



US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

25–26 June 2020



Partnerships for Sustainability

In Higher Education

Global Partnership Conference online
University of Sussex
June 25, 2020

Joseph Alcamo
Sussex Sustainability Research Programme

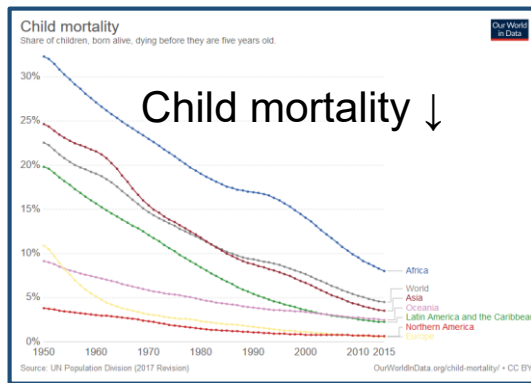


The promise of the Sustainable Development Goals



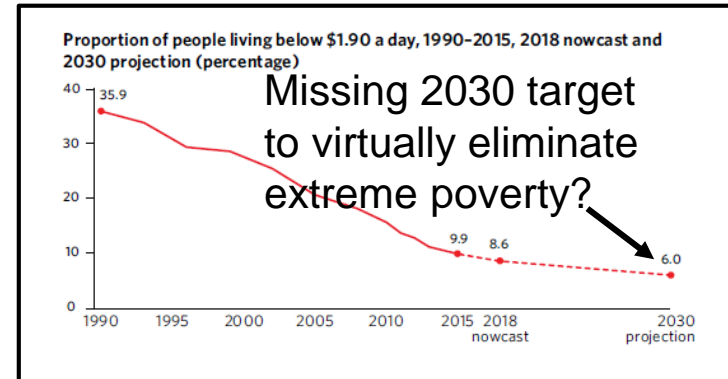
- ✓ Agreed upon by 193 countries in 2015
- ✓ Comprehensive global goals - social, economic, environmental
- ✓ Target year: 2030 Ten years to go!

The promise of the Sustainable Development Goals



Some good news

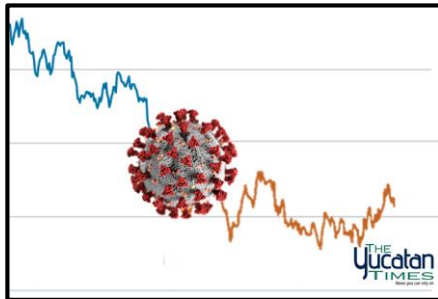
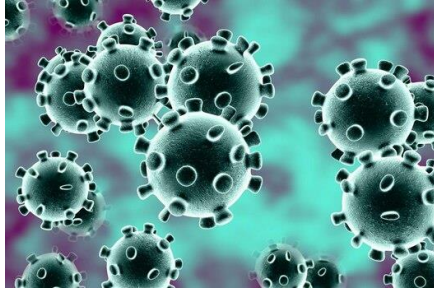
- ✓ Child mortality sinking
- ✓ 2x marine protected areas
- ✓ Increasing safe sanitation



Some not so good news

- ✓ Missing target for eliminating extreme poverty
- ✓ Hunger increasing
- ✓ Inequality within countries remains
- ✓ Rapid global warming, species extinction

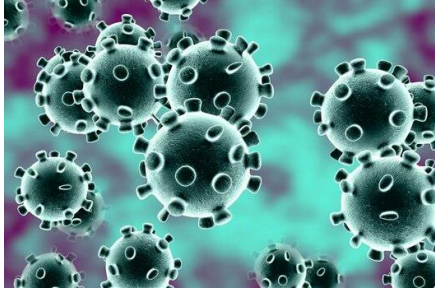
Sustainability takes a hit from the pandemic



Potential impact of Coronavirus Pandemic and Economic Recession on SDGs:

- Global GDP 2020: 5-8% ↓ (WB, June 2020 forecast)
- Tens of millions more → extreme poverty
- Countries look inward ...
- Reduced foreign trade, foreign aid budgets
- But ... people accustomed to ... crash in oil demand; calmer transportation; cleaner air; lower GHG emissions
- More open to change? “Build back better?”

Sustainability: Getting back on track



Pandemic poses threat, brings scarcity

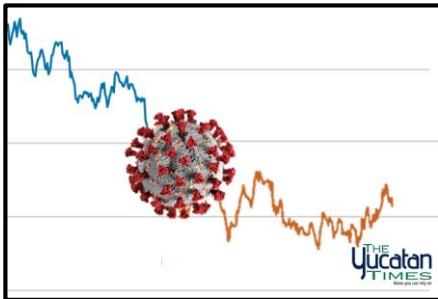
Now ...

Stronger resilience against threat

& higher efficiency to cope with scarcity

Partnerships to achieve the SDGs:

- ✓ Increase resilience because strengthen capacity
- ✓ Increase efficiency by sharing resources for same task



The 3 pillars of partnerships for sustainability

Three ways for universities to work together to advance sustainability and the SDGs:

- Teaching
- Policy/Advocacy
- Research



Participants, 2019 Expert Workshop on Science for Implementing the SDGs, Uni Ghana & Uni Sussex

Pillar 1: Cooperate on **teaching**



SDG awareness (2019) “somewhat or very familiar”:
52% China, 32% Mexico, S Africa 27%, 17% Germany,
13% UK; 1 out of 4 globally; (WEF, 2019)

Universities - Centers for raising awareness about the SDGs



What? Integrate SDG curricula

- Aim: Inform and inspire students across all courses & programmes
- Co-develop courses (or elements) to explain SDGs & embed in existing programmes; online learning

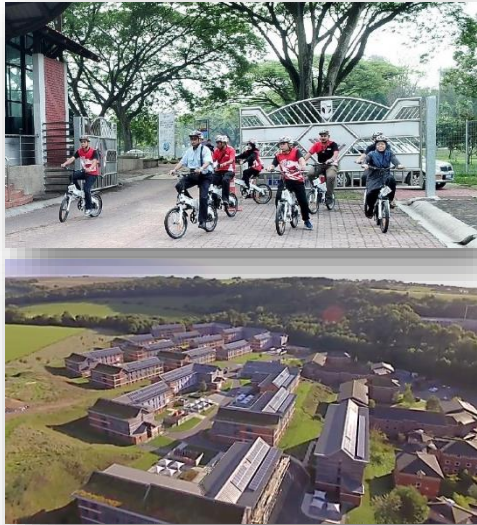


What? SDG Training - Policymakers & Stakeholders

- Aim: Inform & inspire key policymakers & stakeholders
- Co-develop short, intensive courses (online?) - Key information on SDG implementation; share experience

Pillar 2: Cooperate on **policy/advocacy**

Universities should advocate and exemplify sustainability



What? Build green campuses & share how to do it

- Aim: University as example of sustainability; the Zero Carbon University
 - Renewable energy; recycling/reuse; procurement; low carbon travel policies
-
- Engage students: e.g. “Living Lab”- campus as testing ground for student projects/dissertations; Innovation competitions
 - Universities share experience & work together: Joint working groups of universities; Co-sponsor conference; share experience of Sustainability Officers ...



Pillar 2: Cooperate on **policy/advocacy**

What? Joint advocacy for sustainability



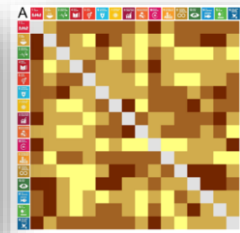
Environmental Justice Campaign Ecuador
Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar
& University of Sussex



Side Event on SDGs UN General Assembly
Uni Sussex & Uni Ghana

- Aim: Universities play active role in society as advocate of sustainability
 - Local: e.g. Environmental justice & SDGs
 - National: e.g. National policies to advance SDGs
 - International: e.g. Advancing SDG agenda at UN
- What universities can do together: Campaigns, events, policy briefs, webinars, ...

Pillar 3: Cooperate on **sustainability research** ...



Universities should develop the knowledge needed for the SDGs

Sustainability research

Aim: Advance research to support the SDGs

Non-traditional, new kind of research:

- Solution-oriented
- Impact-oriented
- Interdisciplinary
- Transdisciplinary – Carried out with local partners and other stakeholders

Pillar 3: Cooperate on **sustainability** research ...

Examples of sustainability research – Sussex as partner



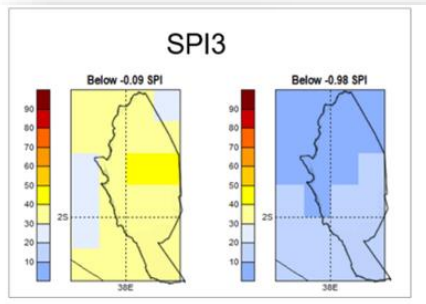
New Guinea

Combined conservation and public health to slow deforestation and help achieve SDGs 1, 3, 15

Ecologists & public health specialists

Stakeholders: Communities in Wanang forest conservation area

Impacts: joint conservation – public health programmes



Kenya & South India

People-centered early warning to achieve SDGs 2 & 13

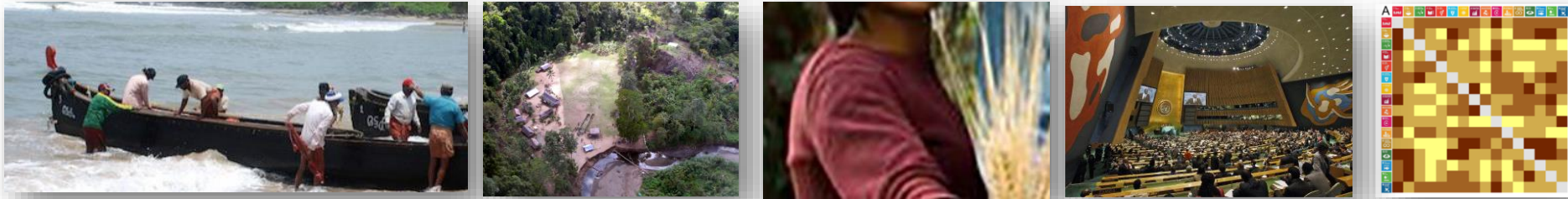
Climatologists & anthropologists & behavioural scientists

Stakeholders: farmers, fishers, meteorological services, Kerala & Central Kenya

Impacts: Improved early warning systems



Pillar 3: Cooperate on **sustainability research** ...



What universities can do together ...

- Joint work on methodologies for *sustainability research* & promote *sustainability research* amongst faculties
- Joint research programmes to support priority SDGs and pandemic-related research ...
 - How can global goals be made more *resilient* to shocks?
[e.g. robust food systems (SDG 2), more robust health systems (SDG 3)]
 - How can we use resources more *efficiently* to achieve SDGs?
[*Integrated* approach to SDGs, actions that help achieve multiple SDGs]

Summing up – The 3 pillars of partnerships for sustainability



How should universities and HE advance sustainability and the SDGs?

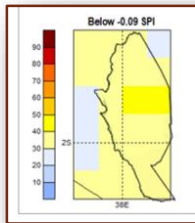
Universities ...



... should be centers for raising awareness about the SDGs



... should advocate and exemplify sustainability



... should develop the knowledge needed for the SDGs

Summing up – The 3 pillars of partnerships for sustainability



Three ways for universities to work together to advance sustainability & SDGs

Teaching

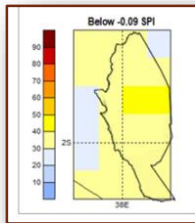


- Bring SDGs into curricula
- Provide SDG training - policymakers/stakeholders



Policy/Advocacy

- Build green campuses & share knowledge
- Advocate together



Research

- Collaborate on methodologies
- Work together to do research needed to achieve the SDGs, and build resilience and efficiency



Partnerships for Sustainability

In Higher Education

Global Partnership Conference online
University of Sussex
June 25, 2020

Joseph Alcamo
Sussex Sustainability Research Programme



Thank you!



**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
CONFERENCE**