

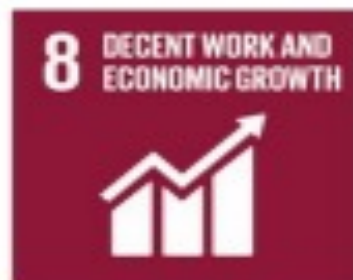
The SDGs as an Integrative Framework to Assess Coherence of Transnational Multistakeholder Partnerships for SIDS

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Using linkages to assess partnerships

- Pervasive linkages between climate action and sustainable development (Nerini 2019, IPCC 2018).
- Global climate governance: coherence of initiatives neglected aspect of performance (Chan 2020). No guarantee the set of voluntary actions is delivering balanced implementation across sectors (Chan 2020).
- Limited evidence of in(coherence). Implications for orchestration, also *equitable implementation*.

Working Paper

- To what extent does the portfolio of climate-related partnerships sufficiently account for linkages across sectors? In particular, SDGs 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 16.
- Combines a large N study of climate partnerships in Pacific SIDS and an “off-the-shelf” study of SDG13’s linkages.
- Aim of the paper is to compare the distribution of partnership outputs and distribution of linkages across the SDGs.
- Map partnerships alignment to the SDGs and assess overall coherence.

Mapping partnerships to the SDGs

- The relationship between partnerships and the SDGs is complex.
- Introduce **Output-SDG-Fit (OSF)** to map a partnership's promised outputs to the SDGs.
- Measure of *potential impact* on SDG achievement. Focus on direct impact.

Measures of Partnership Effectiveness:	Function-Output-Fit (Pattberg 2012, Chan 2018)	Output-SDG-Fit
Type	Output-based measure	Impact-based measure
Level	Individual partnership	Individual partnership
Purpose	Assess alignment of actual outputs with promised deliverables	Assess alignment of promised outputs to the SDGs
Key Inputs	Stated Functions, Observed Output	Planned Outputs, Issue focus
Codification	List of outputs List of functions	List of outputs List of SDG areas
Assessment	Percent of commitments achieved	List of SDGs addressed
Other features	Partnerships with few commitments can score high	Direct measure (does not account for indirect SDG effects)

Types of (coherent) implementation

- Proposals differ in terms of linkages considered (Alcamo 2020, Weitz 2018, Horan 2021):

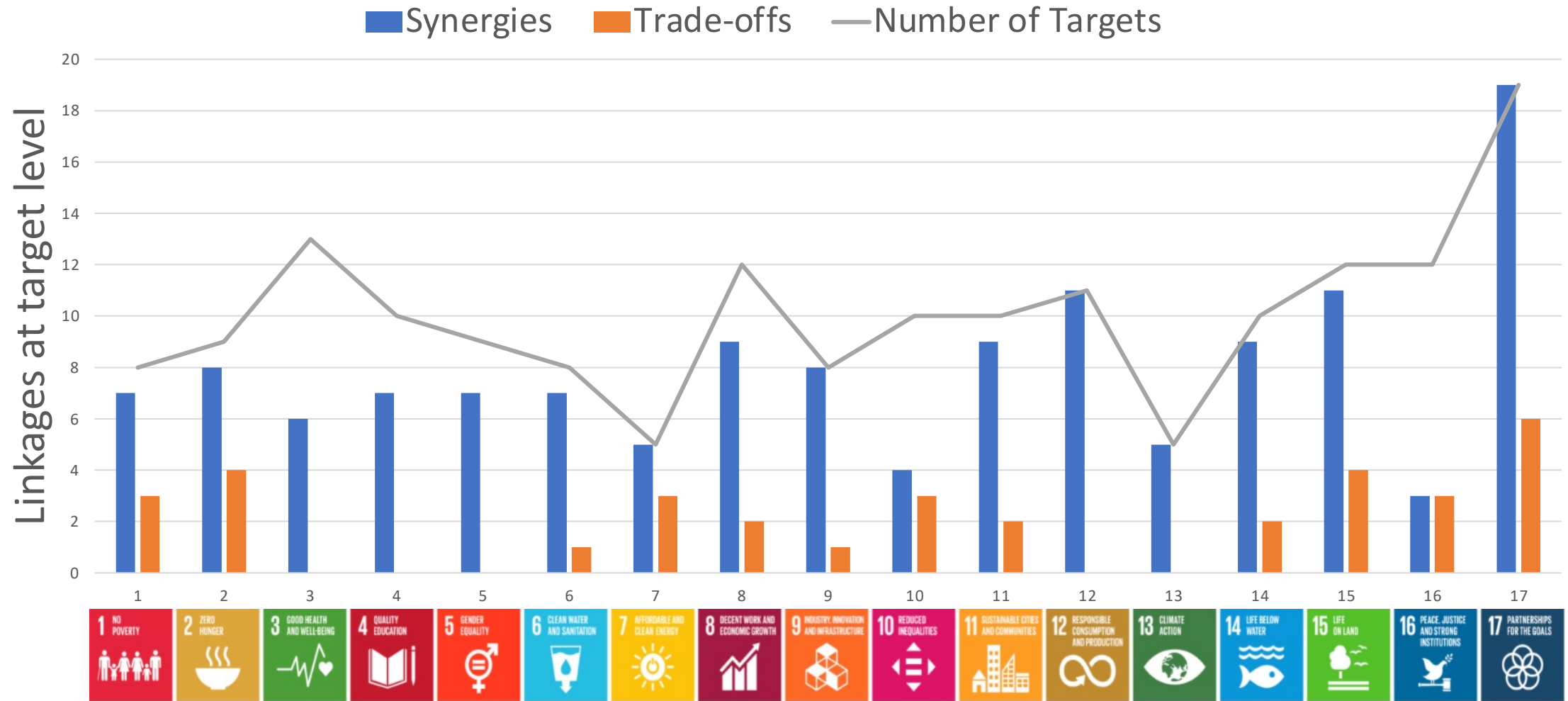
H1 (Siloed): All partnerships focus their activities on SDG13

H2 (Nexus): More partnerships in highly interlinked SDGs.

H3 (First-order): One partnership for each linkage.

- **Assessing Coherence:** for each goal, compare number of partnerships with an OSF for that goal and the number linkages.
- **One-to-one rule:** if a goal has h linkages with climate action, then h partnerships are required to manage these interactions.

Data (1): Linkages between Climate Action & the SDGs.



Adapted from Nerini (2019)

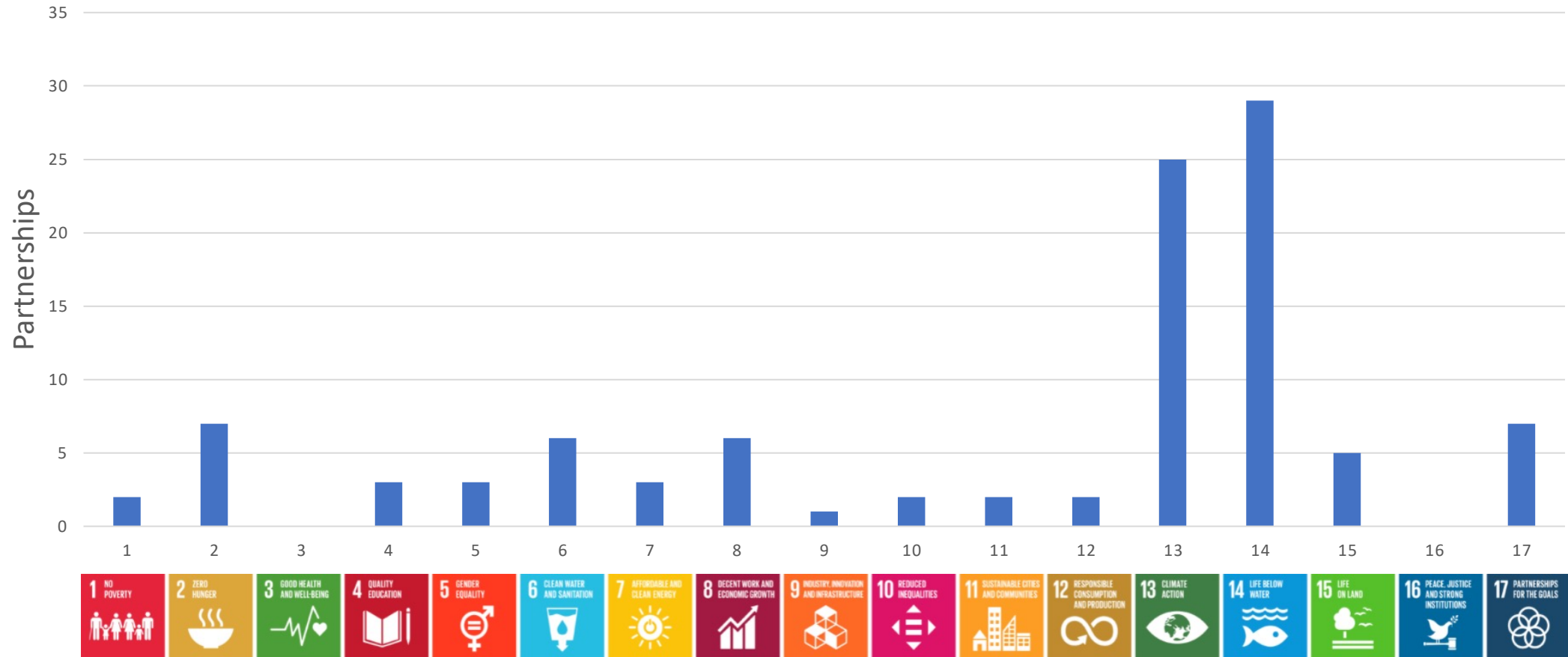
Data (2): SIDS Partnerships

- Data from SIDS online registry. 49 partnerships reported SDG13 as a goal.
- For each partnership, information on promised deliverables and issue focus.
- Handcoded each partnership's list of outputs and SDGs addressed. To verify these, consulted partnership's website, official documents.

Commitments:		Climate Action:	
Partnerships	47	Adaptation	44
Individual	2	Mitigation	2
Total	49	Both	3

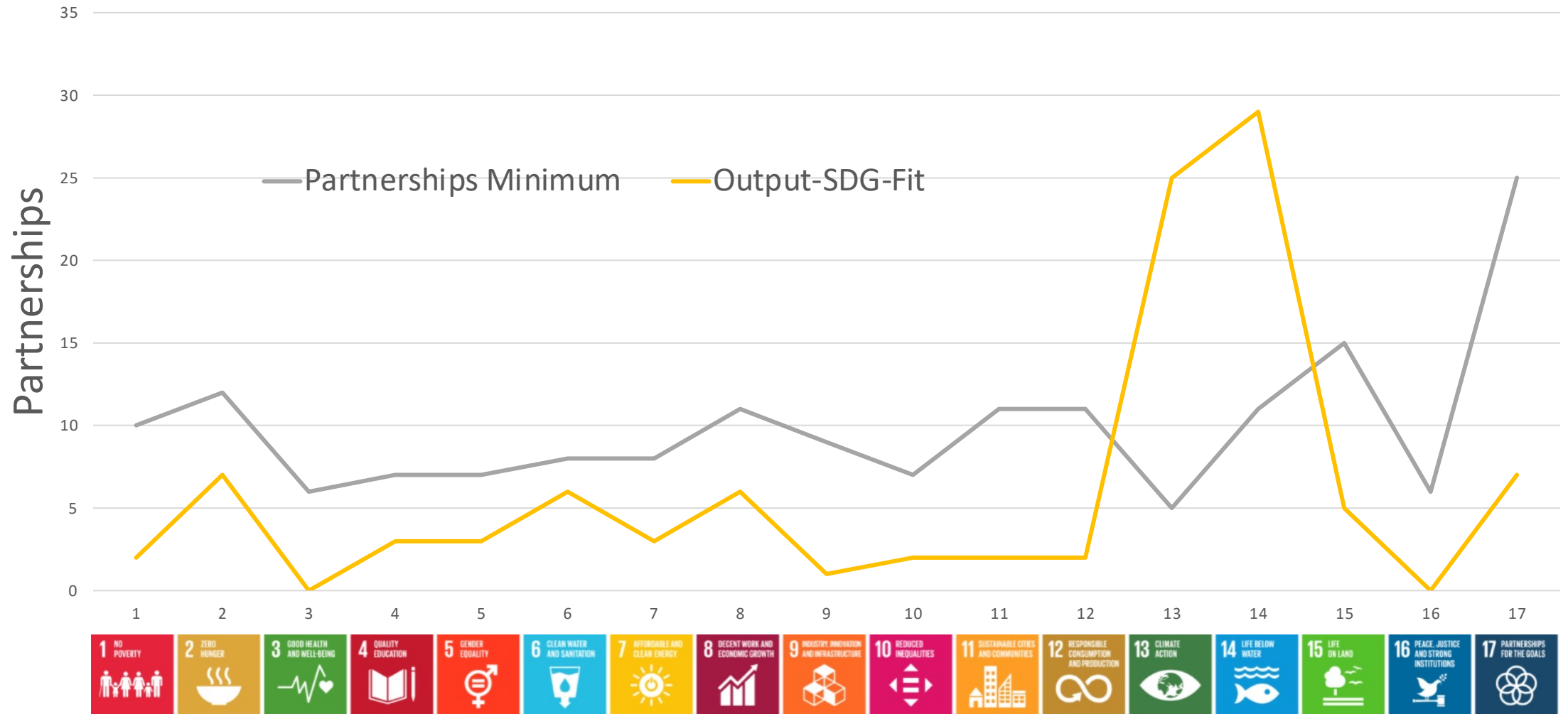
Geographic Scope:		Goals Reported:	
Regional/subregional	25	SDG13 only	13
National/subnational	24	Multiple SDGs	36

Output-SDG-Fit (OSF)



Imbalanced Implementation (one-to-one rule)

Correlation coefficient is $r = 0.25$ (excluding SDG13)



Discussion

- Preliminary findings suggest an unbalanced partnership portfolio with many gaps across sectors. Consistent with Atteridge (2020), Hedlund (2021), UNDESA (2019).
- Ocean-climate nexus is well represented but few partnerships address the climate-development nexus, e.g., climate-poverty, climate-health, or climate-justice nexuses, among other gaps.
- Possible reasons: 2017 UN Oceans Conference, many SIDS not eligible for development finance, low amount of adaptation finance in SIDS

Implications for Orchestration:

- Aim: framework/method to assess coherence of partnerships, identify gaps in activities, set priorities for new partnerships and actors to engage.
- Suggests a new principle for orchestration: “addressing incoherence.”
 - Orchestration efforts should focus on enabling partnerships in several areas where filling gaps in coherence can support effective & equitable implementation.
- Raises more questions: Who should orchestrate? Implications for global governance: topography based on linkages, way to broaden participation?



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The SDGs as an Integrative Framework to Assess Coherence of Transnational Multistakeholder Partnerships for SIDS¹

Abstract

Research in global climate governance recognizes the importance of transnational multistakeholder partnerships (often termed cooperative initiatives) in driving climate action from global to subnational levels. Large N studies of climate partnerships have shed light on cooperative governance's inclusiveness, thematic focus, geographic scope, degree of institutionalization, and contribution to the attainment of climate goals. However, a neglected aspect of partnership performance concerns its coherence, i.e., the extent to which portfolios of partnerships contribute to the balanced implementation of climate goals across the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Climate action is a complex transboundary problem that spans several sectors and scales and increasingly, scholarship is mapping these linkages across issue areas and levels. Drawing on this evidence base, this paper conducts a large N study of 49 climate-related partnerships in Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) to assess whether and to what extent these partnerships taken together contribute to the balanced implementation of climate action in PSIDS. Using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to assess coherence and introducing a measure of partnership's Output-SDG-Fit, results indicate that these partnerships tend to cluster their activities around a narrow set of nexuses with the climate-ocean nexus receiving relatively many partnerships and the climate-development nexus highly underrepresented. The findings support the view that transnational cooperative climate governance in Pacific SIDS is incoherent and that a lack of development finance for many SIDS may be driving incoherence in PSIDS partnerships. The paper discusses the practical implications of this finding for the orchestration of more coherent portfolios of partnerships.

Keywords: Climate Governance; Transnational Multi-stakeholder Partnerships; Effectiveness, Coherence, Sectoral Linkages; SDGs, Pacific SIDS.

Thank you!

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