

Conservation and Development: Unhappy Bedfellows in the SDGs?



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Axioms

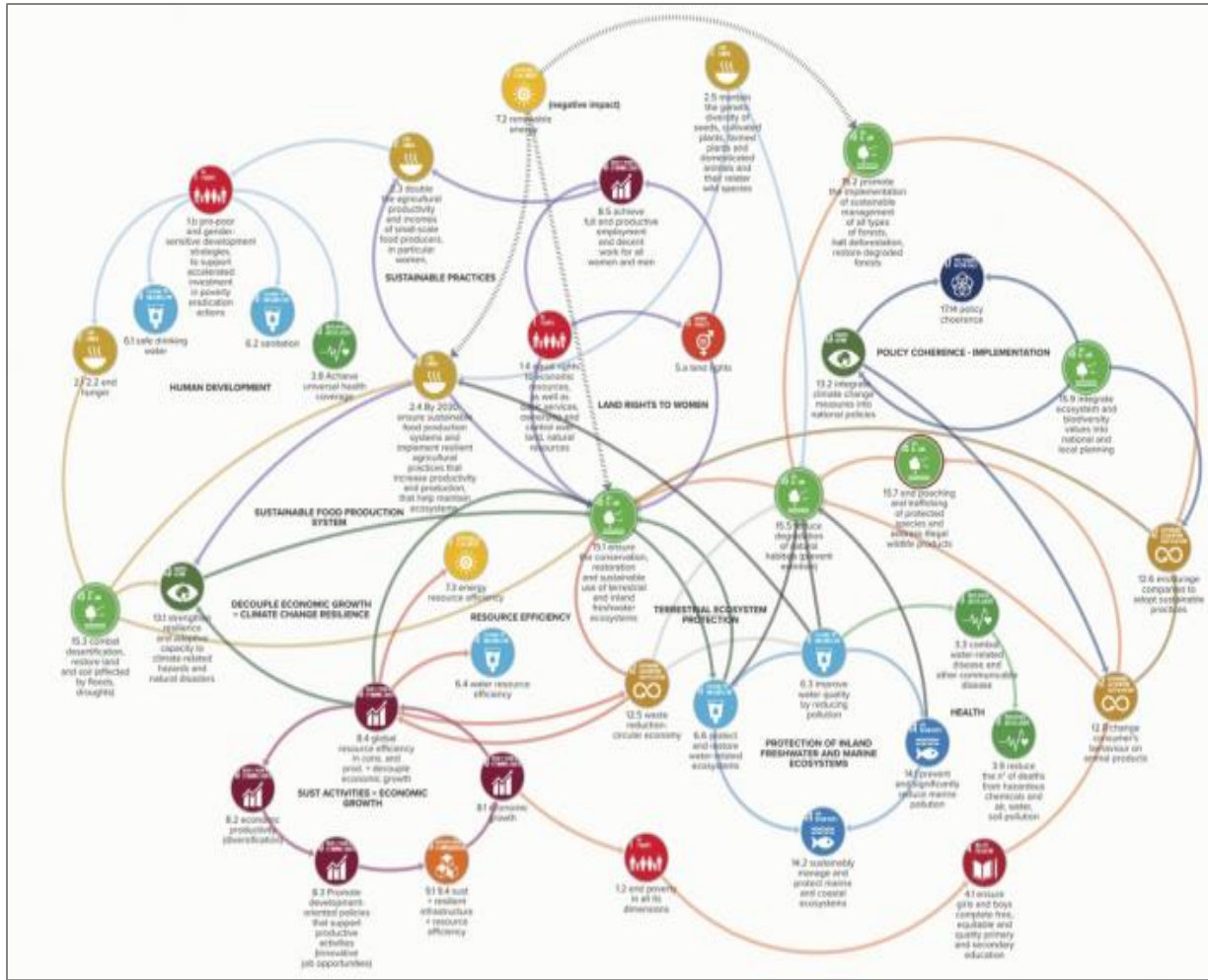
Said of conservation
“they’re anti-development”
“that’s not my Ministry”
“don’t worry, the plan is green”



development:
“oppose conservation”
“ignore biodiversity”
“should not support
n”



SDGs are a call for systems change

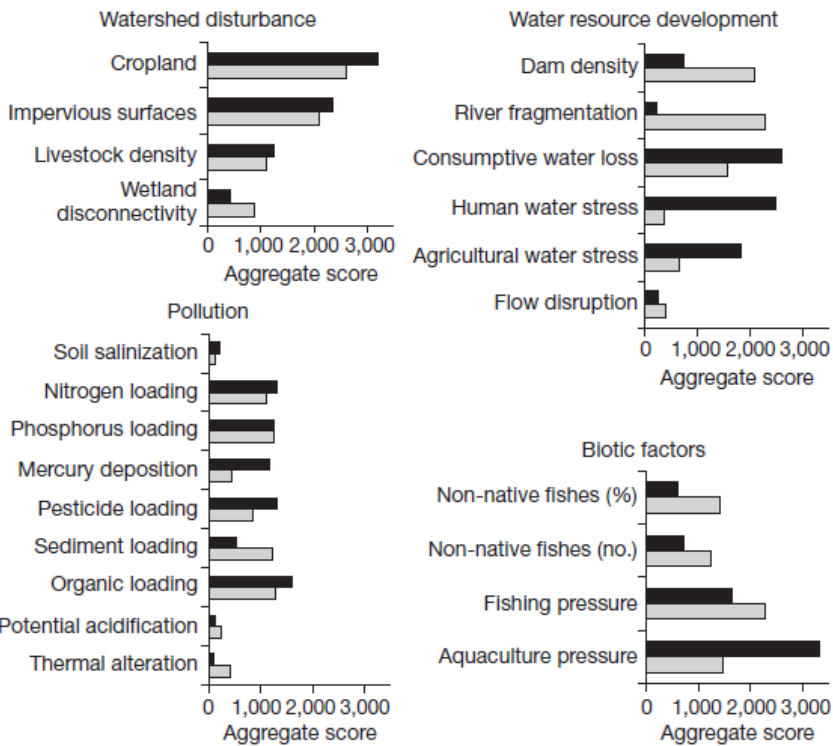


Development benefits from ecosystem investment

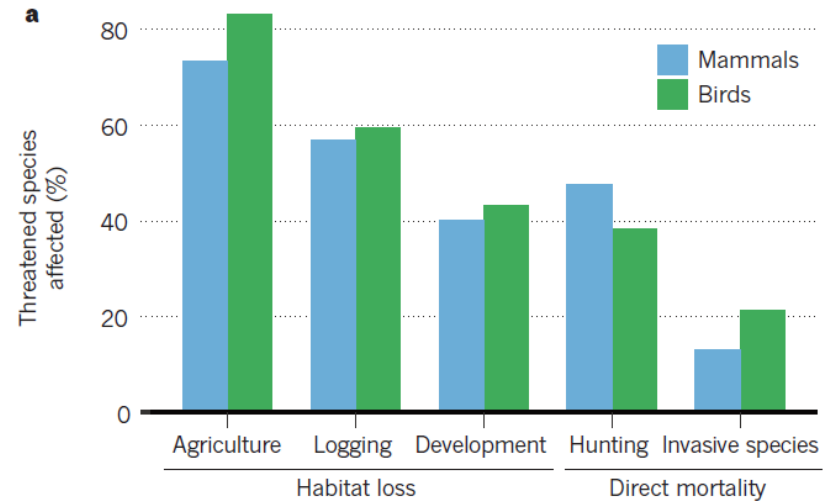
Invest in	For	Source
Inland fisheries	60 million jobs in developing countries	De Graaf et al (2015)
Wastewater treatment	ROI of \$5.50 per \$	WWDR (2017)
Wetlands	Tourism expenditures of \$925 per year	Ramsar (2016)
Wetlands	Damage cost avoided from floods – eg. \$1907 ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ Sri Lanka; \$33,000 ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ USA	Coates & Smith (2012)
Watershed restoration	50% increase in farm income 20-90% increase in household food security 50% reduction in risk of crop failure	Gebregziabher et al. (2016)

Drivers of biodiversity loss

Human water security
 Biodiversity



Source: Vörösmarty et al. 2010. Nature 476, 555-561



Source: Tilman et al. 2017. Nature 546, 73-81

Mainstreaming conservation in development

Conservation means pursuing a certain kind of development...

Reducing future risks of extinction

Safeguarding biodiversity from impending threats will require substantial increases in established conservation practices and policies, as well as proactive approaches such as national land-use planning and yield increases that reduce both habitat fragmentation and the demand for land clearing. Although our analyses have focused on broad geographic

species lack adequate protection⁴⁷. New protected areas should be both sufficiently large and appropriately situated to optimize the protection of biodiversity while ensuring that countries can meet the food security and sovereignty needs of local people^{70,71}. Land clearance by humans often leaves only small fragments of habitat intact, which may initially

Yield gaps should be narrowed through practices that minimize the negative environmental impacts of the intensification of agriculture. Methods include: planting legumes to increase soil fertility; using manure, cover crops and other strategies to increase the amount of organic matter in soil; using improved seed varieties; and appropriately timing the application of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation^{59,105–108}.

to increase the number of protected areas by 300% by 2030, with most all in developing countries (37). It is crucial that planning of these developments analyzes ecological effects as well as economic costs and benefits, to decide where infrastructure should be located to produce the most benefit for the least cost. For example, an analysis of roads cur-

And yet...



Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and **other effective area-based conservation measures**, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Table 3

Consensus statements on the five major issues concerning “other effective area-based conservation measures”

Management theme	Consensus statement
Purpose of area-based measure/intention	Areas included under Target 11 as OEABCMs must have an expressed purpose to conserve nature (biodiversity). We understand that this purpose might be achieved as a co-benefit of other management purposes or activities
Long-term	Areas included under Target 11 as OEABCMs must be managed for the long-term to be effective. We accept a working definition of long-term to mean there is an expectation that conservation will continue indefinitely
Importance of nature	In areas included under Target 11 as OEABCMs. in cases of conflict

Conclusions: time for Realpolitik?

... politics or principles based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations...

- Aligning development and conservation action
 - OEABCMs vs IWRM
 - Sustainable intensification vs protected area planning
- Collaboration in the SDGs for systems change
 - evidence
 - policies
 - finance
 - institutions