

A Framework to Harness Effective Partnerships for the SDGs

ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023

Side Event

Leveraging Interlinkages Among SDGs Through Inclusive Partnerships with Local Communities

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Introduction

- How to enable integrated approaches to SDG implementation?
- Significant progress on tools to identify/assess synergies and trade offs, however, limited uptake by policymakers as evidenced in the VNRs (Allen 2021)
- Less attention to governance arrangements and how stakeholder engagement could help support integrated approaches (Bennich 2020, Weitz 2017)

Rethinking integrated approaches: how to translate linkages into effective partnerships (Weitz 2017)

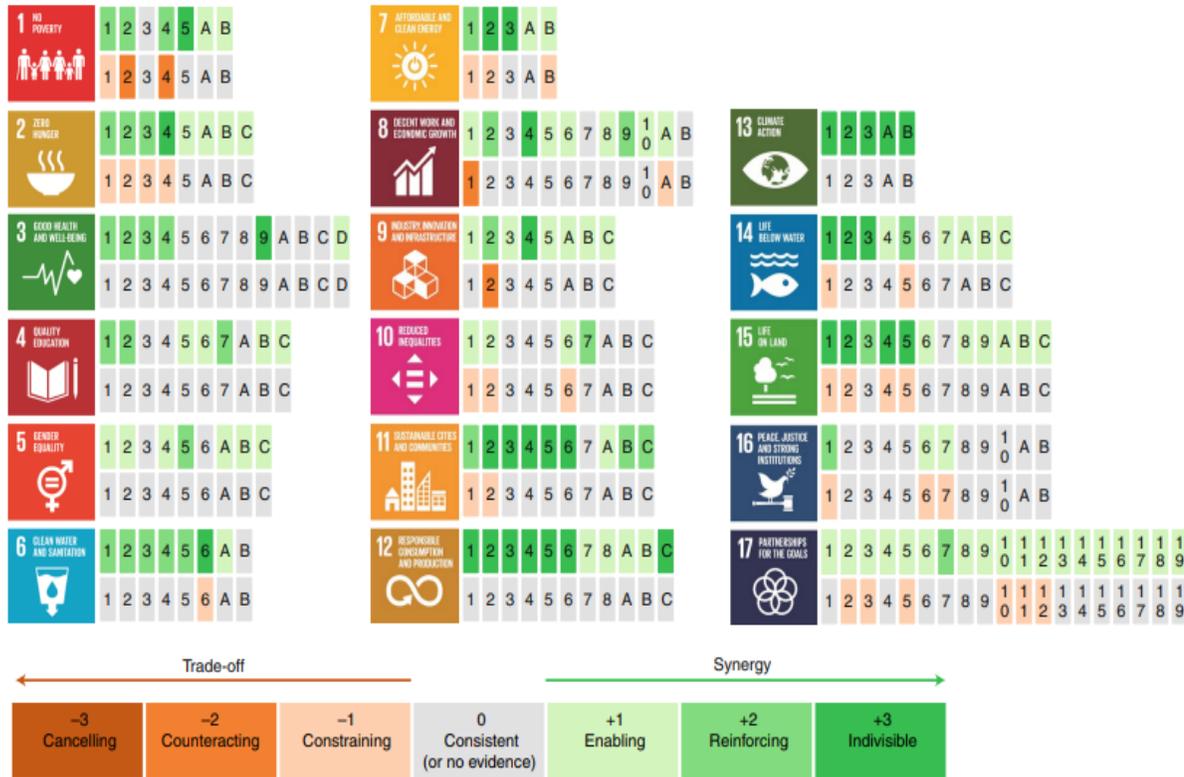


Fig. 2 | Synergies and trade-offs between climate action and the SDGs. Each rectangle to the right of the relevant SDG represents a Target. The highlighting represents the strength of an interaction (the scale^{4,5} is explained in detail in the Supplementary Methods). The absence of highlighting indicates the absence of identified evidence. Absence of identified evidence does not necessarily imply the absence of an interlinkage. Figure adapted from refs. ^{4,5}, Springer Nature Ltd. Credit: United Nations.

Partnership approach based on the SDGs (Horan 2022)

- **First step:** build a multi-stakeholder coalition that roughly mirrors the Goal's linkages with other goals.
- **Second step,** negotiate joint actions to raise synergies and manage trade offs across SDGs.

Source: Nerini et al (2019)

Key considerations

Approach to implementation (Alcamo 2018)

1. Single entry point Goal
2. Main (first order) interlinkages across all of the SDGs

1 & 2 align with policy priorities/ sectoral policymaking and the principle of indivisibility

Linkages (Nilsson 2018)

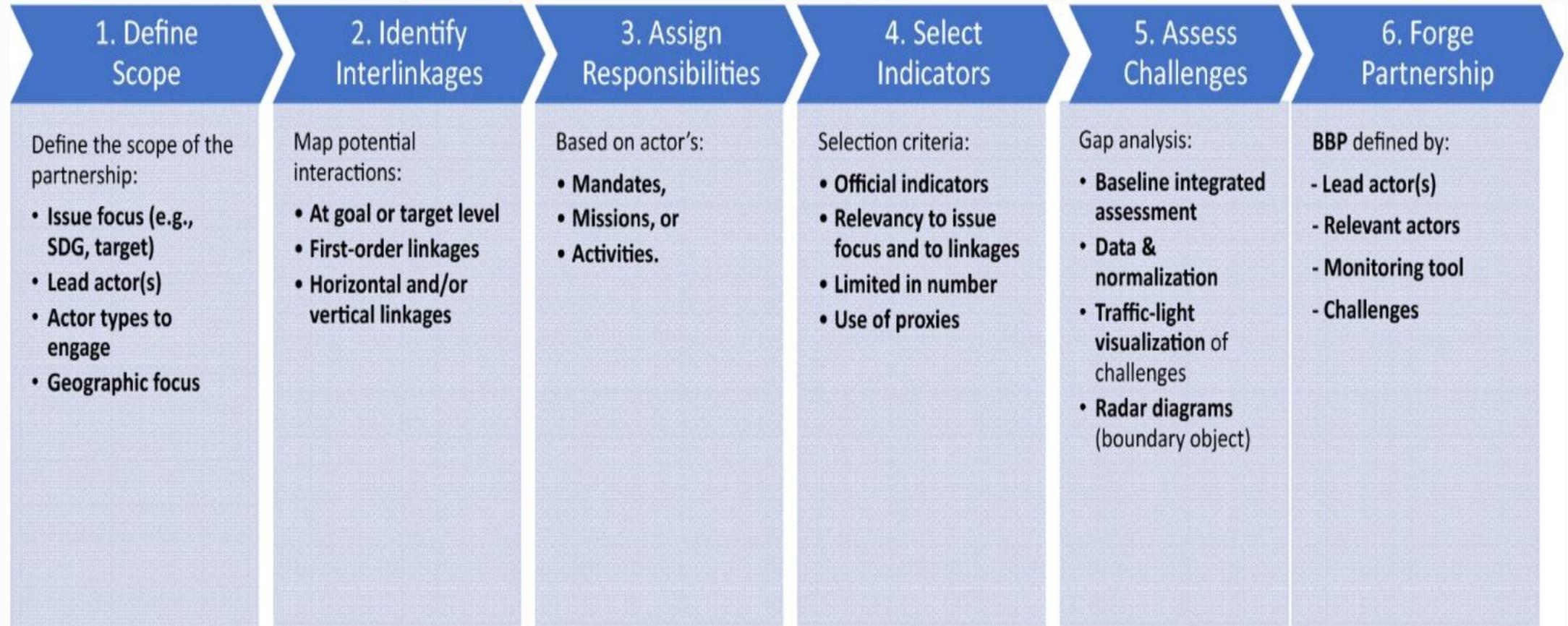
- Complex, contextual, horizontal and vertical

Relevant partners (Horan 2022)

- Stakeholders that can help to manage synergies and trade-offs

Building integrated partnerships (Horan 2022)

From: [A framework to harness effective partnerships for the sustainable development goals](#)



Forging a broad-based partnership (BBP) for collaborative SDG implementation

Evidence based approach to integrated partnerships

Combine three types of evidence:

1. Interlinkages with other SDGs (Le Blanc 2015, Nilsson 2016)
2. Stakeholders responsibilities across goals (DCCA 2018, UN 2018)
3. SDG indicator assessments (Sachs et al 2020, 2015; Horan 2019)

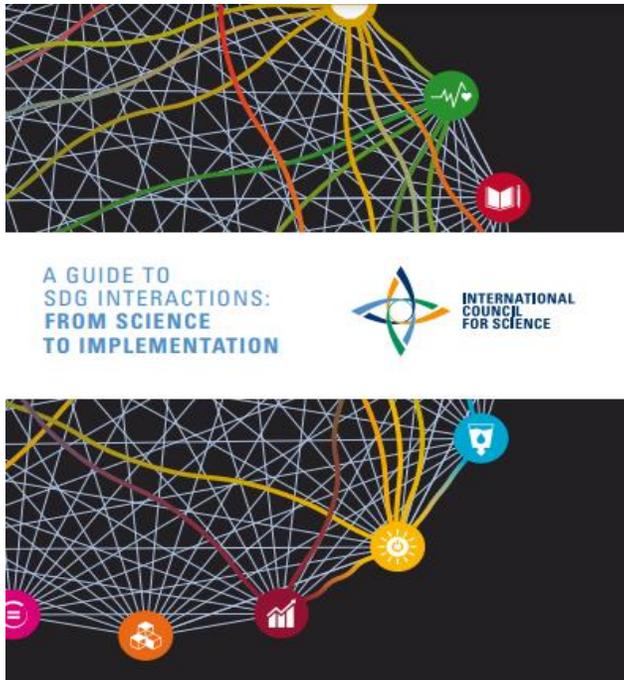
Concrete recommendations on which stakeholders to engage and in what areas they should collaborate?



Illustrative example: Ireland and SDG14

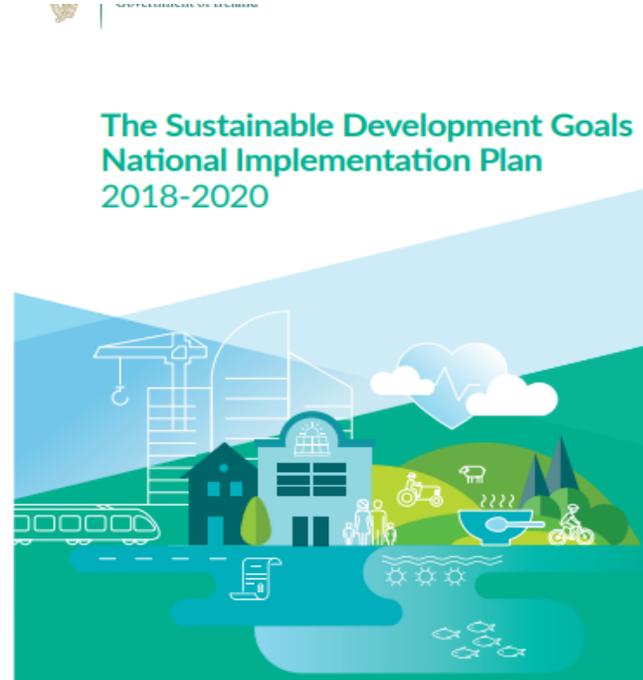
Data 1

Identify Linkages



Data 2

Assign Responsibilities



Data 3

Select Indicators



Goal14's interlinkages with other SDGs (ICSU 2017)

Table 1. Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14) Interlinkages.

Influence of Focal SDG14 Targets on other SDGs (i.e., from Y to X).																
Target\SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17
14.1: Marine Pollution	+/-	+	+					+/-		+	+/-		+	+		
14.4. Sustainable Fisheries	+/-	+/-		+	+			+/-							+	+
14.5: Marine Protection	+/-	+/-		+	+			+/-		+/-	+/-		+	+	+	+
14.7: Economic Benefits	+/-	+						+/-	+	+	+					+
Influence of Other SDGs on Focal SDG14 Targets (i.e., from X to Y).																
Target\SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17
14.1. Marine Pollution	+/-	-		+		+	+	+/-	+/-		+/-	+	+	+	+	+
14.4. Sustainable Fishing	+/-			+			+/-	+/-	+				+		+	+
14.5 Marine Protection	+/-			+			+/-	+/-	+/-		+/-				+	+
14.7. Economic Benefits	+/-			+			+/-	+/-	+		+		+		+	+

Source: [24]. + (-) indicate potential synergy (trade-off), blank: = neutral. SDG1 Poverty. SDG2 Nutrition and agriculture. SDG3 Health. SDG4 Education. SDG5 Gender equality. SDG6 Water. SDG7 Affordable and clean energy. SDG8 Decent jobs and economic growth. SDG9 Industrialization, innovation and infrastructure. SDG10 Reduce inequalities. SDG11 Sustainable urbanization. SDG12 Sustainable consumption and production. SDG13 Climate action. SDG15 Biodiversity. SDG16 Justice. SDG17 Partnership. Full descriptions of goals and targets are available at [1].

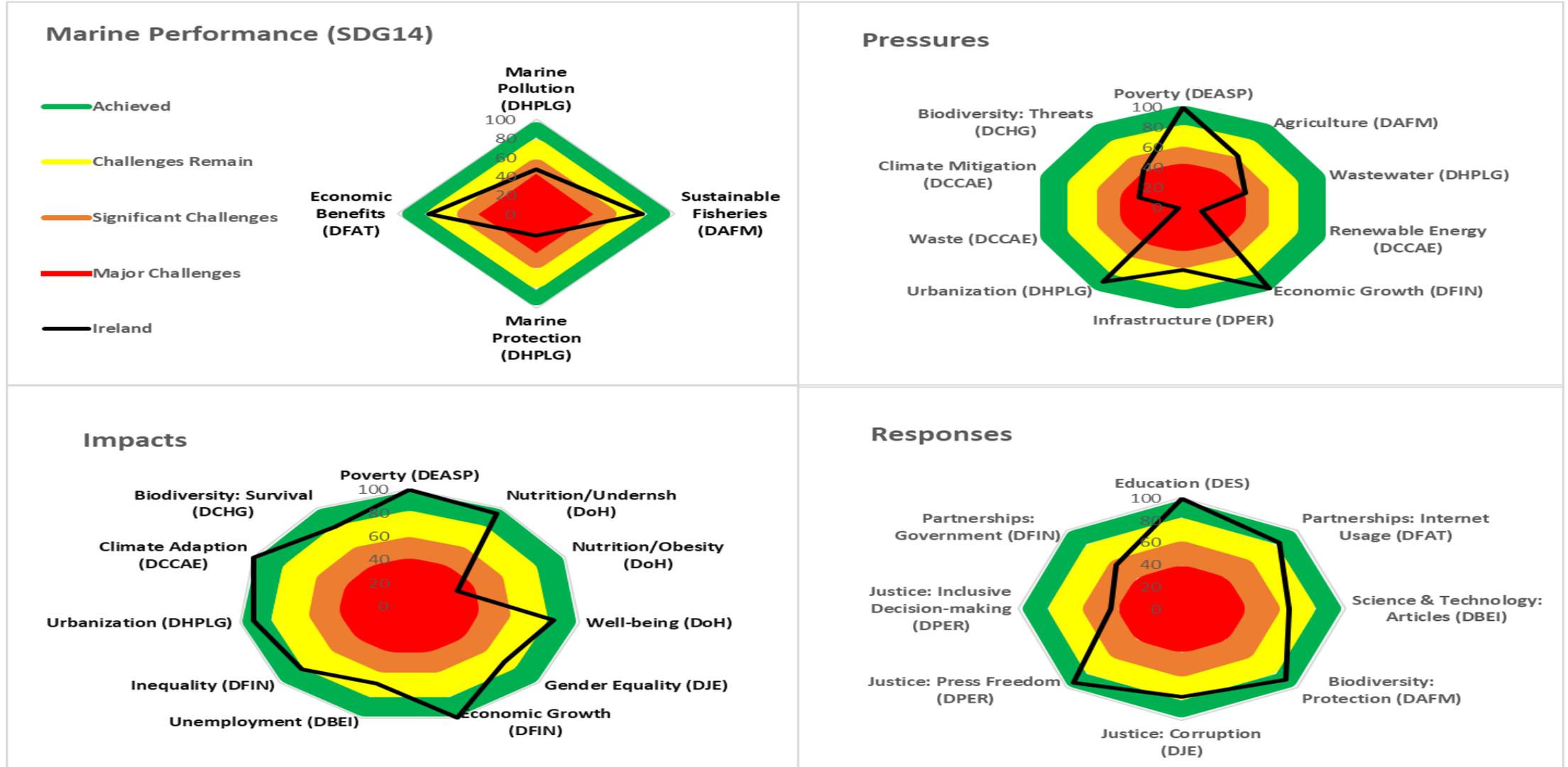
Integrated SDG14 Dashboard (Part 1)

Dimensions	Component	Policy Area	SDG/Target	Indicator	Lead Dept. *	Target Value	Data Source
Focal SDG	SDG14	Marine	14.1	Ocean Health Index: Clean Waters (0–100)	DHPLG	100	OHI
			14.4	Fish Stocks Overexploited/Collapsed in EEZ (%)	DAFM	0	FAO/Sea Around Us
			14.5	Marine Protected Areas (% of EEZ)	DHPLG	10	UNEP
			14.7	Fisheries Revenue (US\$ p. km ² of EEZ)	DFAT	3500	Sea Around Us
Pressures	Poverty	1	Poverty Headcount Ratio at \$3.20/day (%)	DEASP	0	World Bank	
	Agriculture	2	Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index	DAFM	0	EPI	
	Water	5	Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	DHPLG	100	EPI	
	Energy	7	Renewable Energy Consumption (as % of Total Energy Consumption)	DCCAE	51.7	World Bank	
	Economy	8	Adjusted Growth Rate (%)	DFIN	5	SDSN	
	Infrastructure	9	Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (1 = Low to 5 = High)	DPER	4.25	UNU-IAS	
	Urbanization	11	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of <2.5 microns of diameter (PM2.5) in urban areas (µg/m ³)	DHPLG	6.3	IHME	
	Waste	12	Municipal solid waste (kg/day/per capita)	DCCAE	0.1	ILO	
	Climate	13	Energy-related CO2 emissions per capita (tCO2/capita)	DCCAE	0	EPI	
	Biodiversity	15	Imported biodiversity threats (per million population)	DCHG	0	EPI	

Integrated SDG14 Dashboard (Continued)

Dimensions	Component	Policy Area	SDG/Target	Indicator	Lead Dept. *	Target Value	Data Source	
Linked SDGs	Impacts	Poverty	1	Poverty Headcount Ratio at \$3.20/day (%)	DEASP	0	World Bank	
		Nutrition	2	Prevalence of undernourishment (% pop.)	DoH	0	WHO	
			2	Prevalence of obesity BMI \geq 30 (% of adult population)	DoH	2.8	WHO	
		Health	3	Subjective well-being (10 = High to 0 = Low)	DoH	7.6	Gallup	
		Gender	5	Female to male labour force participation rate (% female-to-male ratio)	DJE	100	ILO	
		Economy	8	Adjusted Growth Rate (%)	DFIN	5	SDSN	
			8	Unemployment Rate (%)	DBEI	0.5	ILO	
		Inequality	10	Gini Coefficient for Income (0–100)	DFIN	27.5	SDSN	
		Urbanization	11	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of <2.5 microns of diameter (PM2.5) in urban areas ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	DHPLG	6.3	IHME	
		Climate	13	People affected by climate-related disasters (per 100,000)	DCCAE	0	SDSN	
		Biodiversity	15	Red List Index of species survival (0 = Worst to 1 = Best)	DCHG	1	IUCN	
		Responses	Education	4	Lower Secondary Completion Rate (%)	DES	100	UNESCO
			Science & Technology	9	Number of scientific and technical journal articles (per 1000 population)	DBEI	2.2	NSF
			Biodiversity	15	Mean area protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity (%)	DAFM	100	IUCN
			Justice	16	Corruption Perception Index (0 = Low to 100 = High)	DJE	88.6	Transparency Int.
16	Freedom of the Press Index (0 = Best to 100 = Worst)			DPER	10	Reporters sans frontiers		
16	Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)			DPER	50	IPU		
Partnership	17		Government spending on health and education, proportion of GDP (% GDP)	DFIN	15	World Bank		
	17	Population using the internet (%)	DFAT	100	ITU			

Integrated assessment of SDG14 in 2018



Coalition of ministries and priorities for integrated implementation

Departments	Marine Performance	Pressures	Impacts	Responses
DAFM	Sustainable Fisheries	Sustainable Agriculture		
DBEI			Employment	Innovation
DCCAIE		Climate Mitigation		
		Renewable Energy		
		Household Waste		
DCHG		Biodiversity Threats		
DFIN				Finance
DFAT	Economic Benefits			
DoH			Nutrition: Obesity	
DHPLG	Marine Protection	Wastewater Treatment		
	Marine Pollution			
DJE			Gender Equality	Corruption
DPER		Sustainable Infrastructure		Inclusive Decision Making

Figure 3. Priorities for Integrated Marine Policymaking in Ireland

Note. Yellow = "considerable challenges". orange = "significant challenges" and red = "major challenges".

Evidence based recommendations

- Ireland's lead department for SDG14 should collaborate with 9 other departments in 15 policy areas.
- Research demonstrates how the SDGs could support integrated policymaking for a priority SDG in a sectoral policy area.
- Rather than appearing as a separate policy area, the SDGs should be integrated into sectoral policy areas and used to enable integrated approaches.

Issues/Future Work

On the governance side:

1. How priorities are set?
2. Inclusion of non-government stakeholders
3. Institutionalizing/incentivizing participation,
4. Ensuring a balance of power/political economy.

On the technical side:

1. Feasibility/data availability
2. Contextual interactions and vertical linkages
3. Accuracy of the assessment: recent data, disaggregated data, indicator relevancy
4. Measuring interactions and weighting linkages

Country-led implementation:

- Framework could be aligned with goals prioritized through national policy processes (VNRs, National Development Plans).
- National governments could be supported by donors, UN agencies, UNCTs to build technical capacities: interaction matrices, indicator dashboards.
- Supported by the UN system, governments could work with NGOs, local authorities and communities to identify/engage stakeholders for managing synergies and trade offs.

A rapidly evolving landscape

- **Promising developments** that could support **data for partnerships**:
 1. Increasing research on subnational interlinkages and interactions (Alcamo et al. 2020; Xu et al. 2021),
 2. Soft-systems thinking tools to identify linkages with stakeholders (Egbende 2022, Hernández-Orozco 2022, Weitz 2018)
 3. Growth of open SDG data portals and citizen data at local level (Allen et al. 2021b; de Sherbinin et al 2021),
 4. Increasing availability of geospatial methods for local stakeholder identification (Hawaii Aloha+ Challenge platform for the SDGs)

Open access journal articles and policy brief

Sustainability Science
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SPECIAL FEATURE: ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Synergies and Trade-offs between Sustainable Development Goals and Targets



A framework to harness effective partnerships for the sustainable development goals

David Horan¹

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Abstract

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) offer a broad, holistic framework of interdependent economic, social, and environmental objectives to enable integrated and collaborative approaches to their implementation. A key obstacle for operationalizing such an approach is knowing the right actors to engage on specific challenges. It is acknowledged that linkages across sectors, scales, and actors could provide an evidence base to assess and forge participation in multistakeholder partnerships for implementation. However, technical tools that could help to identify relevant actors and discussions of institutional arrangements to bring these actors on board are notably lacking in the extant literature. To support an evidence-based and systematic approach to coalition building that accounts for synergies and trade-offs across goals and targets, this paper proposes broad-based partnerships and a framework that lead actors can use to help harness collaborative SDG implementation: (1) define the partnership's scope, (2) identify the main interlinkages, (3) assign responsibilities, (4) select the best available indicators, (5) assess the challenges, and (6) forge a broad-based partnership. After describing key decisions at each step, the article discusses applications of the proposed analytic partnership-building framework to problems that warrant the approach at global, regional, and national levels covering issues such as policy coordination across line ministries, global partnerships for SDG13 implementation in SIDS, energy compacts for SDG7 implementation, and integrated multilateral responses to crises.

Keywords Sustainable development goals (SDGs) · SDG implementation · Multistakeholder partnerships · Interlinkages · Actors' responsibilities · Dashboards of indicators

SDG implementation and partnerships

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators covers a wide range of global challenges that all actors at all levels can align with up to 2030 (United Nations 2015). With just 9 years left and no country currently on track to achieve all 17 SDGs (SDSN 2020, 2021), the UN Secretary General has called for coalitions of leadership to harness more concerted action in the SDGs Decade of Action (Beisheim and Fritzsche 2021; United Nations

2019a, 2021). One important challenge for implementation, however, concerns the integrated nature of the SDGs and the need to capitalize on synergies and manage trade-offs between goals and targets to ensure efficient and equitable implementation (Alcamo 2019; Nilsson et al. 2016). In addition, substantive progress will require transformative action which means moving beyond incremental policy changes and siloed actions to cross-sectoral policy mixes, joined up actions and portfolios of coordinated interventions (United Nations 2019a, b; OECD 2019; Sachs et al. 2019; IIASA



Article

Enabling Integrated Policymaking with the Sustainable Development Goals: An Application to Ireland

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Abstract: This article addresses policy coherence for sustainable development demonstrating the important role that dashboards of interlinked indicators can play as tools to coordinate interrelated government ministries for integrated policymaking at national level. Specifically, a monitoring and coordination tool is proposed based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and mappings of SDG responsibilities across ministries. Drawing on studies in sustainability science of SDG interlinkages, the article presents a five-step procedure that government departments can use to construct indicator sets from official SDG indicators to support integrated policymaking for a specific sector. I apply the method to Ireland's marine sector. Ireland is an interesting case because although many countries report mapping SDG responsibilities across ministries, Ireland's Voluntary National Review explicitly maps these responsibilities for all 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Using performance gap analysis, concrete recommendations are developed for the lead department of the marine along three dimensions: which departments to cooperate with, on what policy areas discussions should focus, and how Ireland performs in each area compared to a selection of peer countries. In particular, the article recommends cooperation with nine other departments on fifteen policy issues. Relative to peers, Ireland is ranked amongst sustainability "leaders" on three of these issues and amongst "laggards" on nine issues. The proposed procedure, which has wide application (to other countries and sectors) as a starting point for integrated policymaking, can help to raise awareness among policymakers of outcomes in linked policy areas and enable dialogue between ministries on coherent policies to address interrelated gaps in sustainability.

Keywords: sustainable development; policy coherence; horizontal integration; SDGs; SDG interlinkages; SDG indicators; dashboards; integrated marine policy; Ireland

1. Introduction

In official documents, guideline reports, and academic literature, policy makers are called to implement sustainable development in a coherent way [1–3]. In addition to aligning national policies with international commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and promoting policy coordination across countries, policy coherence also requires balancing economic, social, and environmental effects of different policies within a country [2,3]. However, the integration of policies across sectors or line ministries (i.e., so-called "horizontal policy integration" [3]) is complicated, not least, because governments are not effectively organized to deal with interactions between different policy areas [3,5–11].

To assist with integrated policymaking, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) offer a broad framework of 17 SDGs and 169 targets covering a wide range of interlinked

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Assessing Baselines and Coordinating Actions for the SDGs Decade of Action



- STORY HIGHLIGHTS**
- ▶ A new tool can support implementation of a single SDG in a coordinated manner.
 - ▶ The tool combines indicators from different SDG targets and categorizes them into three components to express potential causal interrelations with the primary goal and the country's capacities to manage those relations.
 - ▶ In Ireland, challenges facing SDG 14 lead to a suggestion that the lead department on marine issues cooperate with nine other government departments to address challenges on 15 policy issues.

By David Horan

Despite no country currently being on track to achieve the 17 SDGs and an ongoing global pandemic, the 2030 Agenda remains a vital blueprint for a more sustainable inclusive future and a framework to "build back better together." The UN has called for a Decade of Action on the SDGs that will ultimately combat poverty and hunger.

SDGs

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ISSUES



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17 PARTNERSHIPS
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Thank you!

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