Strengthening the nexus of science, policy and diplomacy to advance the SDGs

Kristiann Allen, INGSA Secretariat
Sustainable Development Goals

• 17 goals, 169 targets
• A mix of very broad and aspirational goals in contrast to the specifics of the MDGs
• The MDGs were developed by an expert group, the SDGs were developed by an inclusive process
• They apply to all governments in contrast to the MDGs
• but the way they are interpreted and reported is voluntary
• The SDGs encompass virtually everything every society wants to accomplish
• Despite their flaws they frame the global agenda for another decade
• And in many ways all require access to the knowledge disciplines for progress
International Science Council

The global voice for science
We have always lived in experimental societies.
Understanding wellbeing in the context of rapid digital and associated transformations

Implications for research, policy and measurement
Sir Peter Gluckman Kristiann Allen
AUGUST 2018
What is evidence?

- Scientific processes aim to obtain relatively objective understandings of the natural and built world.
- How the question is framed will affect the evidence produced and what is considered 'sufficient' evidence.
- Co-development of knowledge is increasingly important.
The post-trust, post-elite & post-truth context

#MINERMOJO

"Yesterday's trust has become today's skepticism"

Jeremy Miner

Post-truth
"relating to or donating circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."

INGSA
Science & the SDGs

- Application of current knowledge and technology
- What new knowledge, data and technology is needed
- Better use of science in applying the SDGs to enhance policy
- Science Diplomacy
Science for the SDGs
Science for the SDGs

Global Research Alliance on agricultural greenhouse gases

The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases brings countries together to find ways to grow more food without growing greenhouse gas emissions. It was launched in December 2009.
Science & the SDGs
SDGs & the need for science license

» Biotech
» Digital tech
» Nanotech
» Neuro tech
» Green tech
» ‘other’ (geo-eng / extraction)
Mitigating agricultural greenhouse gas emissions: Strategies for meeting New Zealand’s goals

July 2018
There is a need to link science to the SDGs

- Through impact on policy

  - Policies and institutional structures exist; can’t just map SDGs on top
  - Reframe the SDGs in a holistic, manageable way
  - Countries have the opportunity to work from manageable, but also to customize according to context and domestic priorities
  - Link to bottom up pressures
Can interactions be a key driver for implementation?

- Making the challenges of integration visible
- Some goals and targets have conflictual relationships; progress in one area may come at the expense of progress in others.
- Understanding potential synergies and trade-offs is critical for efficient and coherent implementation and monitoring
- Develop an holistic approach to drive system change
### Different Roles in a Science Advisory Ecosystem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Knowledge generators</th>
<th>Knowledge synthesizers</th>
<th>Knowledge brokers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual academics</td>
<td>++++</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic societies/professional bodies</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>Government employed practicing scientists</td>
<td>++++</td>
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<td>Scientist within regulatory agency</td>
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<td>Independent think tanks</td>
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<td>What works units etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>National academies</td>
<td>++++</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government advisory boards/science councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science advisors to executive of government</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science advice to legislators</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Science Diplomacy: a broader and more utilitarian taxonomy

- Direct national interest
- Common interest
- Global interest

The International Network for Government Science Advice

- Over 4000 members from over 80 countries and growing
- Regional chapters
- Science diplomacy division
- Knowledge centre
- Forum for sharing, coordinating, networking
- Capacity building activities
- Open access learning resources
- Reports and research

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Thank you