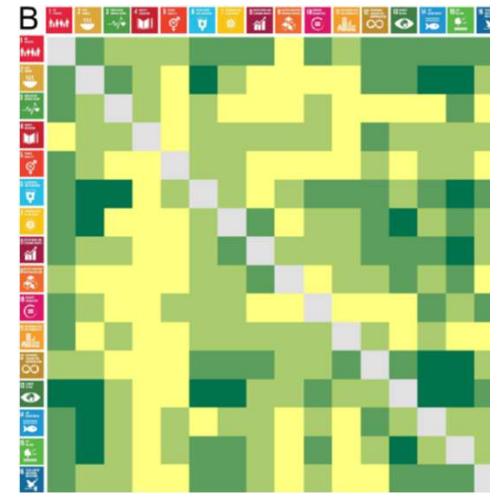
IDS Institute of
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The challenge of SDG Interactions



Many goals and targets ...



... with many interactions

*Scharlemann et al. SSRP
Rockefeller Foundation Study*

“Synergies are key to efficient implementation of SDGs”

Statement from Wilton Park Roundtable, Released July, 2018, www.sussex.ac.uk/ssrp/sdg-interactions

How do we act on synergies?

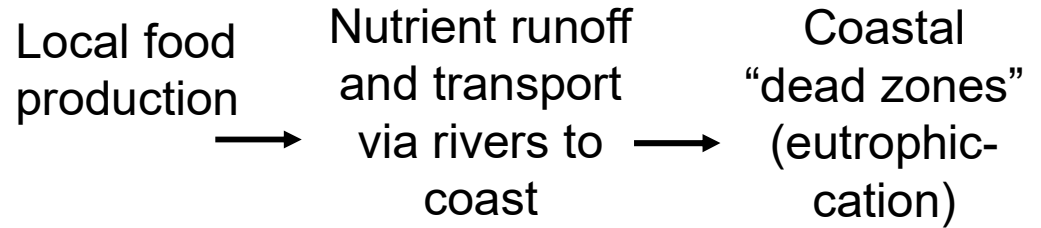
What do we know ... ?

What we [know] about SDG interactions

The importance of scale



Agriculture runoff causes coastal eutrophication



Local
Zero hunger
Goal



Local
Clean water
Goal



Global
Ocean
conservation
Goal



Need multi-scale analysis



What we [know] about SDG interactions

The impact of globalization processes



International trade agreements

Forcing trade-offs or providing opportunities for SDG implementation

Lydgate; SSRP



Global supply chains

Produce trade-offs (e.g. health impacts from mineral extraction); but also opportunities for synergies (sustainable supply chain management)

Peck; Alexander; SSRP



International debts

Impact on capacity of countries to achieve multiple SDGs ...
New public bonds provide opportunities ...

Antoniades; SSRP

Globalization processes forcing trade-offs and providing opportunities for synergies

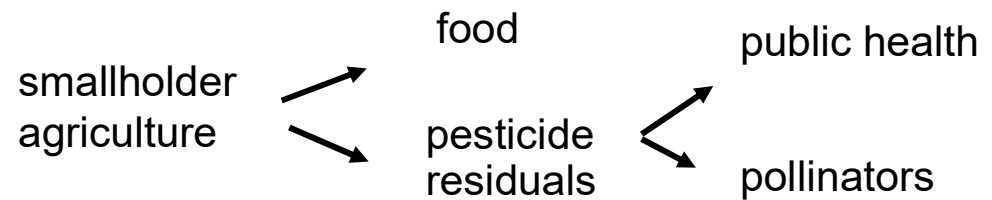
What we [know] about SDG interactions

Accelerated learning in critical transition zones



Photo: F. Marshall

Peri-urban areas



End
Hunger
Goal ↑

Good
Health
Goal ↓

Land
Conservation
Goal ↓

Goulson; Marshall
Sussex Sustainability Research Programme



Photo: J. Priess

Forest boundaries

Making Synergies “Actionable”

Recommendations from Wilton Park Roundtable, March, 2018



- ❑ Launch a **major international initiative** to identify and **prioritise SDG synergies** that have the greatest positive impacts.

- ❑ **Support** inter- and transdisciplinary **research** about SDG interactions

- ❑ **Establish “learning platforms”** to exchange experience & knowledge about SDG interactions. National and sub-national.
(online data repositories, publication catalogues and depots, blog sites)

- ❑ Shouldn't wait ... **Introduce governance reforms** that break down sectoral barriers and foster an integrative approach to implementing the SDGs

Making Synergies “Actionable”

- ❑ Shouldn't wait ... Channel financial investments into innovative strategies that take advantage of most promising synergies.

What can be scaled up?

I. What should be done anyway & should now be incorporated into “SDG Synergies Strategy”? e.g.

- ❑ Replacing traditional cook stoves with clean stoves
- ❑ Incorporating multiple SDGs in international trade agreements

II. What actions have big impact on two or more goals simultaneously? e.g.

- ❑ Sustainable supply chain management
- ❑ Sustainable agriculture including agroforestry
- ❑ Education for sustainable consumption
- ❑ Sustainable city ideas ...

Summing Up

- ❑ **Synergies are key to efficient implementation of SDGs → make the idea of “synergies” actionable for policy**
- ❑ **Accelerate research to find the most promising synergies and how they work**
- ❑ **In the meantime ... provide support for scaling up the proven strategies**

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