

INTRO

The SDGs are a global drive to achieve human development goals without compromising the integrity and stability of the planetary system to provide for future generations. It is in this context that the **SDGs4i project** explores these global aspirations against national goals in Ireland. Understanding the nature of interactions between SDGs and targets - negative and positive - and their implication for coherent planning and efficient policy design in Ireland to reflect national context, perspectives and priorities is important.

RATIONALE

The **SDGs4i project** provides a space to explore the utility and application of Ireland's SDG implementation plan to support policy coherence for sustainable development in Ireland and;

- 1. Integrate policy analysis:** to ensure that proposed policies, programmes and targets are supportive of nationally tailored SDGs;
- 2. Coordinate institutional mechanisms:** to create formal partnerships across sectoral line departments and agencies;
- 3. Integrate modelling:** to help clarify and articulate the interconnected system of goals and targets and to analyse and inform key policies, programs and projects for their impact on nationally tailored SDGs.

The project focusses on how environmental features of the SDGs support social and economic goals in Ireland, and which are important in the context of national, regional and international responsibilities and obligations for Ireland:

- 1. Biodiversity** – ensuring that natural resources are properly harnessed and protected are key to the success of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides benefits to all sectors of society in Ireland.
- 1. Climate Action** – addressing climate change and its impacts are integral to successfully achieving all SDGs and will particularly impact the way the environment supports social and economic objectives in Ireland.

APPROACH

The "Identifying Interactions for SDG Implementation in Ireland" project approach aims to evaluate the alignment of current Government of Ireland policy to the SDGs and a tool to analyse policy inter-linkages across economic, social and environmental areas, including the identification of synergies and trade-offs.

The SDGs4i project aims to improve awareness of synergies and trade-offs posed by the relationship and interactions between SDG Goals and Targets with national policy priorities.



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This project is funded under the EPA Research Programme 2014-2020. The EPA Research Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. It is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, which has the statutory function of co-ordinating and promoting environmental research.



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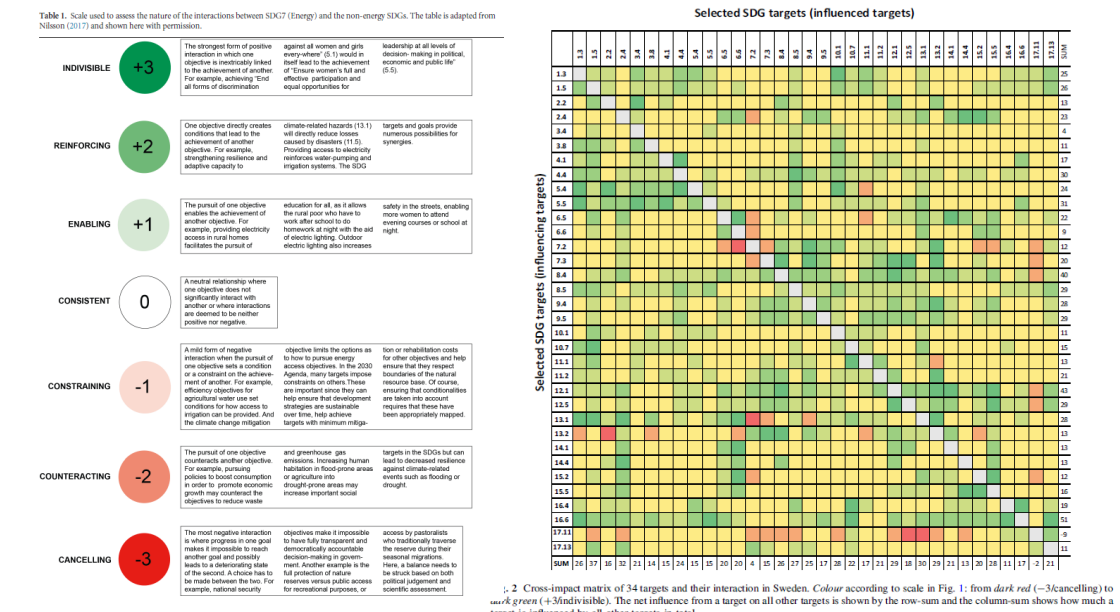
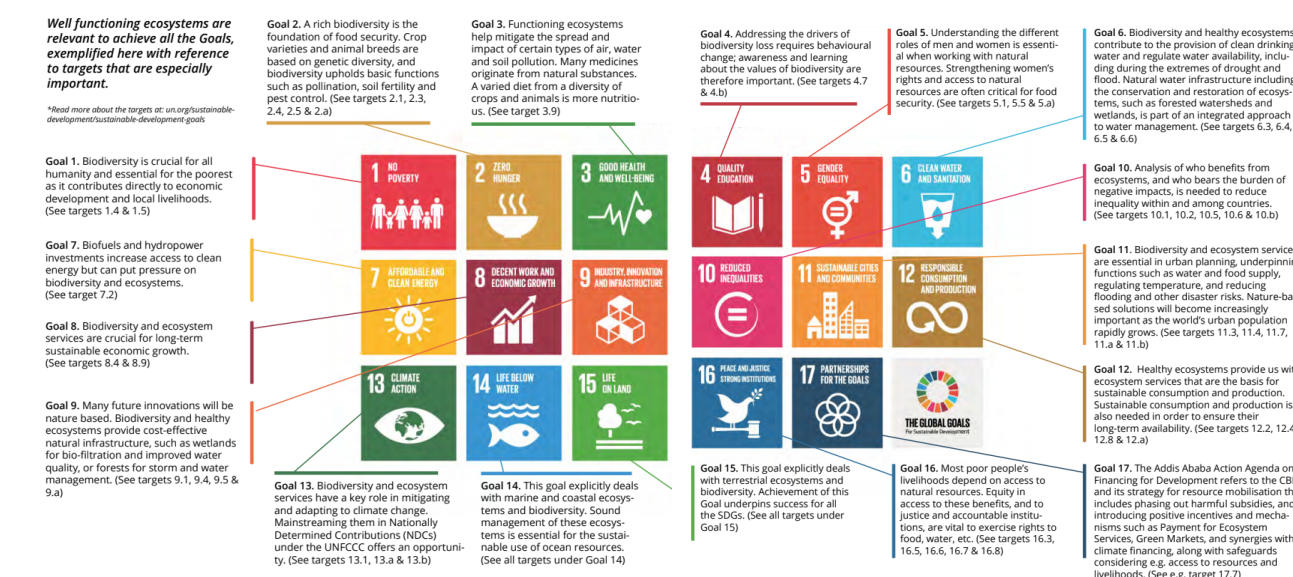
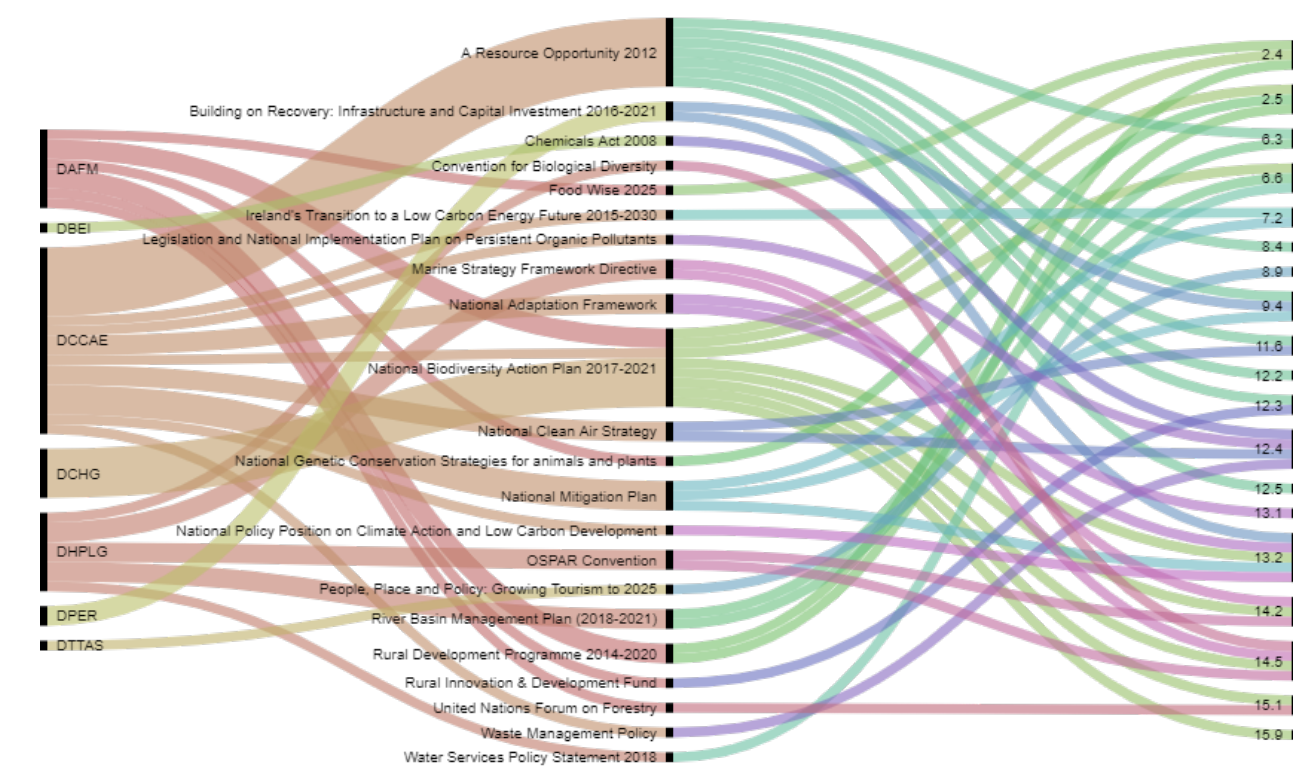


Figure 1. The 7-point scoring scheme that is used to complete the matrix of interactions. The matrix can explore the relationship between SDGs and SDG Targets to determine where areas of complementarity or contradiction occur. The matrix can also be used to explore how SDGs and Policy intersect to explore if policies from different sources acting on the same SDG area lead to supportive economic, social and environmental outcomes or not. Source: International Science Council and Stockholm Environment Institute.



PROJECT ACTIVITY

Development of a web-based interactive matrix tool to explore SDG targets & Policy action links.