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Overview of the ESCAP Methodology for the Integration of the SDGs: SDG 6 at the Core

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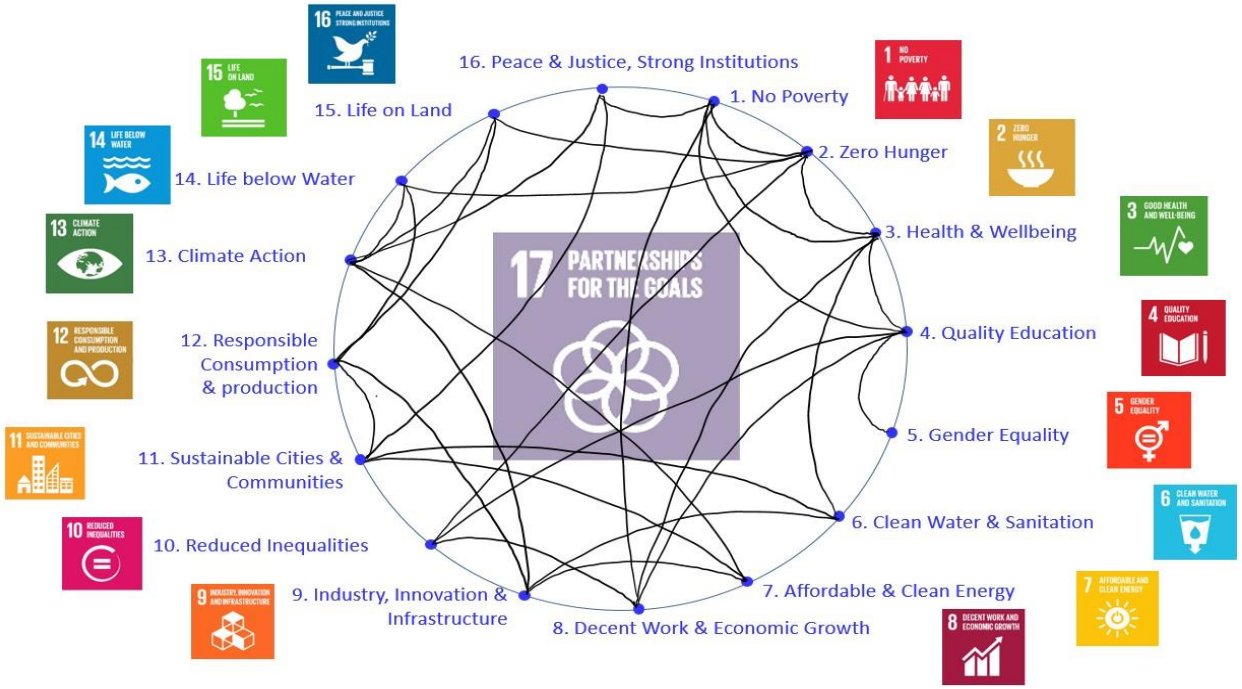
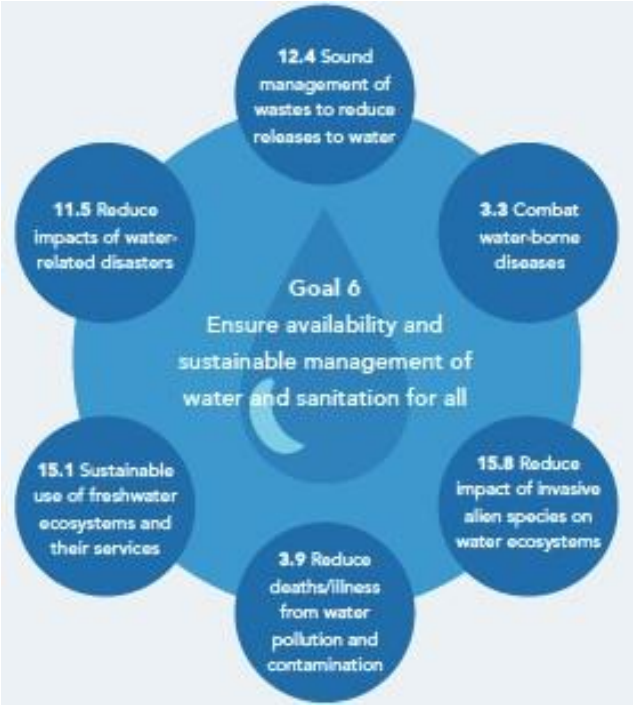
2030 Agenda - requires integrated policy approaches

> The 17 goals represent an indivisible tapestry of thinking and action that applies in every community everywhere in the world. They are universal…and also indivisible. Though they are presented as individual goals, they actually represent a total, completely intertwined lattice of action that is relevant for every human being everywhere.
>
> David Nabarro, Under-Secretary General, Special Adviser on 2030 Agenda



The 2030 Agenda for SD with Emphasis on SDG 6



ESCAP Methodology for Integration of the SDGs into National Planning

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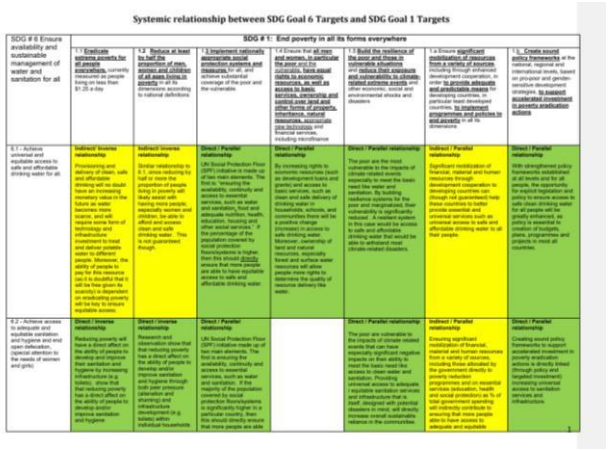
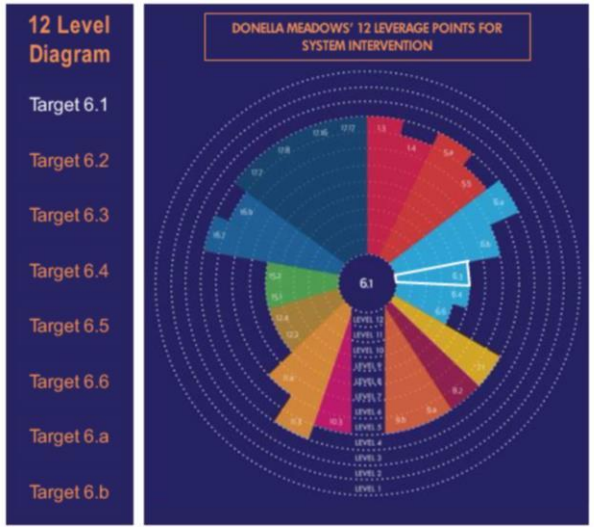
Interlinkages of SDG 6 with other SDG targtets

Achieving the SDGs require shifts in implementation strategies

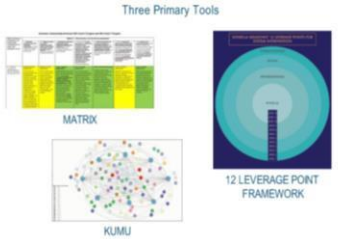
- The achievement of SDGs requires fundamental transformations at all levels
- Beyond finance, a much more comprehensive means of implementation needs to be mobilized to enable implementation
- Meaningful stakeholder engagement will be critical in achieving the SDGs
- There is an urgent need for integrated policy approaches

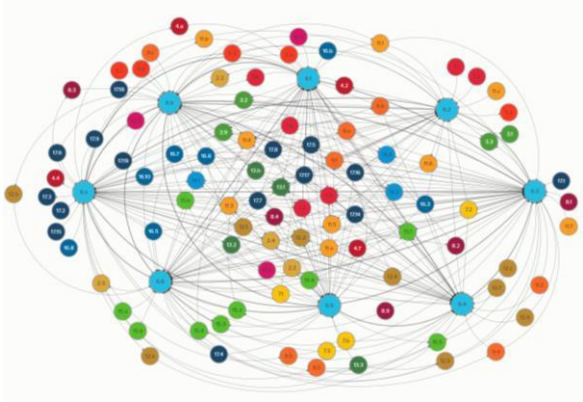




6.3
By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

ESCAP Methodology supporting the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

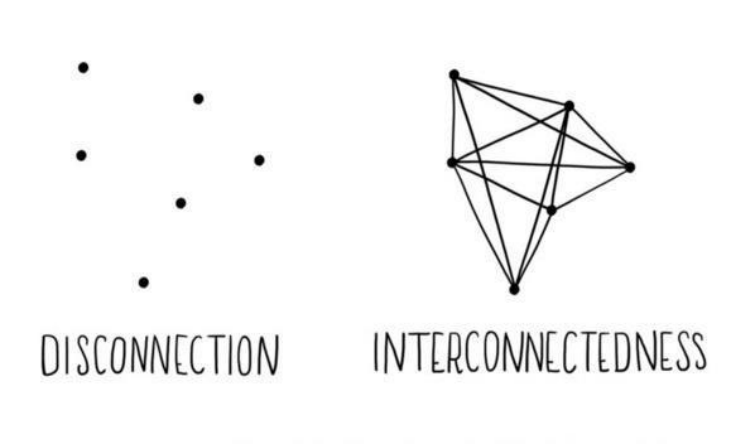




INTERCONNECTEDNESS

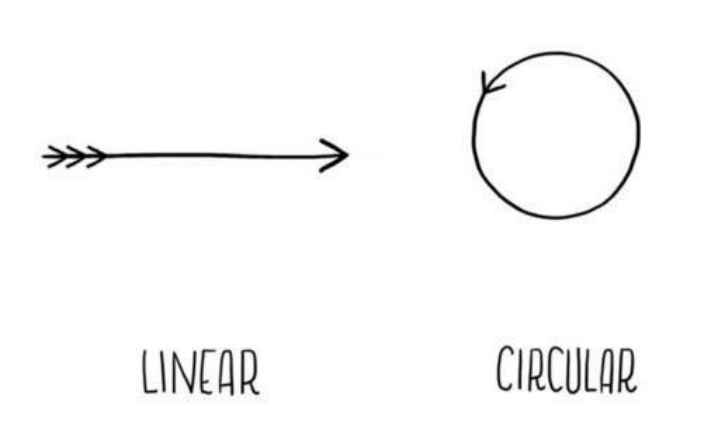
"A system is a set of related components that work together in a particular environment to perform whatever functions are required to achieve the system's objective"

-Donella Meadows-



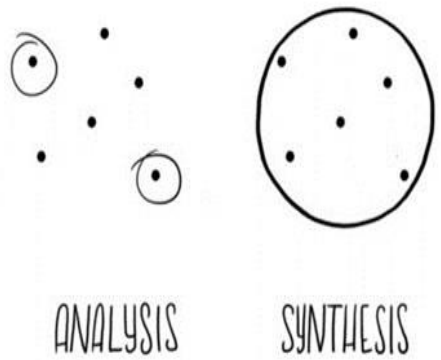
System Thinking

- System mindsets are needed for dealing with complex problem solving
- 4 fundamental concepts:
  - ❖ INTERCONNECTEDNESS
  - ❖ SYNTHESIS
  - ❖ FEEDBACK LOOPS
  - ❖ CASUALITY



Analysis

Is about dissection of complexity into manageable components. Analysis fits into the mechanical and reductionist worldview, where the world is broken down into parts

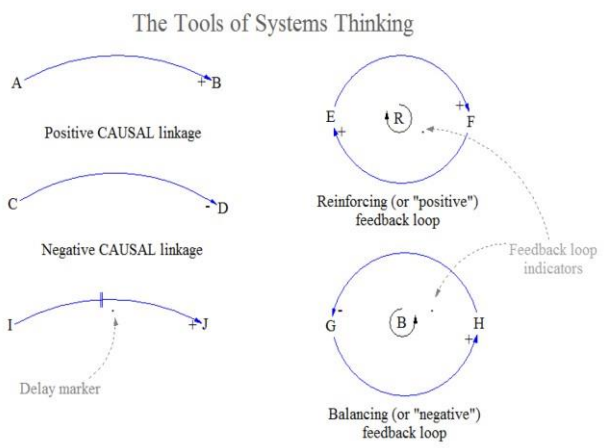


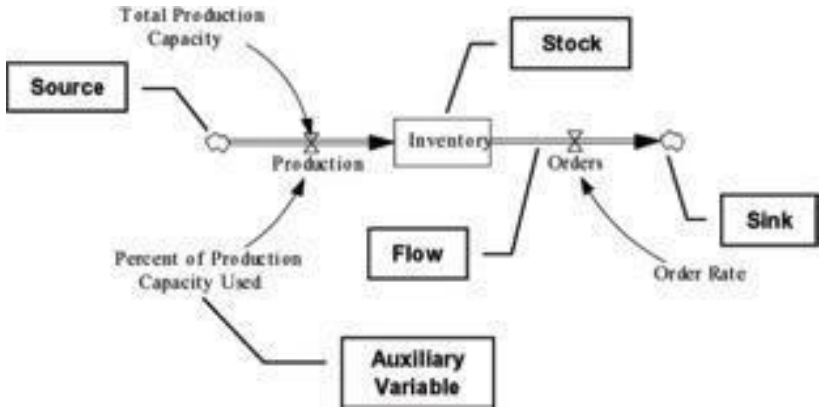
Synthesis

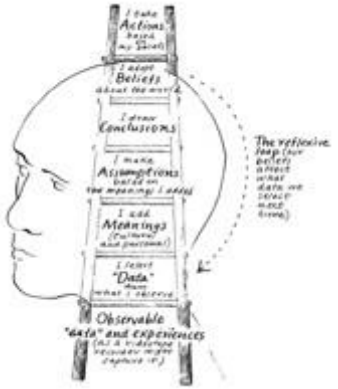
sees the interconnectedness

Synthesis

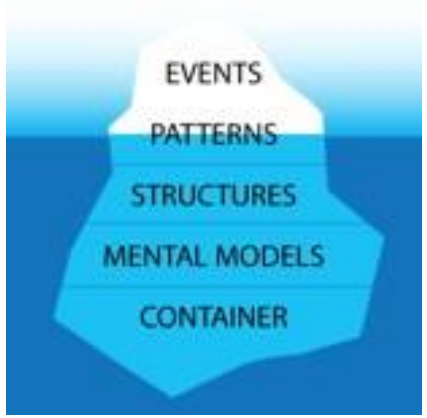
Is about understanding the whole and the parts at the same time, along with the relationships and the connections that make up the dynamics of the whole.

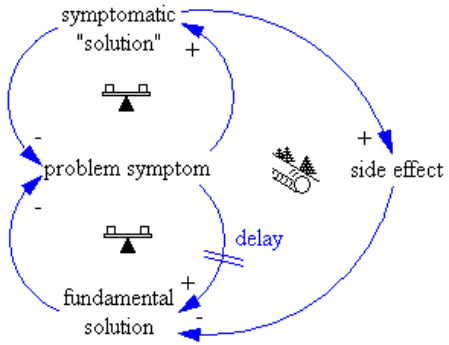






The Tools of Systems Thinking

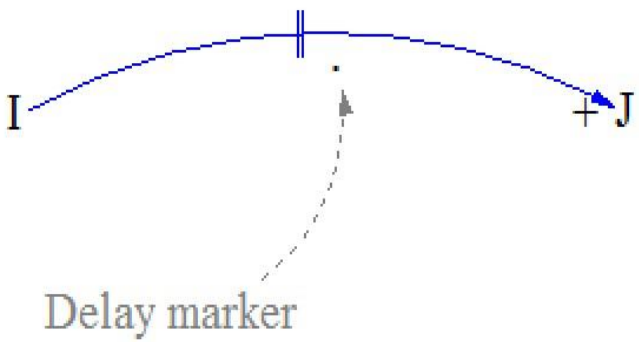


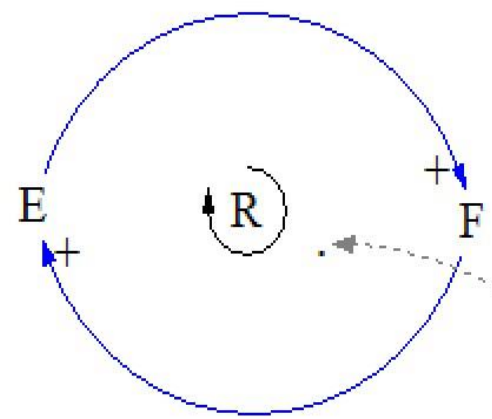


The Tools of Systems Thinking

Positive CAUSAL linkage

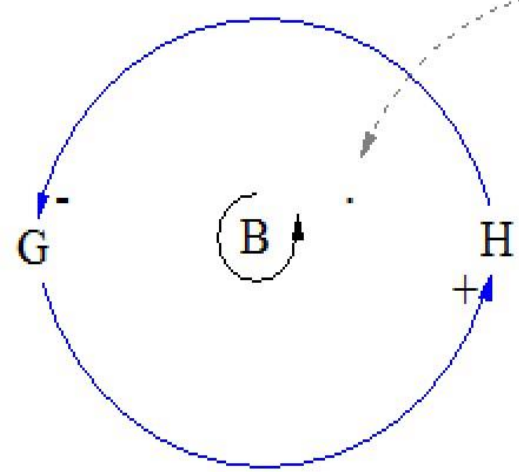
Negative CAUSAL linkage





Reinforcing (or "positive") feedback loop

Feedback loop indicators



Balancing (or "negative") feedback loop

CAUSALITY

To understand the feedback loops we need to gain perspective of causality: how one thing results in another thing in a dynamic and constantly evolving system.

The cause and effect concept in system thinking is about being able to understand the way things influence each other in a system (on agency, feedback loops, connections, and relationships)

System mapping

Systems mapping is one of the key tools of the systems thinker.

System mapping

System Dynamics	Strategic Intervention
System is stagnant or stalled	• Look for constraints
Vicious cycles	• Identify “brakes” • Examine intervention points to return process to virtuous cycle
Reinforce virtuous feedback cycles	
Find the strongest feedback structure operating then review the implications and generic leverage points.	
Examine each link and consider the consequences of strengthening it or weakening it	

Policy Gap

Reduce inertia in the policy-making cycle – rectify the lack of understanding of integrated approaches and tools (e.g. stakeholder engagement, integrated monitoring, etc.)

Governance Gap

Strengthen institutional capacity for stakeholder engagement, set policy targets that acknowledge environmental limits, and establish social flows

Information Gap

Strengthen stakeholder involvement, transdisciplinary approaches, and science-policy interface

Valuation Gap

Internalize social and environmental values in decision-making - market interventions, financial and other incentives

Time Gap

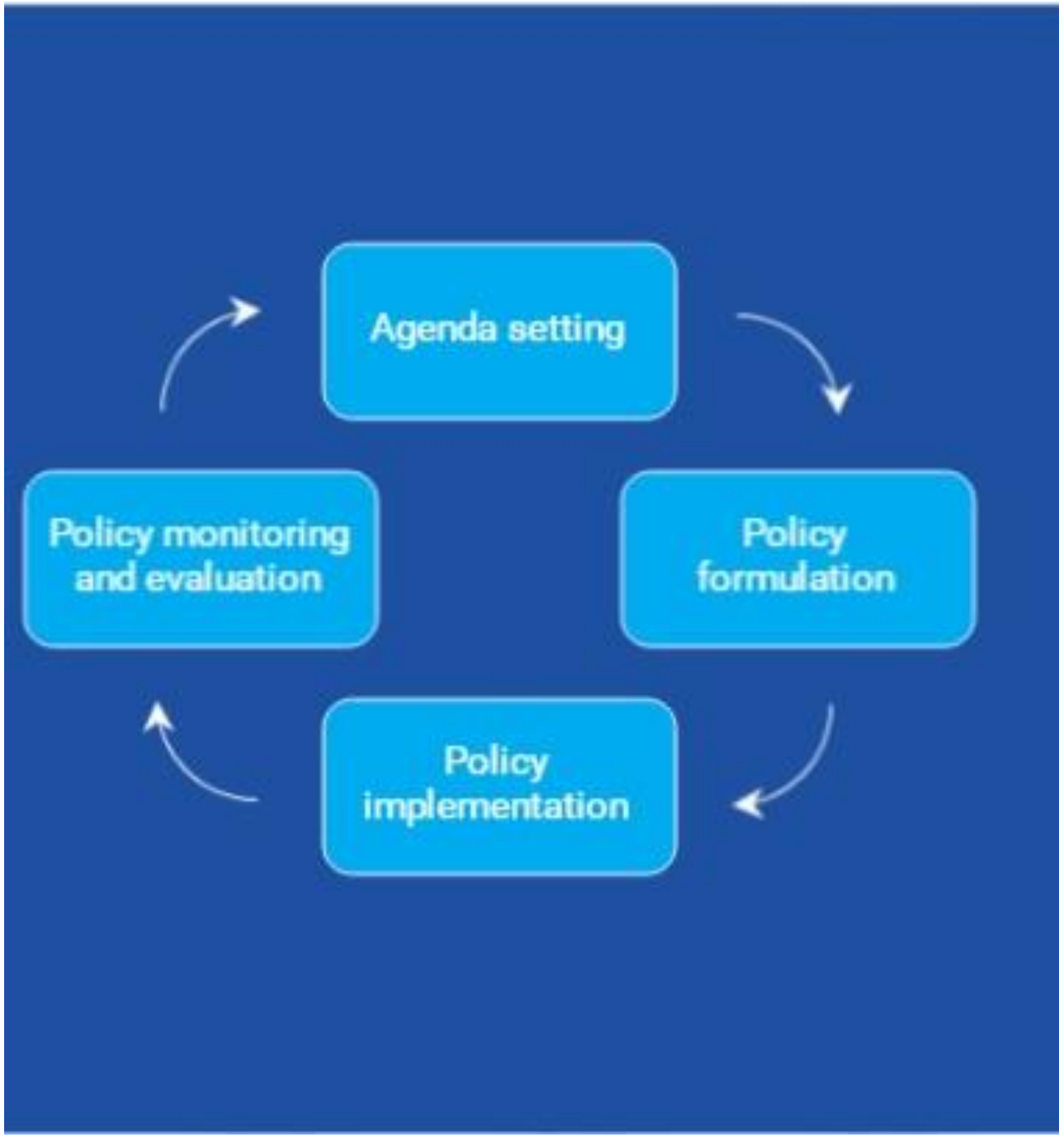
Lengthen stakeholder time horizons through policy and financing interventions

Addressing Trade-offs through Systems Thinking

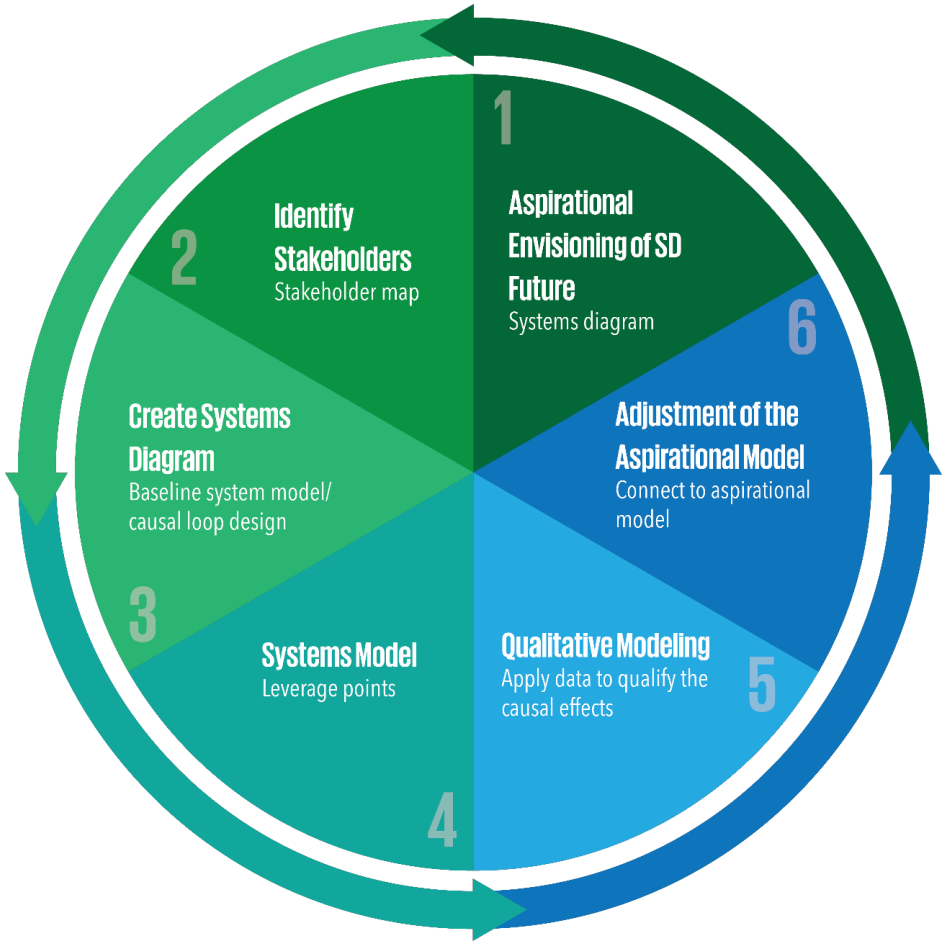
Examples of Addressing the Trade-Offs

Tradeoff source/ Questions to be asked	Strategic intervention	Example
1. Valuation Gap What are the values which are impacted positively and negatively but are not recognized?	Internalize social and economic values in economic decision-making - market interventions, financial and other incentives	▪ Tax/subsidy reform & recycling of savings/revenue ▪ Global carbon markets ▪ Payments for ecosystem services
2. Time Gap What are the time horizons of stakeholders in the different dimensions – how do they differ? How can the short-term time horizons be lengthened?	Change stakeholder time horizons - policy/financing interventions	▪ Tax/subsidy reform & recycling of savings/revenue ▪ Green accounting
3. Information Gap What types of information can influence consumer choices and preferences? What scientific uncertainties need to be addressed? What are the economic benefits of social and environmental investments?	Strengthen integrated analysis, science-policy interface	▪ Eco-labelling ▪ Green accounting
4. Governance Gap Who are the stakeholders ? Which are excluded from participation in decision-making? How can common interests be capitalized upon, or differences bridged through governance interventions? What relevant environmental, social and economic limits need to be defined and implemented in policy?	Strengthen provisions related to social justice, environmental protection, set policy targets, standards and codes of conduct that acknowledge environmental limits, establish social protection floors	▪ Viet Nam green growth strategy ▪ Central bank green finance initiative – Bangladesh ▪ Green accounting
5. Policy Making Gap What are the reasons behind the inertia of policy-making?	Strengthen technical and information capacity about integrated approaches	▪ Systems-thinking applied to policy-making

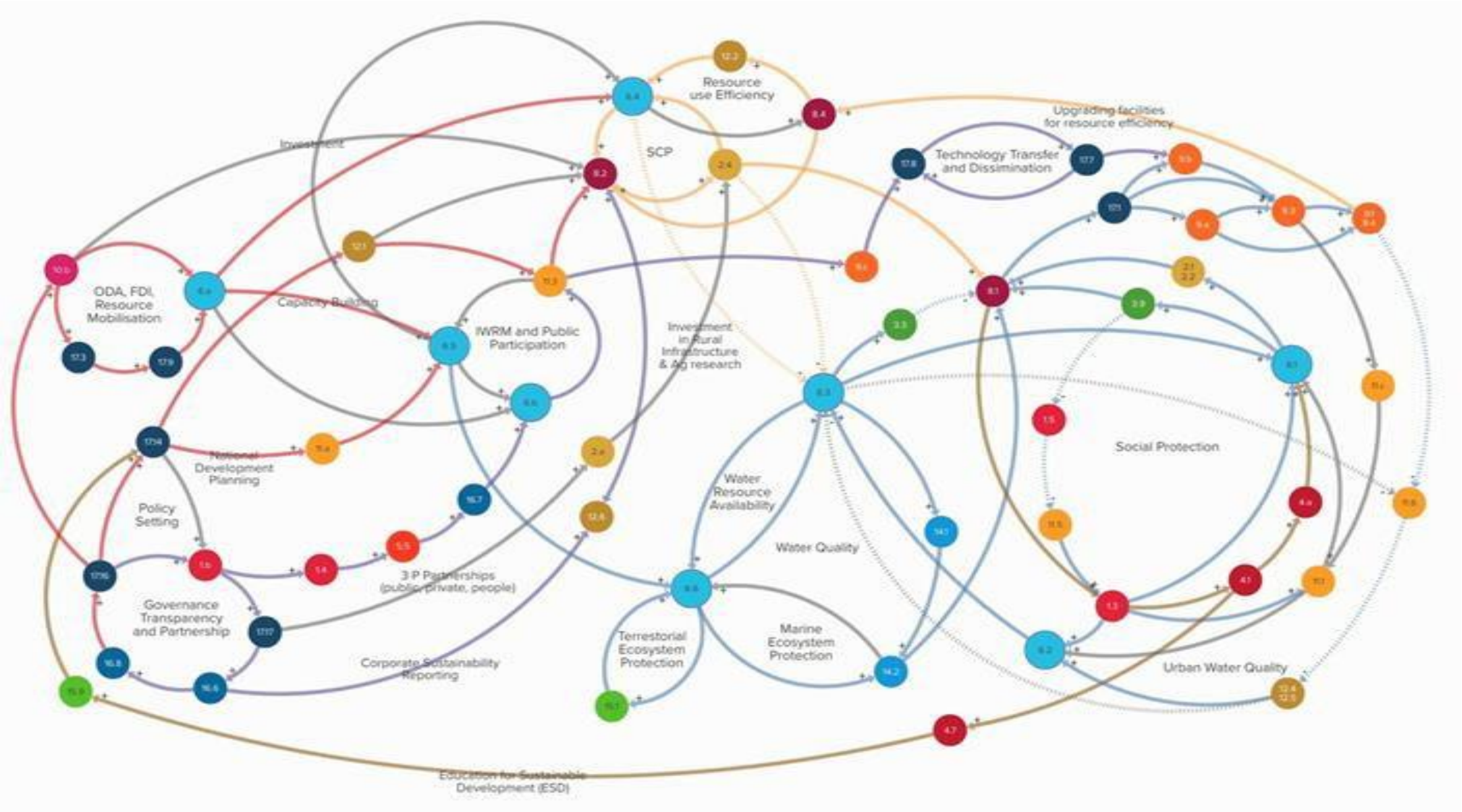
Creating Synergies during Public Policy Cycle



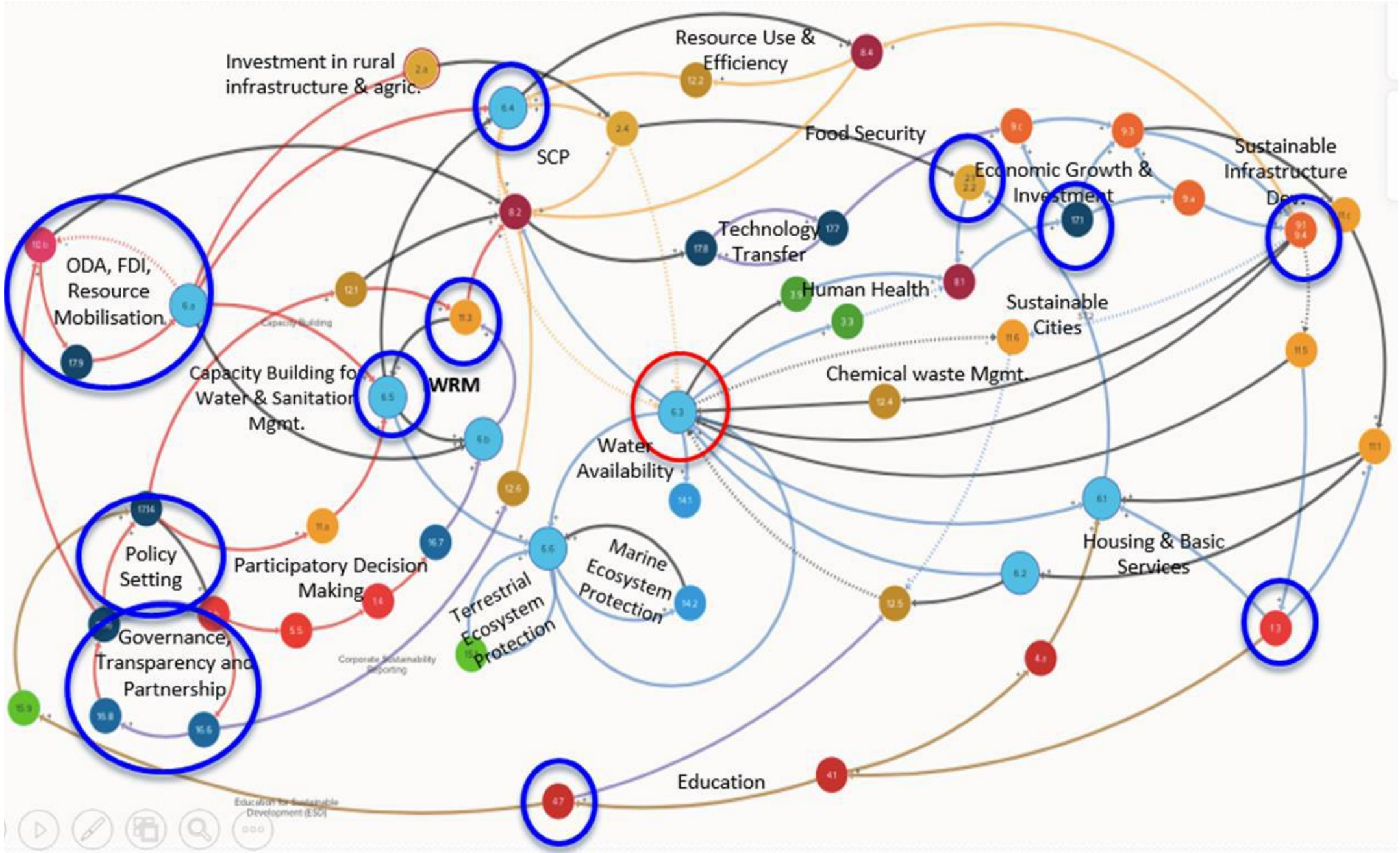
Aspirational Envisaging Policy Cycle



Developing causal Loop Diagram based focused on SDG 6 targets



Developing causal Loop Diagram based focused on SDG 6 targets



SDG 6 Interlinkages with other SDGs

Target 6.b – Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Fourth most inter-linked target;

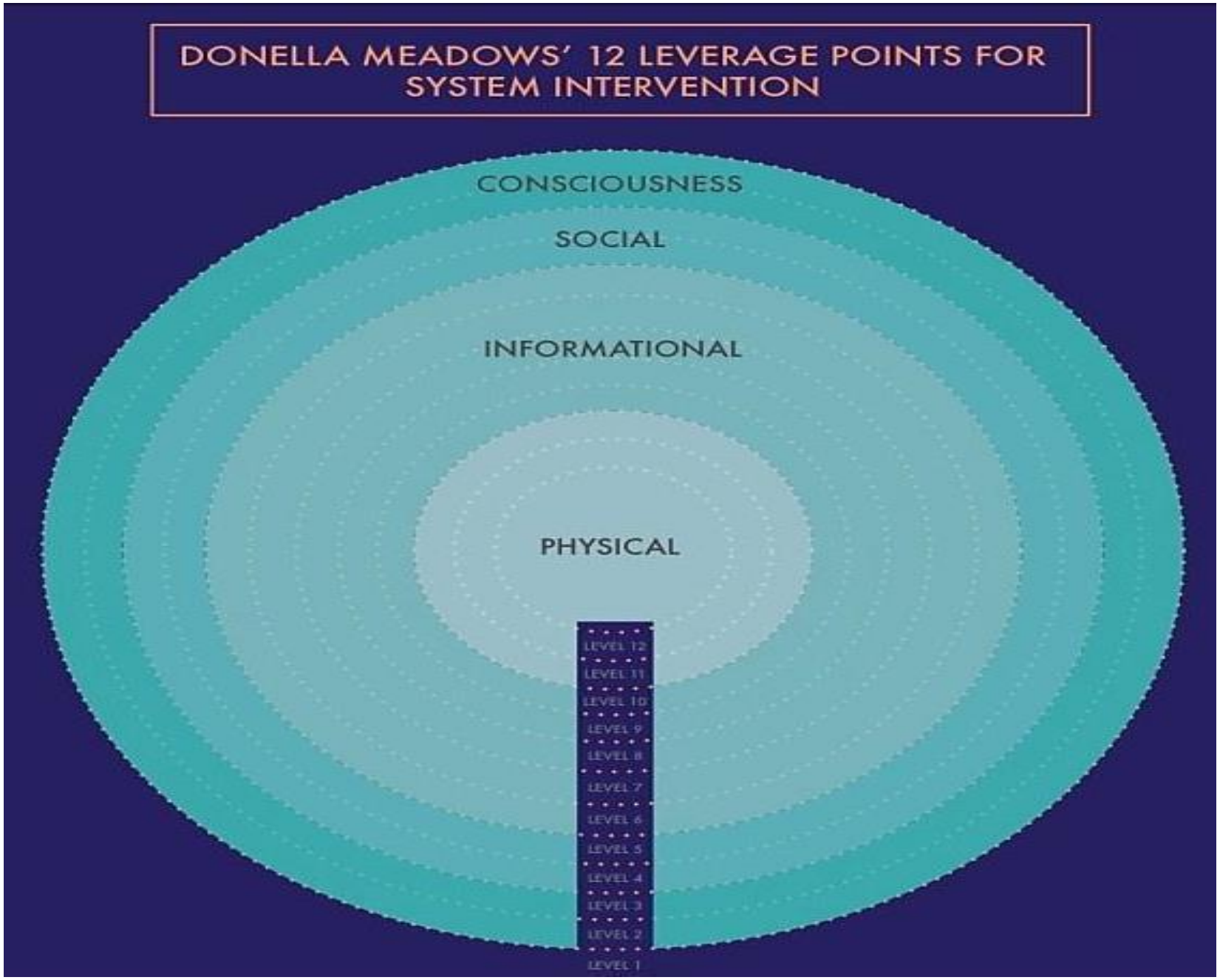
Direct causal inter-linkages with 48 other targets from 14 SDGS;

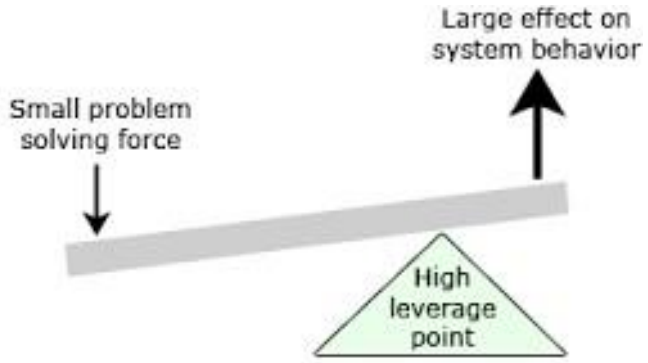
Indirectly linked with another 28 targets;

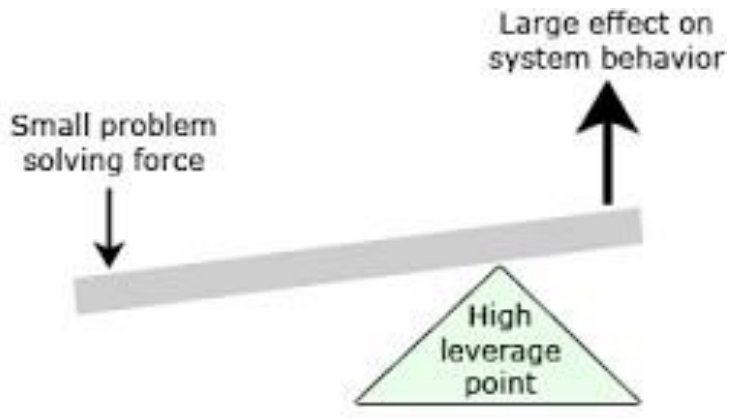
Directly driven/influenced by 27 other targets and is a key driver / influencer of 21 other targets;

Most strongly influenced by SDG 5, 16, and 17

Has the most direct influence on SDG 1, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 14.


DONELLA MEADOWS' 12 LEVERAGE POINTS FOR SYSTEM INTERVENTION
CONSCIOUSNESS
SOCIAL
INFORMATIONAL
PHYSICAL
LEVEL 12
LEVEL 11
LEVEL 10
LEVEL 9
LEVEL 8
LEVEL 7
LEVEL 6
LEVEL 5
LEVEL 4
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 1


Large effect on system behavior
Small problem solving force
High leverage point



Targets 1.b, 17.16, 17.14, and 6.a	•The loops of Governance, transparency, Partnership / ODA, FDI and Resource Mobilization / Policy Setting are really the ultimate high impact leverage in the short to long term
Target 11.3	•IWRM and Public Participation is another really important loop for achieving sustainable water
Target 6.4	•Water use efficiency is also very important and influential target as it is a fulcrum for water quality and eventually sustainable water (TAWR).
Target 17.1	•Crucial leverage point at the country level as this essentially is all about sustainable financing and resource mobilization for keeping the system going into the future, without outside ODA primarily.
Target 9.1/9.4	•Essential leverage points due to the fact that they are about the system infrastructure in urban commercial, domestic-residential, and industrial sectors, and includes water treatment and provisioning infrastructure.
Target 2.1/2.2	•Extremely important for the overall economic development, as achieving these two targets will insure a health and productive population that will be the greatest resource for sustainable development.
Target 1.3	•Social Protection Floors is also super important leverage for the human wellbeing side of the model (access to sustainable sanitation systems and clean drinking water)
Target 6.3	•Ultimately (in this system model at present) is the core target and indicator for the model. It is where everything lead or is effected by when considering GDP (8.1) and human health and wellbeing (2.1/2.2, etc.)
Target 4.7	•Ultimately is the highest impact leverage for long-term human sustainability, though the delay is longest in terms of cause-effect change and impact.

High Leverage points for SDG 6.3 target

Lessons learned from the quantitative modelling

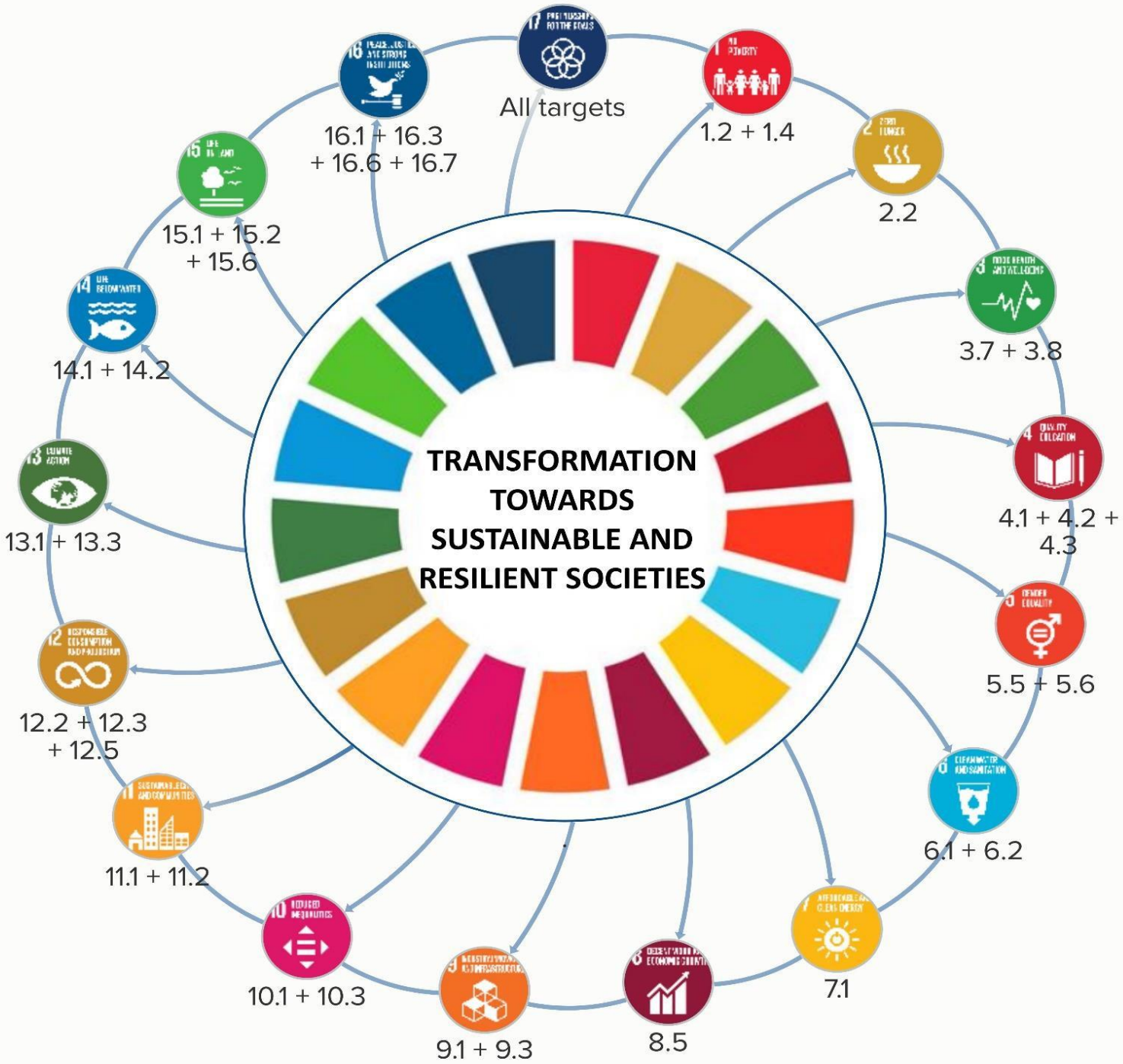
Globally Agreed Indicators: These are linear and were created to measure the progress of individual targets or aspect of these. These do not support sufficiently analysis of inter-linkages. Since the SDGs are viewed as one indivisible whole, additional variables that reflect inter-linkages and integration may need to be identified.

Availability of Data: While a substantive amount of data is available, there are some gaps within the data, which has cased inconclusive results. In order to improve upon our findings new data would need to be produced. (E.g. 6.3 Annual treatment of wastewater flows.)

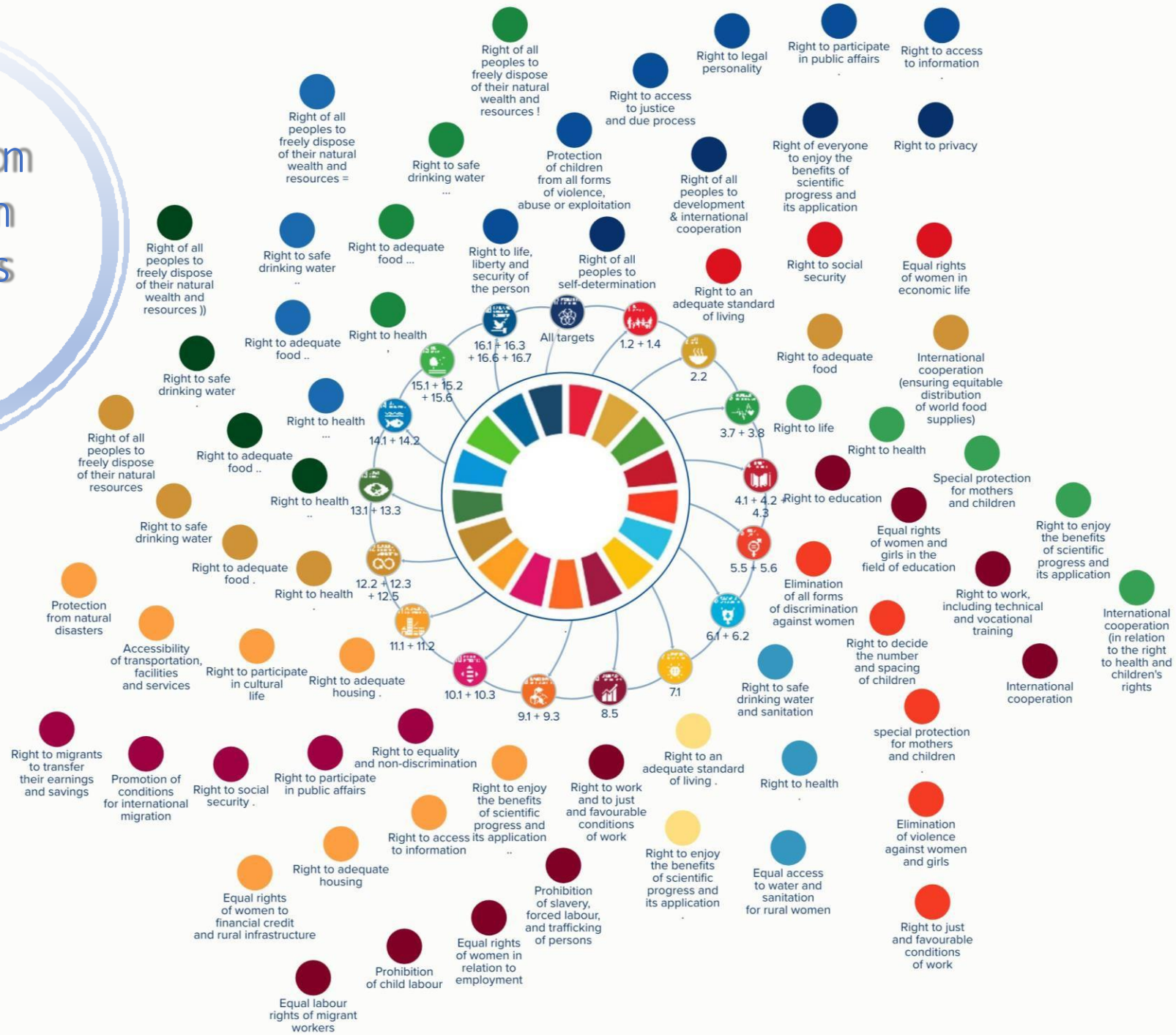
Water Storyline: Unfortunately, several SDG indicators were not tailored for the water context and therefore, do not fit our storyline. Although secondary indicators (e.g. World Bank) were identified, which fit the storyline, they are not globally-agreed.

Systems-Thinking: The analytical framework is addressing inter-relationships based on causality and can be a valuable tool for policy makers to identify the leverage points for most effective interventions.

Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies



Transformation with focus on human rights



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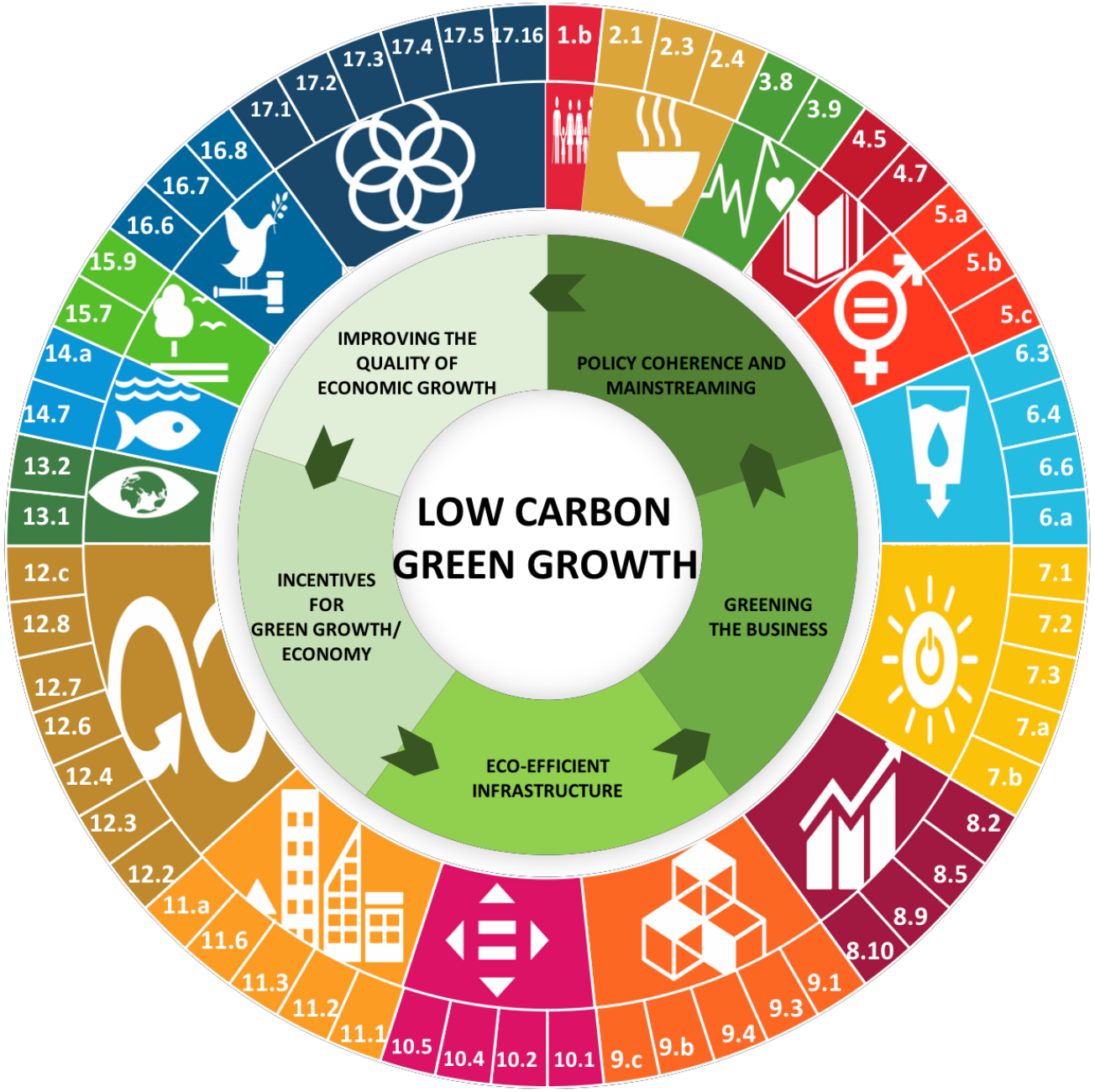
Low Carbon Green Growth-transformation to the New Climate Economy



The Way Forward

Integrated SDG planning with transformative stakeholder engagement

Sustainable financing, including for climate resilient development and infrastructure

Integrated planning to optimize resources; scale up the use of nature-based solutions, including green and blue infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas

Circular economy approaches to reduce waste and address pollution issues

Low carbon green growth/new climate economy for sustainable development

ESCAP Knowledge Products

Integrating the Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development: A Framework and Tools
http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Integrating%20the%20three%20dimensions%20of%20sustainable%20development%20A%20framework.pdf

Analytical Framework for Integration of Water and Sanitation SDGs and Targets Using Systems Thinking Approach

https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2018-02/integration%20sdg6.pdf

Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Goals Planning: The Case of Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation
http://www.unescap.org/publications/integrated-approaches-sustainable-development-goals-planning-case-goal-6-water-and

Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific
http://www.unescap.org/resources/low-carbon-green-growth-roadmap-asia-and-pacific

E-Learning Course: Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmap
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