IGES SDG Interlinkages and Data Visualisation Web Tool
A User's Perspective

Source: IGES 2017

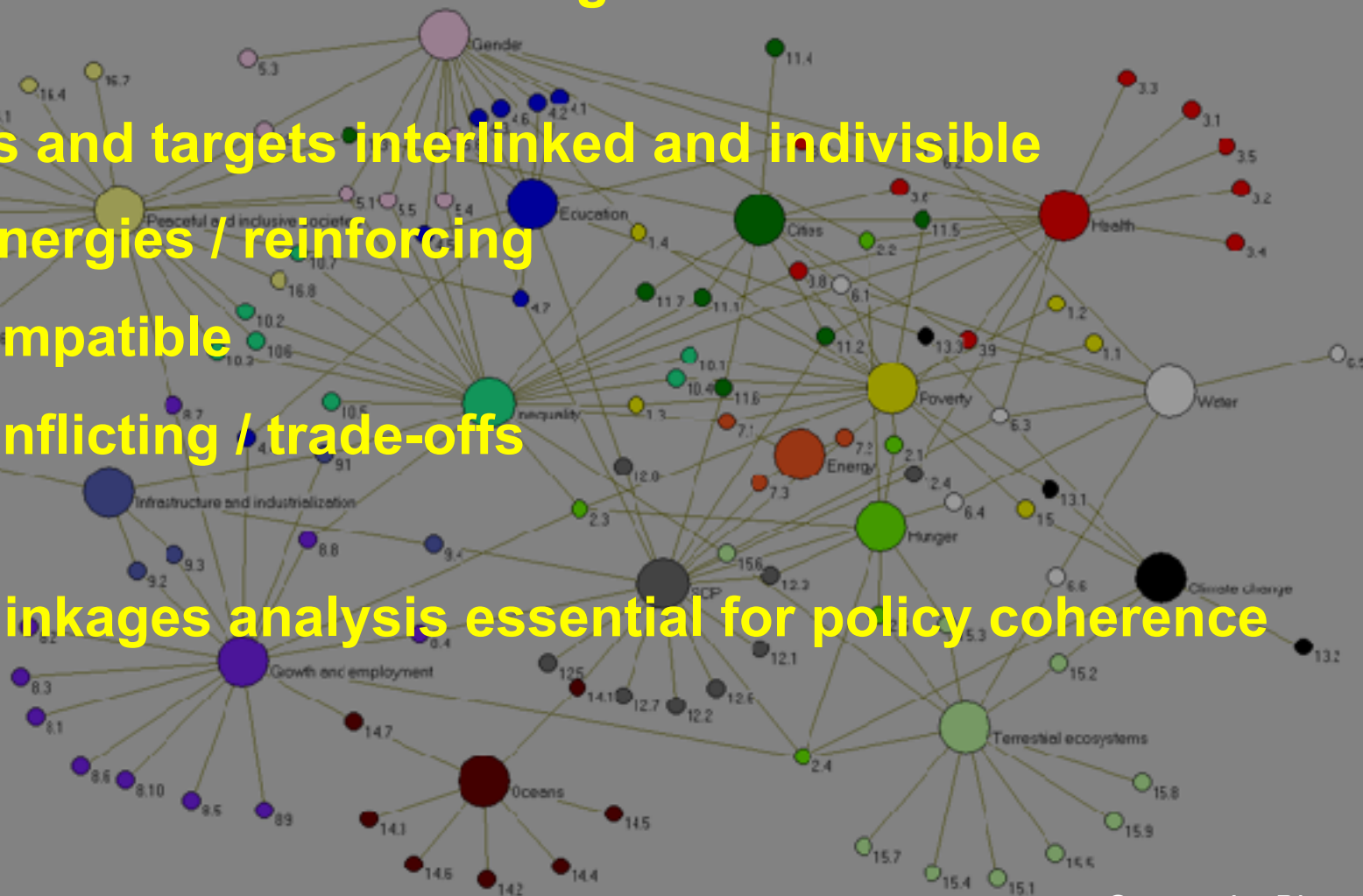SNRD Asia and TUEWAS Joint Conference
14-17 May 2018 • Bangkok

The SDGs as a network of targets
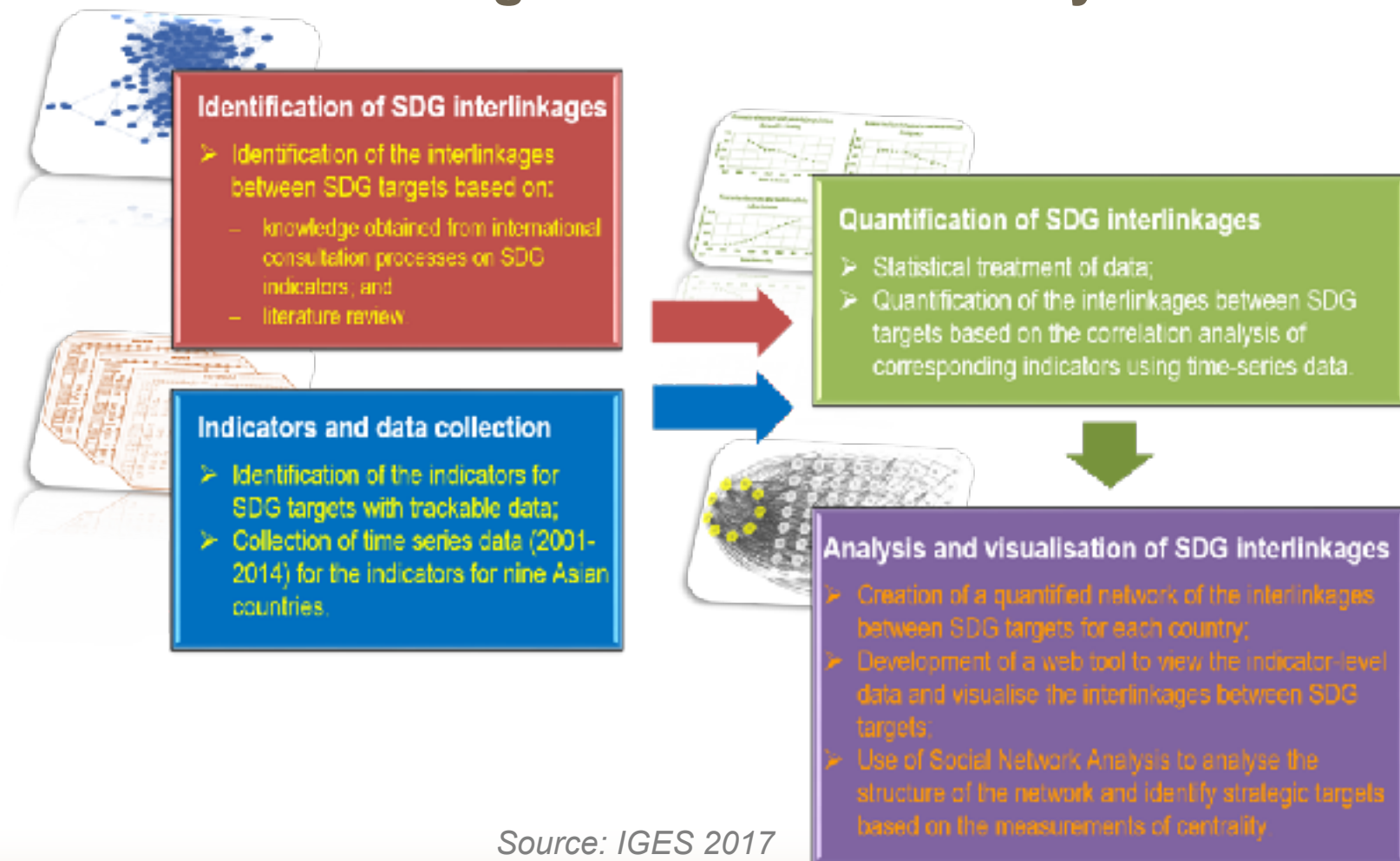
Goals and targets interlinked and indivisible

➢ **Synergies / reinforcing**

➢ **Compatible**

➢ **Conflicting / trade-offs**

Interlinkages analysis essential for policy coherence
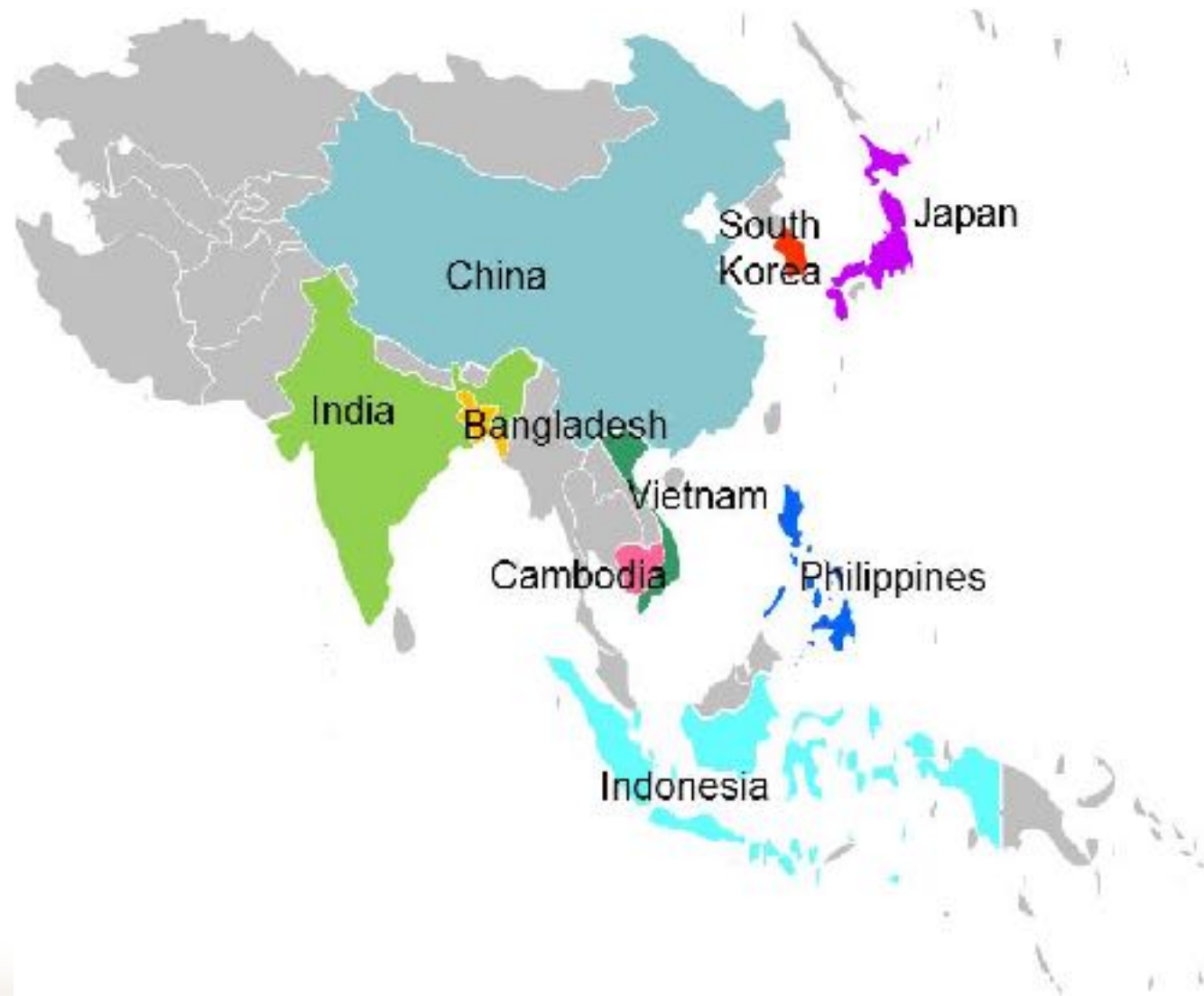

Source: Le Blanc, 2015

IGES: SDG Interlinkages and Network Analysis Framework

Identification of SDG interlinkages

➢ Identification of the interlinkages between SDG targets based on:
  – knowledge obtained from international consultation processes on SDG indicators; and
  – literature review.

Indicators and data collection

➢ Identification of the indicators for SDG targets with trackable data;
➢ Collection of time series data (2001-2014) for the indicators for nine Asian countries.

Quantification of SDG interlinkages

➢ Statistical treatment of data;
➢ Quantification of the interlinkages between SDG targets based on the correlation analysis of corresponding indicators using time-series data.

Analysis and visualisation of SDG interlinkages

➢ Creation of a quantified network of the interlinkages between SDG targets for each country;
➢ Development of a web tool to view the indicator-level data and visualise the interlinkages between SDG targets;
➢ Use of Social Network Analysis to analyse the structure of the network and identify strategic targets based on the measurements of centrality.

Source: IGES 2017

Nine Asian countries

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Source: IGES 2017

Interlinkages between Target 15.1 and others in India (IGES 2017)

India

15.2 Sustainable management of forests

Indicator: Share of terrestrial area protected to total surface area

15.1 Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems

Indicator: Proportion of total water resources used
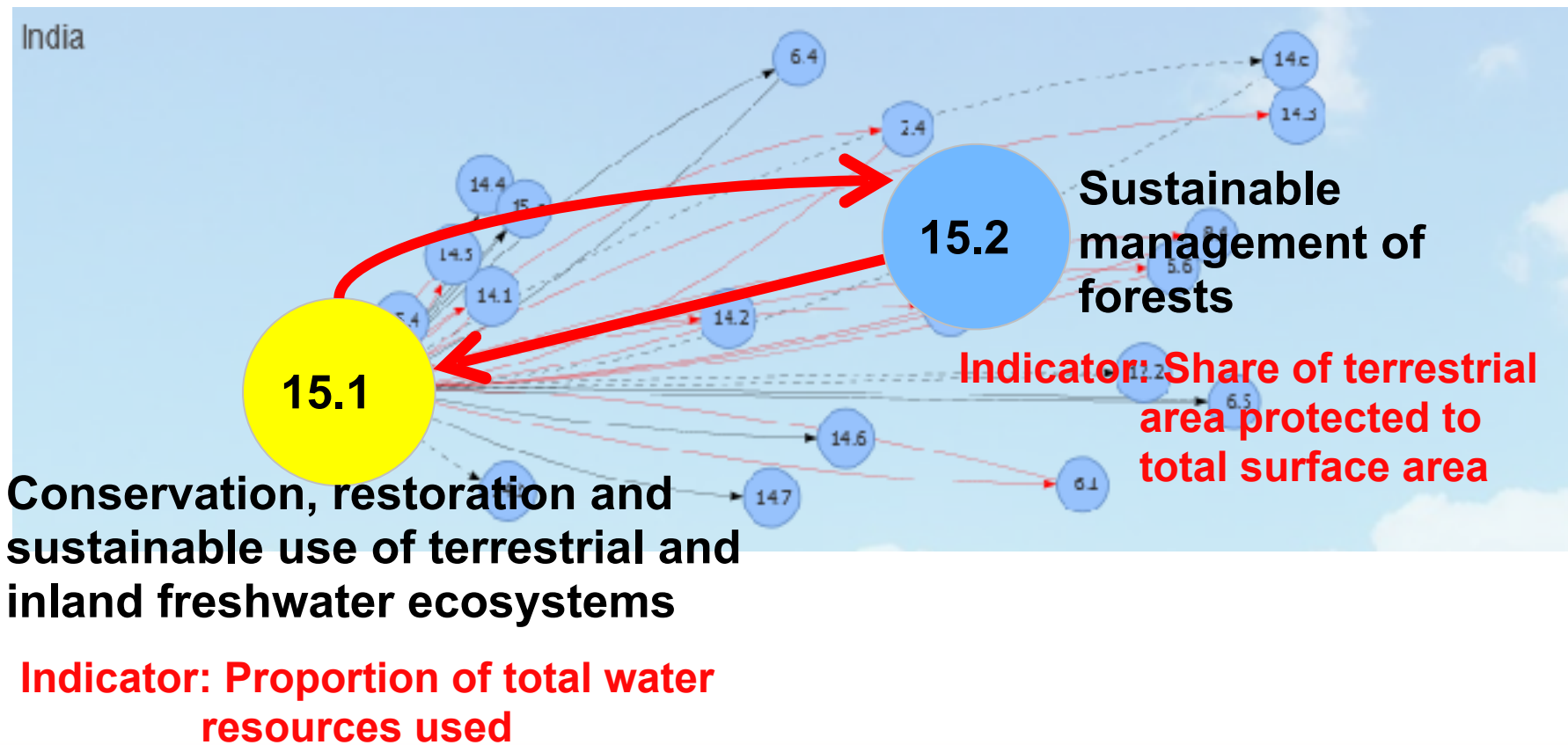
SDG Targets and IGES Indicators

Targets = 169

Indicators = 51

Targets Not Mapped to any indicator

61

108 Targets Mapped to indicators

Mapped to ≥ 3 targets — **14**

Mapped to 2 targets — **12**

Index of other indicators mapped to 1 target each — **3**

Mapped to unique targets — **22**
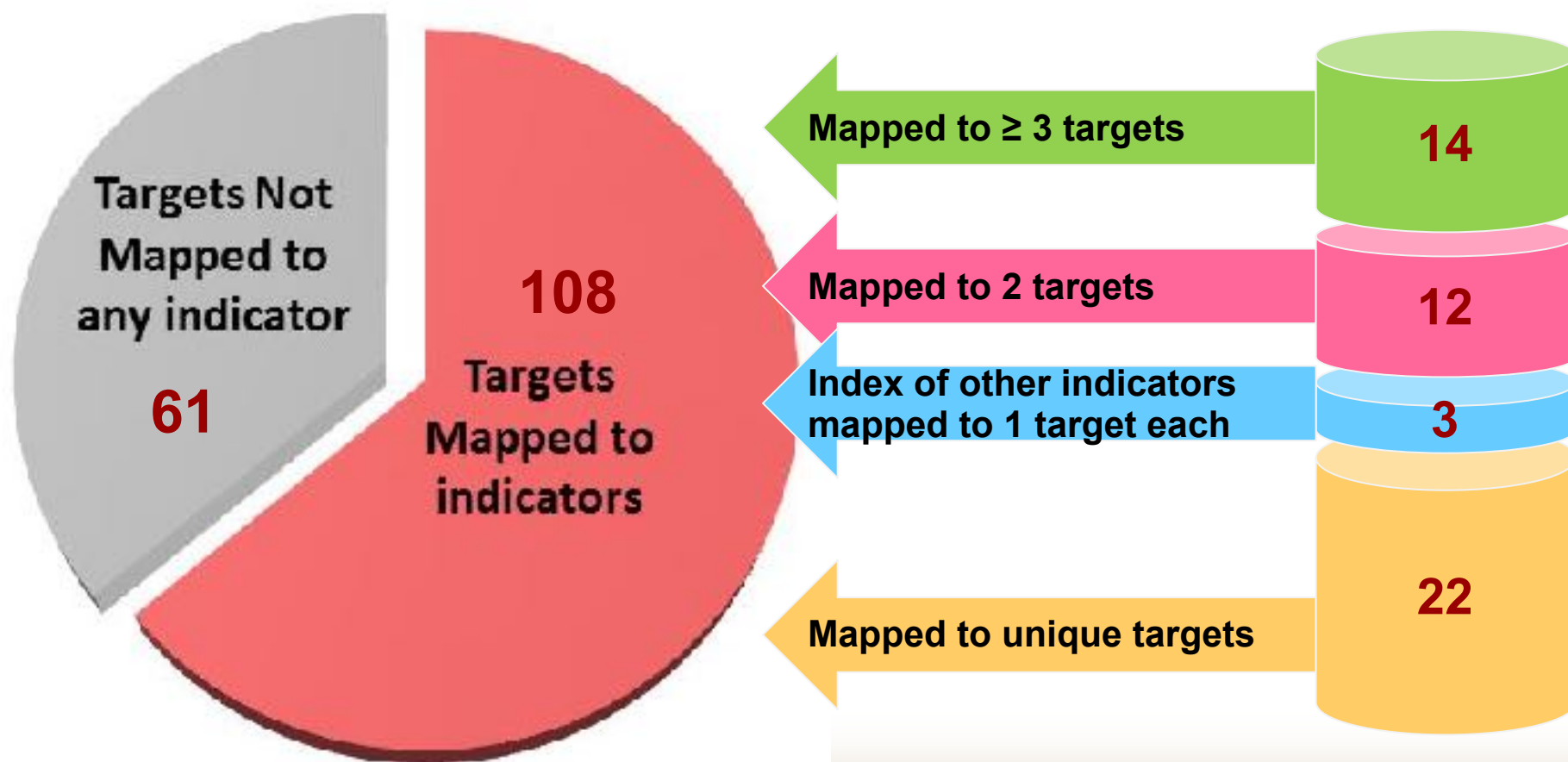
Composition of Proxy Indicators
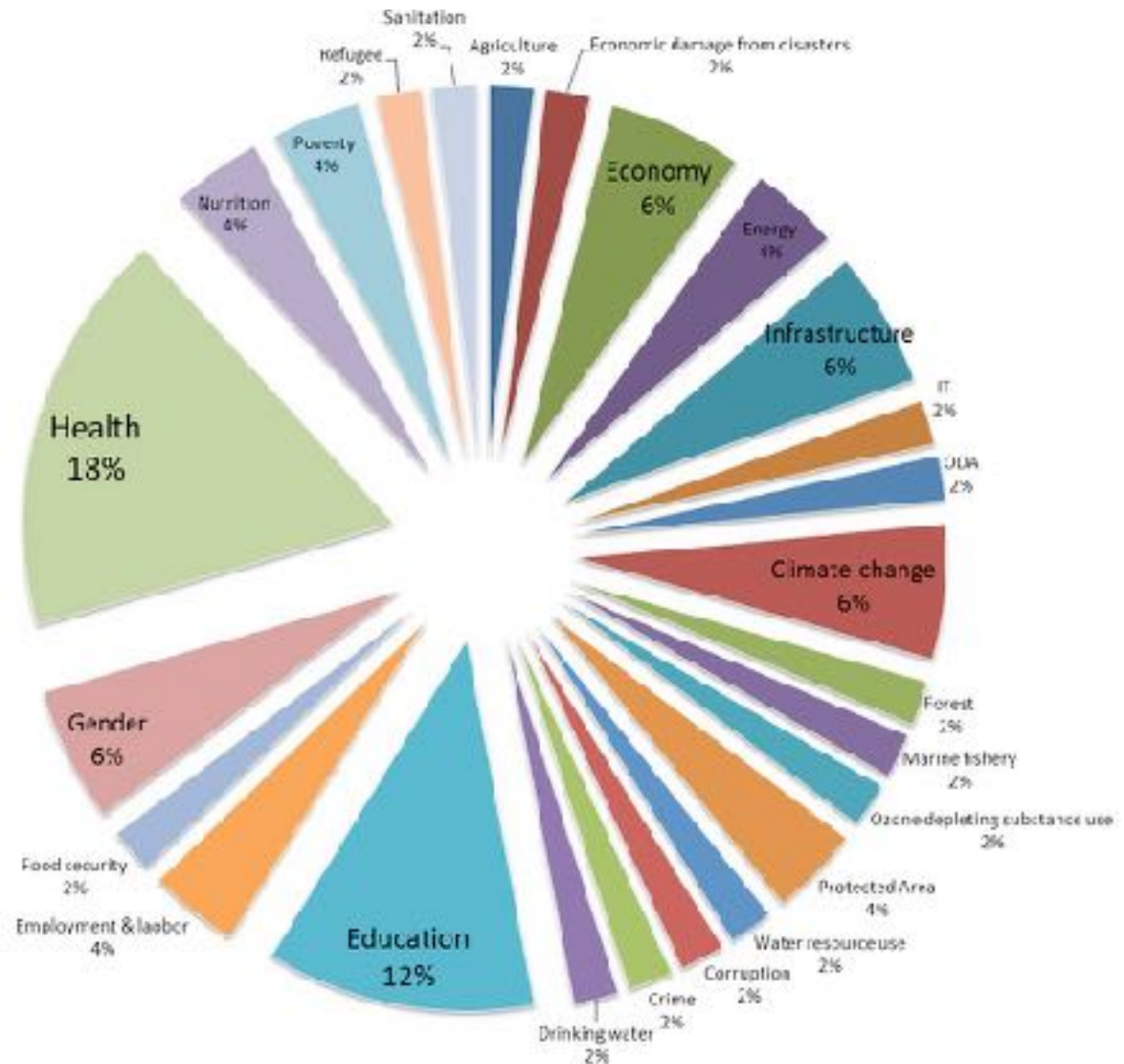
Imbalance in selection of indicators

Economic

Social

Environmental

12

9

30
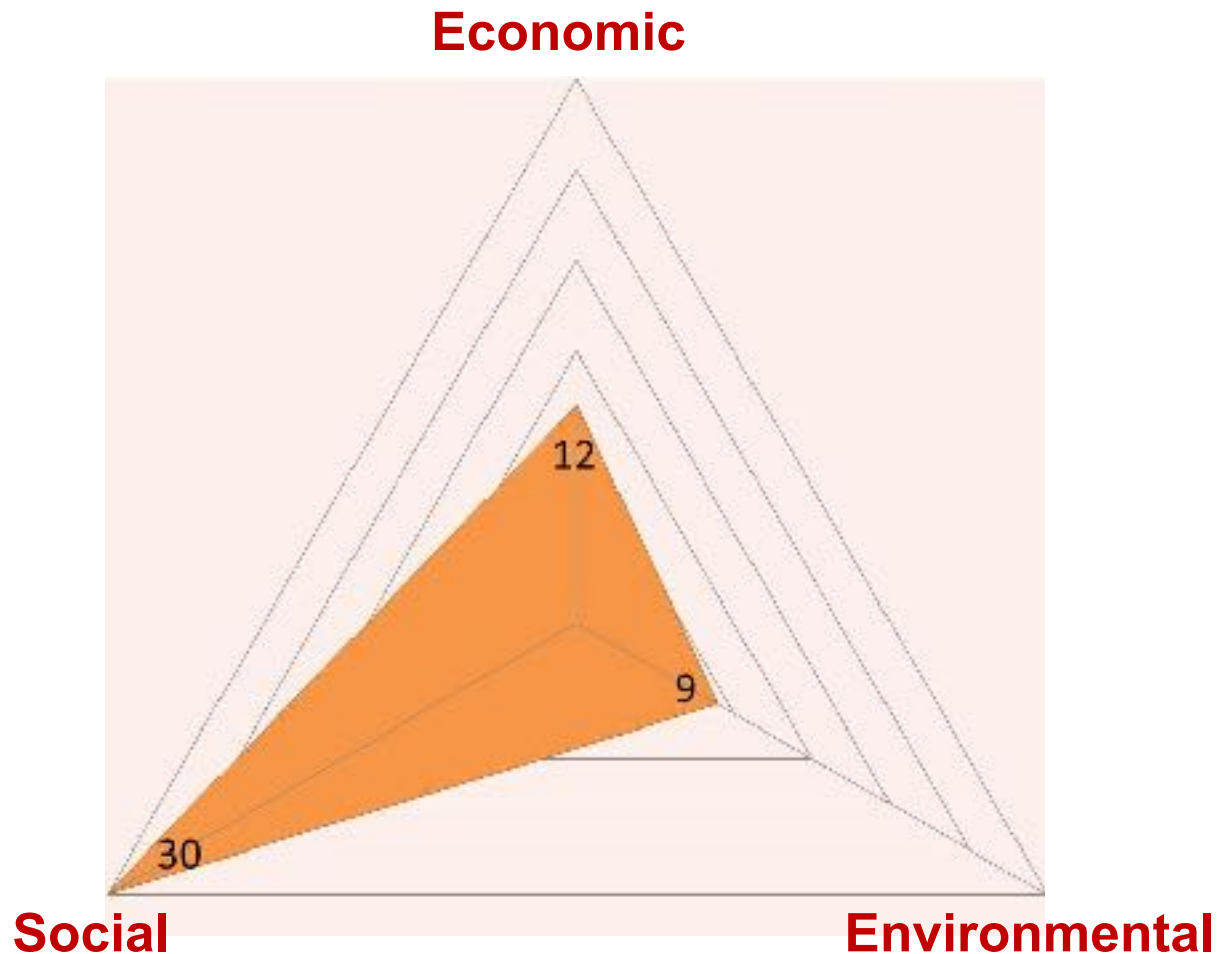
Limitations of the web visualisation tool

- Limited indicators and data sets?

- Appropriateness of the selected proxy indicators?

- Correlation ⇒ Causality? Logic?

- Covers only binary linear relationship. Circular or multiple interlinkages not captured.

- Missing context specificities (e.g. political positions, culture, societal attitude, resource richness, etc.)?

Won't provide robust causal relationships among SDG targets for decision making at national or sub-national levels.

Lessons learnt

Before using any IT tool for decision support:

✓ Check closely what is its framework logic

✓ Are the design elements of the tool appropriate and sufficient

✓ Are the results consistent and logical

✓ Does it makes sense

Thank you for your attention.

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Disclaimer:
The views expressed are purely those of the presenter.