

Author (s): Lopez-Maldonado, Yolanda; Curry, Tracie; Rocha, Juan; Schill, Caroline

Multi-stakeholder dialogue: “Inequality and the SDGs: synergies and tradeoffs”

Theme & Track No. 4: Extractive industries and the commons on land and sea

Format: Panel discussion

Description: Countries around the world have committed to achieve 17 SDGs. Increasing inequality has become an urgent issue across both developed and developing economies and it has been considered one of the defining challenges of our time. A number of the so-called ‘planetary boundaries’ has been crossed, putting the planet at risk of detrimental environmental change. Managing SDGs is complex for policy-makers. The challenge is to know how SDGs interact, and which policy tools would be most effective to simultaneously meet the SDGs of the Agenda 2030. This session will examine SDGs synergies and tradeoffs, the role of inequalities therein, as well as examples of how to replicate and scale up or scale down emerging and innovative policy solutions to meet SDG challenges. We ask: How does inequality impact the achievement of SDGs at different scales? Which countries, if any, are simultaneously “prosperous, equal, and green”, and why? Does there exist a ‘trilemma’ inhibiting the simultaneous achievement of the three goals (the “triple bottom line”), and therefore sustainable development? If so, what are the respective tradeoffs, and how might these evolve over time? The concepts of “prosperous, equal, and green” encompass virtually SDGs 10, 2, 13, 14 and 15 (Reducing Inequality, Climate Action, Life Below Water and Life on Land), while considering SDGs 8, 9 (Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). While inequality is often considered as a statistical pattern in the distribution of observables, such as income or wealth at the national scale, perception of inequality and fairness tend to act at much lower scales (e.g. community). Yet, it remains unclear at which scales tradeoffs between inequality and other SDGs will emerge or need to be accounted for when dealing with, for example, problems of common-pool resource management.

Objective: to co-create new understandings around how different actors can contribute with the comprehension of the interactions, tradeoffs, synergies of inequalities and the SDGs.

Specific objectives:

- Discuss perspectives and knowledge systems that contribute towards the understanding of inequalities and the SDGs.
- Foster knowledge generation through dialogue among different knowledge.
- Collective assessment of how perspectives and knowledge systems, practices, and institutions linked to the SDGs contribute towards the understanding of inequalities.
- Formulate recommendations to the relevant stakeholders.

Societal relevance: We aim to promote collaborative learning among stakeholders (scientists, indigenous communities, policy-makers) around the connections of understanding inequalities and the SDGs. It will help us to identify where tradeoffs are more likely to occur. The outcomes can support local, national, regional and global policy process and augment the search for future alternatives by policy makers, scientists and practitioners for the safe navigation of inequalities in the biosphere. Activities are designed to allow for diverse ways of knowledge co-creation promoted through activities including presentations by the panelists followed by questions and dialogue with participants. Panelist will present examples from a project or initiative they've been involved in where inequality had an impact on environmental management. Discussion will be synthesized by applying the MEB methodology.

Keywords: Inequalities, SDGs, synergies, trade-offs, knowledge co-production

List of participants

Name	Sector	Expected contribution
Fikret Berkes	Academia	Panelist will contribute on the overall view of inequality and SDG's emphasizing that transformation at the global level is not possible unless it is rooted at the local level first
Merelyn Valdivia	Practitioner	Panelist will present examples of Peru and her experience working with indigenous organizations
Vanessa Ramos		
Juan Rocha	Academia	Panelist will present an overview of the interactions of inequalities on the Biosphere
Caroline Schill	Academia	Panelist will present an overview of inequalities, the SDGs and trade-offs that
Xavier Basurto	Academia	Will provide some examples of inequalities based on his experience working with fisheries and local communities
Sandra Diaz	Policy-maker	Will provide examples of inequalities and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biodiversity and genetic resources, including the recognition of human rights in the adoption of policy-related issues according to international Conventions
To be confirmed	Indigenous people	Will perform the open ceremony as a celebration to thank Mother Earth, Pachamama, and the potato plant bringing her offerings, food, song, dance and native flower

Further conference participants attending IASC2019 will be invited to join this activity