



# INTEGRATED POLICY PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK

(IPPN)

*Connecting knowledge and practitioners to lead integrated approaches to the SDGs*

**Knowledge Café:**

**Systems Mapping as a Tool for SDG Integration into National  
Planning**

Wednesday, 20 April 2022

# Integrated Policy Making for SDG Implementation

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The 5Ps  
underpinning  
the 2030  
Agenda for  
Sustainable  
Development

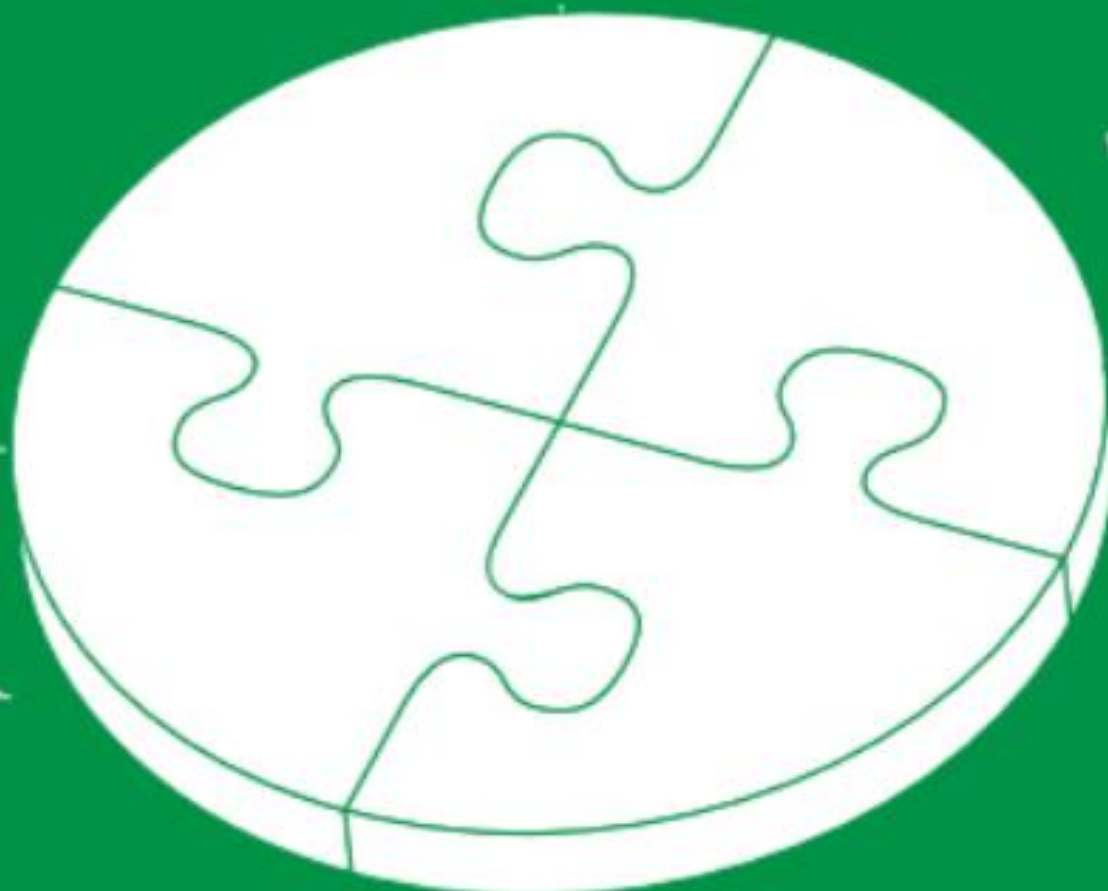
Investing in natural capital



Greening of the economy



Strengthening environmental management

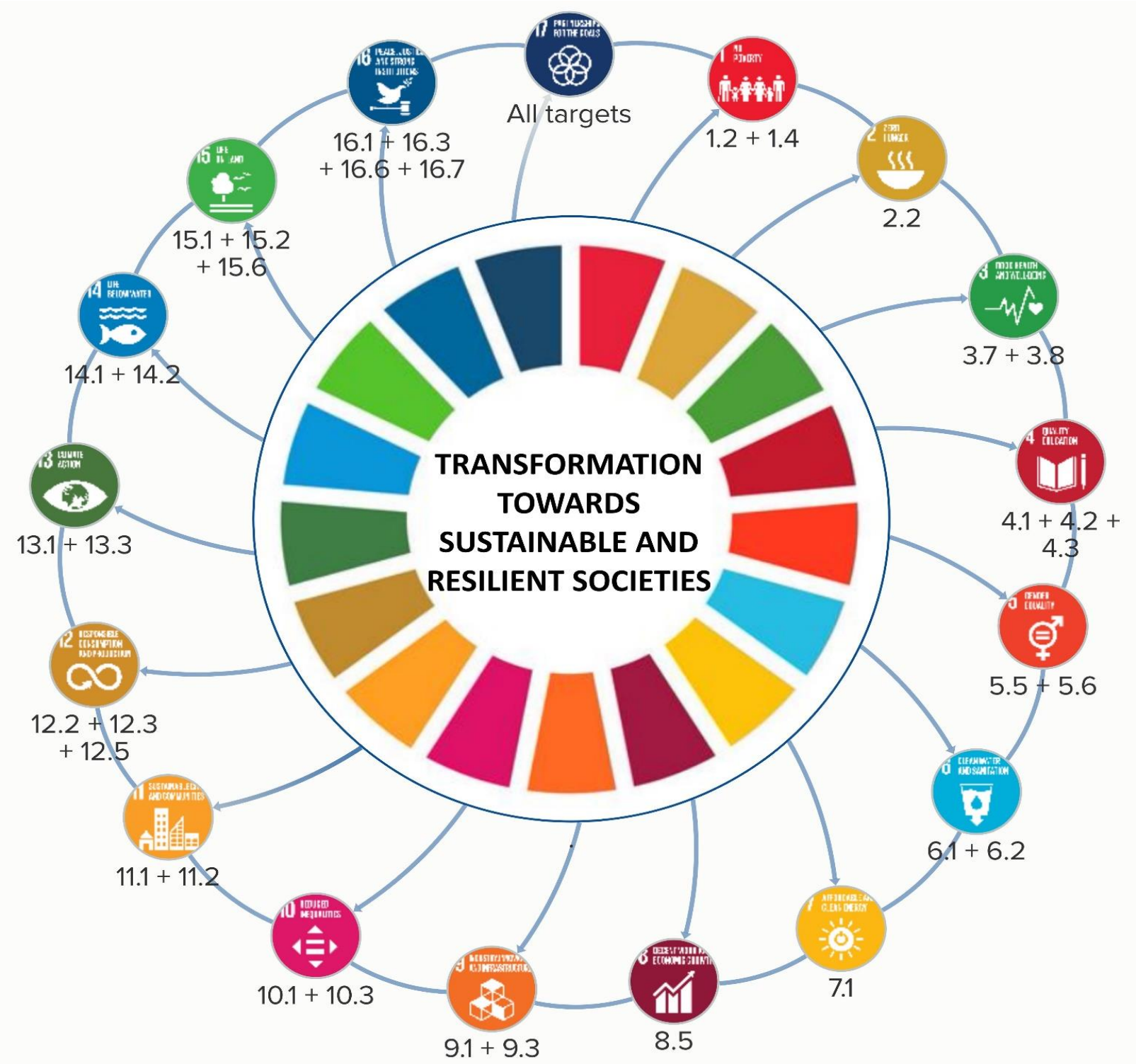


Double dividend

Green Growth



# Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies



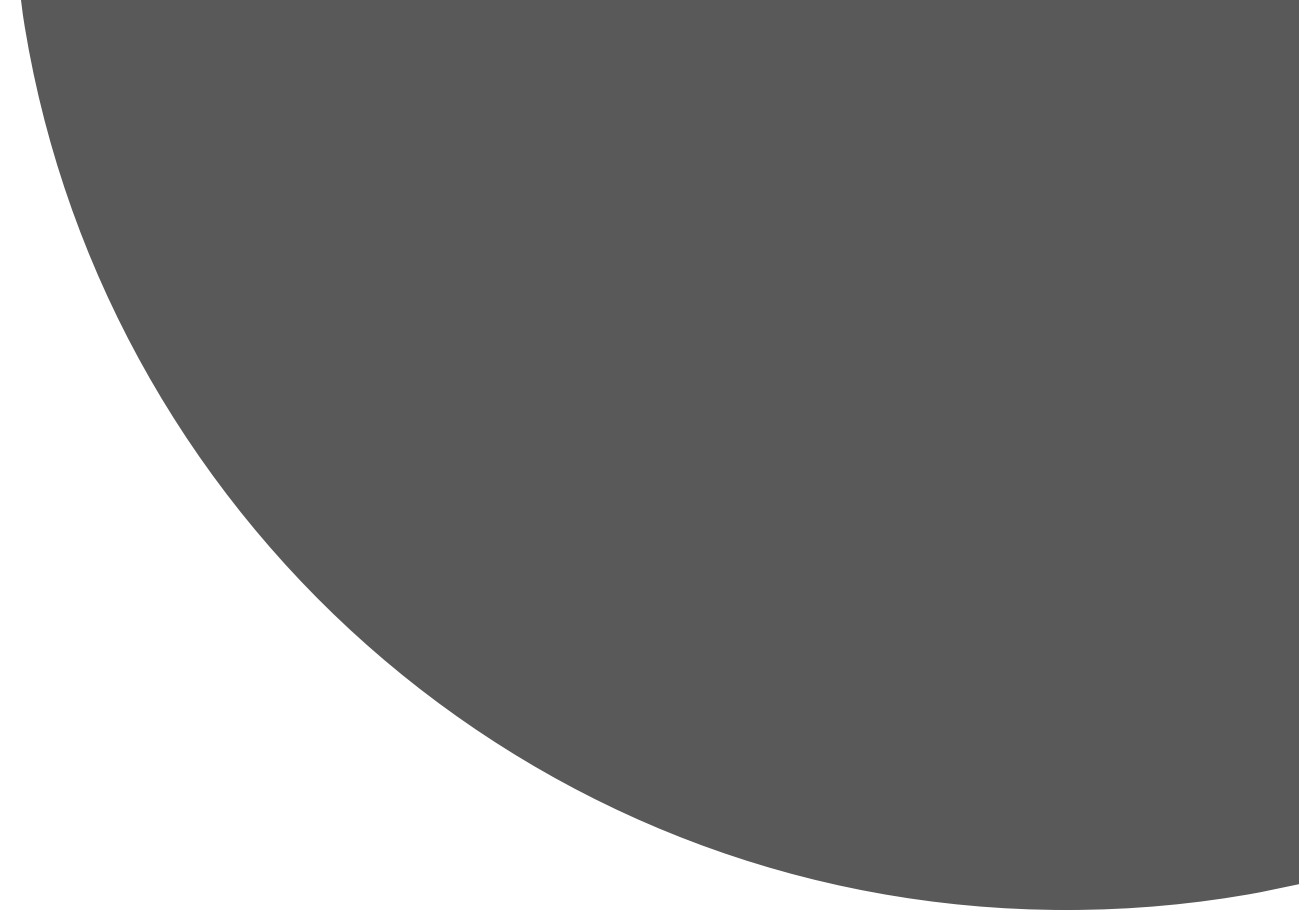
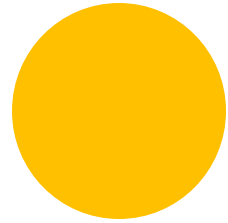
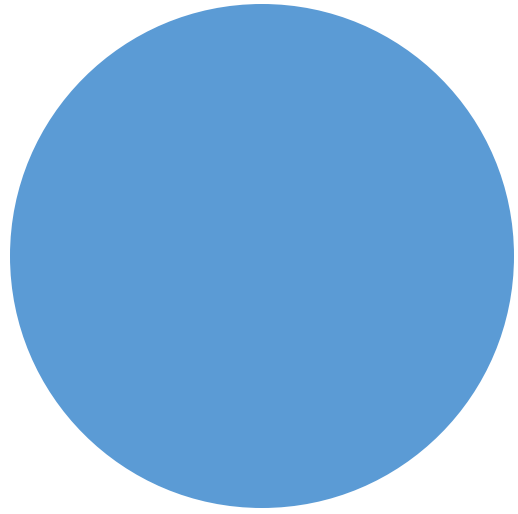


Policy Coherence and  
Integration

Aspiring Together

Working Together

Managing Resources  
Together



At the national level



## What can policy makers do to more effectively implement an integrated development agenda?

1. Reconcile public and private interests – short term private benefits should not outweigh longer term shared societal benefits when making policy decisions.
2. Coordinate policies between different sectors to strengthen co-benefits – policy coordination (and cross-sectoral evaluation of policy impacts) needs to be institutionalized.
3. Evaluate and compare policy options based on multiple economic, social and environmental criteria using system thinking.
4. Analyze the root causes and identify policy solutions to convert trade-offs into synergies between the three dimensions of sustainable development.
5. Engagement of stakeholders throughout the full cycle of policy development and implementation.



## Addressing Trade-Offs



**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**

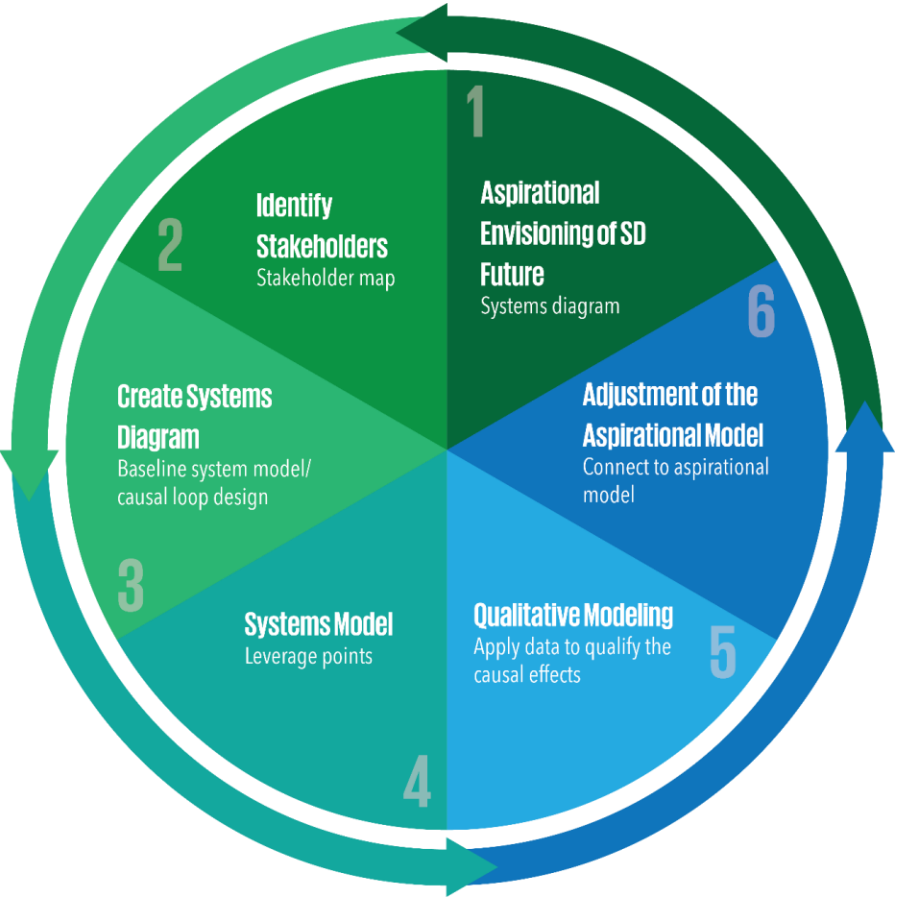
Internalize social and environmental values in decision-making - market interventions, financial and other incentives



**Time Gap**

Lengthen stakeholder time horizons through policy and financing interventions

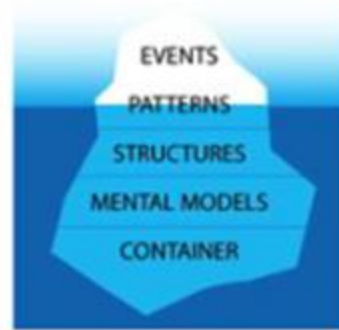
# Integrated Policy Making



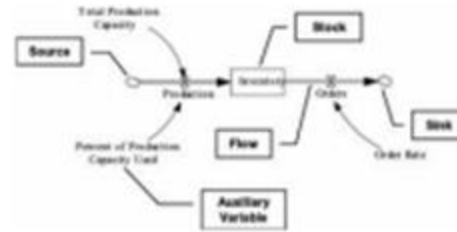
*Interlinkages of SDG 6 with the rest of the SDGs* underpin SD, mainly in **economic activity** (energy, resource extraction, manufacturing, productivity), **social welfare** (equal access, poverty, food, health), and **healthy ecosystems** through preserving the sustainability of the water cycle.



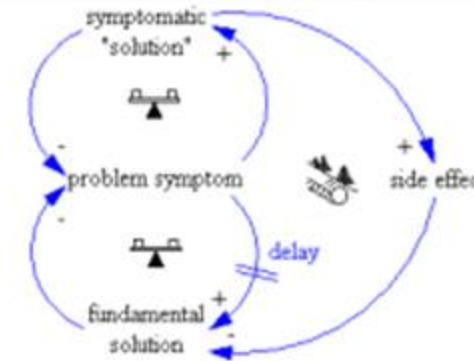
**Systems-thinking** is a way of approaching complex problems as one whole system and by means of applying non-linear logic to understand the connections between the Interdependent components of dynamic systems



System Iceberg



Stock & Flow Diagrams



Causal Loop Diagrams

## Basic Processes of Systemic Behavior

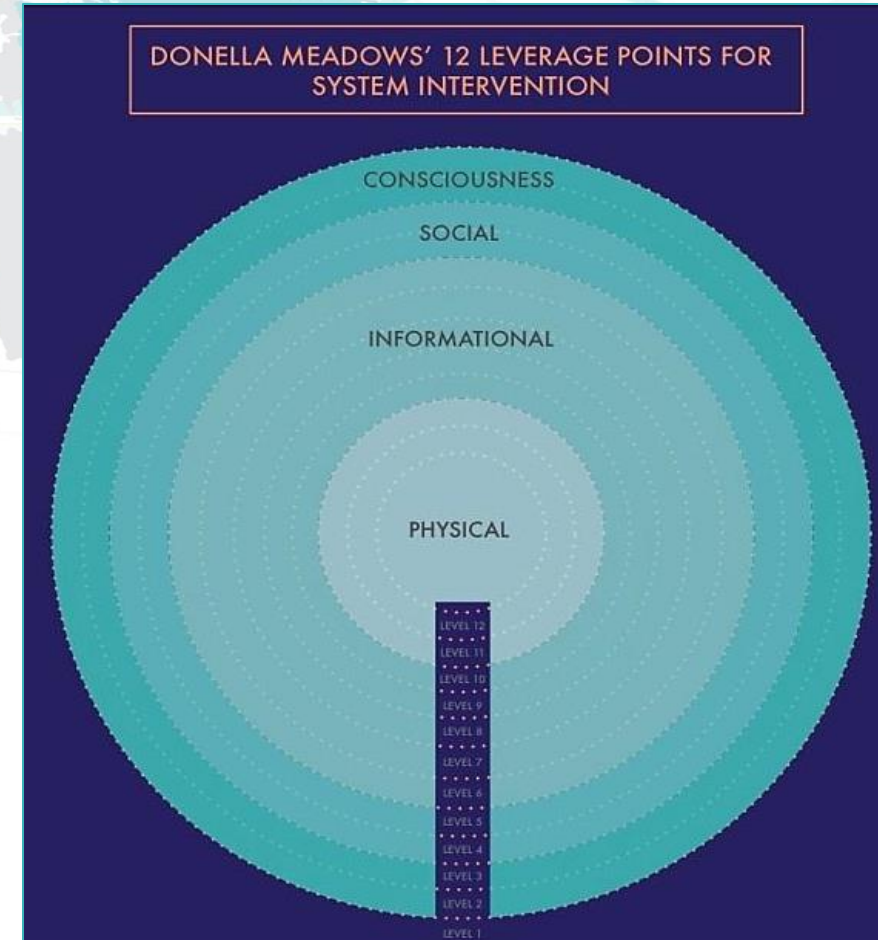
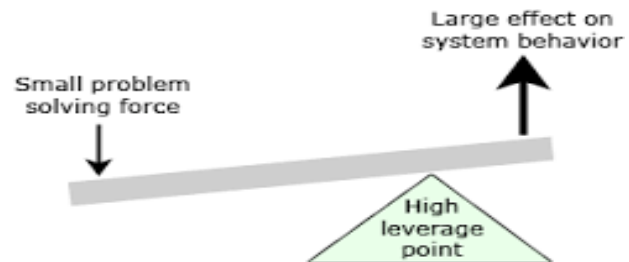
Reinforcing Feedback

Balancing Feedback

Source: Sustainability Asia

In systems-thinking, a **leverage point** is a place in a system's structure where a solution element or intervention can be best applied to achieve desired long-term results.

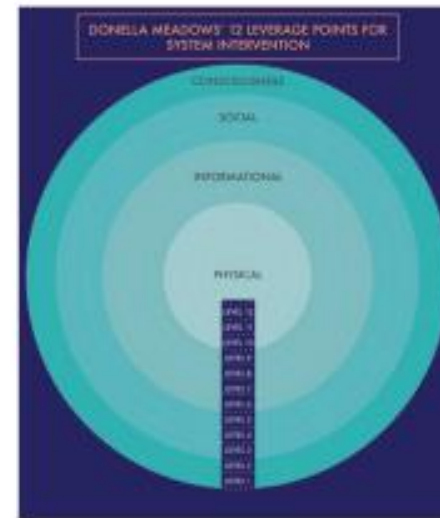
- Meadows (2009) stressed that often the best results come not from large-scale efforts but from small well-focused actions.
- Thus, there can be “low impact” leverage points and “high impact” leverage points.
- High impact leverage points resolve underlying causes of undesired system behavior.



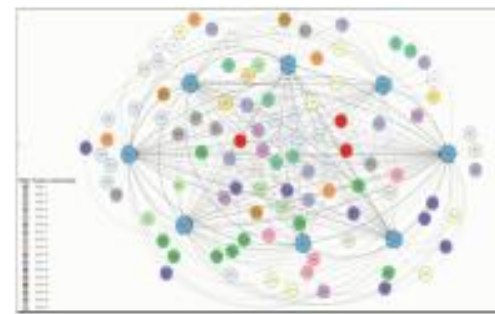
The goal was to observe how SDG 6 targets relate with each other and with targets across the other SDGs to form a dynamic and qualitative assessment of water and sanitation priorities to facilitate policy making for Asia-Pacific's member-states. **There were 3 primary systems tools:**

SDG 6 Target	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16	SDG 17	
6.1																		
6.2																		
6.3																		
6.4																		
6.5																		
6.6																		
6.7																		

MATRIX



12 LEVERAGE POINT FRAMEWORK



KUMU

ESCAP (n.d.), SDG Help Desk Thematic Area on Integration of the SDGs into National Planning: <https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/knowledge-hub/thematic-area/integration-sdgs-national-planning>, with several case studies:

- Fiji, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Mongolia
- VNR reports of Pakistan and Viet Nam
- UNDP case studies for Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines

ESCAP (n.d.), SDG Help Desk E-Learning Courses: <https://sdghelpdesk-elearning.unescap.org/>

ESCAP (2017), Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Goals Planning: The Case of Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation: <https://www.unescap.org/publications/integrated-approaches-sustainable-development-goals-planning-case-goal-6-water-and>

ESCAP (2016), Analytical Framework for Integration of Water and Sanitation SDGs and Targets Using Systems Thinking Approach: <https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/e-library/analytical-framework-integration-water-and-sanitation-sdgs-and-targets-using-systems>

ESCAP (2016), Water Markets in the Asia and the Pacific: An Overview of Trends, Opportunities, Risks and Policies: <https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/e-library/water-markets-asia-and-pacific-overview-trends-opportunities-risks-and-policies>

UN-Water (2016), Integrated Monitoring Guide for SDG 6 Targets and Global Indicators: <http://www.unwater.org/app/uploads/2016/04/Integrated-Monitoring-Guide-for-SDG6.pdf>, which suggests draft methodologies to enable Member States to monitor SDG 6 (which covers the whole water cycle) in line with national capacities.

# Maldives – Analysis for the SDG Road Map (September 2021-January 2022)

## Systems application:

1. **Unpack key policy documents** - Strategic Action Plan -2019-2023 & National Resilience and Recovery plan
2. **Systems analysis** enriched by **desk research, stakeholder consultations**
3. **Prioritize interventions** & strengthen policy & institutional coherence
4. Delivered by **Sustainability Asia** using **Kumo.io** software

## Outcomes:

- Systems analysis and systems maps to explore **three complex priorities** for the Maldives Government – 1) Economic diversification; 2) Building resilience 3) Decentralization.
- Systems elements defined, **narratives for each systems** map, breaking them down into sub systems and **key feedback loop pathways**, key “accelerator” **leverage points**, and **recommended interventions based on above**.
- **SDG targets mapped** to system elements

## Next Steps\*

- RoadMap review by Maldives Government
- Sharing of systems maps to facilitate inter-ministerial coordination within technical group
- Stakeholder engagement to activate some leverage points and feedback loops, deepen social consensus and bring stakeholders together
- Ideally: **Use mapping and feedback loops** to explore and define (1) **opportunities to strengthen institutional coherence** (across positive feedback loops) – with institutional mapping and (2) **new partnerships**

## Key Challenges :

- Understanding the situation on-the-ground, moving beyond desk research (entirely virtual exercise)
- Simplifying narratives, managing large amounts of information (system complexity)

# Questions for discussion

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1. What are the **barriers to using systems thinking approach** in policy making?
2. How does **systems thinking approach create opportunities** for engagement of stakeholders?
3. What **capacity development** would be required to use systems thinking approach for policy making?

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