



Managing SDG interactions: a key to efficiency

The Wilton Park Statement

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Sussex Sustainability Research Programme

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”



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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 \approx \$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 Statement on SDG Interactions



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

Efficient implementation by exploiting synergies



Furthering multiple goals with same action or programme ...

- Fewer human resources needed
- Fewer overlaps, duplications among programmes
- More opportunities for collaboration across sectors

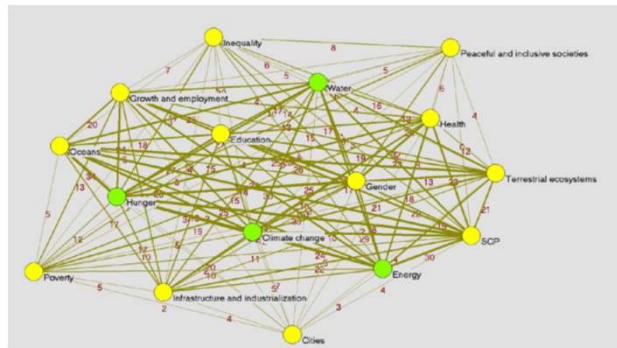
Efficient implementation by exploiting synergies

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?



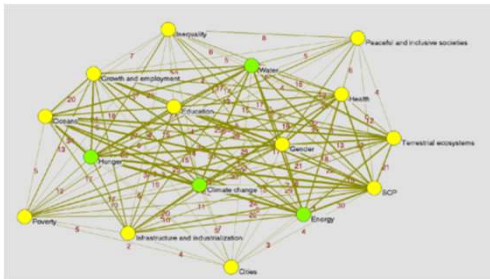
“Silo” thinking

What kind of governance do we need for exploiting synergies?

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**



Stop “silo” thinking

- ✓ 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



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