

# Can we tackle the SDGs without dealing with inequality?

*Towards sustainable  
equitable development  
of marginalized groups  
in the global South*

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Presentation at Sussex Sustainability Research Programme  
Online International Research Symposium

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**Lisa HIWASAKI**, University of Rhode Island

# Presentation outline

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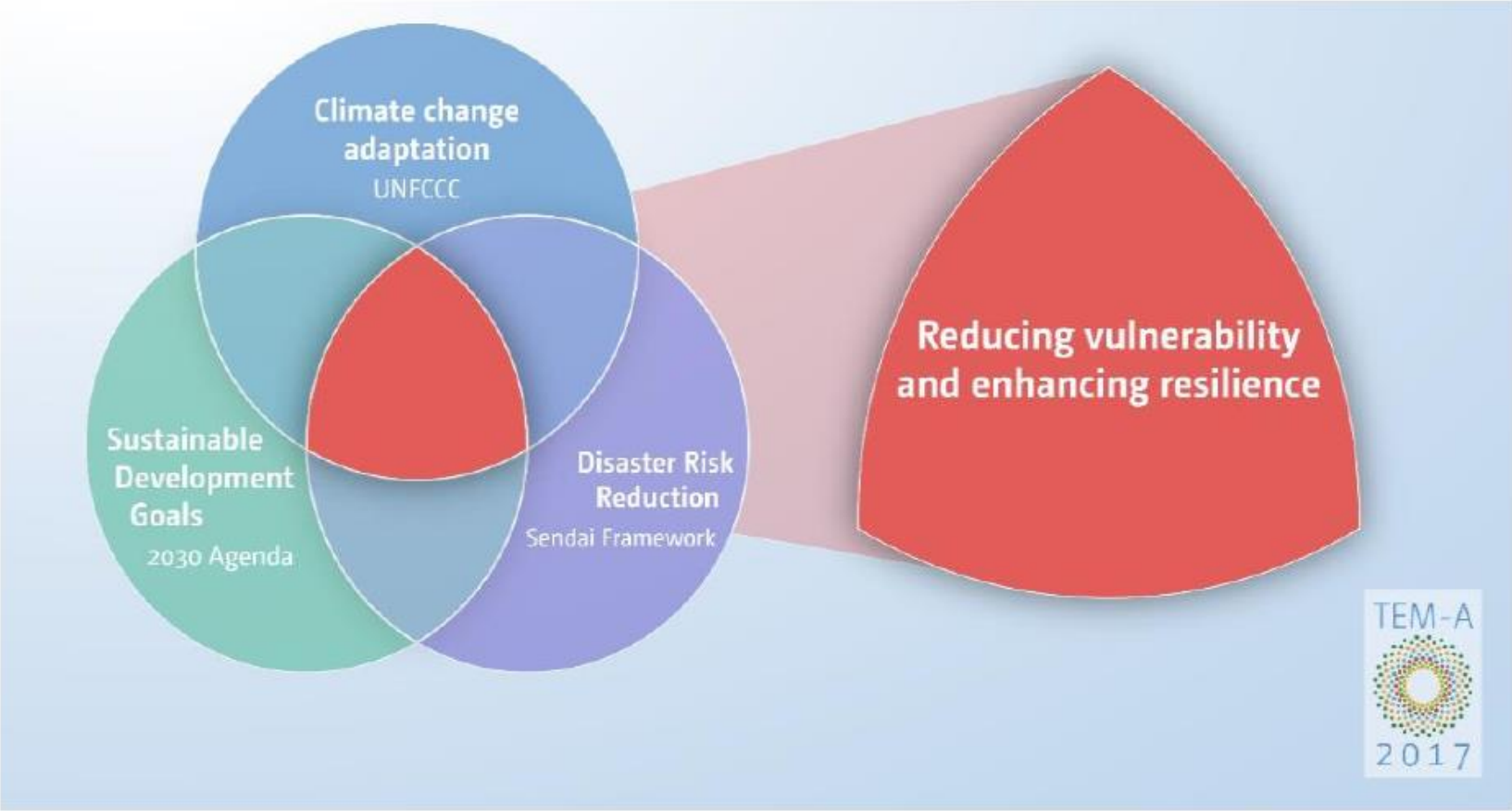
1. Introduction
2. Definition and use of key terms:
  - vulnerability
  - resilience
  - equality and equity
3. Manifestation of the international agreements at national and local levels
4. Convergences
5. Reducing inequalities towards sustainable equitable development

# *Parallel international agreements*

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- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR → UNDRR)
- Sustainable Development Goals (UNGA)
- The Paris Agreement (UNFCCC)

Figure 1  
**Integrating adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework**

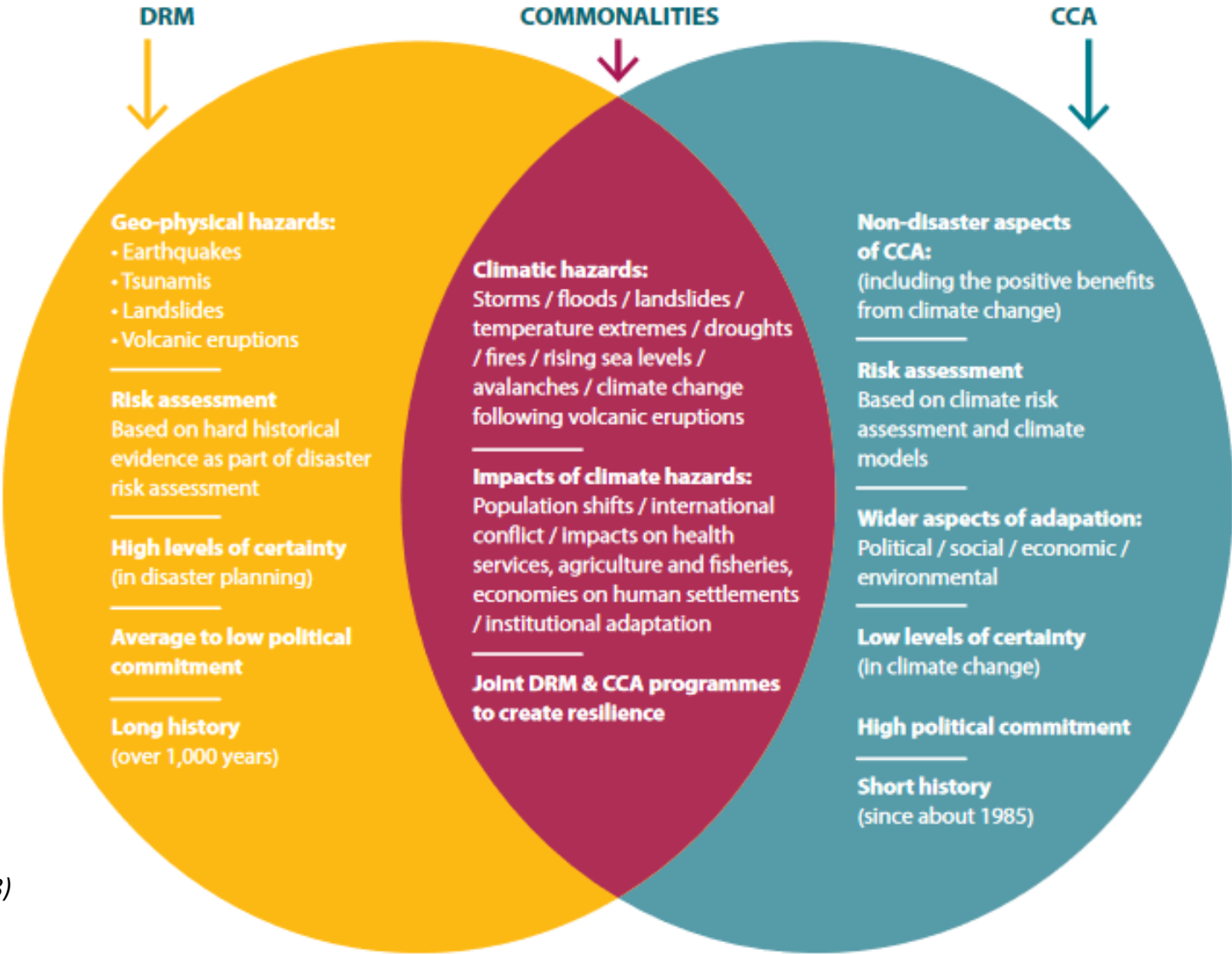


Source: UNFCCC (2017)

# Parallel definitions and uses

	Sendai Framework UNISDR (UNDRR)	2030 Agenda UN GA	Paris Agreement UNFCCC
Vulnerable Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>vulnerability</i>: conditions determined by factors &amp; processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>vulnerable people</i>: the poor &amp; the poorest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>vulnerable countries</i>: impacted by climate change</li> </ul>
Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an outcome</li> <li>target = ability to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from hazards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>quality to be strengthened/ built</li> <li>tool to help people cope with shocks and stresses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a characteristic to be built / strengthened</li> <li>process in response to climate change</li> </ul>
Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>used only once, inequality as a driver of disaster risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gender equality</li> <li>global inequalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>used only once, in reference to gender</li> </ul>
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>used only once, gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>focus on access and benefit-sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>differentiated responsibilities</li> <li>sustainable development and poverty eradication</li> </ul>

Figure 5: Terms and meanings in CCA and DRR: commonalities and differences. Figure provided by Ian Davis



Source: Leitner et al. (2018)

# Common terms... ?

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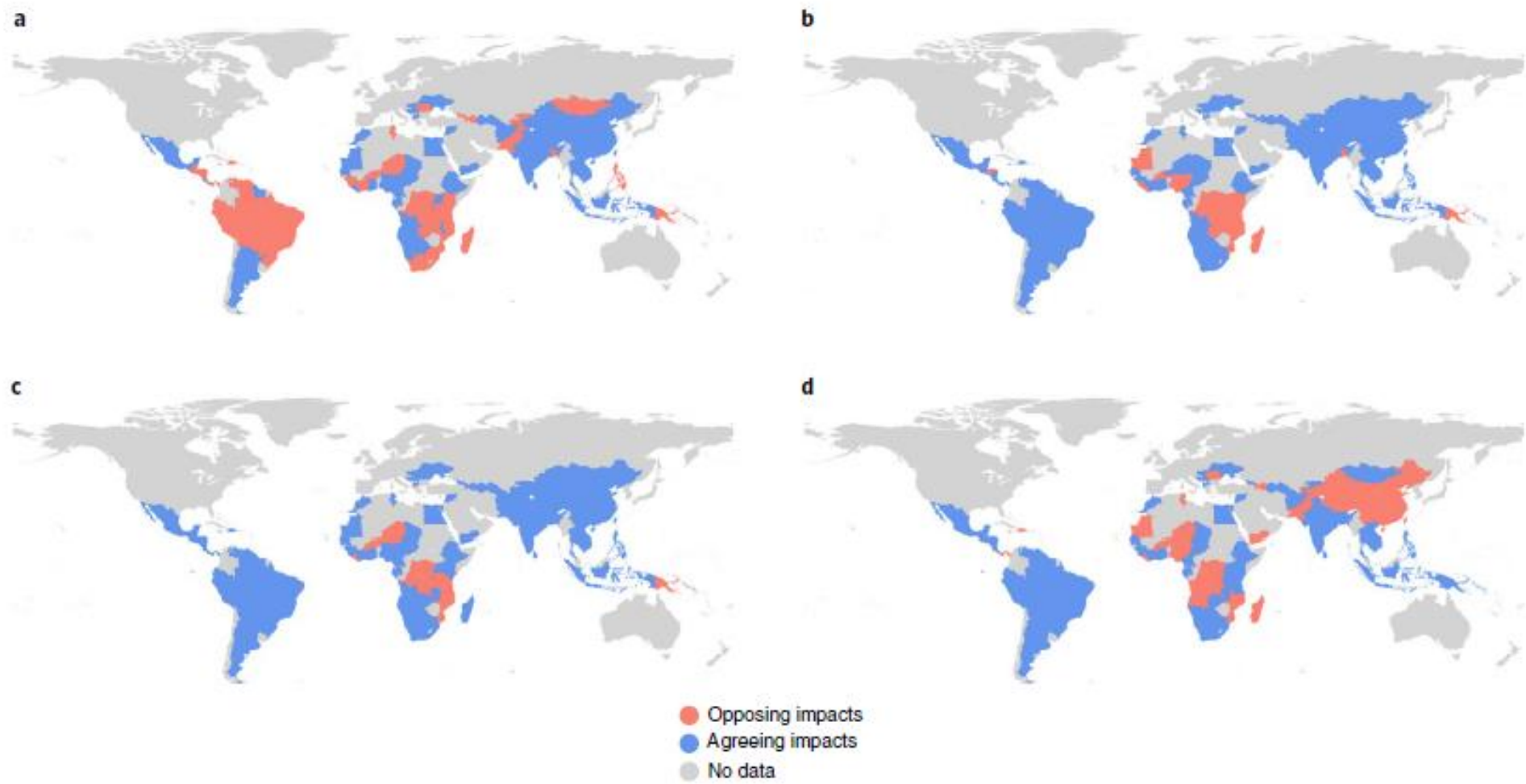
*Although the use of a similar term among all three fields **appears to build coherence and a common vision**, it actually masks the potential for conflict among the fields and the need for further conversations on our true goals. ...*

*An ambiguous, general concept of resilience therefore may be beneficial in garnering high level political support, but **during implementation it fails to guide practitioners and decision-makers**. ... [and they] continue to implement their own understandings of the term.*

*Siders (2016:2, 19)*







**Fig. 2 | Agreeing and opposing impacts of various development variables.** Agreeing impacts imply that progress for the corresponding development variable leads to better baseline outcomes (measured by the absolute number of poor people) and lower vulnerability (measured by the delta of poor people), whereas opposing impacts imply that progress leads to better baseline outcomes, but higher vulnerability. **a-d**, The development variables are income redistribution (**a**), agriculture productivity growth (**b**), manufacturing productivity growth (**c**) and service sector productivity growth (**d**).

Source: Jafino et al. (2021)

# Impacts at local levels

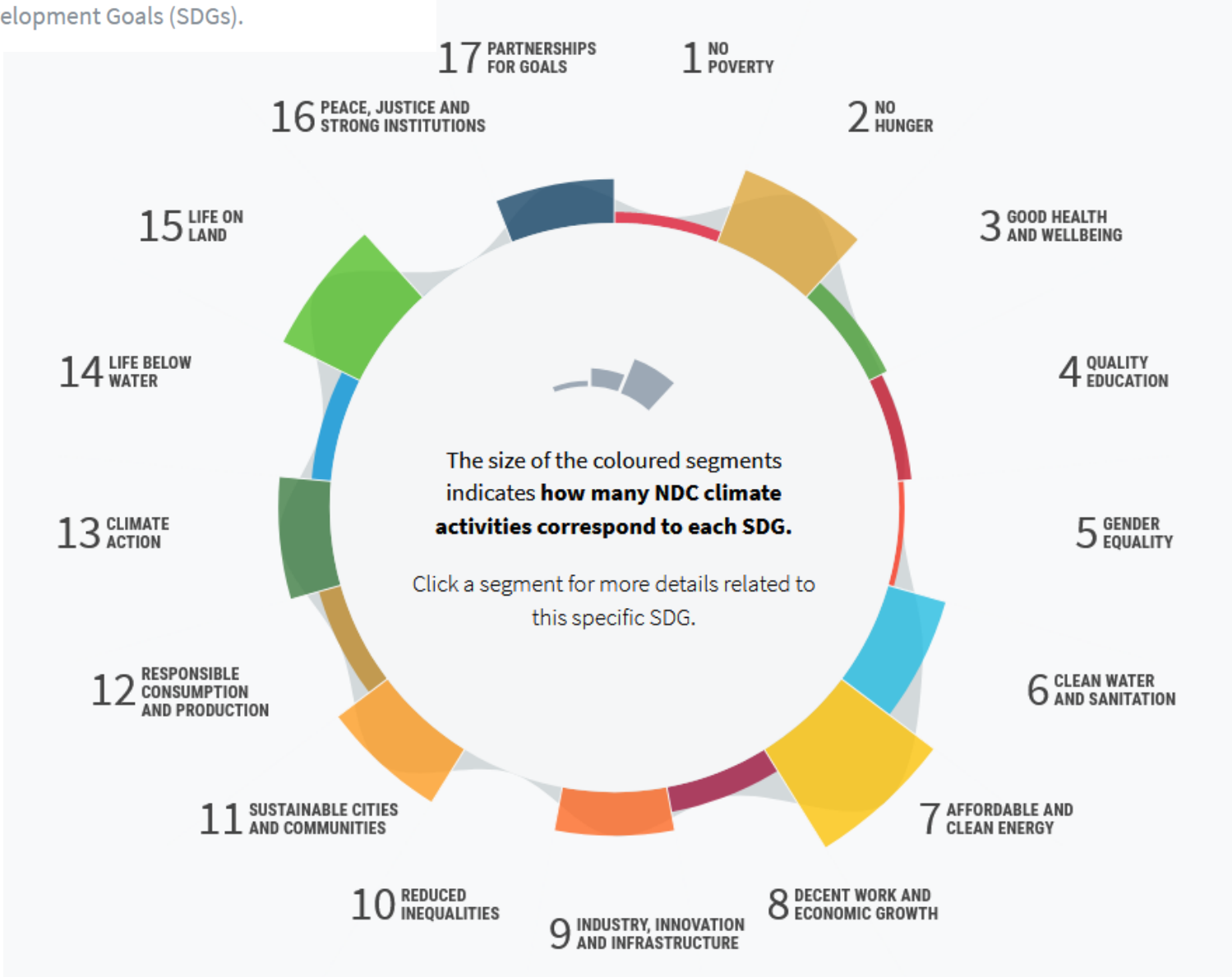
	SD - CCA	CCA - DR	DR - SD
Negative impacts: trade-offs / maladaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethiopia, Afar (Jafino, Hallegatte, and Rozenberg 2021; Magnan et al. 2016)</li> <li>South Pacific (Tuvalu etc.) (Barnett and O'Neill 2012)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bangladesh (Islam, Chu, and Smart 2020)</li> <li>Chile, Araucanía (Banwell et al. 2020)</li> <li>Cook Islands, Rarotonga (Mannakkara 2021)</li> <li>Papua New Guinea (Mercer 2010)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecuador, Esmeraldas (Waldmüller, Jamali, and Nogales 2019)</li> <li>Indus Basin (Pakistan &amp; Afghanistan) (Zia and Wagner 2015)</li> <li>Mexico (Moure et al. 2021)</li> <li>Pakistan, Balochistan (Waldmüller, Jamali, and Nogales 2019)</li> <li>Sri Lanka (Fincucane et al. 2020)</li> <li>Vietnam (Eriksen et al. 2021)</li> </ul>
Positive integration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vanuatu (Hallwright and Handmer 2021)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sri Lanka (Saja, Sahid, and Sutharshanan 2020)</li> </ul>



# NDC-SDG Connections

<https://klimalog.die-gdi.de/ndc-sdg/>

Connecting climate action to the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Analyse and compare how climate actions formulated in  
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) corresponds to each  
of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



# What has got left behind?

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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