Accelerating SDG14 implementation

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1. Introduction

- ESCAP is developing a methodology to help governments in the region prioritize needs and identify entry points to accelerate implementation of goal 14 and its targets.
- Implementation of SDG14 is different as it must address the peculiarities of transboundary issues, and issues that require longer-term responses than most development program cycles typically offer (e.g. ocean health and conservation issues).
- Identifying accelerators for SDG14 implementation enables the ability for countries to target specific actions that are pivotal not only for SDG14 but also enable a multiplier effect with other SDGs.
- Due to the regional context and diversity, SDG14 implementation in Asia and the Pacific requires a nuanced approach.
2. Accelerating development outcomes

• Lagging MDGs

• Development of MDG Acceleration toolkit

• Premise – specific prioritized “acceleration solutions” exist.

• Systematic methodology and shared diagnostics
2. Accelerating development outcomes

- Opportunity for proactive approach to SDGs
- Targeted at need for more rapid progress than the present trajectory
- Mobilise interlinkages across SDGs for a ripple of co-benefits

Developing approaches:
- UNDP - Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS) – pivotal interventions
- UNDP - Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment tool (ABA) – catalytic development that can trigger positive multiplier effects.
2. Accelerating development outcomes

Mobilise interlinkages across SDGs for a ripple of co-benefits
3. SDG14 as a target for acceleration

• Asia and the Pacific – high reliance on marine resources and high rates of degradation.
• Beyond business-as-usual – overfishing caused loss of USD $83b.
• Beyond targeting investments at SDG14 targets – 800 VC of UNOC.
• Transformatory change.
• Pivotal investments – catalyse “indivisibility” of SDGs.
3. SDG14 as a target for acceleration

SDG14 a fundamental component of the SDG structure

Illustration: Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre
3. SDG14 as a target for acceleration

SDG14 is linked to all other SDGs

Potential?

3. SDG14 as a target for acceleration

“SDG14 plays a cross-cutting role in the 2030 Agenda, interacting with many other SDGs. Transformation towards more integrated and aligned policies and measures in response to these interactions, backed by tailor-made capacity building and strengthened institutions, is a prerequisite for achieving the 2030 Agenda”. 

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SDG14 plays a **cross-cutting role** in the 2030 Agenda, interacting with many other SDGs. Transformation towards more integrated and aligned policies and measures in response to these interactions, backed by tailor-made capacity building and strengthened institutions, is a **prerequisite for achieving the 2030 Agenda**.”
4. Principles of accelerators

• Review of MDG and SDG tools and case studies – common elements.

• 6 Principles identified:
  • **Leap forward** – An identifiable desire or need to hasten forward, or promote more rapid progression, in a goal, target, or cluster of targets which is coherent with national sustainable development policy and which achieves the desired situation more rapidly than the present trajectory.

  • **Linkages between SDGs** – An identifiable group or cluster of SDG targets in which progress is mutually associated and interlinked.
4. Principles of accelerators

• **Locally relevant** - A realistic and relevant intervention, or suite of interventions, which will create positive and appreciable gains in the selected development target at a local scale and which is identifiable by targeted local stakeholders.

• **Leave no-one behind** - Ensuring that poor, vulnerable or disempowered groups received disproportional development benefits or dividends through anti-regressive safeguards and mechanisms.

• **Leadership** - An identifiable political and policy prioritisation and commitment to preferentially progress the identified development agenda through a participatory approach involving all relevant stakeholders.

• **Leverage** - A proactive capturing of assisted advantage to catalyse financial, capacity and technical resources to further progress.
4. Principles of accelerators

Conceptual diagram – core and allied principles
5. Towards an accelerator methodology

Methodology must be framed within ongoing processes:

• National contextualisation promoting a country-owned and self-driven approach.

• Capitalises on achievements from many national planning processes (e.g. NVC, NAP, NDCs etc).

• Ensures “people and prosperity”, especially vulnerable groups, are not marginalised but central within a nationally-driven process.

• Coherently binds together high-level national policy objectives with local-level implementation.

• Provides a ready opportunity for national and local stakeholder participation.
5. Towards an accelerator methodology

- Stepwise 4 stage methodology:
  1. **Accelerator screening** – conform to “leap forward” and “linkages” principles.
  2. **Accelerator scoping** – assess alignment to other principles (leadership, locally-relevant, leverage and leave no-one behind).
  3. **Accelerator refinement** – contextualisation of selected scenarios.
  4. **Accelerator operationalisation** – optimisation through Theory of Change and detailed action planning.
6. Discussion on way forward

- Is the way that the accelerator approach is framed around Agenda 2030, a potentially useful tool for national governments?

- Do the accelerator principles encompass the important features, or should there be revisions / additions?
  - Reminder - Leap forward, Linkages, Locally relevant, Leave no-one behind, Leadership & Leverage

- Are the stages of the methodology coherent and aligned to national approaches and processes?
  - Reminder - Screening, scoping, refinement, operationalization.
Thank you

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