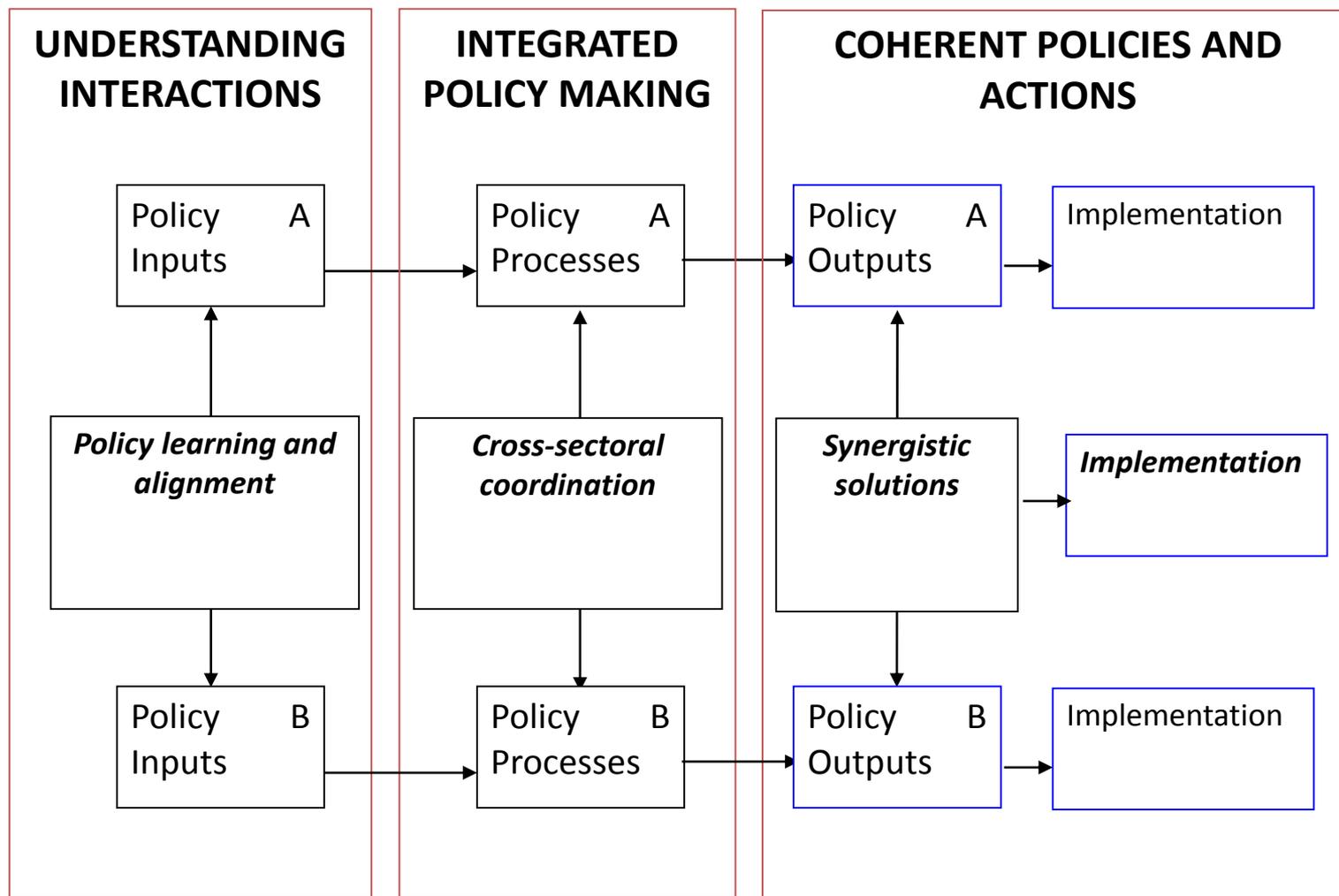


If you want coherent policies, you need to know how the pieces fit together...



Prioritisation

SDG Target	Prio
13.1	1
2.5	2
4.5	3
4.3	4
16.1	5
1.1	6
2.4	7
8.2	8
7.3	9
5.2	10
...	...

The table displays a list of SDG targets and their corresponding priority numbers. A red horizontal line is drawn between target 1.1 and target 2.4. Blue arrows indicate a sequence of targets: 13.1, 2.5, 4.5, 4.3, 16.1, 1.1, 2.4, 8.2, 7.3, 5.2. A dashed blue arrow points to target 4.3.

A focus on on interactions helps you to:

1. Induce effective policy dialogue and learning processes
2. Know your friends and foes – who do you cooperate with?
3. Get more bang for your buck – where you get the most impact and knock-on effects?



Solar lights are used by vendors in rural western India, where lack of electricity has stymied development.

Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals

Måns Nilsson, Dave Griggs and Martin Visbeck present a simple way of rating relationships between the targets to highlight priorities for integrated policy.

Next month in New York, the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development will have its first global progress review. Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the agenda represents a new coherent way of thinking about how issues as diverse as poverty, education and climate change fit together; it entwines economic, social and environmental targets in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an 'indivisible whole'.

Implicit in the SDG logic is that the goals depend on each other — but no one has specified exactly how. International negotiations gloss over tricky trade-offs. Still, balancing interests and priorities is what policymakers do — and the need will surface when the goals are being implemented. If countries ignore the overlaps and simply start trying to tick off targets one by one, they risk perverse outcomes. For example, using coal to improve energy access (goal 7) in Asian

COMMENT

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.

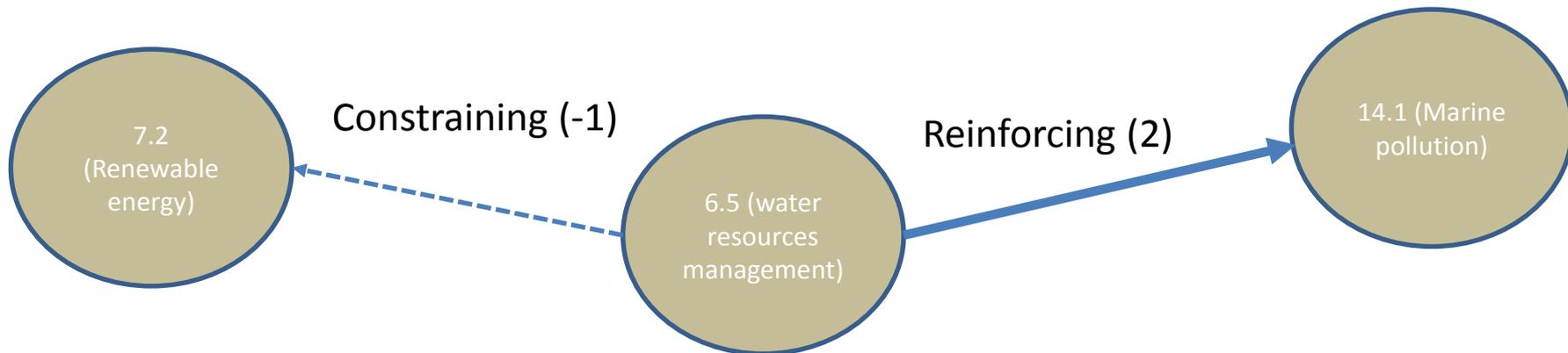
How do you score?

- Expert judgment
- Stakeholder consultation process
- Statistical correlations
- Case study evidence
- Model-based evidence

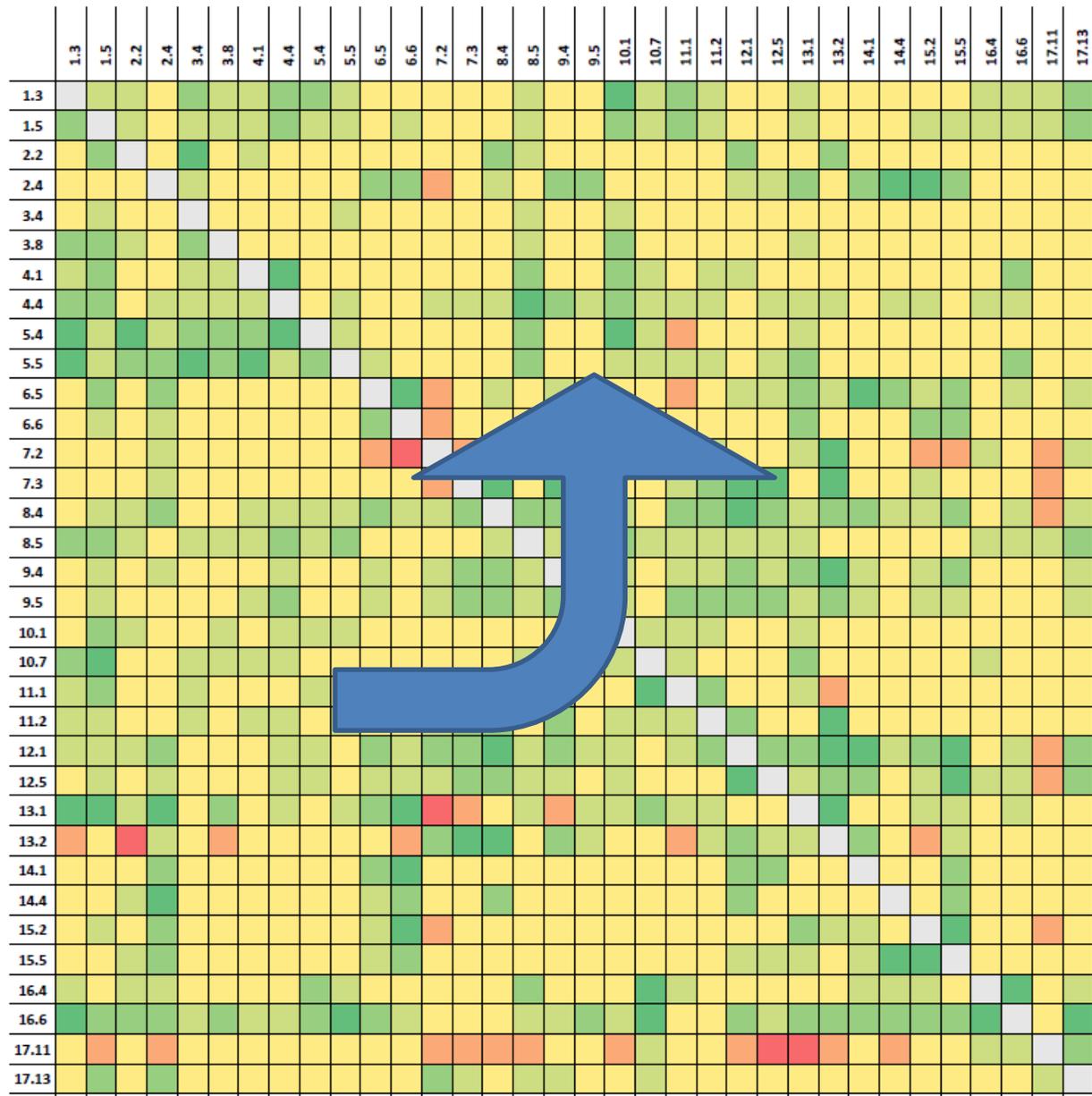
Building the network

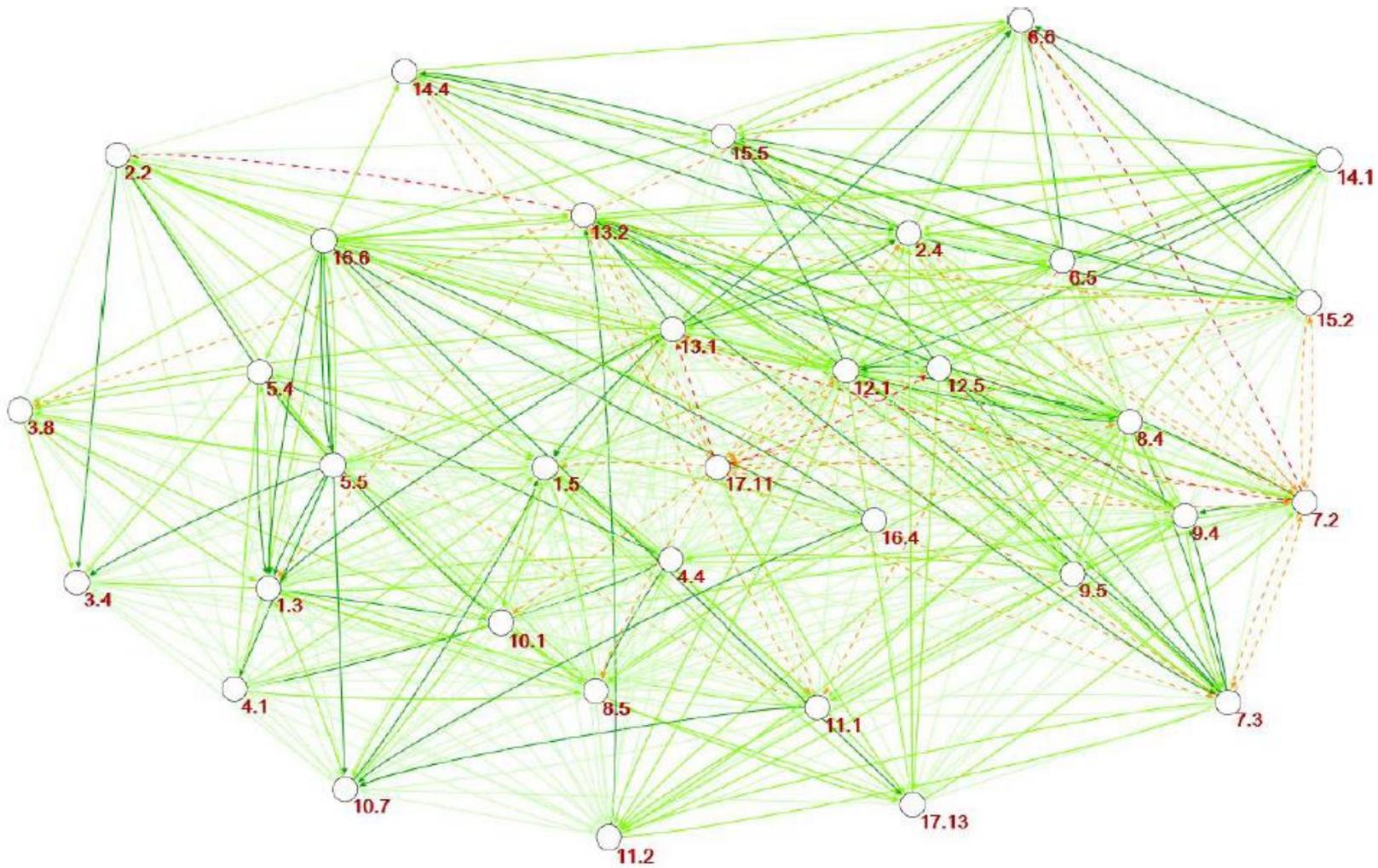
Assessing interactions via progress:

If progress is made on target x, how does this influence progress on target y?



A test case for Sweden





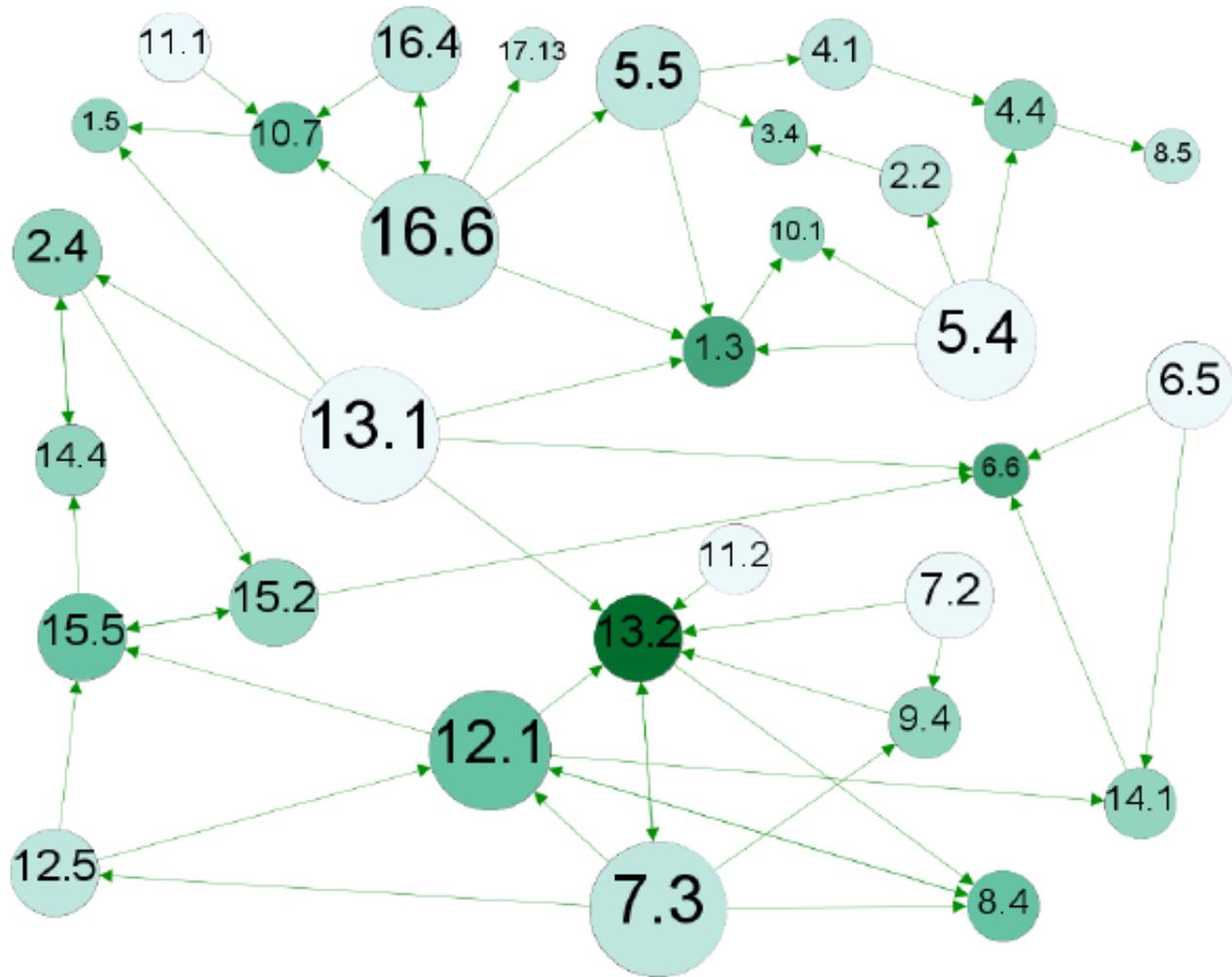


Fig 4: Sub-network of indivisible (+3) interactions. Directed as shown by arrows. The size of the nodes (targets) are proportional to the degree of influence (out-degree) with bigger nodes representing more influential nodes. The color is proportional to the degree of being influenced with darker color for nodes more influenced by other nodes

Cross-impact matrix for Mongolia

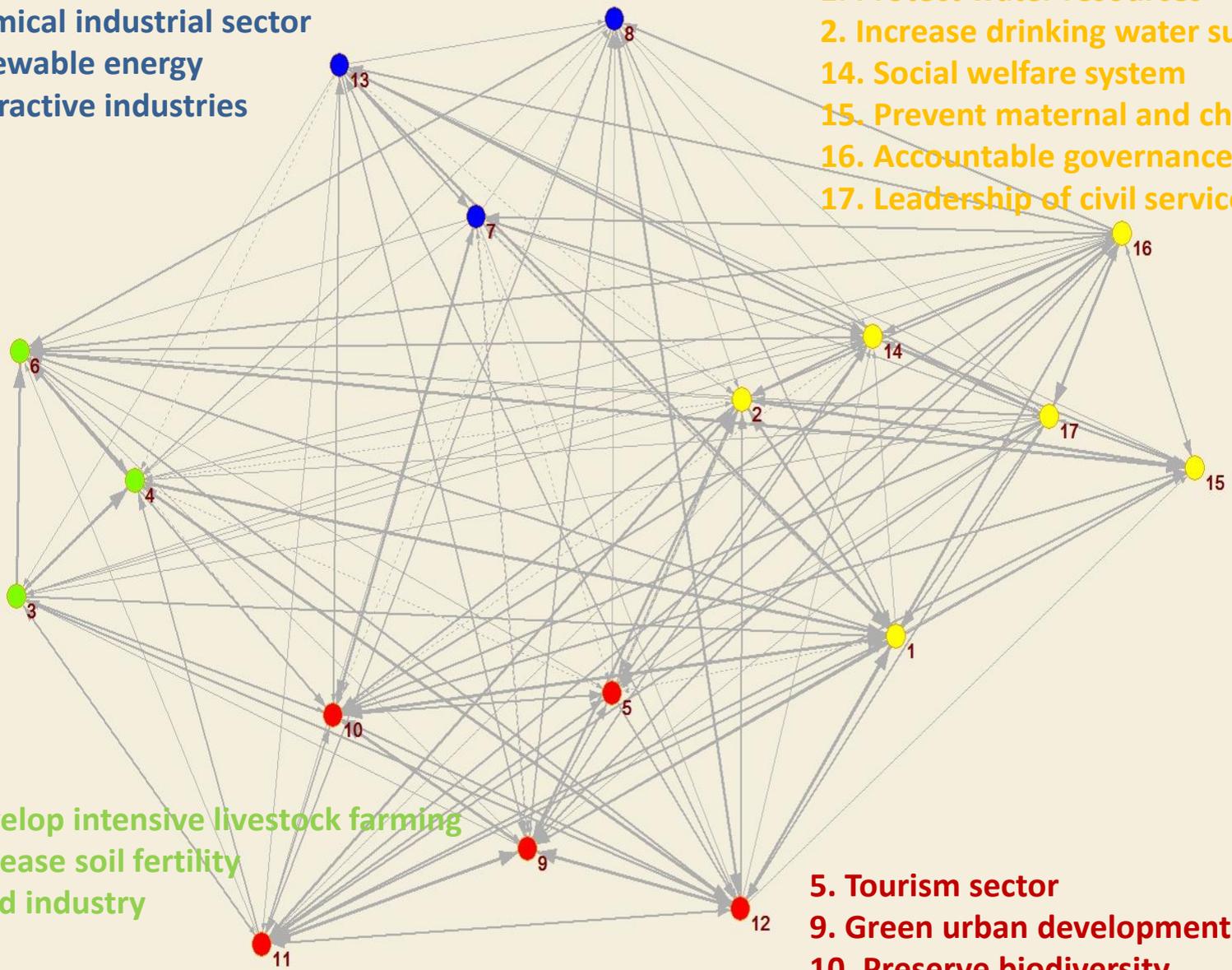
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	1	3	0	1	1	-2	-2	-2	-2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	-1	-1	3	1	0	0	2	-2	2	0	1	2	3	1	1
3	2	1	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	-1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0
4	-3	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	-1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0
5	-1	-1	0	-1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	-2	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
7	-1	1	0	1	-1	1	1	1	2	-3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0
8	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	-1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
9	2	3	1	0	2	1	-1	2	1	3	3	2	0	2	2	0	0
10	3	0	2	0	2	1	-2	0	0	1	2	-2	-1	2	0	0	0
11	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	0
12	3	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0
13	-3	-1	1	-1	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
14	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
16	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
17	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

7. Chemical industrial sector
8. Renewable energy
13. Extractive industries

1. Protect water resources
2. Increase drinking water supply
14. Social welfare system
15. Prevent maternal and child mortality
16. Accountable governance structures
17. Leadership of civil service organizations

3. Develop intensive livestock farming
4. Increase soil fertility
6. Food industry

5. Tourism sector
9. Green urban development
10. Preserve biodiversity
11. Urban planning and waste management
12. Climate change capacity



Potential uses of results

- Priority setting - identify sets of targets that unlock progress in many other targets
- Mitigation needs in areas where critical trade-offs exist;
- Interagency coordination, learning and dialogue
- Decision support for comprehensive 2030 Agenda implementation even with limited data

Challenges

- Difficult to comprehend the scale quickly
- Target selection is politically sensitive
- Scoring is time consuming, at times technically demanding