Managing SDG interactions: a key to efficiency

The Wilton Park Statement

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High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
July 11, 2018  UN Headquarters, NY
Side Event of Government of Ghana and University of Sussex, UK
“Building on synergies and exploring financing options for effective implementation of the SDGs”
The SDGs won’t be cheap

Costs of achieving the SDGs:
‘Good health’ goal: $371 billion/yr (WHO)
‘Clean water’ goal: $114 billion/yr (World Bank)
Total ≈ $5-7 trillion /yr (UNCTAD)
Efficiency of Implementation

Efficiencies can be gained by taking advantage of synergies and minimising trade-offs among Goals.
Wilton Park Roundtable on SDG Interactions ♦ March, 2018

Statement: “Why managing interactions among SDGs is key to sustainable development”

44 signatories, 10 countries (6 LMICs)
Trade-offs among the goals

Conventional agriculture → Increased food production
          ↓ More water pollution

Goal for Zero hunger ↑ Goal for Clean Water ↓

Coal plants → Increased electricity capacity
          ↓ More greenhouse gases

Goal for Energy ↑ Goal for Climate Action ↓
Synergies among the goals

Synergies among goals …

Actions that further multiple goals at the same time

**Clean cook stoves**

Helps achieve goals for Good Health, Climate Action, Land Conservation, Energy

**Agroforestry**

Helps achieve goals for Zero Hunger, Energy, Land Conservation
Furthering multiple goals with same action or programme …

• Fewer human resources needed

• Fewer overlaps, duplications among programmes

• More opportunities for collaboration across sectors
 Efficient implementation by exploiting synergies

But … the tough questions

Do the synergies add up?
(How much black carbon reduction from clean stoves? How much will agroforestry contribute to fuel production?)

Which synergies and trade-offs most important?

What kind of governance do we need for exploiting synergies?

“Silo” thinking
Reaping the benefits  
Making synergies actionable

Recommendations from Wilton Park Roundtable

- 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 and knowledge about SDG interactions.
Reaping the benefits
Making synergies actionable

- Produce a review of the economic impact of not reaching the SDGs, including not taking advantage of SDG interactions

- But don’t wait … Channel financial investments into innovative strategies and infrastructure

- Introduce governance reforms → break down sectoral barriers and foster integrative approach to implementing the SDGs
  Multi-sectoral, multi-level, integrated approach to SDGs
  Across ministries, departments, business sectors, groups

Stop “silo” thinking
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