# D2.3 Report on feedback from Government departments from Task 2.3

*SDG4I BRIEFING SESSION | DUBLIN CASTLE | 22 OCTOBER 2019*

*Project overview and introduction to SDG tool implementation*

## INTRODUCTION

The SDGs4I project had the opportunity to present an update on the project thus far to an audience consisting of a wide variety of Irish Governmental Departments. With the assistance of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) we were able to showcase our approach and findings as well as introduce some of the international partners we are working with in a development of an interactive tool to facilitate SDG implementation. It was important to bring together the different departments to get a better idea of what is most relevant and needed in an Irish context.

## AGENDA

The afternoon meeting started with a welcome by Joe Gallagher of the DCCAE followed by round table introductions (department, sector or organisation). Martin Le Tissier then provided a short introduction on the afternoon agenda on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into Policy and how we are exploring the SDG interactions to act as a national policy driver. He then introduced the first speaker, Professor Anna Davies, who gave a brief overview on the International Science Council (ISC)

> Looking at the connections between SDGs, their targets, the existing and emerging policy documents and the lead and stakeholder departments.
> SDGs4I project – www.sdg4i.ie

and their role in assisting countries address SDG interlinkages and where the SDGs4I project fits within their "domains of impact". Anna highlighted Ireland's connection within the ISC not only through being a partner in the SDGs4I project but also through former Irish president Mary Robinsons being a Patron of ISC. Martin then followed with an overview of the SDGs4I project, its approach and plan that recognises existing strategies that are important to Ireland's domestic social, economic and environmental security and for SDG implementation, like the Climate Action plan and the National Planning Framework, Project Ireland 2040. Showing the synergies and trade-offs between the SDG targets was an introduction to dealing with the complexity & interlinkages which David Purkey from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) then went on to demonstrate. David used his experience in Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Columbia to show how the SEI developed Tool (SDG matrix) to explore SDG interactions can be applied. David Illustrated how SEI's approach is very inclusive and holistic through workshops to identify and score the inputs on the matrix to create a picture of the interactions and how and to what degree they influence and impact each other. We then continued on with the application potential of such an approach for Ireland and Martin focused on the two-fold questions on how the "Biosphere" SDGs support and/or obstruct the "Society" and "Economic" SDGs and their relationship and the need to address these questions from both a domestic as well as international perspective as stressed in the *2030 Agenda*.

*Starting with the SDG Implementation Plan, how is it supported by policy and how can new emerging policy become integrated.*

Martin mapped out the lead and stakeholder departments responsible for specific SDG targets (from the SDG Implementation Plan) and their alignment to 118 policy documents to illustrate the complexity and challenges to create policy coherence for implementation. To make sense of this all and narrow the focus the SDGs4I project has used national and international publications and studies, and consultation with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG), to propose where at the national-level in Ireland environment features exist within the full portfolio of SDG targets.

This final presentation of the afternoon was made by colleagues in the project consortium from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) based in Ispra, Italy who demonstrated their version of the SDG matrix interlinkages tool which is designed for interdepartmental working and functionality. Luca Battistella showed the web-based open source tool that the JRC are developing and gave a thorough demonstration on its functionality and the outputs it can produce. While the tool is being developed the JRC very much welcomes input so it becomes as useful as possible for its users. The meeting was closed with an invitation

to all departments to explore their interest and perspectives in SDG implementation and ensure the SDGs4I project assists Ireland in its implementation of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.

## Next steps

Having had this briefing session to demonstrate both the complexities and requirements for SDG Implementation and a tool that Ireland can utilise to assist in its SDG programme we are aiming to continue our dialogue with the SEI, the JRC, EPA and Ireland's government departments coordinated through the department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment to take the project to a successful conclusion.

### Annexes:

1. SDG4I project overview & agenda
2. List of participants
3. Presentations

## Note:

Apologies were made for ISC's Anne-Sophie Stevance (project coordinator of ISC), Ivonne Lobos Alva (SEI Latin America) and Ivan Davor Kulis (JRC) who unfortunately could not make this briefing session.

# SDGs4

Identifying Interactions for SDG Implementation in Ireland

The goal of the project is to improve awareness of the synergies & trade-offs posed by the relationship and interactions between SDG Goals and Targets with national policy priorities.

www.sdg4i.ie

We are an Environmental Protection Agency funded research project based in MaREI, the SFI Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, Environmental Research Institute at University College Cork. The project focus is on SDG linkages and how they influence policy implementation in Ireland.

# WORKPACKAGES

A comprehensive reporting of critical nodes for SDG implementation in Ireland, and the goals and targets that will be most influential in aligning with and delivering on the country's priorities.

A toolkit for evidence-informed approaches to address the multiple challenges encapsulated by the SDGs. Strengthening of scientific evidence in SDGs implementation including costs, benefits and spill-over effects of SDGs implementation.

A policy brief and guidance on implementation of SDGs in Ireland accounting for cross linkages and inter-actions between SDG goals and targets.

Improved awareness of the impacts posed by the relationship and interactions between SDG goals and targets with national policy priorities.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The project focusses on SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, and specifically target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
Increasing capacities to identify, understand and manage interactions and inter-connections of Sustainable Development Goals and how best can science and knowledge inform a robust policy framework for implementation of the SDGs.

MaREI
Energy · Climate · Marine

eri
Environmental Research Institute

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

epa Research
Climate - Water - Sustainability
Identifying pressures • Informing policy • Developing solutions

International Science Council

# AGENDA & PEOPLE

**The meeting will run from 14:30 - 17:30**

**Welcome** by Department of Communications Climate Actions and Environment (DCCAE)

**Overview of the International programme to assist countries address SDG interlinkages**
International Science Council (ISC)/University College Cork (UCC)

**Review of potential policy/SDG interactions in Ireland** | UCC

**Review of progress and outcomes from Colombia project** | Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

*Coffee/tea break*

**Reviewing environment (biodiversity/climate change) priorities and SDG connections for Ireland** | All

**Review of interactive web platform developed by the European Joint Research Centre** | Joint Research Centre (JRC)

**Wrap -up and next steps** | UCC

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**David Purkey**
Centre Director for SEI Latin America, based in Bogotá, Colombia

**Ivonne Lobos Alva**
Lead Research Fellow for work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at SEI Latin America, based in Bogotá, Colombia
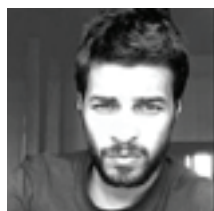
**Luisa Marelli**
Deputy Head of Unit, Bioeconomy Unit, European Commission - Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

**Ivan Davor Kulis**
Head of Unit - Knowledge for Sustainable Development and Food Security, European Commission - Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

**Luca Battistella**
GIS Developer, Directorate for Sustainable Resources, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra Italy

**Martin le Tissier**
Senior Research Fellow, MaREI, SFI centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork

**Hester Whyte**
Research Assistant, MaREI, SFI centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork

**SDGs4IIII**
MaREI, the SFI centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork
**www.sdg4i.ie**
**@Sdg4I**

# Annex 2: List of participants

| NO | NAME | AFFILIATION |
|----|------|-------------|
| 1 | Renee Martin | DFIN |
| 2 | Roísín Hinds (Jill Clements via VC) | DFAT |
| 3 | John Harper | Dept Education |
| 4 | Anna Davies | Trinity College Dublin/ISC |
| 5 | Evelyn Carroll | Dept. Housing, Planning & LG |
| 6 | Brid Ni Ghruagain | Roinn an Taoiseach |
| 7 | Noirin Ni Earcain | Roinn an Taoiseach |
| 8 | Sarah Doherty | Dept Transport, Tourism & Sport |
| 9 | Deirdre Lynn | Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht |
| 10 | Harry O'Crowley | Dept Agriculture, Food & the Marine |
| 11 | Joe Gallagher | DCCAE |
| 12 | Anthony O'Grady | DCCAE |
| 13 | Dorothy Stewart | EPA |
| 14 | David Purkey | SEI Latin America |
| 15 | Luisa Marelli | JRC |
| 16 | Luca Battistella | JRC |
| 17 | Martin Le Tissier | MaREI/UCC |
| 18 | Hester Whyte | MaREI/UCC |

## Slide 1

**SDGs4I** — Identifying Interactions for SDG Implementation in Ireland

Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into Policy

EPA funded to MaREI, UCC

With partners including

International Science Council, Stockholm Environment Institute and EC Joint Research Centre

Identifying Interactions for SDG Implementation in Ireland

## Slide 2

**SDG interactions as a national-policy driver**

1. Mapping and analysing SDG interactions in particular country contexts: online tool and deliberative process across science, policy and stakeholder communities

2. Connecting the SDGs with national policy processes (case studies)

3. Support prioritisation, decision-making and identify science to policy gaps

International Network for Government Science Advice

International Science Council

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis www.iiasa.ac.at

SEI

European Commission — Joint Research Centre

## Slide 3

**Our vision is of science as a global public good**

**Our mission is to be the global voice for science**

**Our strategic objectives**

- Promote international research and scholarship on key global challenges
- Increase evidence-informed understanding and decision making at all levels of public policy, discourse and action
- Support the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world
- Protect scientific freedom and advocate principles for the responsible practice of science

www.council.science

International Science Council

## Slide 4

**Members**

An open and diverse membership structure, including:

- 140 + National and Regional Scientific Organizations, including Academies and Research Councils and Regional Social Science Councils in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Arab World
- 40 International Scientific Unions and Associations, across the natural and social sciences
- 30 Affiliates, including TWAS, AAS, IIASA
- Connections with Ireland include Mary Robinson as a Patron, representation on the ISC Board and links to projects such as the SDGs4I
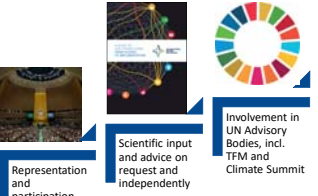
## Slide 5

**Existing activities**

Representation and participation

Scientific input and advice on request and independently

Involvement in UN Advisory Bodies, incl. TFM and Climate Summit

Activity-based Agreements with UN Agencies and Programmes

ISC Special Envoy for Science in Global Policy

Dr Flavia Schlegel Appointed 1 April 2019

Since 1992: Major Group for the Scientific and Technological Community

Strengthening the demand for and mandate of science in the UN

## Slide 6

**Existing activities**

**Science for global policy**

Integrating science in major global policy processes, focusing on the post-2015 development agenda:

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- New Urban Agenda (UN-Habitat)
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

## Slide 1

**Science: Projects and Programmes in 4 Domains of Impact**

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
*Integrated science for global sustainability: Complexity and policy coherence*
*SDG Interactions as a policy driver*
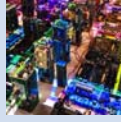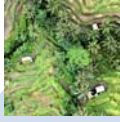
**The Digital Revolution**
*Data-driven interdisciplinarity*
*Global data resources and governance*

**Science in Policy and Public Discourse**
*Science-policy interfaces and advisory ecosystems at the global level*
*The public value of science*
*Science and the private sector*
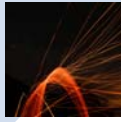
**The Evolution of Science and Science Systems**
*Gender equality in science*
*Refugee and displaced scientists*
*Regional open science platforms*
*The future of scientific publishing*
*Knowledge production and governance as a global good*



## Slide 2

**Political agenda for the planet and people**



1. Urgency
2. Innovation and transformation challenge
3. Integration and coherence challenge
4. Participation and coordination challenge

Illustration: Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre (2016)

## Slide 3



**GOAL SCORING**
The influence of one Sustainable Development Goal or target on another can be summarized with this simple scale.

Nilsson, M., D. Griggs and M. Visbeck, 2016. Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals. Nature, 534:320-322.

## Slide 4

**The challenge**

- **Policy coherence.** Coherent prioritization and implementation of the SDGs at national level requires thinking systematically about the many interactions between SDG domains, look for multiple co-benefits, and manage trade-offs.

- **Driving change.** More than a reporting framework where current policies will be matched with SDG domains, the SDGs need to be turned into an action framework driving policy development and policy change where needed at national and local levels.

## Slide 5

**OVERVIEW** OF THE RESEARCH

Research addresses 3 challenges for SDG implementation:
1. How are national social, economic and environmental policy integrated?
2. Development of a tool that facilitates and enables integrated SDG implementation across policy domains
3. Achieving policy coherence in support of national planning

The planned research recognises that SDGs are not a means to their own end, but are a tool to reach 'The Future we want' in Ireland, which underpins Agenda 2030 across National to International contexts

A unique collaboration between a Irish University and an International consortium led by the International Science Council

The broad scope and complexity of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute a new challenge for policy. The identification of effective implementation strategies needs to be supported by coordinated policies that take into account the multiple relationships existing between the different dimensions of sustainability.

## Slide 6

**OVERVIEW** OF THE RESEARCH
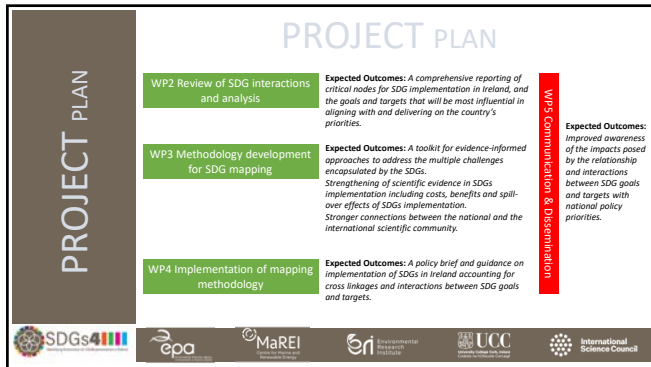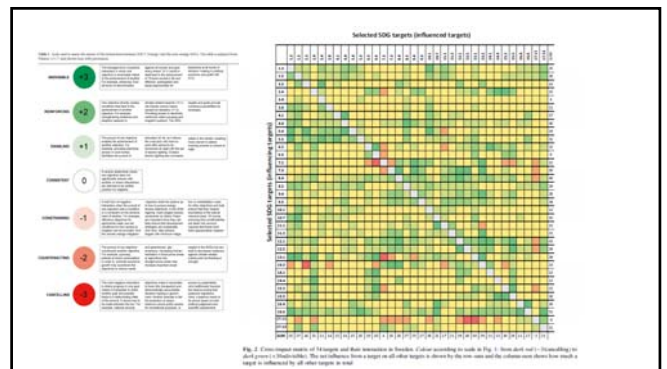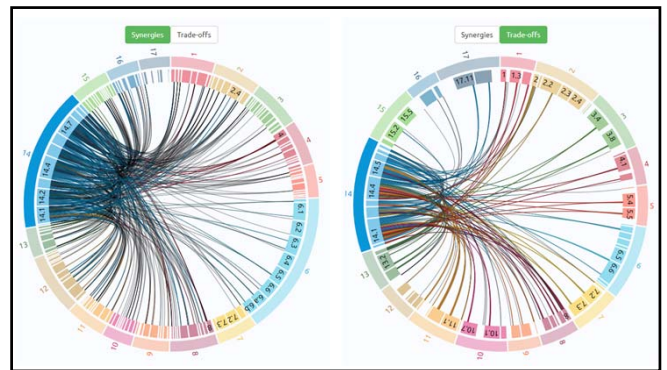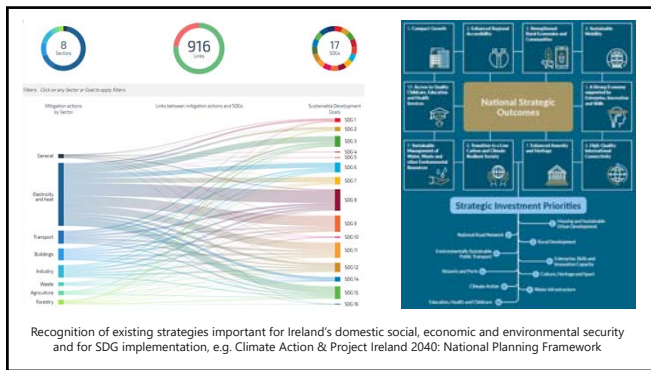
This project focuses on SDG **17**: Partnerships for the goals, and specifically **17.14**: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
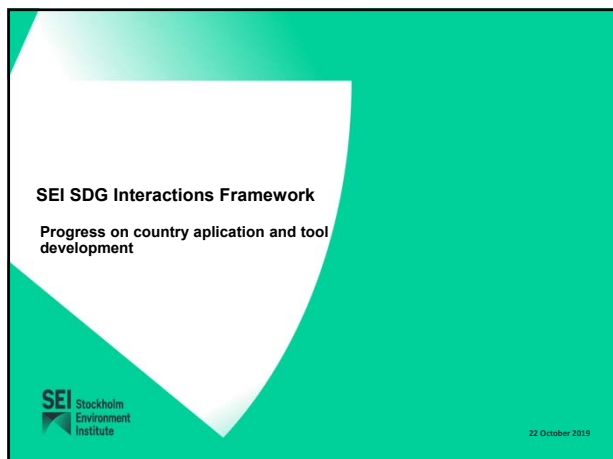
How science and knowledge can inform a robust policy framework for implementation of the SDGs.

## Slide 1: PROJECT PLAN

PROJECT PLAN

**WP2 Review of SDG interactions and analysis**

Expected Outcomes: A comprehensive reporting of critical nodes for SDG implementation in Ireland, and the goals and targets that will be most influential in aligning with and delivering on the country's priorities.

**WP3 Methodology development for SDG mapping**

Expected Outcomes: A toolkit for evidence-informed approaches to address the multiple challenges encapsulated by the SDGs.
Strengthening of scientific evidence in SDGs implementation including costs, benefits and spill-over effects of SDGs implementation.
Stronger connections between the national and the international scientific community.

**WP4 Implementation of mapping methodology**

Expected Outcomes: A policy brief and guidance on implementation of SDGs in Ireland accounting for cross linkages and interactions between SDG goals and targets.

WP5 Communication & Dissemination

Expected Outcomes:
Improved awareness of the impacts posed by the relationship and interactions between SDG goals and targets with national policy priorities.

SDGs4 | epa | MaREI | eri Environmental Research Institute | UCC | International Science Council

## Slide 2: Mapping existing national policies against the SDG Policy Map

Our Sustainable Future: Themes and Principles for Sustainable Development

| Theme | Principle | SDGs | Goals and Targets | DEPT | Relevant National Policy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere** | | |
| Respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity | The abundance of wildlife and extent of habitats should be maintained, improved and restored where necessary, through sustainable management. | | 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day | DFAT | One World, One Future |
| | | | | | The Global Island |
| | | | | DFIN | Ongoing engagement with IFIs |
| | | | 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions | DEASP | National Action Plan for Social Inclusion |
| Social equity | Social inclusion should be promoted to ensure an improved quality of life for all. | | 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable | DEASP | National Action Plan for Social Inclusion |
| | | | 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance | DFIN | Ongoing engagement with IFIs |
| Respect for cultural heritage /diversity | The quality of landscapes, the heritage of the man-made environment and historic and cultural resources should be maintained and improved. | | 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters | DHPLG | Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness |
| Equity between countries and regions | Promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, by combating all forms of discrimination and contributing to the reduction of poverty. | | 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions | DFAT | One World, One Future |
| | | | | | The Global Island |
| | | | | DFIN | Ongoing Engagement with IFIs |

## Slide 3

Recognition of existing strategies important for Ireland's domestic social, economic and environmental security and for SDG implementation, e.g. Climate Action & Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework

## Slide 4

Synergies | Trade-offs

## Slide 5

Figure 2: EU policy interlinkages with SDG Goals and Targets according to the number of shared policies between pairs of Targets. Source: [12]. The dashboard indicates synergies on the basis of policies in common between two targets. Insert top right: Detail showing the variation and complexity of the level of policy relevant interactions between SDGs and Targets. Source: https://public.tableau.com/profile/steve.borchardt#!/vizhome/Dashboards_115/Story1. Apollonia Miola: Technical report by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service

## Slide 6

Selected SDG targets (influenced targets)

**SEI SDG Interactions Framework**

**Progress on country aplication and tool development**

SEI Stockholm Environment Institute
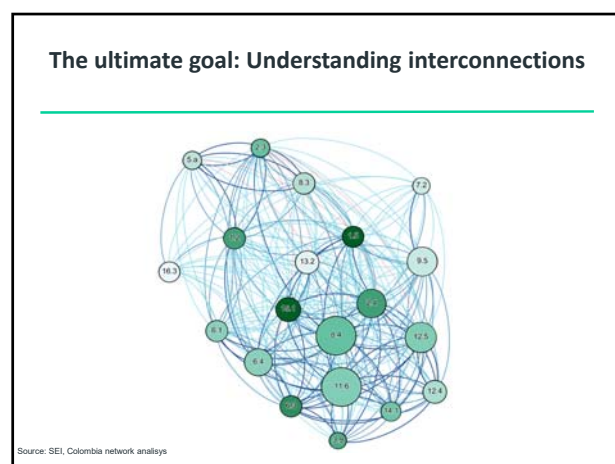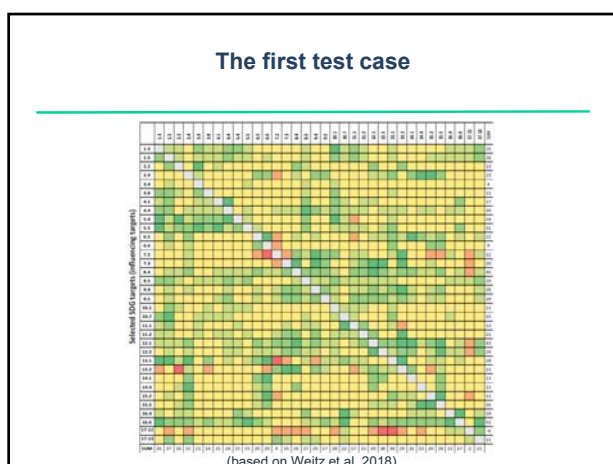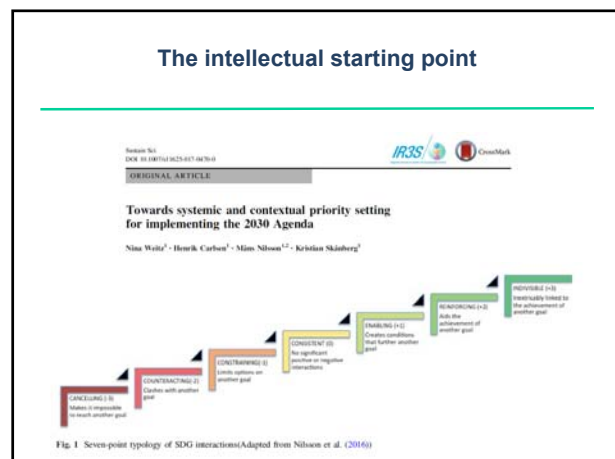
22 October 2019

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## Contents

1. Key messages about the methodology
2. The intellectual starting point
3. Application Mongolia and Sri Lanka
3. Experience in Colombia
4. Our current tool
5. Ideas for future development
6. Dreams for future development

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## Key Messages

1. The approach does **not** include **general recommendations** as to how Agenda 2030 should be implemented. Rather, the approach supports a process whereby a **context specific road map** towards successful implementation emerges.
2. The approach rests on **aggregating knowledge** held by different experts focusing on different parts of the Agenda 2030.
3. The primary output produced by the approach is a clear indication of where **synergies** exist between SDG targets and where potential **tradeoffs** between SDG targets require mangement

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## The intellectual starting point



Fig. 1 Seven-point typology of SDG interactions(Adapted from Nilsson et al. (2016))

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## The first test case



(based on Weitz et al. 2018)

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## The ultimate goal: Understanding interconnections



Source: SEI, Colombia network analisys

9

## Mongolia

The project was financed by UNDP Mongolia.

Objective: Test and refine the overall methodological approach to policy alignment and target setting in the water sector related to the objectives in Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision (SDV) 2030.

Follow-up: The government has adopted the methodology and has applied it to other related policies. Presented the results as part of their 2019 VNR at HLPF.



## Sri Lanka

Government-led process initiated by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and the Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs, together with SEI, UNDP, and the ...

Pur... ...w nat...

An... ...g all ... SE...

requested to organize a methods training for government representatives on using the SDG Synergies approach to meet future policy needs.

*"The method is useful to get the overview. We often think about how one target influences others, but not both directions, and not assigning a value (and direction), and not in a systematic way."* (workshop participant in SL)



## Colombia



## Results

- Implicated at national level in collaboration with Colombia's National Planning Department and the regional level with Antioquia's Governors Office.
- Nationally the two most synergetic SDG targets related to Sustainable Cities and Communities (national level) and Responsible Consumption and Production (regional level).
- Possible trade-offs emerged be between approaches to advance Affordable and Clear Energy at the national level (principally hydropower) and Clean Water and Sanitation and Life on Land targets at the regional level.
- The SDG Technical Secretariat within the DNP is taking on harmonizing the findings with the new National Development Plan
- The effort prompted a follow on exercise with the Mining and Energy sector to take a deeper dive into interactions between these sector and the overall Agenda 2030. New guidelines for sector specific plans and policies are under development.

## The process starting point (sort of)



## Matrix construction (the real starting point)

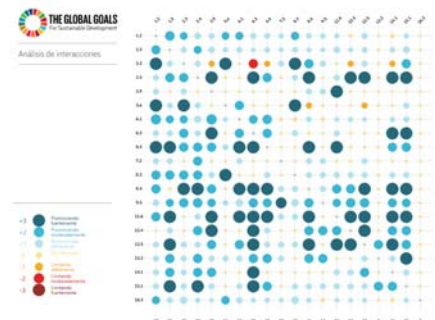## Orientation to the targets
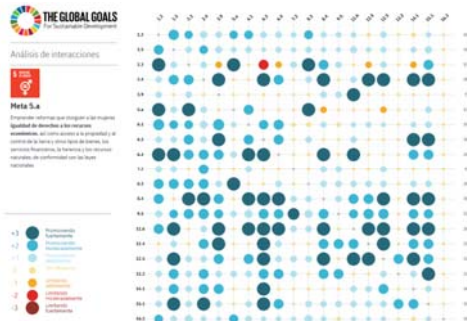


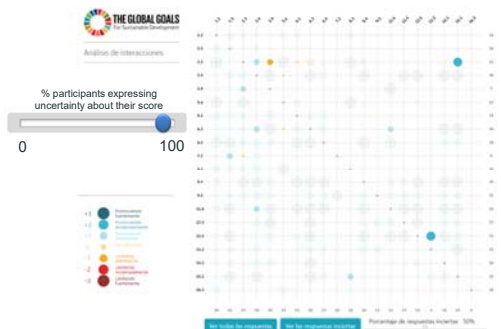## Scoring the interactions
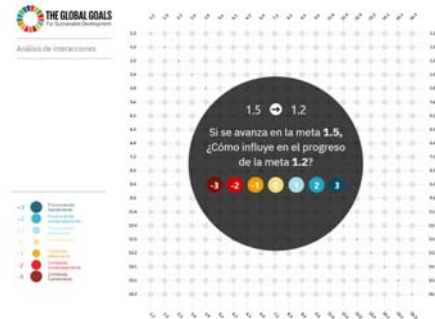


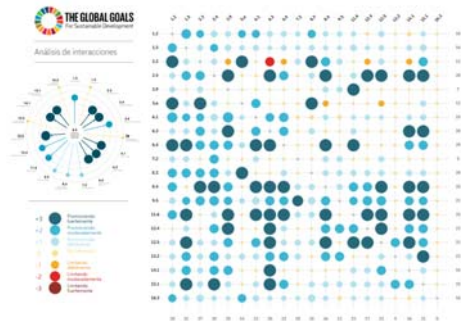## Explaining the score



## The final matrix



## Finding disagreement in scoring



## Visualizing disagreement in scoring

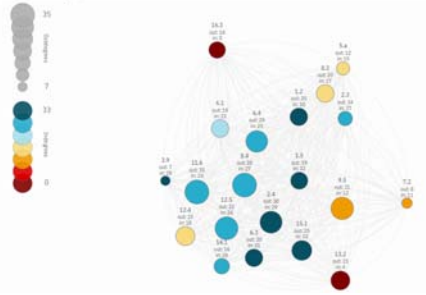## Visualizing 1st order influence



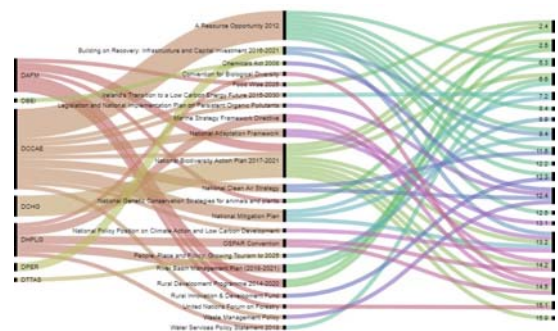## Visualizing 1st order dependence



## Visualizing network analysis



## Current development efforts

1. Extending matrix beyond SDG targets (completed)
2. Analysis by profile categories (completed)
3. Nested matrices and network analysis
4. Crowd sourcing scoring
5. Meta-analysis across scoring events
6. Text analysis of scoring justification

## Observations on the process

1. Work is required with the key partners to determine which goals and targets to include in the matrix construction exercise.
2. Broad participation is key in that the approach rests upon the aggregation of knowledge and insights related to the selected goals and targets
3. A 25x25 matrix can be constructed in a single day as part of a well structured and executed workshop.
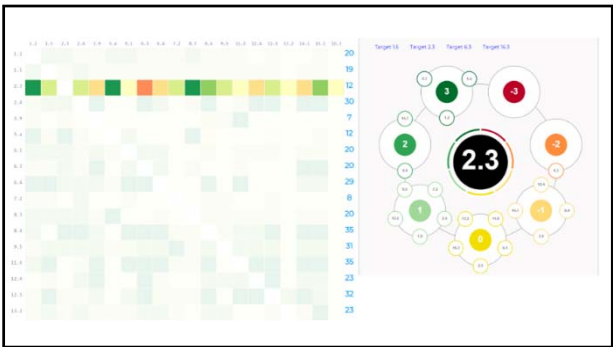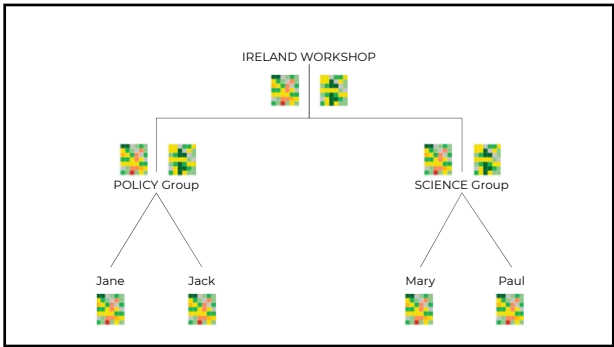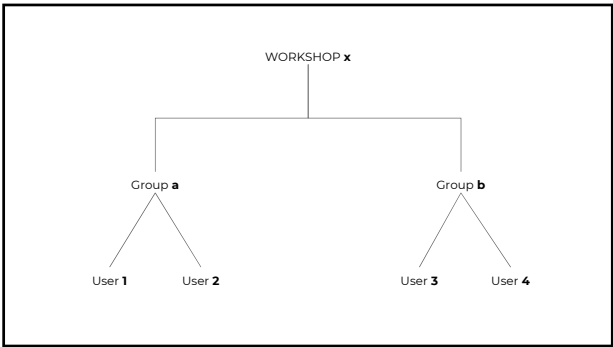4. The process of constructing the matrix should be lively, dynamic and fun!
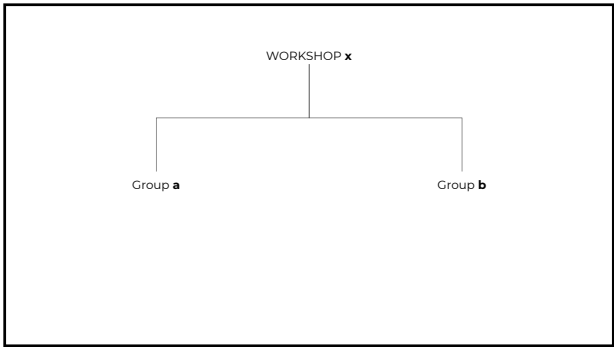
## Ireland?

**Thank you**

WORKSHOP **x**

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WORKSHOP **x**

Group **a**          Group **b**

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WORKSHOP **x**

Group **a**          Group **b**

User **1**     User **2**          User **3**     User **4**

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IRELAND WORKSHOP

POLICY Group          SCIENCE Group

Jane     Jack          Mary     Paul

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http://enablingsdgs-demo.org/