The Agenda 2030 – claims, challenges and imperatives

Georg Gratzer

Institute of Forest Ecology
Centre for Development Research
BOKU University
Wien, Österreich

The world in 2030

… is free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, it is a world where all life can thrive.

… is free of fear and violence.

… provides universal literacy and equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured.

(Introduction of the UN Resolution: „Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

The world in 2030

… has universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination;

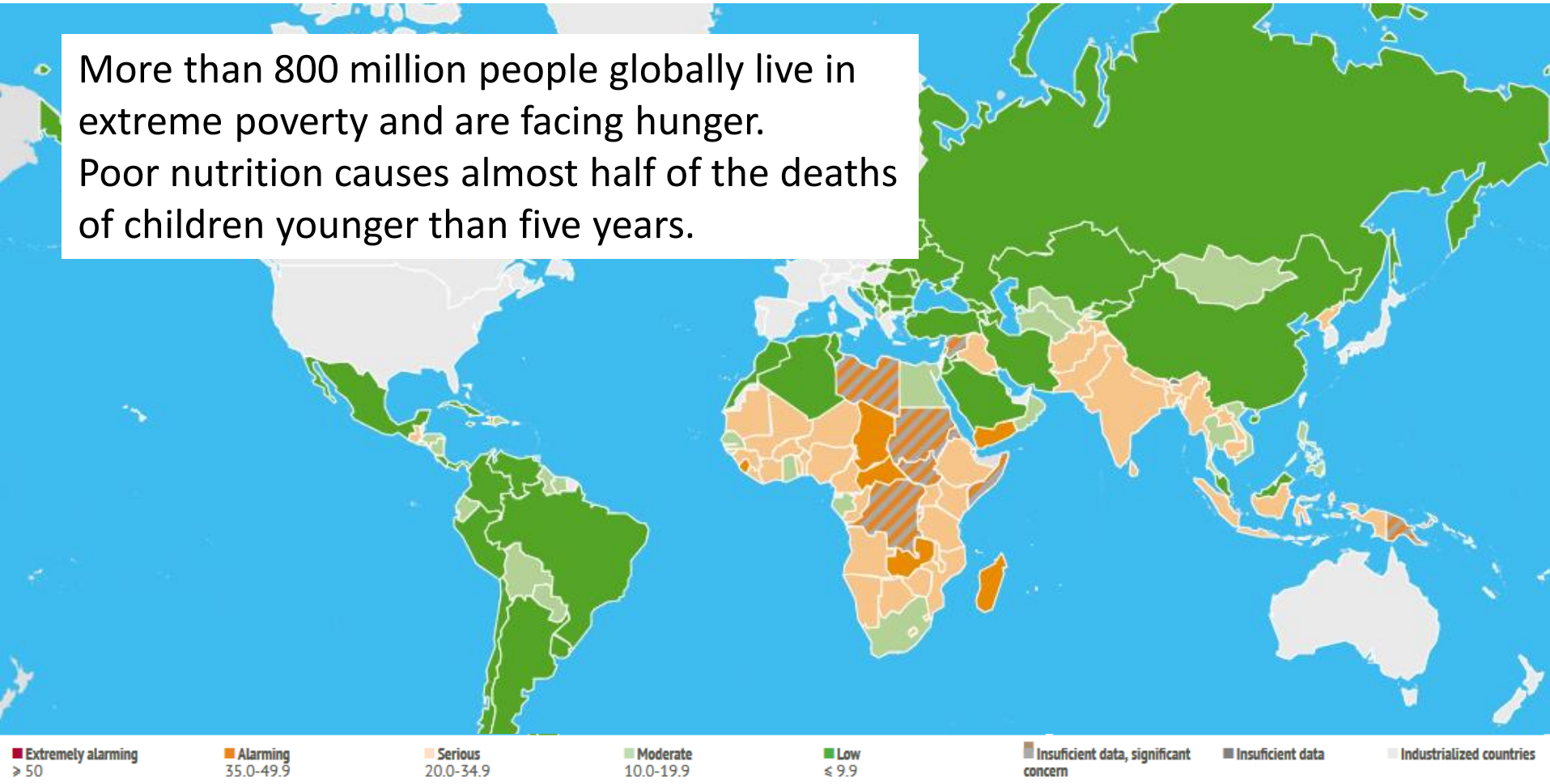… has consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas – that are sustainable.

… provides equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity

(Introduction of the UN Resolution: „Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

The world in 2017

More than 800 million people globally live in extreme poverty and are facing hunger.
Poor nutrition causes almost half of the deaths of children younger than five years.

|							
■ **Extremely alarming** ≥ 50	■ **Alarming** 35.0-49.9	■ **Serious** 20.0-34.9	■ **Moderate** 10.0-19.9	■ **Low** ≤ 9.9	■ **Insuficient data, significant concern**	■ **Insuficient data**	■ **Industrialized countries**

IFPRI 2017

The world in 2017

Over half of the world's arable land is degraded, thus weakening livelihoods for 1.5 billion people globally (UN General Assembly 2011).
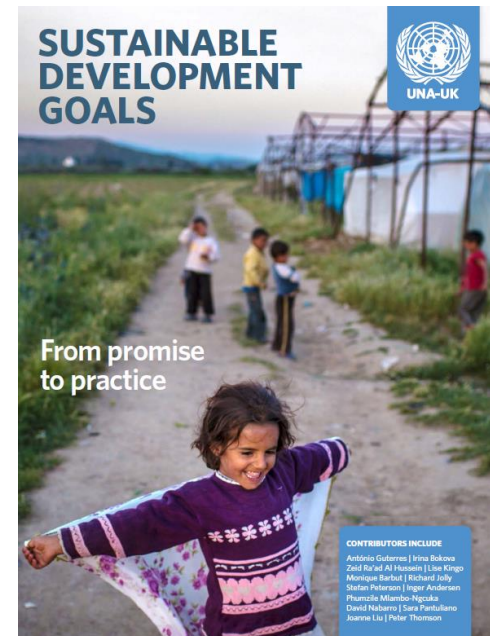
The world in 2017

Climate change affects livelihoods all over the world and puts severe threats to survival in many areas.
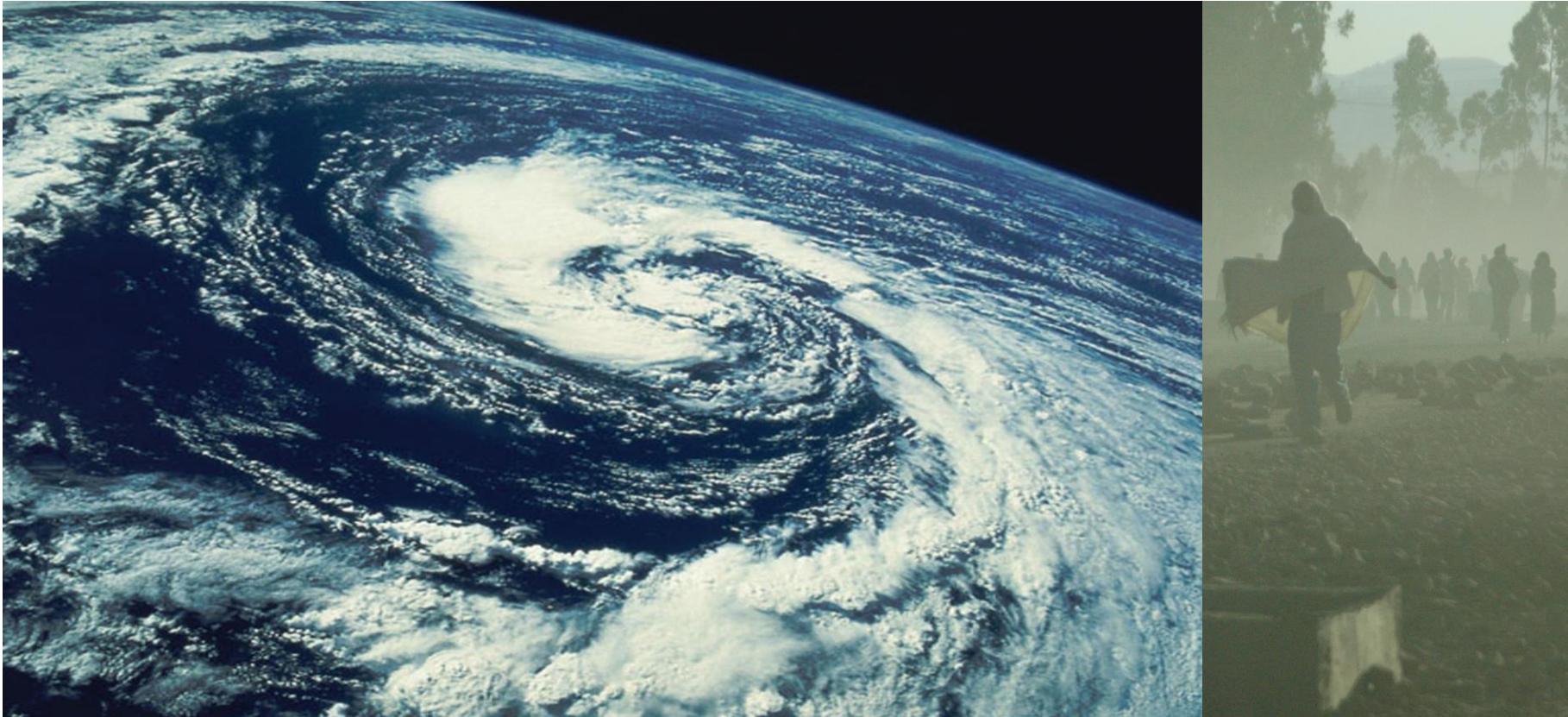
The world in 2017

Income inequality increases and causes losses of social coherence - conflicts and multiple crisis of democracy and governance.
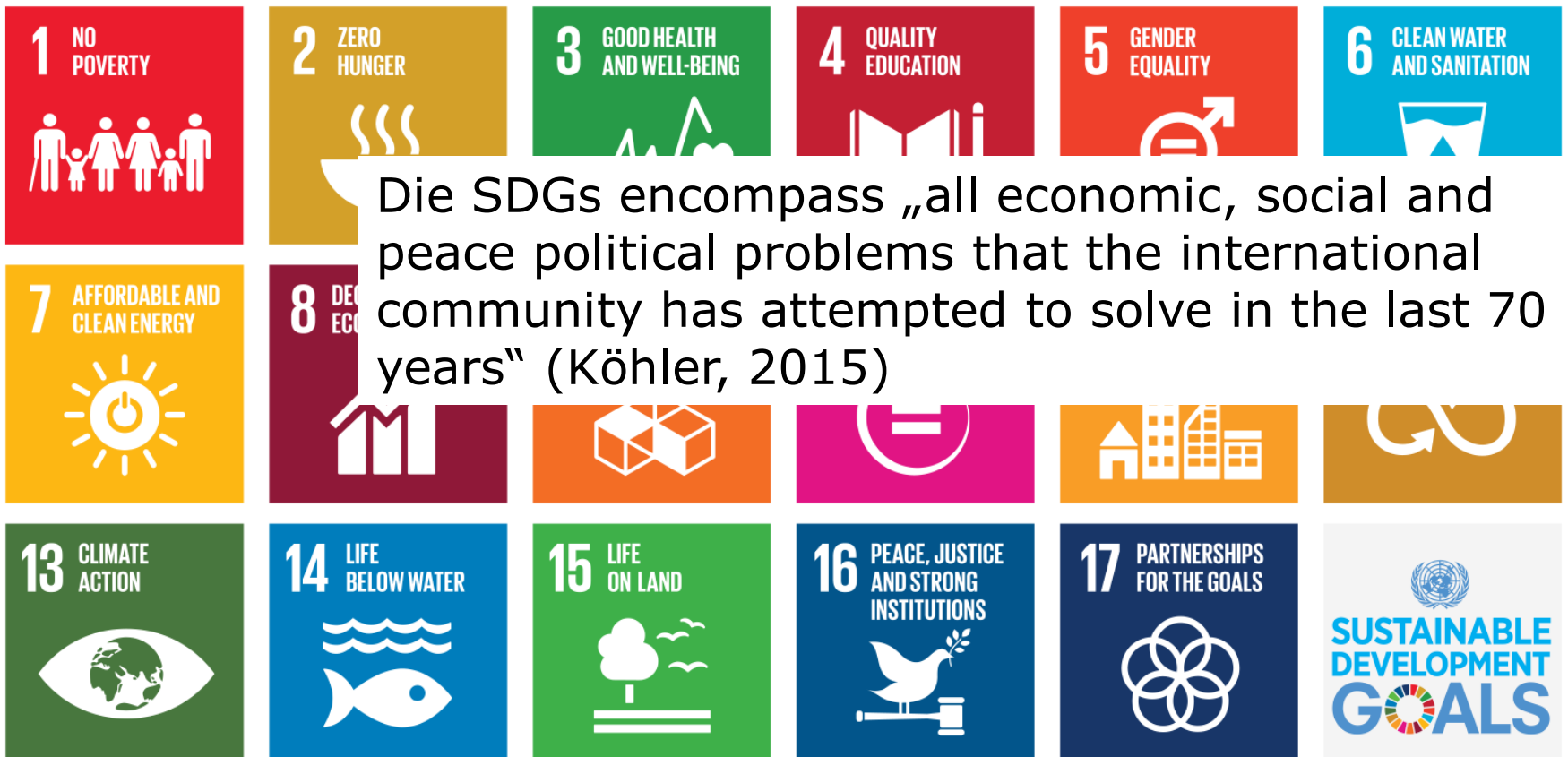
"…increasingly, informal work and modern slavery are aspects of harvesting and production processes. This is inequality by design. People know it and resent it" (Burrow and Evans 2017).

Between now and 2030

Die SDGs encompass „all economic, social and peace political problems that the international community has attempted to solve in the last 70 years" (Köhler, 2015)

The genesis of the Agenda 2030

Direct successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

builds on

The genesis of the Agenda 2030

"The MDGs have been the greatest anti-poverty push in history. New partnerships have been established. New actors have engaged. And now we must finish the job...". (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 2014).

The genesis of the Agenda 2030

The Power of Numbers: A Critical Review of Millennium Development Goal Targets for Human Development and Human Rights

SAKIKO FUKUDA-PARR*, ALICIA ELY YAMIN** & JOSHUA GREENSTEIN***
*Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School, New York, USA
**Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA
***Department of Economics, The New School for Social Research, New York, USA

MDGs: simplicity, measurability and concreteness – strengths or sources of distortion?

"…the MDGs appeared to take back poverty analyses of the 1990s that concluded the source of persistent poverty was not just economic variables but could be traced to the poor lacking political power"

.. The MDGs presented a simplistic vision of meeting basic needs for all without recognising the root causes of poverty… "(Fukuda-Parr 2017)

Agenda 2030

People
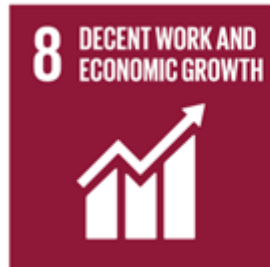
Planet

Prosperity

Peace

Partnership

Riahi 2017, IIASA

Agenda 2030

The SDGs are

...valid for all countries "a universal agenda" – paradigm shift
... a **transformative** agenda

The SDGs don't

analyse the root causes of global inequality, poverty, environmental destruction and their underlying power relations;

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

The SDGs are

Encompassing and indivisible

The complexity challenge

Intertwined and cross cutting

The silo challenge

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

Too many goals, too complex, incoherent?

GOALS SCORING
The influence of one Sustainable Development Goal or target on another can be summarized with this simple scale.

Interaction	Name	Explanation	Example
+3	Indivisible	Inextricably linked to the achievement of another goal.	Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is indivisible from ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.
+2	Reinforcing	Aids the achievement of another goal.	Providing access to electricity reinforces water-pumping and irrigation systems. Strengthening the capacity to adapt to climate-related hazards reduces losses caused by disasters.
+1	Enabling	Creates conditions that further another goal.	Providing electricity access in rural homes enables education, because it makes it possible to do homework at night with electric lighting.
0	Consistent	No significant positive or negative interactions.	Ensuring education for all does not interact significantly with infrastructure development or conservation of ocean ecosystems.
−1	Constraining	Limits options on another goal.	Improved water efficiency can constrain agricultural irrigation. Reducing climate change can constrain the options for energy access.
−2	Counteracting	Clashes with another goal.	Boosting consumption for growth can counteract waste reduction and climate mitigation.
−3	Cancelling	Makes it impossible to reach another goal.	Fully ensuring public transparency and democratic accountability cannot be combined with national-security goals. Full protection of natural reserves excludes public access for recreation.

Nilsson et al. 2016. Nature

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges
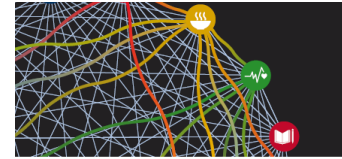
316 target-level interactions

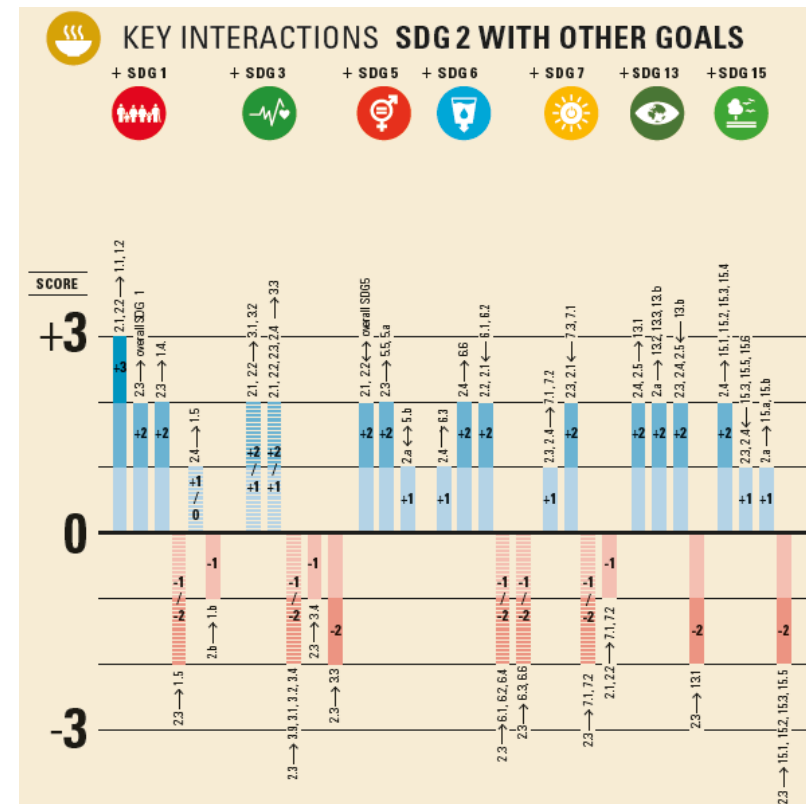   238 positive

      66 negative

      12 neutral

no fundamental incompatibilities between goals

„Potential contraints and conditionalities identified – mainly for interventions to shelter most vulnerable groups and provide equitable access to services…"

KEY INTERACTIONS SDG 2 WITH OTHER GOALS

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

The indivisibility claim

"We reiterate that this Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, are universal, **indivisible and interlinked**" (Agenda 2030, 71 '#31).

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

The indivisibility claim

No trade offs (collateral effects) between:

- actions mitigating climate change and poverty alleviation
- nature conservation and poverty alleviation
- Intensification of agriculture versus nature conservation
- increases in production and resilience against climate change

.....

Synthesis, part of a Special Feature on Beyond Carbon: Ena[...]

REDD+ for the poor or the poor fo[...] environmental policies in the Amaz[...] environmental goals through pro-p[...]

Benno Pokorny[1], Imme Scholz[2] and Wil de Jong[3]
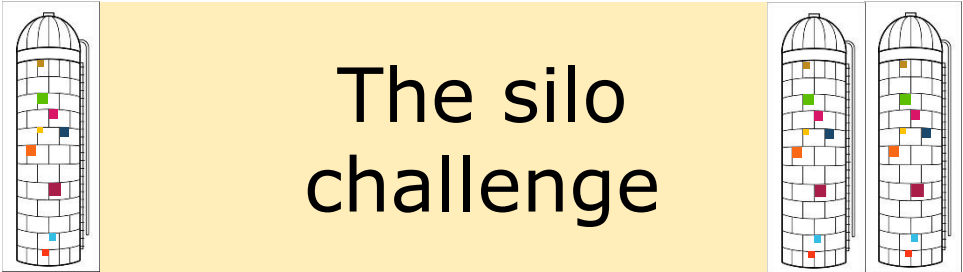
Forgotten Forests? Food Potential of Ancient Coffee Forests and Agroforestry Systems in the Southwestern Ethiopian Mountains, Seen Through a Gender Lens

Sarah Marie Nischalke[1]*, Mulunesh Abebe[2], Beneberu Assefa Wondimagegnhu[2], Simone Kathrin Kriesemer[3], and Tina Beuchelt[1]

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

The SDGs are

Encompassing and indivisible

The complexity challenge

Intertwined and cross cutting

The silo challenge

Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

e.g. Goal 5: Gender equality

Intertwined goals and targets

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, ….

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition… and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education ….

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all …, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people …, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
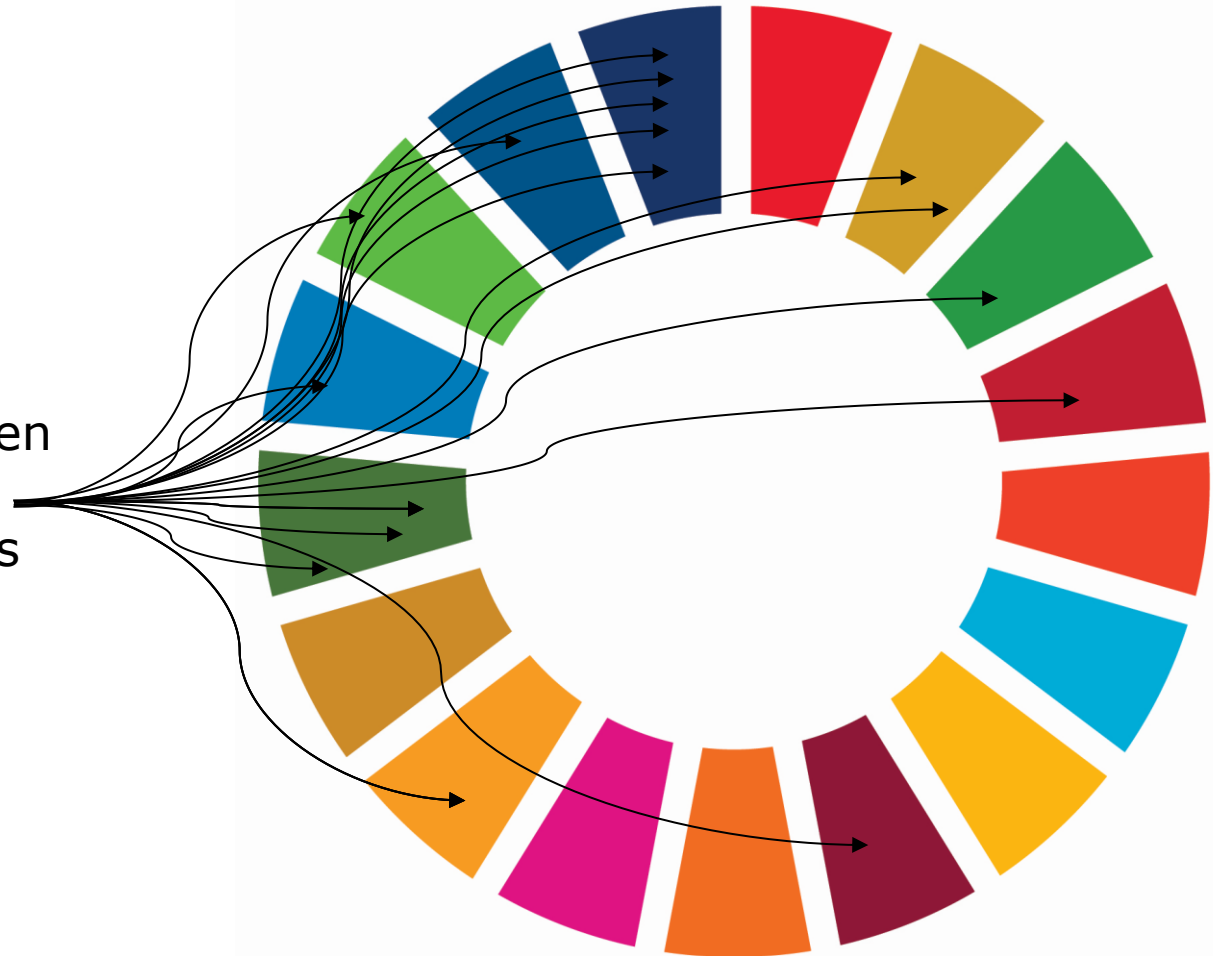
Agenda 2030 – major claims and challenges

Cross cutting goals and targets

2.4, 2.a, 3.d, 4b, 6a, 8.10, 11.3, 12.a, 13.1, 13.3, 13b, 14a, 15c, 16a, 17.1, 17.8, **17.9,** 17.18, 17.19
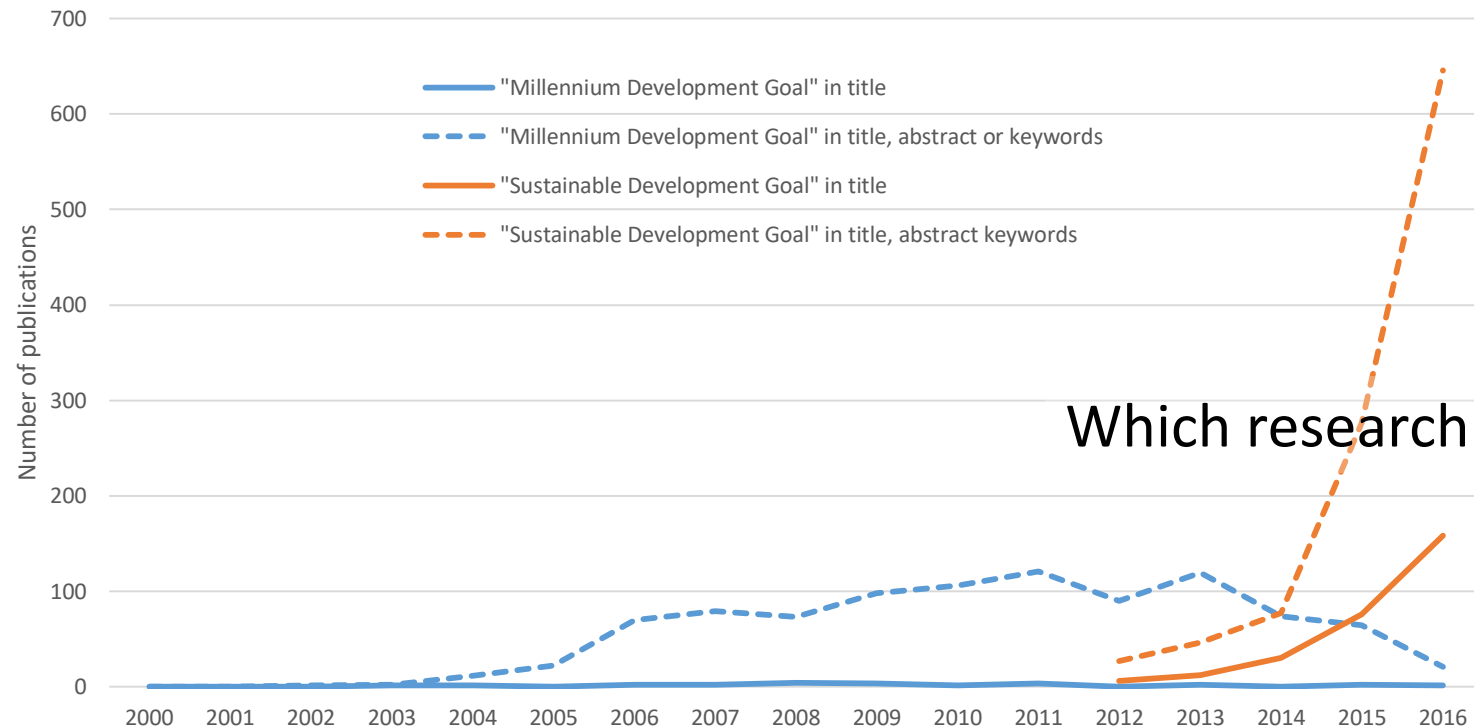
Reception in science

Mountain Research and Development (MRD)
An international, peer-reviewed open access journal
published by the International Mountain Society (IMS)
www.mrd-journal.org

Introductory Essay

**Mountain Forests and Sustainable Development:
The Potential for Achieving the United Nations'
2030 Agenda**

Georg Gratzer[1] and William S. Keeton[2]
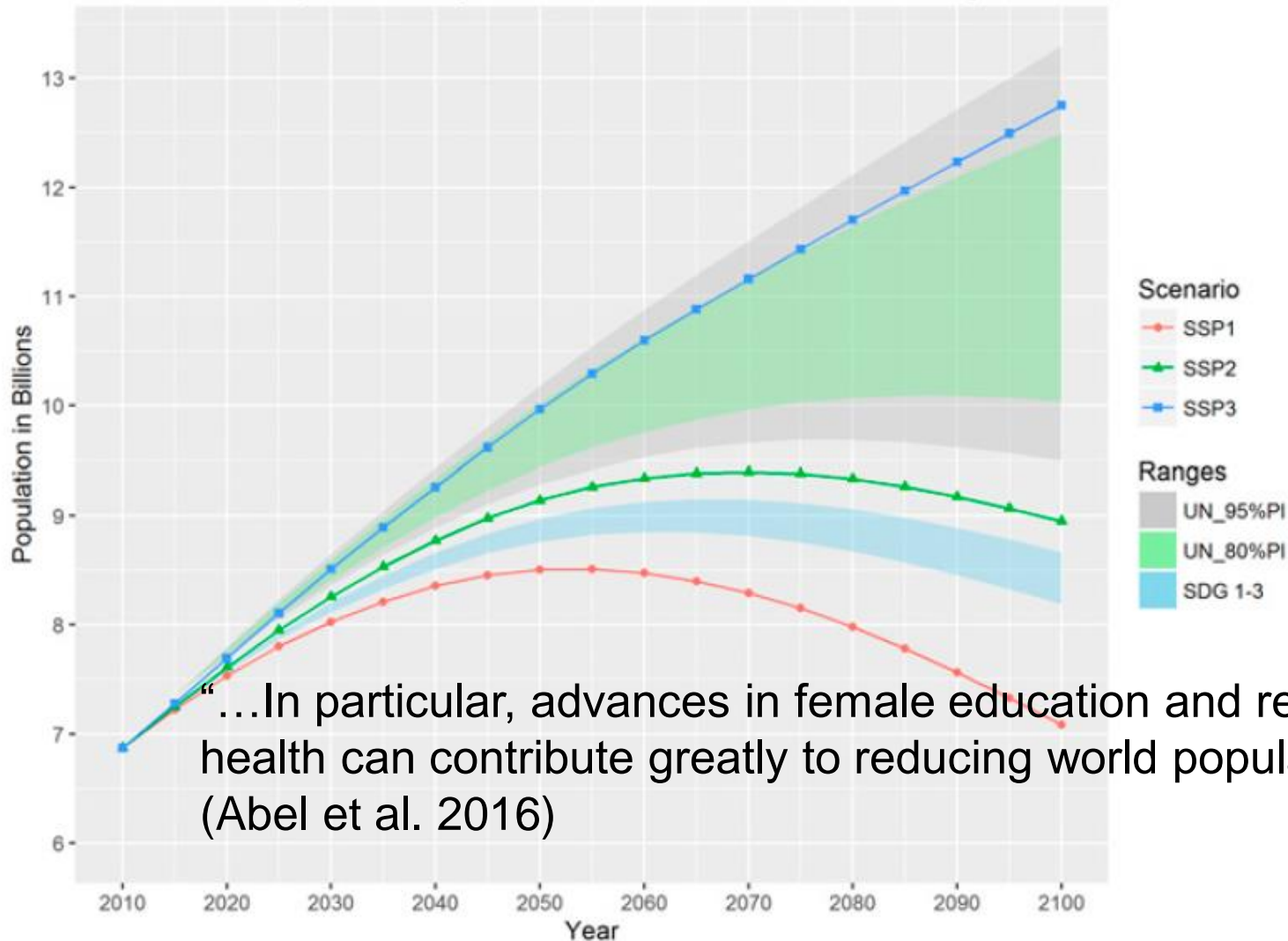* Corresponding author: georg.gratzer@boku.ac.at

Legend:
- "Millennium Development Goal" in title
- "Millennium Development Goal" in title, abstract or keywords
- "Sustainable Development Goal" in title
- "Sustainable Development Goal" in title, abstract keywords

Which research?

Do we trust the SDGs?

World Population Projections - Various Scenarios and Ranges

"…In particular, advances in female education and reproductive health can contribute greatly to reducing world population growth." (Abel et al. 2016)

Do we trust the SDGs?

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S
LAND AND WATER RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Managing systems at risk

"Towards 2050, rising population and incomes are expected to **call for 70 percent more food production globally**, and up to 100 percent more in developing countries, relative to 2009 levels" (FAO 2011).

.... to be based on SDG scenarios
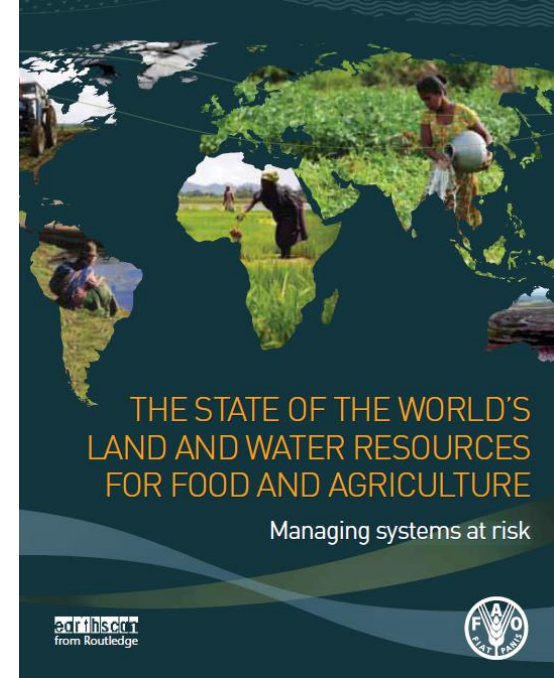
How to transform?

Preconditions for political transformations (WBGU 2011):

- **A positive, mobilising idea – a model of a society after the transformation or a central promise that overcomes fear**
- Ideas, solutions, innovations and projects which move from niches into the centre of society
- Change agents, pioneers of change
- Societal alliances which cross classical political and cultural boundaries
- A state which takes action, formulates guiding principles and goals and is open for political participation

How to transform?

The need for a narrative

Widely shared narratives are of outstanding importance of for the activity orientation of actors (Turowski and Mikfeld 2013)

They
- reduce complexity;
- create orientiation for future action strategies
- are a basis for cooperatation between actors
- foster reliability of expectations

How to transform?

The need for a narrative

The SDGs carry the potential for a new narrative on how to live in global and intergenerational fairness (German Advisory Council on Global Change, 2016).

This calls for „narrating the narrative"

Conclusions

The global challenges call for transformation beyond tokenism

The SDGs are broad enough to address these challenges

Their indivisibility claim has the potential to avoid collateral effects and trade offs

The SDGs have the potential for a new narrativ of living in global and intergenerational fairness

Many thanks for your attention