

Application of SDGs to Air Pollution

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The Atmospheric Pollution, Climate Change Nexus in Asia:
Implications for a New Development Agenda

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Hayama, Japan

Basic Overview of SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

17 Goals and 169 Targets

- Approved by General Assembly in Sept. 2015

Indicators (not agreed yet) (UN Statistical Commission)

- 229 Indicators as of Jan. 2016

Means of Implementation

- Some specific targets under specific goals
- Goal 17 focuses on Means of Implementation

“Global Goals,” Universally Applicable

- Not just for developing countries

Integrated Approach

- Not based on the “3 pillars” concept
- Goals are interrelated, but not systematically

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- To monitor implementation

The Sustainable Development Goals



SDG Text (Targets) and Air Pollution

- Many criticized the SDGs: Too many goals, includes “everything,” no prioritization.
- Still, some important topics fell through the cracks. Unfortunately, air pollution was one of these.

17 Goals

169 Targets

229 Indicators

- Many goals & targets combine several issues.
- Desire to minimize indicators.
- Thus, there might not be an indicator for each issue.

Headline Goals

- There is no headline goal on air pollution.
- There is a headline goal on climate.

Headline Targets

- Air pollution is specifically mentioned under health (SDG 3) and cities (SDG 11).
- Air pollution shares both targets with other issues.
- Therefore, air pollution isn't prominent.
- But in principle, air pollution relates to several others.

SDG Targets Directly & Indirectly Related to Air Pollution

Directly Mentioned

- **3.9 (Health)** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- **11.6 (Cities)** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Indirectly Related

- **6.3 (Water)** 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
- **6.6 (Water)** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- **9.4 (Industry)** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- **11.2 (Cities)** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- **13.2 (Climate)** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- **15.1 (Land)** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

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SDG Indicators Related to Air Pollution

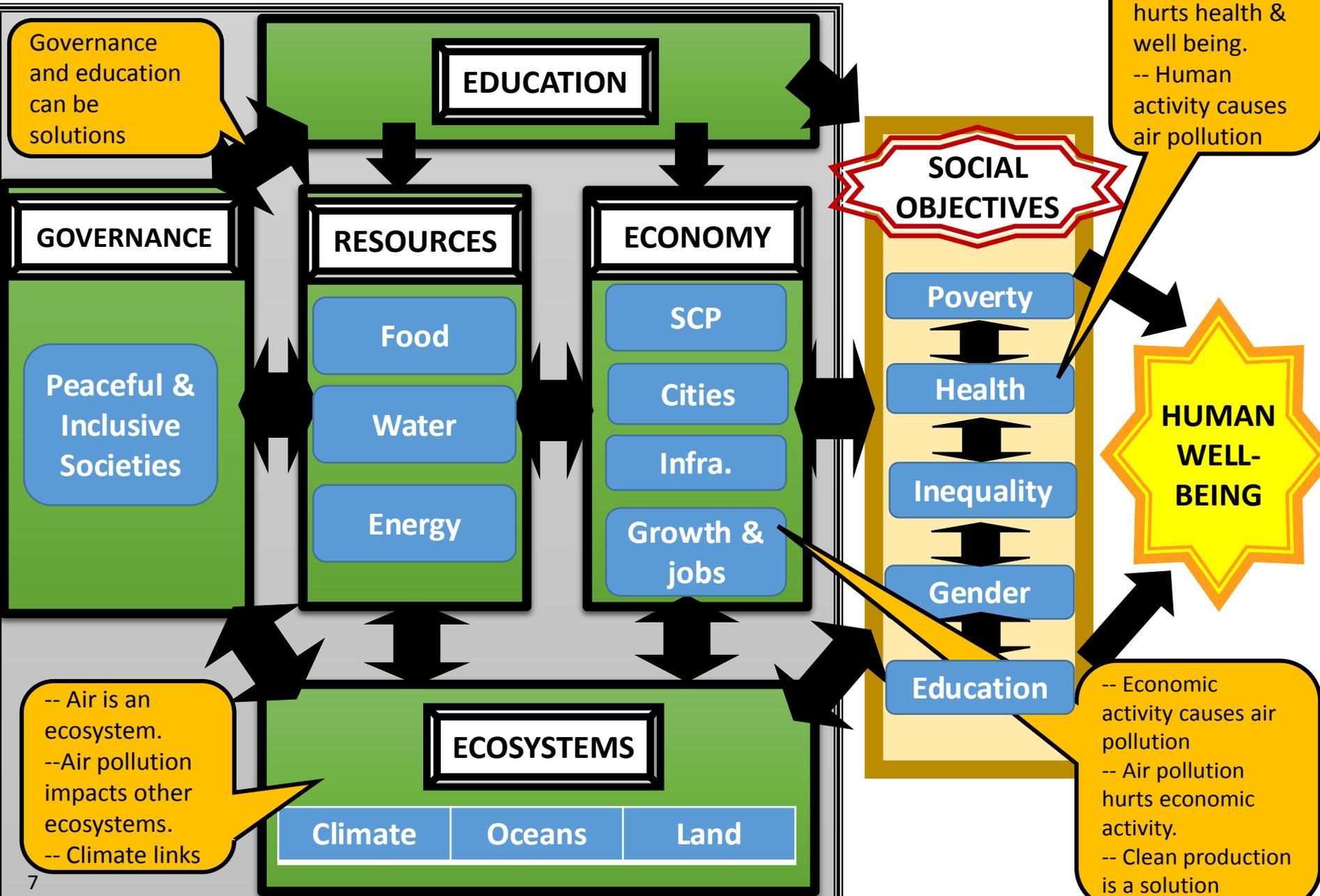
<u>Targets</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
3.9 (Under Health) By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.9.1. Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution.• 3.9.2. Mortality rate attributed to “hazardous chemicals, water and soil pollution and contamination”
11.6 (Under Cities) By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11.6.2. Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (i.e. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

Notes:

- Indicators are still under discussion by the UN Statistical Commission and subject to approval by the UN General Assembly
- Indicators are from the Metadata as of Jan. 18, 2016, published on the UNSC website: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation/>.

Not clear whether air pollution could be included under land/water pollution (e.g. acid deposition)

Functional View of the Air Pollution Gap in SDGs



Broad Concept of Air Pollution & SDGs

Solutions →

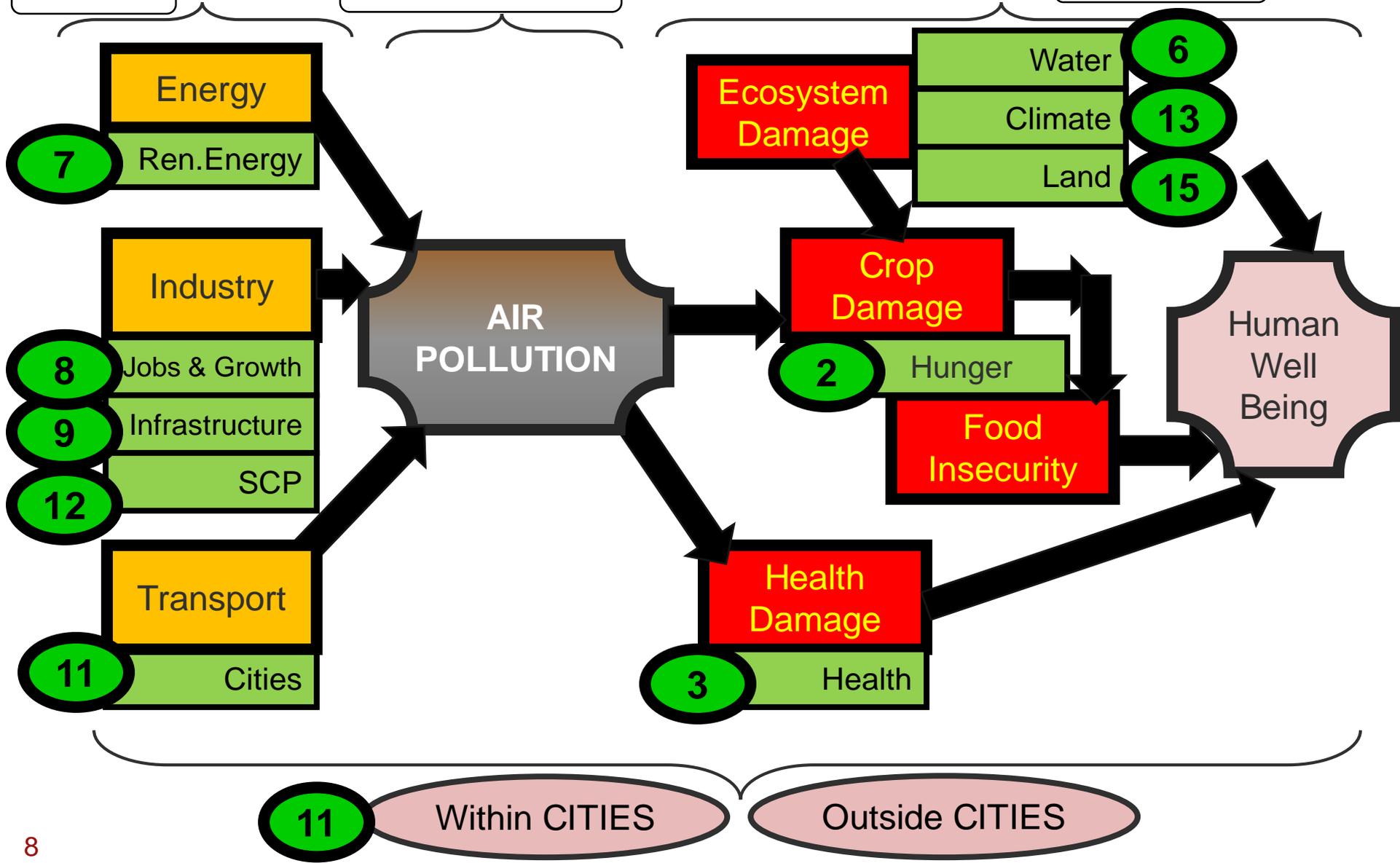
SDG#

SDG Area (Solution)

Causes

Measurement

Impacts



Conclusion: Air Pollution's Position in SDGs is Cloudy

1. There is no headline goal on air pollution.
2. There are only 2 targets on air pollution, combined with other issues.
3. Only 2 indicators currently relate to air pollution.
4. Current air pollution indicators have a fairly narrow focus.
5. Air pollution is broadly or indirectly related to a variety of goals and targets.
 - However, air pollution might not be incorporated into the related indicators.
6. Overall, SDGs mix up causes, effects, solutions, and problem measurement.
 - Air pollution related elements focus on pollution measurement and effects.

SDG Implementation Process

1. The SDG implementation and review processes are still being developed.
2. Global level focus on the HLPF, activity by ECOSOC regional commissions
3. UN agencies are developing plans for SDG implementation.
4. National and local governments are mainly just starting to think about SDGs.

- Air pollution was not well integrated into SDGs
- There is some chance of strengthening air pollution in the SDG implementation process, since these are not well developed yet.
- The air pollution community should consider how much effort to devote to SDGs, or focus on existing processes which are focused on air pollution.

Way Forward

1. Try to influence the global indicator development process to strengthen attention to air pollution under relevant targets.
2. Try to influence national and local SDG implementation processes and national indicator development.
3. Try to influence the agenda of upcoming major policy processes to put air pollution on the global agenda
 - UNEA (and possibly also regional meetings to input to UNEA)
 - HLPF (as a special topic or interrelated issue)
 - Global Sustainable Development Report (urge to highlight AP)
4. Try to link existing non-SDG frameworks with SDGs.
 - Maybe unilateral declarations rather than concrete institutional linkage
5. Much effort may be needed outside the SDG framework, focused on efforts through existing frameworks.
 - LRTAP, regional & subregional frameworks, CAA, other existing specialized air pollution initiatives & partnerships, etc.



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Thank You!

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