

Operationalising the SDGs Through Climate Action in Aotearoa New Zealand

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We are currently in an almost unprecedented policy window of opportunity with the ratification of a comprehensive climate agreement at COP21 and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To capitalize on this unique opportunity, greater attention is required to identify synergies between the climate change and sustainable development agendas. This presentation proposes that insights from systems thinking can provide a framework for a linked-up approach to aligning these two agendas: climate change cuts across the other 16 SDGs, and has direct impacts on human well-being and livelihoods. By framing the analysis in terms of resilience, we draw attention to the capacity for moving beyond recovery, or maintenance of the status quo, and highlight its value as a conceptual and analytical tool to realize the aspirations of the SDGs and the climate action agenda. We conclude by presenting a number of concrete actions linked with climate change and the SDGs that might be achievable in Aotearoa New Zealand over the next 12 to 18 months, including concrete steps to help ensure they are achieved.