2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals Framework

2030 agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity: The SDGs are where we, humanity, want to be (in 15 years)
• Origins in Rio+20 Summit in 2012 – MDGs.
• Three-year process involving 83 national surveys and over 7 million people, the biggest consultation in UN history.
• From governance experts to climate researchers, the academic community largely supports the goals. The International Council for Science.
• Not everyone agrees:
  The Lancet: “fairy tales, dressed in the bureaucratese of intergovernmental narcissism, adorned with the robes of multilateral paralysis, and poisoned by the acid of nation-state failure”.
  William Easterly: “The SDGs Should Stand for Senseless, Dreamy, Garbled”
• SDGs are about universal values, with broad legitimacy among all parties – a big deal.
The Social Progress Index (SPI) eschews GDP entirely and focuses on 53 social and environmental output indicators under three headings: basic needs, the foundations of well-being and opportunity.
Fig. 3. Overview of different interactions between science and society related to modelling.
Feedbacks reducing sustainability are **red** and flow from the society to the delta, basin, and biosphere. Feed-backs supporting sustainability are **green** and originate from the river. Feed-backs that alter the delta in both positive and negative ways are **black**.

*Day et al., 2016, GEC*