

Strategies for identifying and implementing synergies between SDGs, climate action and domestic priorities

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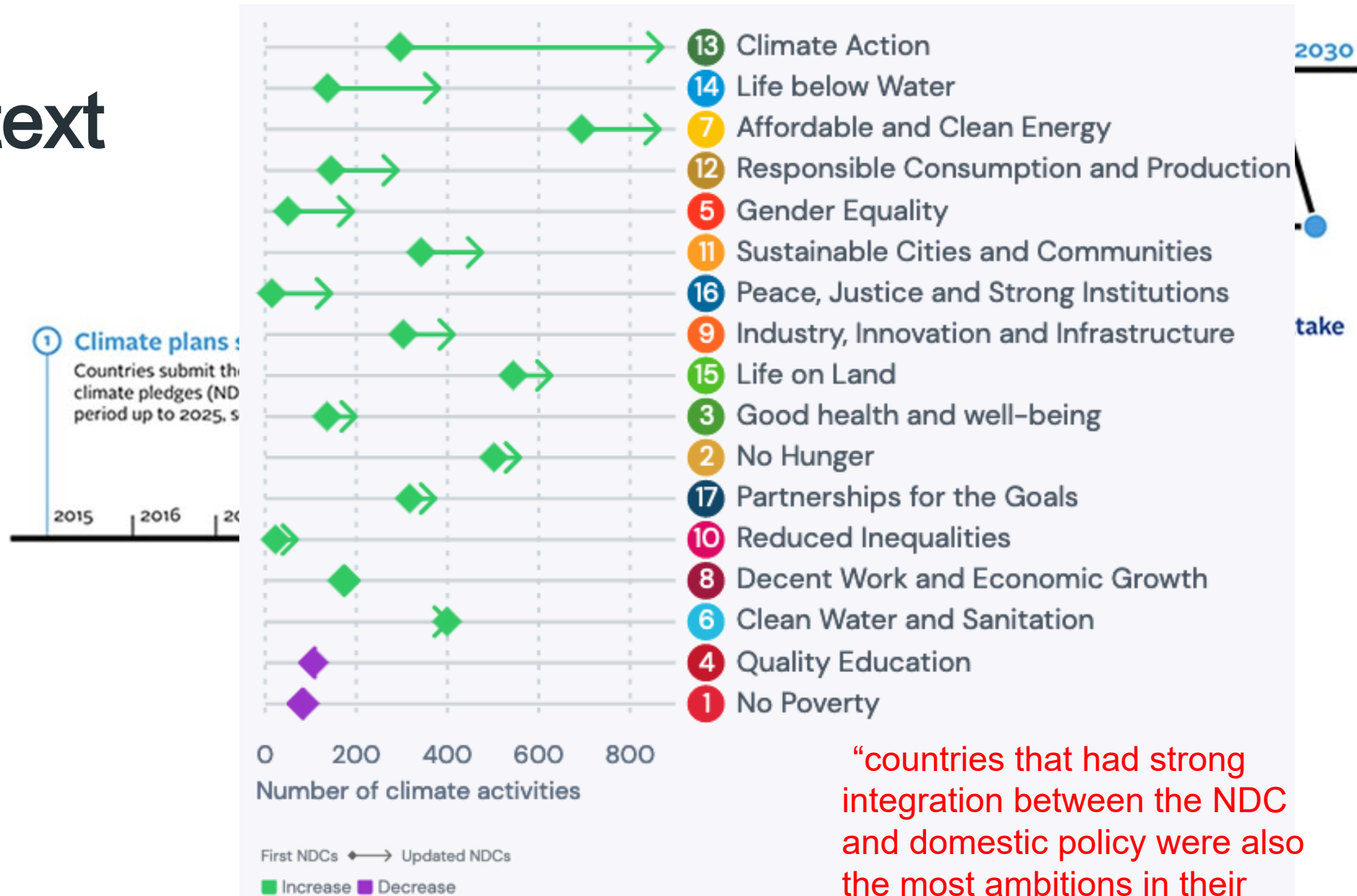
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Context

The third generation NDCs will be a test of the Paris Agreement ‘ratchet’ mechanism of increasing ambition



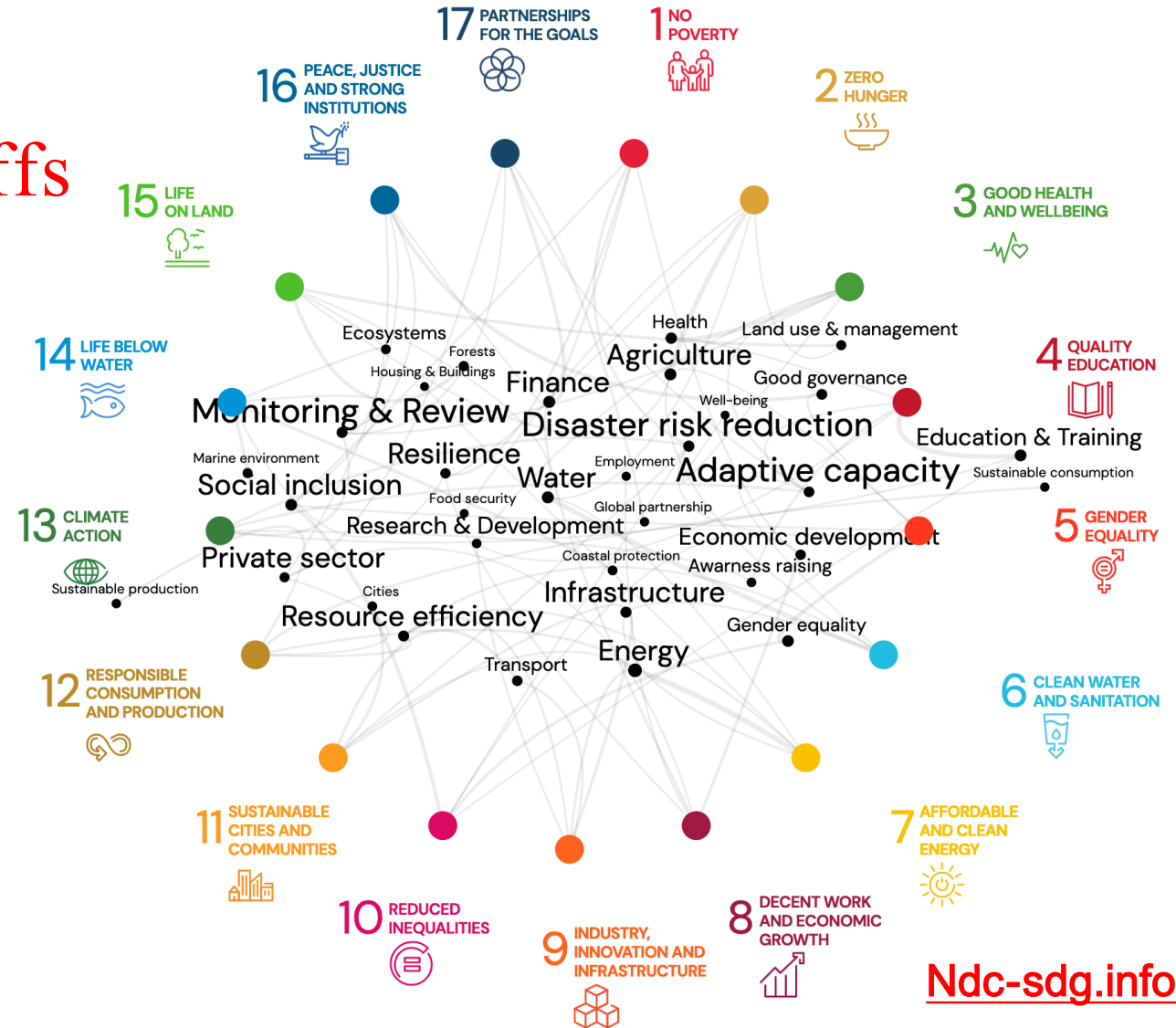
NDC-SDG Connections (Dzebo et al. 2023)

“countries that had strong integration between the NDC and domestic policy were also the most ambitious in their implementation” **UNDP**

Outline

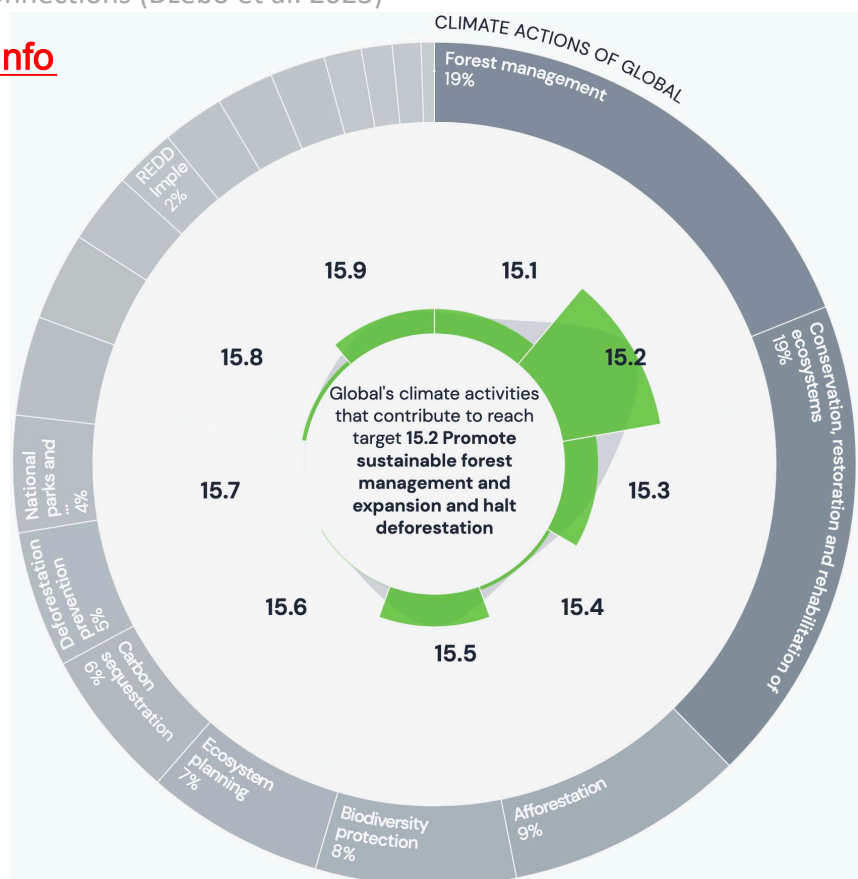
Synergies, co-benefits, tradeoffs

- Understanding
- Identifying
- Developing policy options



Three factors for understanding and aligning synergies between climate change, sustainable development and domestic priorities?

Ndc-sdg.info



1. Nature of interactions...

SDG synergies and trade-offs



Figure 3. The number of publications providing supporting evidence for SDG synergies and trade-offs (bars) and for multipliers and buffers (pie charts)

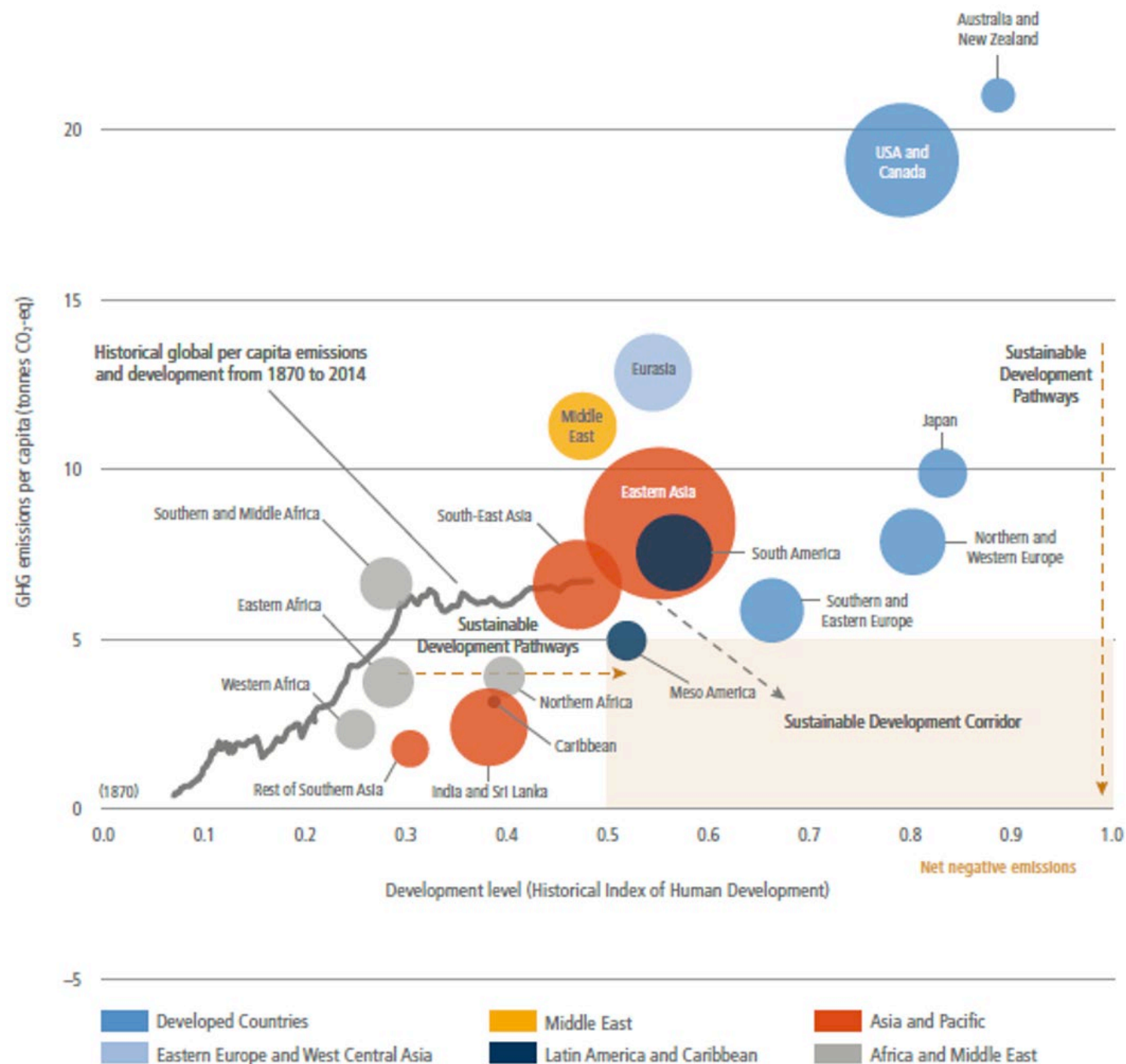


Recurring patterns of SDG interlinkages - Bennich et al. (2023)

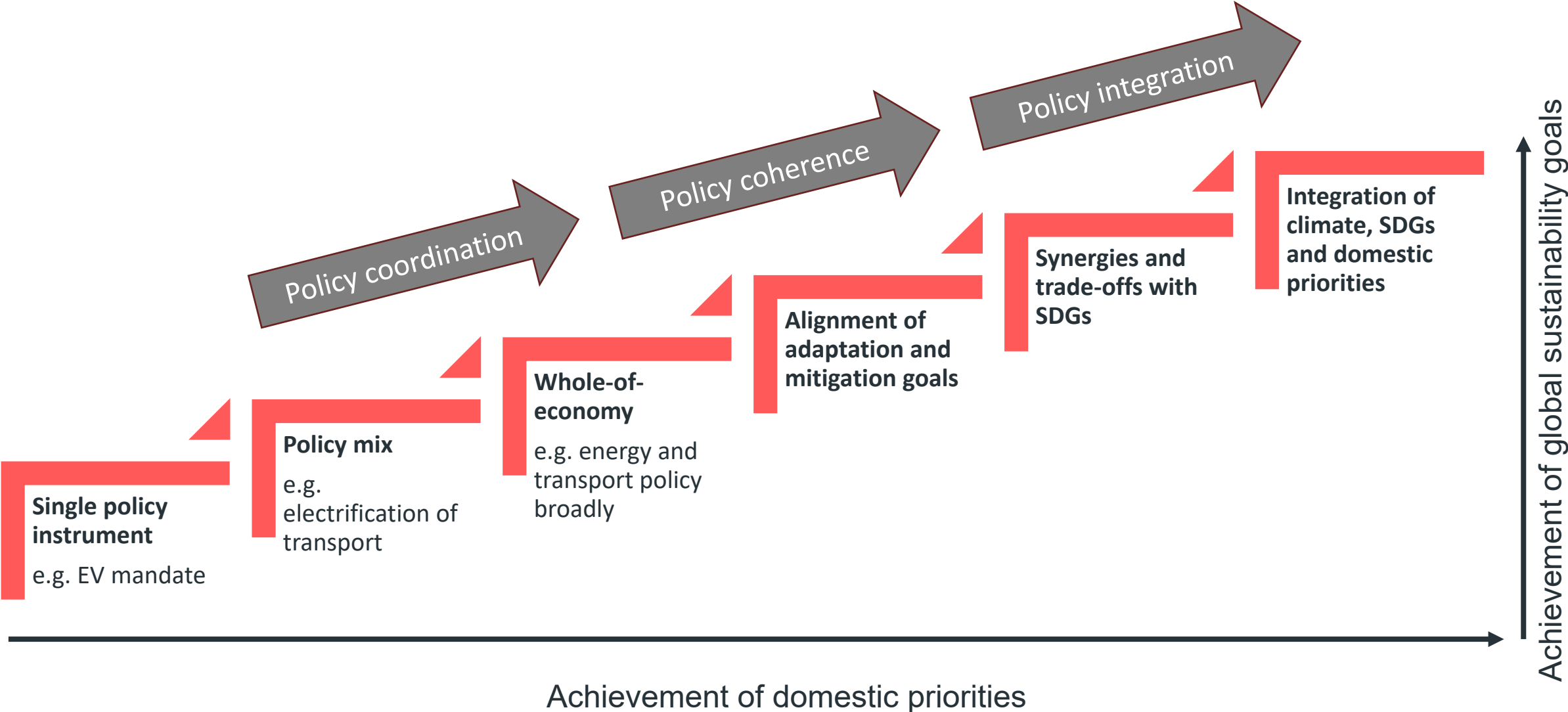
2. National contexts and constraints...

Synergies are often explored at the hypothetical level and rarely based on empirical evaluation of their realisation and outcomes.

While synergies are universal, how they get implemented and what outcomes they lead to will depend on the domestic context and domestic priorities.



3. Universality of policy processes



How can synergies be identified, evaluated and implemented? “Localizing” synergies through integration in domestic priorities.

Coordination

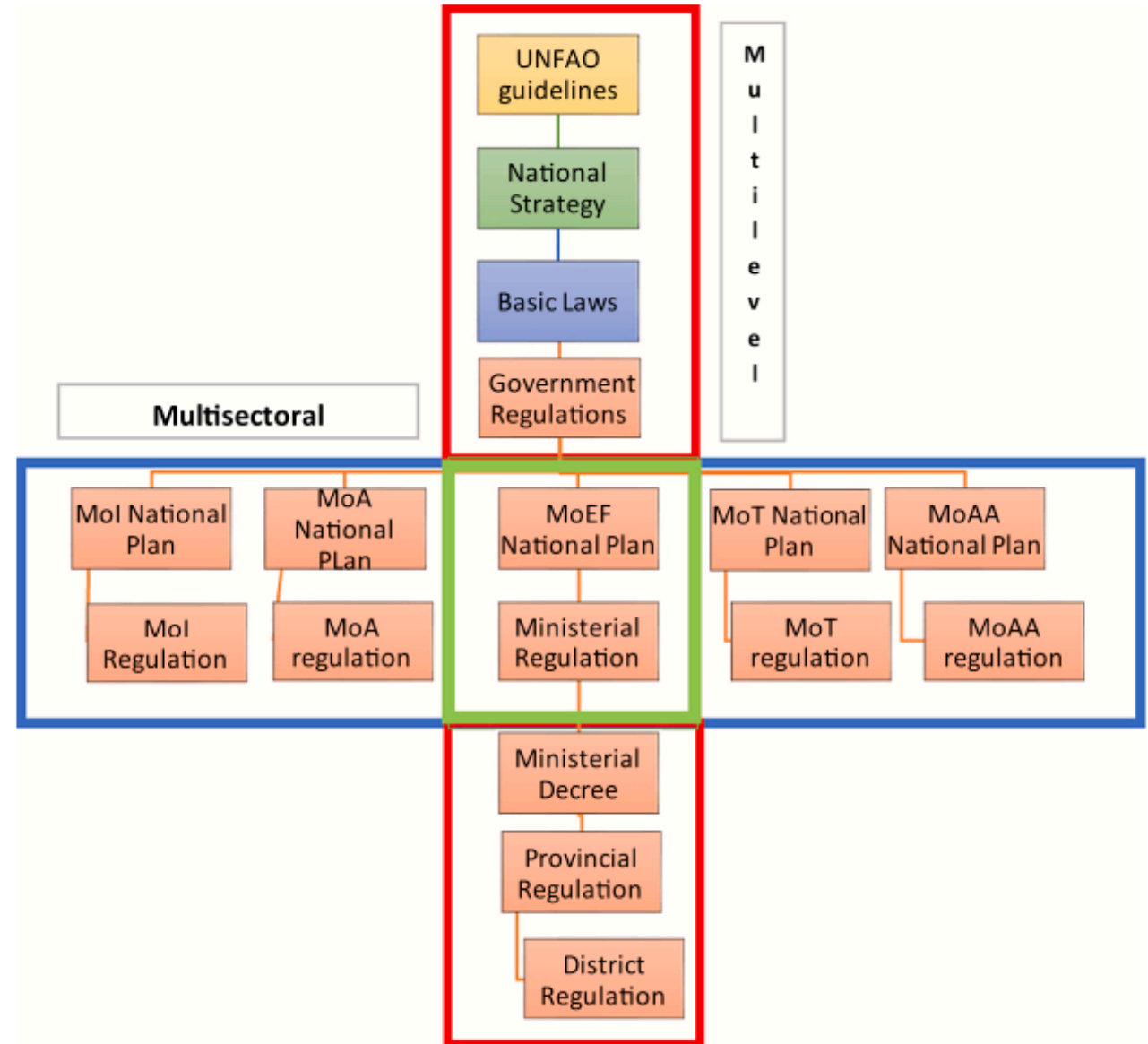
D.A. Sari et al.

Ensuring alignment across multisectoral policy objectives, including vertically

Getting the 'powerful' ministries onboard early

Ensuring meaningful consultation of relevant stakeholders

Assigning roles and responsibilities at different steps of the policy process (e.g. formulation, implementation, evaluation, enforcement)



Coherence and integration

Assess policy interaction between key policy objectives, e.g. with the SDG Synergies tool

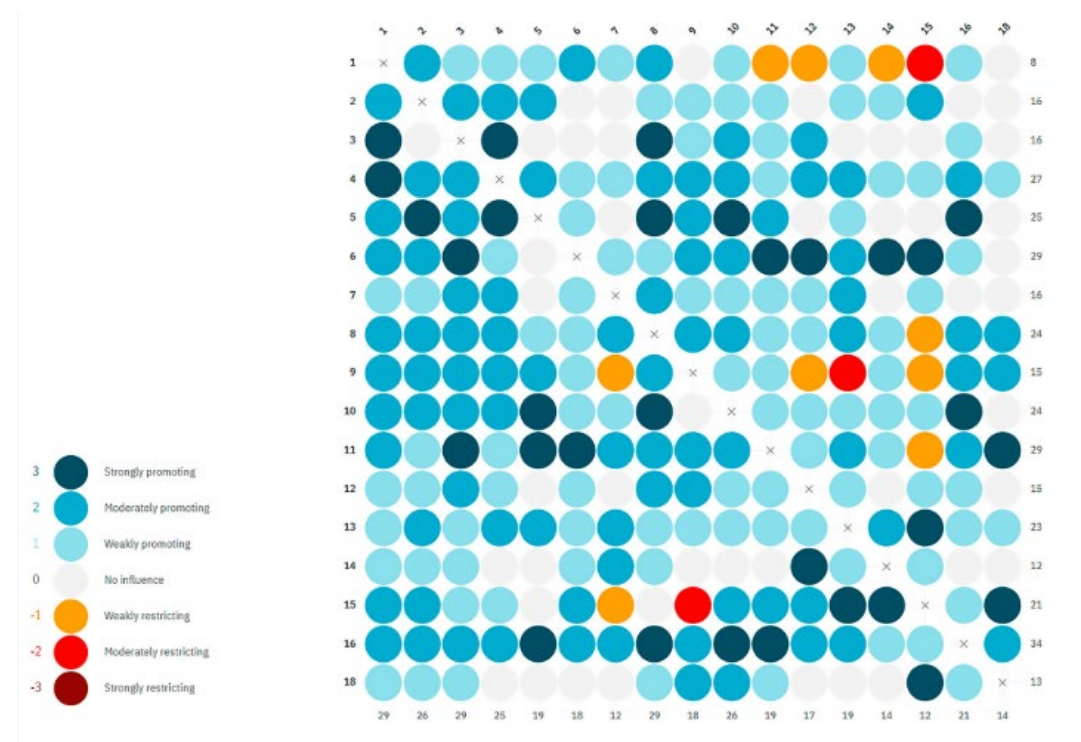
Anticipate expected outcomes and feedback loops; prepare for unexpected outcomes and

Use the interaction assessment to:

- Prioritise the goals objectives
- Align objectives with appropriate policy instruments
- Assign budgeting for enforcement
- Mechanisms for outcome monitoring and evaluation, e.g. through audit



SDG Synergies tool



<https://www.sdg synergies.org/>



SDG Synergies tool

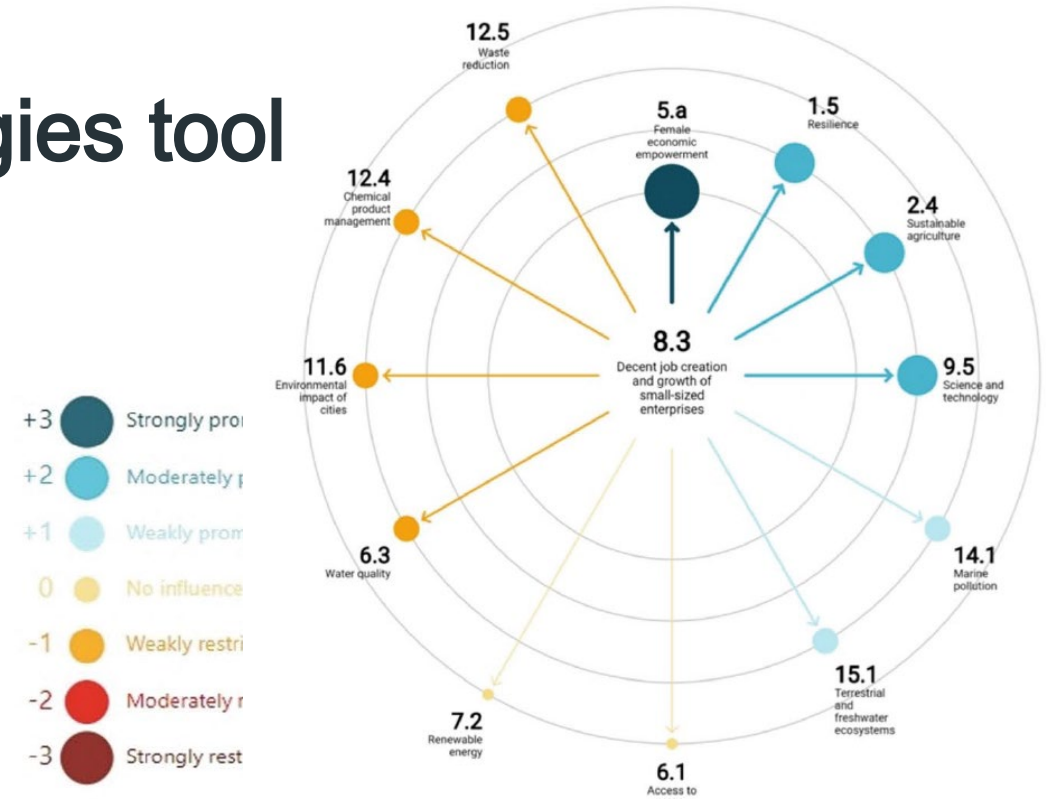
Record, visualize and analyze how multiple policy objectives interact

Flexible, stakeholder-driven deliberative exercise for scoring interactions between policy goals and objectives.

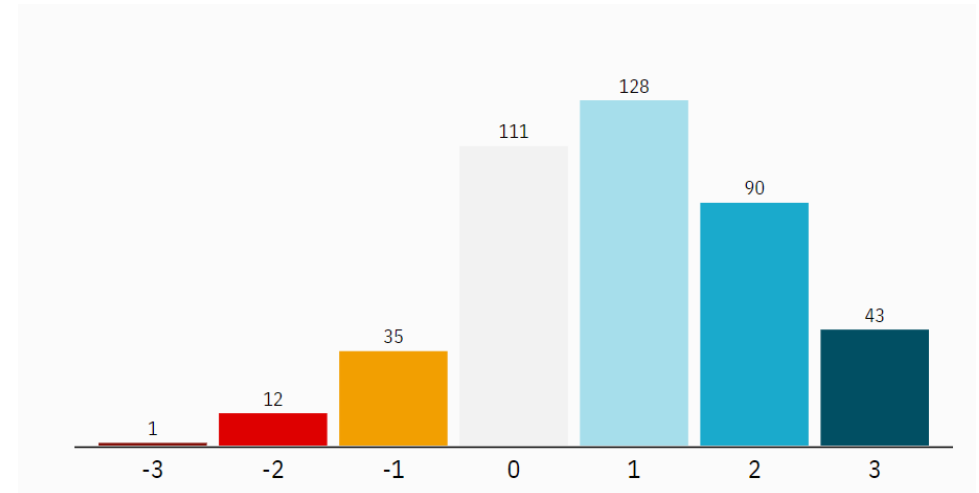
Reveals how progress on one objective might affect progress on the other, and viceversa.

Can inform decisions about how to prioritize or sequence the implementation of different objectives.

Finds the most synergetic and most conflicting objectives and allow for anticipation and preparation of adverse outcomes from implementation.



<https://www.sdg synergies.org/>



If ensuring synergies is so rational and straightforward, why isn't it happening?

Interactions

Goal conflicts

Synergies

Co-benefits

Ancillary benefits

Trade-offs

Spill-overs

Externalities

Policy coherence

Policy coordination

Policy integration

Mainstreaming

Policy alignment

Joined-up government

Whole-of-government

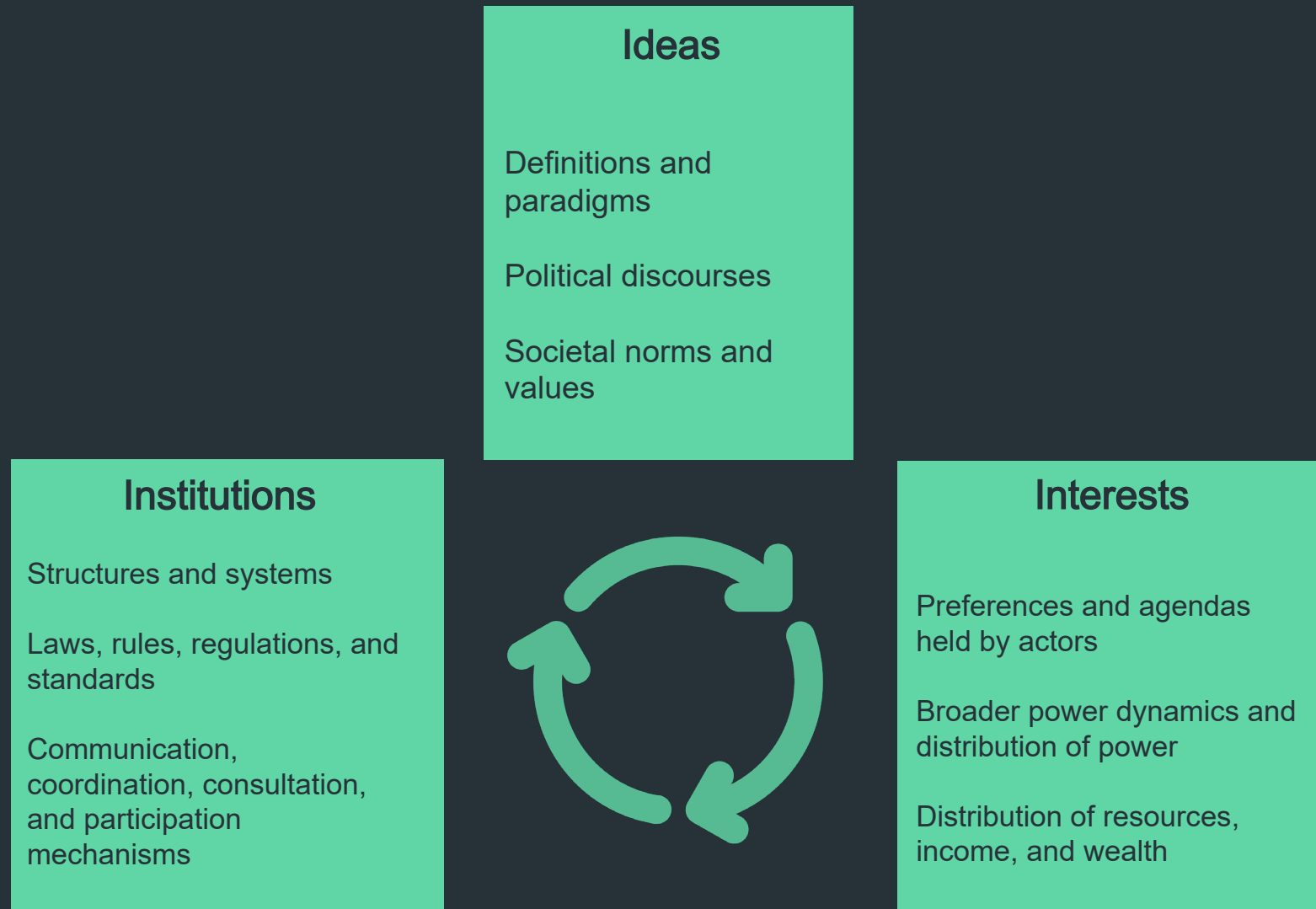


PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

Most countries do have policies that are designed to be coherent, but incoherence arises in their implementation.



Institutional and political drivers



Causes of (in)coherence in Australia



Ideas

- Ideological differences on climate change
- Lack of political leadership at federal level
- Conflicting views on the complementarity between climate mitigation and inequality
- Neoliberalism ideology dominating the energy market
- + - Discourses of urgency

Institutions

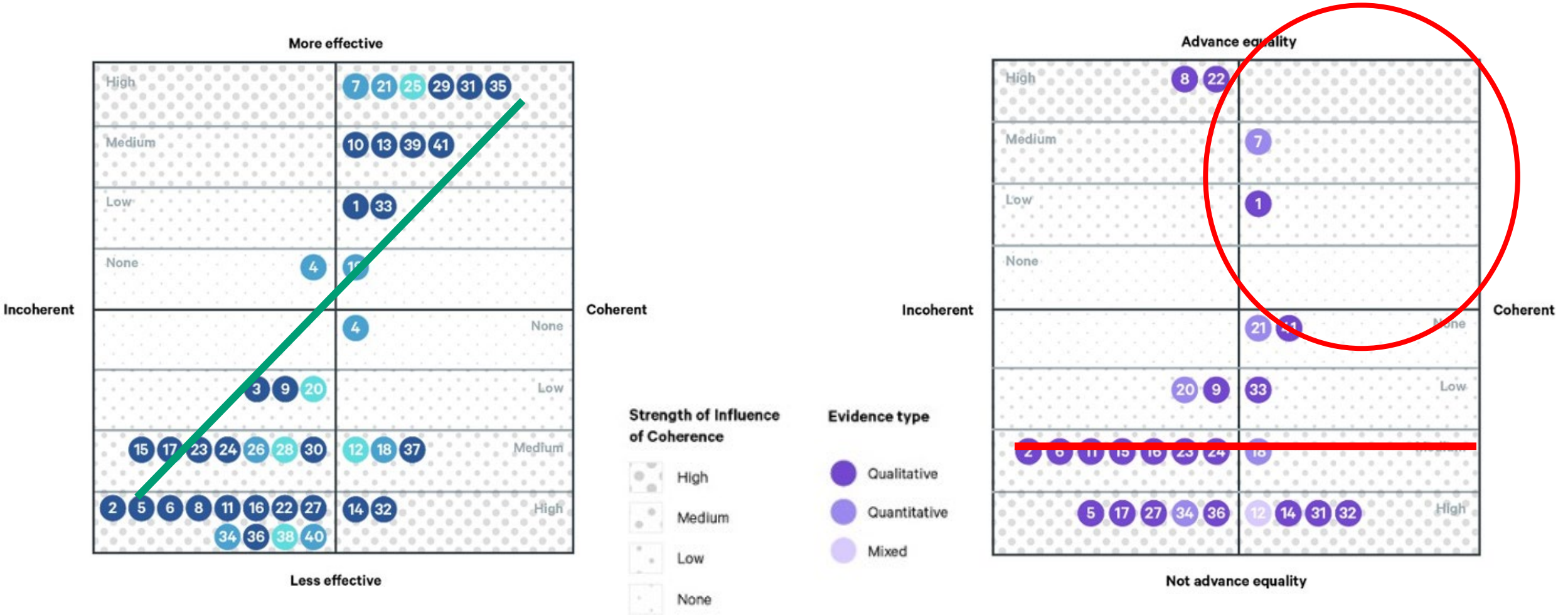
- Institutional frameworks not conducive to govern with the necessary speed that the transition requires
- Differences in priorities and capacity, and institutional silos, between state and federal level
- Institutional complexity with procurement processes



Interests

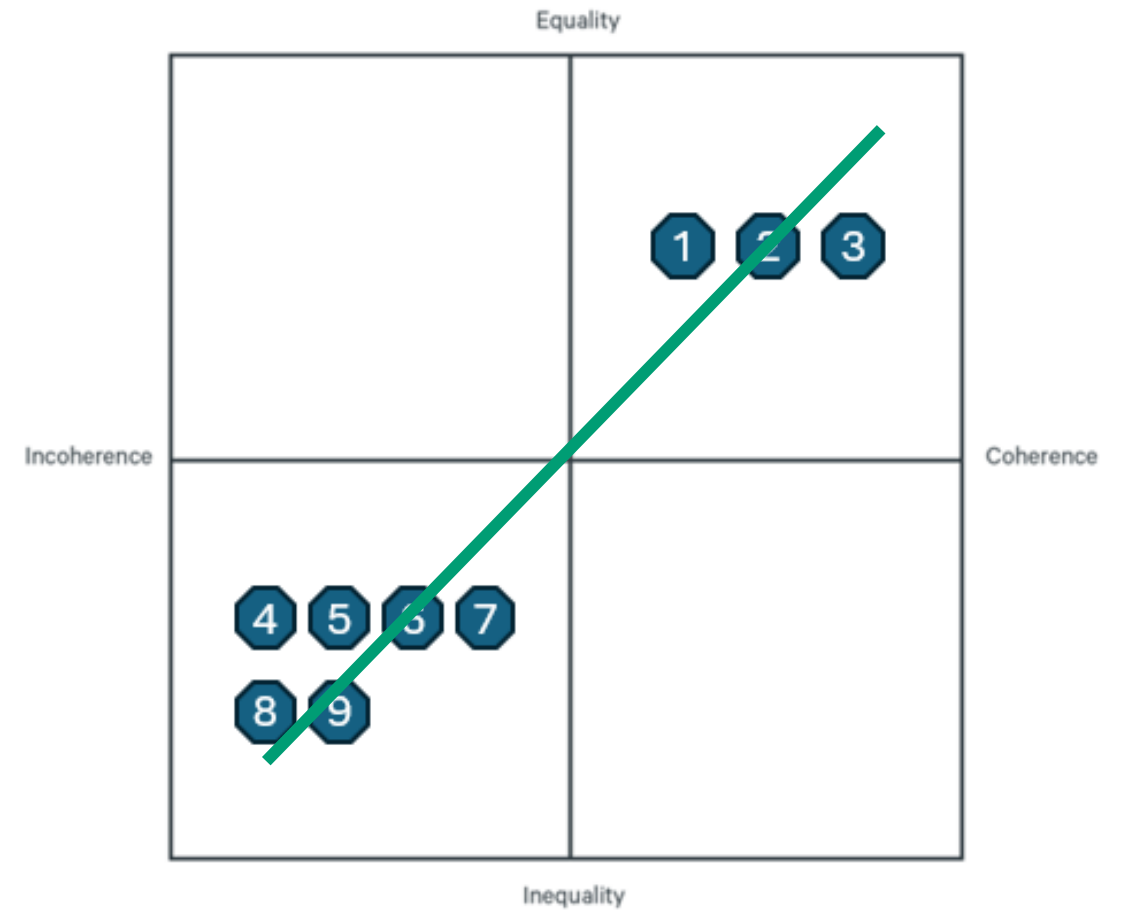
- Opposition from vested fossil fuel interests
- Competing claims within rural and indigenous communities
- + Lower costs → positive community framing of the energy transition

Consequences of policy (in)coherence



Consequences of policy (in)coherence in AU

Coherence		
Coordination in community engagement (guidelines)		
1	increased income	Indigenous Peoples
2	Enhanced participation	rural communities
Maximizing synergy between renewable energy and jobs		
3	employment opportunities	rural communities/ Indigenous Peoples
Incoherence		
Lack of vertical/horizontal coordination in REZ planning		
4	conflict	rural communities/women
5	housing/social service shortages	rural low-income communities
Lack of systematic outreach in benefit sharing		
6	Exclusion	rural communities
7	Engagement fatigue	rural communities/ Indigenous Peoples
8	Discrimination	Indigenous Peoples
Failure to mitigate trade-offs between renewable energy and tourism		
9	Lack of employment	rural communities



Australia

Mechanisms of (In)coherence

Consequences

Groups

Coherence

Institutional arrangements to coordinate REZ implementation: mechanisms to safeguard consumer interests and create employment and promote local industry

Benefit-sharing for local communities: REZ developers pay annual fees for employment and community activities (AU\$5)

Increased Income: community-benefit sharing, employment, economic activity

Increased Access to Resources: energy access

Enhanced Participation: community engagement programs

Women

Benefits

Incoherence

Poor Coordination in REZ implementation: lack of information-sharing, statutory planning, and co-investment

Lack of systematic outreach to communities

Failure to maximize synergy: few opportunities for community-owned renewable energy and/or local distribution networks

Failure to maximize synergy: limited local employment

Failure to minimize trade-off: construction does not account for local housing stock and social services

Lack of Access to Resources: community-level energy access, housing, social services

Lack of Access to Income: employment, labor market distortions

Lack of Participation

Conflict

Engagement Fatigue

Rural communities

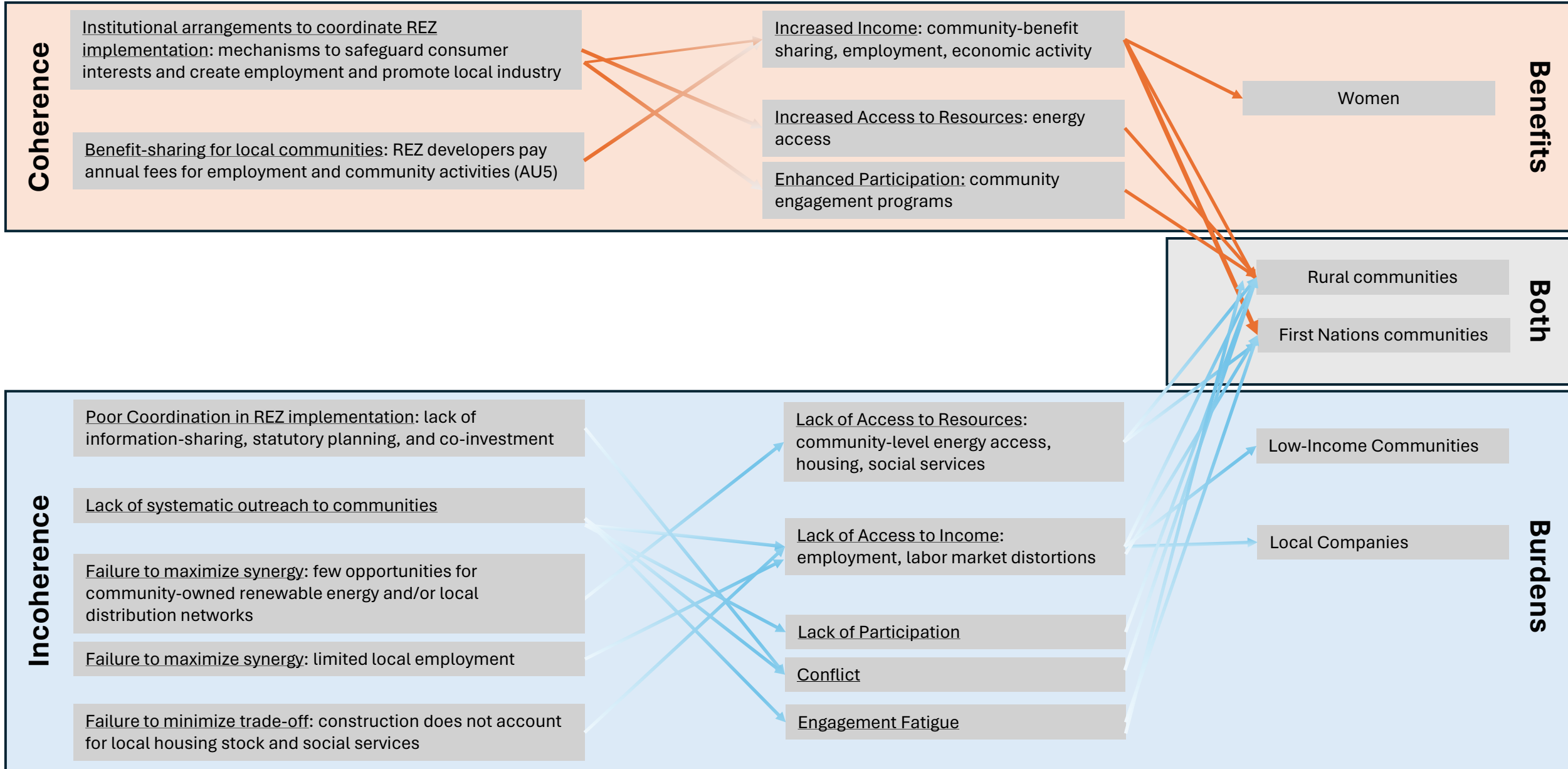
First Nations communities

Both

Low-Income Communities

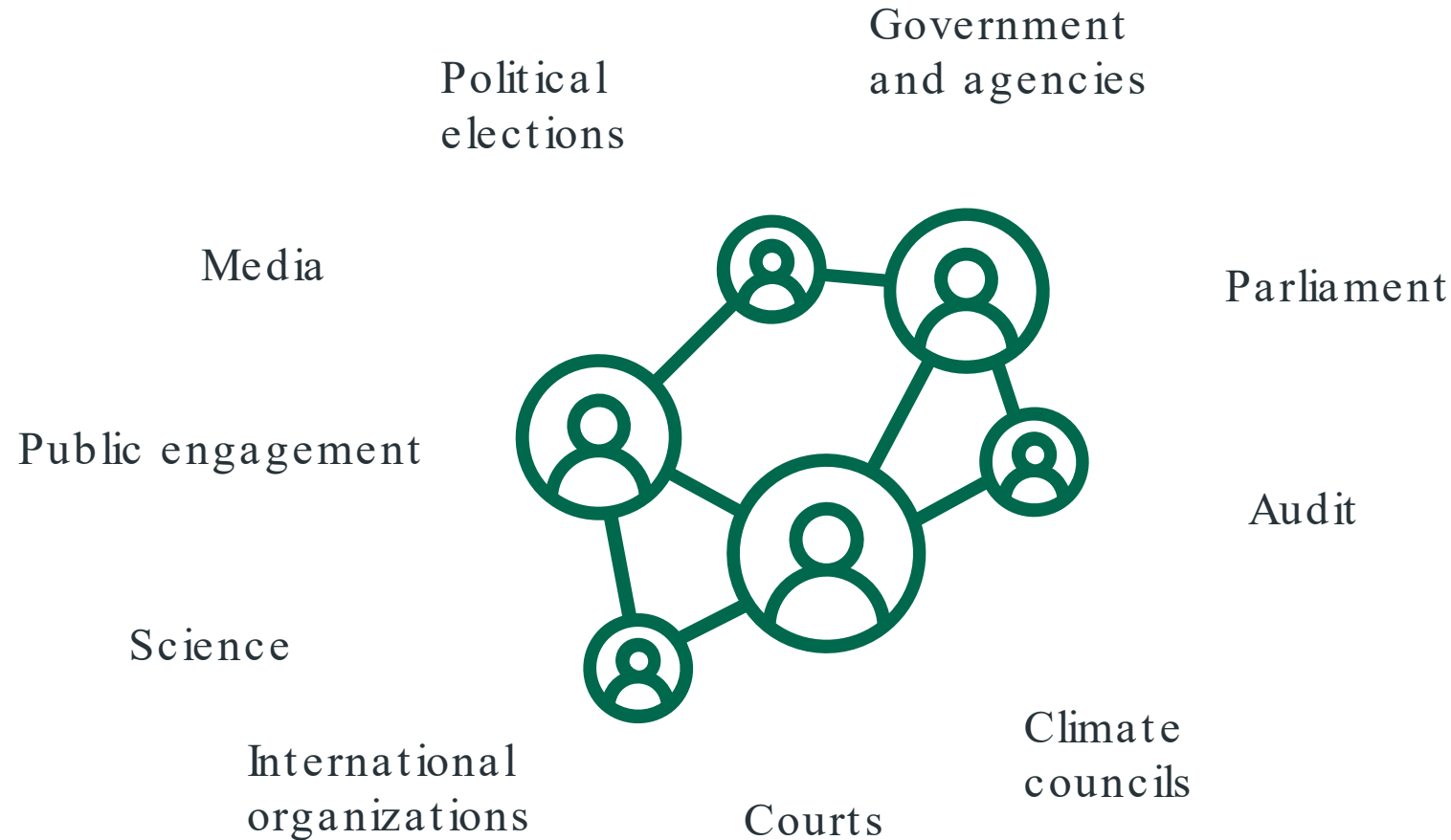
Local Companies

Burdens



How can 3rd gen. NDCs be developed to achieve successful synergistic outcomes and avoid or alleviate adverse consequences?

Strengthening the institutional environment

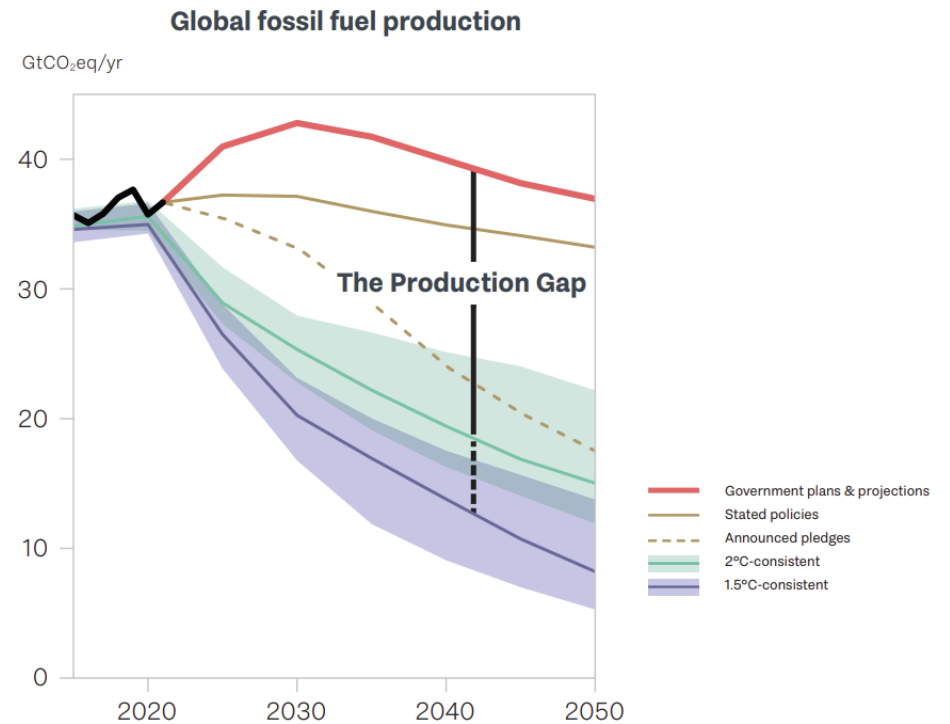


- Finding complementary roles and strengths
- Breaking down institutional silos
- Find champions
- Ensure meaningful participation along the whole process
- Alignment is only a start

Identify incoherent policies and silos

Barriers to coherent implementation of policies are not only institutional or technical, but **also political**.

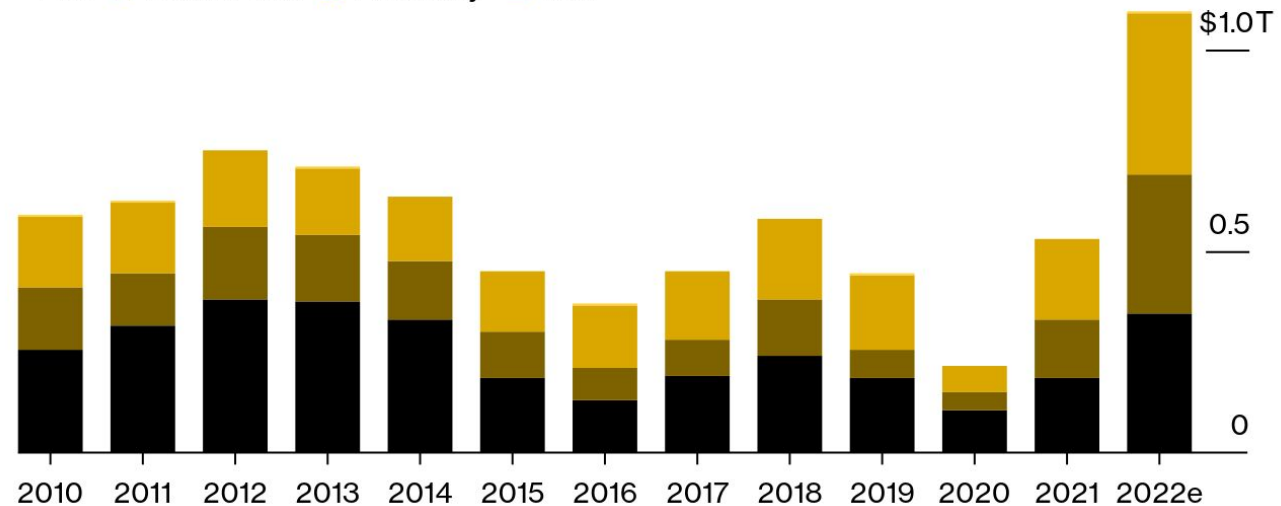
- Engage early with vested interests of actors who stand to lose out, such as the fossil fuel industry
- Distribution of power between key actors and ministries
- Embrace complexity and messiness of the policy process as some incoherence and trade-offs will always be present.



Fossil Fuel Subsidies Topped \$1 Trillion in 2022

■ Oil ■ Natural Gas ■ Electricity ■ Coal

Production Gap Report – SEI et al. (2023)



Source: International Energy Agency

Talk about trade -offs to navigate political constraints

- Not considering the negative consequences of climate and sustainable development policies risks distracting from difficult political conversations about which groups bear the burden of societal progress.
- Policy implementation that doesn't pay attention to pre-existing inequalities can lead governments to prioritize certain groups over others.
- Need for developing shared visions of the future.



Coal expansion vs phase-out in Germany



Ensuring energy access vs expanding renewable energy in Kenya

Thank you!

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Share examples and experiences

There is a plethora of tools, guidelines and checklists for identifying synergies...

... But not enough examples of how they were applied in a domestic context.

A gathering of actionable examples could help other countries with similar circumstances to improve their climate and SDG integration in domestic policy.