



# Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in India

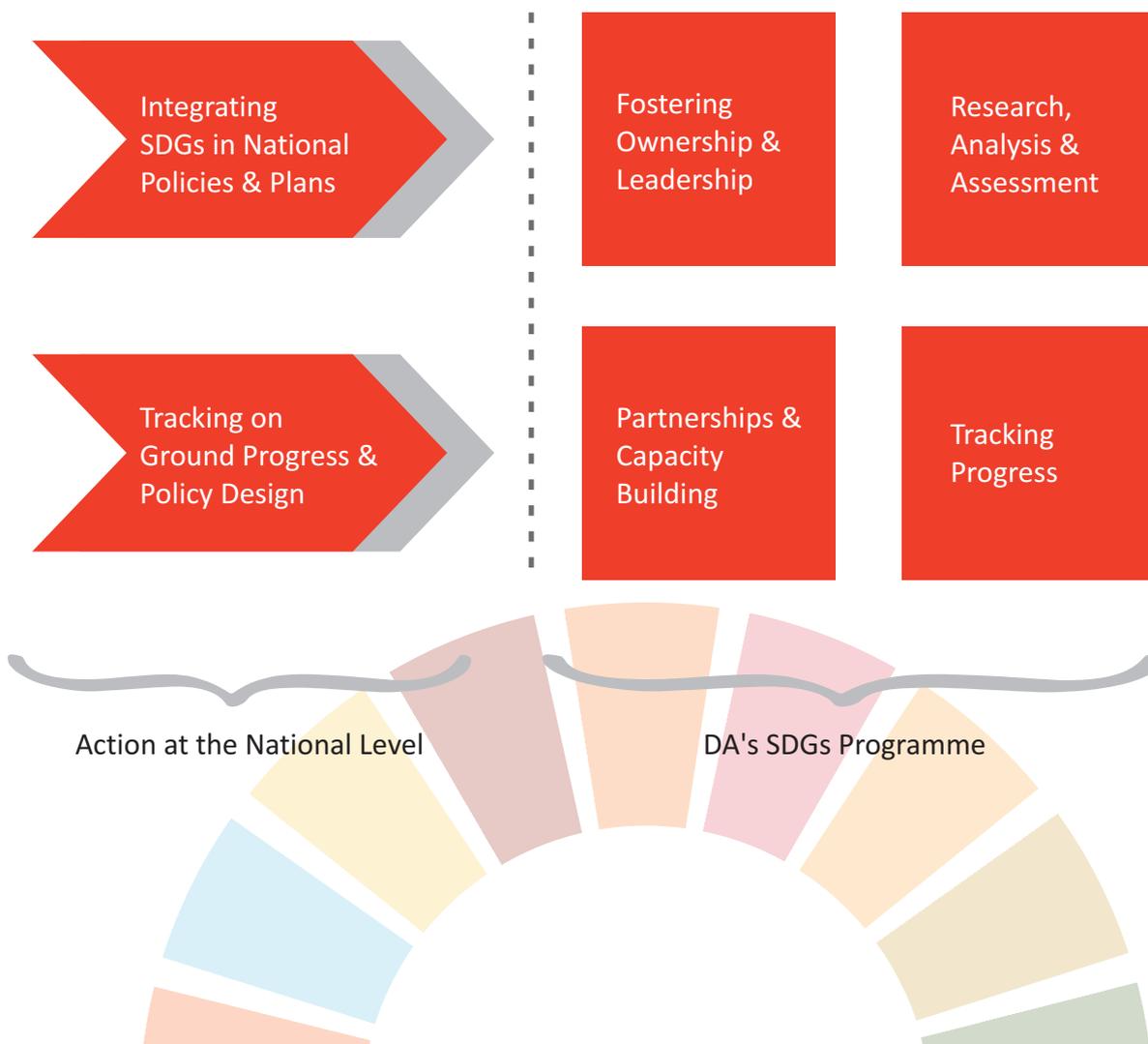


Development Alternatives



**S**ustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, are a set of 17 aspirational Goals with 169 targets, committed by 193 member states of the United Nations. SDGs promise to be truly transformative in the sense that they integrate the health of the planet and human prosperity in many ways. India has had a remarkable economic growth in the previous decades and prospects in terms of the growth rate looks promising in years ahead. However, the paradox of India’s story is that the economic growth has not translated into fully solving the most pertinent problems of the nation and some of the rudimentary needs of its people. SDGs present a huge opportunity for India to reflect on its development choices to ensure that ***no one is left behind*** while remaining in ecological limits of the planet.

# Integrating SDGs in National Development Agenda



# Fostering Ownership and Leadership

There is a need to inform and engage with citizens, local panchayats, academia, businesses on **“What are SDGs, Why SDGs”**. Participation of all stakeholders in action towards SDGs is critical. No government can do it alone.



## OUR APPROACH

- *Spreading knowledge and awareness amongst government, businesses and civil society on the meaning and usefulness of SDGs*
- *Informing and engaging with citizens on the global agenda 2030*

## OUR WORK

- **trialgoue 2047** - *trialogue 2047* is series of discussions focused to explore directions that India must take to accelerate a transition towards a sustainable future. It builds a community of people aware and concerned with the issues of sustainable development in India in the light of SDGs
- DA runs a community radio in Bundelkhand to reach out to rural communities on sustainable development issues. DA also guides and extends its support to other Community Radios in India

# Research, Analysis and Assessment

It is important to research and understand *“how does SDGs play in India’s scenario?; what are the implications of resources and institutional capacities for achieving SDGs?; how do we track progress on SDGs: choosing appropriate indicators?”*



## OUR APPROACH

- *Identifying gaps and opportunities on resource implications*
- *Analysing scope of integrating state’s development plans, climate plans and Sustainable Development Goals*
- *Scenario building with and without SDGs principles*

## OUR WORK

- **Resource Studies:** Development Alternatives conducts natural, financial and human resource needs and gaps in aiming to achieve SDGs
- **Integrating SDGs into development and climate plans:** DA conducts assessment of integrating climate and SDGs targets in the development plans of the state and India
- **Tracking and Review:** DA will review the plans, action and progress achieved by States and will function as a sustainability watch unit in the country

# Partnerships and Capacity Building

Achieving SDGs will require partnerships amongst stakeholders of varied capacities. Each one of us will have to work closely to synergise our work for achieving SDGs, efficiently and effectively. Capacities of government, businesses and civil societies need to be built to understand and contribute in achieving SDGs.



## OUR APPROACH

- *Engaging with civil society, businesses on identifying their role & contribution in SDGs*
- *Engaging with government for capacity support & review of governments' action*
- *Building networks and alliances for shared learning and taking our research findings to people of influence*

## OUR WORK

- **TARAgam Yatra:** DA's annual event brings together practitioners, policy makers from India and South Asian to discuss issues of sustainability through a mix of dialogues and field visits
- **MAP-SA:** DA hosts MAP-SA, a network of organisations working on green economy and sustainable development, critical network for knowledge exchange on SDGs in India
- **IRF:** DA is a member of Independent Research Forum, a partnership of ten leading sustainable development think tanks from around the world, supporting change for a sustainable future

# Tracking Progress

We need to know whether India is moving in the right direction to achieve SDGs by 2030. For knowing this, we need to track its progress periodically, both short and long term. We need to reflect on what we measure, whether we measure appropriate and how robust are our data and measurement systems.



## OUR APPROACH

- *Locating appropriate indicators and assessing current data systems in India.*
- *Exploring different kinds of data and its potential for tracking SDGs: government systems, big data, citizen generated data for tracking.*
- *Reviewing and developing state progress report cards*

## OUR WORK

- **Data systems – review and analysis:** Development Alternatives conducts assessment on data and indicator available and State, national and global level to develop reporting that is easy to track, appropriate and looks at indicators that ensure integrated approach in SDGs. Both process and impact indicators are included
- **Reviewing Progress:** Development Alternatives will track the SDGs plans of all states in India, especially reviewing progress of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu

# Global initiatives

IRF partnership brings together a breadth of scientific expertise and practical on the ground experience across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.



Development Alternatives worked on various natural resources nexus concerns to provide inputs to the UNEP's International Resources Panel during the formation of the Global SD Agenda 2030.



DA is a Core member of Green Economy Coalition. Development Alternatives brings in ground experience to further the understanding of economic transitions required for furthering national sustainable development and green economy agendas.



Development Alternatives has been a founder Board member of Climate Action Network South Asia and performs the vital function of bringing the SDG and Climate Agendas together in advocating for South Asian perspectives for Sustainable Development.



Post-2015 Development Priorities for the South Asian Region: A report prepared by DA, highlights the need to set the agenda for the region, focusing on the needs and strengths of the respective countries.



# National initiatives

DA conducted a study on

- *Mapping perspectives*: potential gains and contributions perceived by Indian stakeholders about SDGs
- *Resource studies*: A financial assessment on achieving SDGs in India
- *Data and measurements*: DA conducted a study on the nature, scope, and methodology and data availability of indicators of SDGs in India



DA's annual event, TARAGramYatra brings together practitioners and policy makers from India and other parts of the World to share current thinking and define direction of action to alleviate poverty, regenerate the environment and tackle social deprivation.

Mainstreaming Alternative Perspectives (MAP) is a platform that promotes alternative models of development that promote the transition to a new green economy which is sustainable, inclusive and resilient. Our aim is to showcase and strengthen on-the-ground practices, promoting well-being for people and the planet.



MAINSTREAMING  
ALTERNATIVE  
PERSPECTIVES  
Towards Sustainable Economies

# Publications



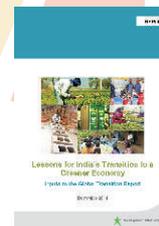
Tracking the Global Goals in India (2016)



Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in India: A Study of Financial Requirements and Gaps (2015)



Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda (2015)



Lessons for India's Transition to a Greener Economy (2014)



Sustainable Development Goals and Post 2015 Development Agenda: A Study Of India's Potential Gains And Contributions (2015)



Building Resilience in Agriculture for Food Security (2015)



Decoupling Growth from Resource Consumption (2014)



Managing and Conserving the Natural Resource Base for Sustained Economic and Social Development (2014)



Equity Issues in a Green Economy: Draft for Discussion (2014)



Mainstreaming Resource Management Concerns in Human Well-Being Goals (2014)



Policy Perspectives - A Framework: Decoupling Growth from Natural Resources (2014)

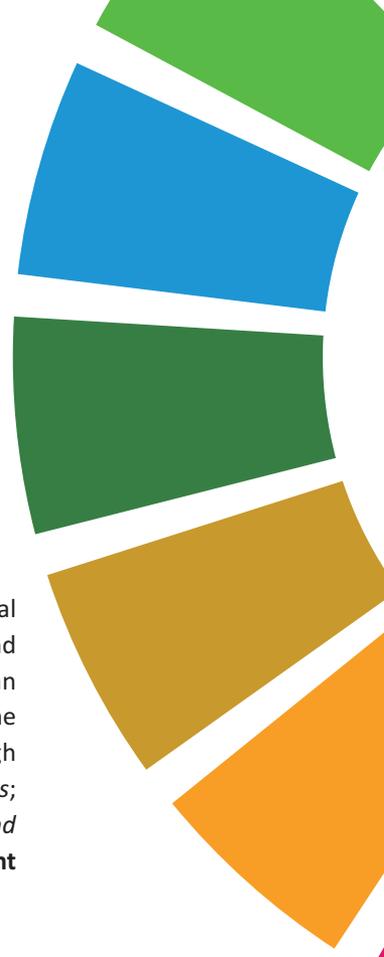


Policy Coherence of the Sustainable Development Goals : A Natural Resource Perspective (2015)

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# Partners





## About Development Alternatives

*Delivering eco-solutions for people and the planet*

**Development Alternatives (DA)** is a premier social enterprise with a global presence in the fields of green economic development, social empowerment and environmental management. It is credited with numerous innovations in clean technology and delivery systems that help create sustainable livelihoods in the developing world. DA **focuses** on **empowering communities** through *strengthening people's institutions and facilitating their access to basic needs*; **enabling economic opportunities** through *skill development for green jobs and enterprise creation*; and **promoting low carbon pathways for development** through *natural resource management models and clean technology solutions*.

