Who created the iSDG Model?

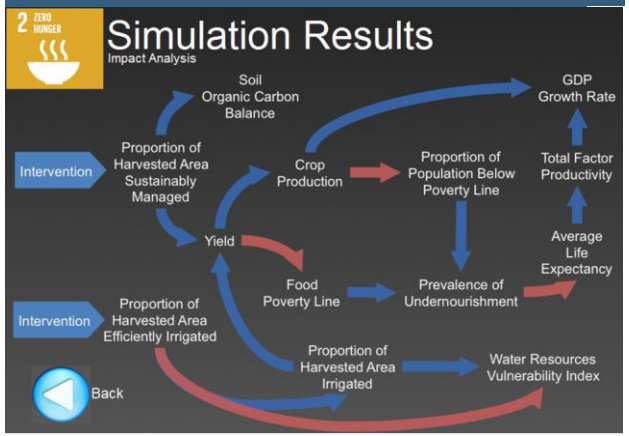
The new iSDG Model was developed by the Millennium Institute based on the proven Threshold 21 (T21) technology. T21 technology generates scenarios tracking the dynamic interactions between key social, economic and environmental drivers of development.

T21 technology is based on System Dynamics, a modeling methodology developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the mid-1950s to study complex, dynamic systems.

What advantages does the iSDG model offer?

Two of the greatest advantages of using the iSDG Model are the ability to establish policy coherence among all 17 SDGs by simulating all the desired interventions in one step and align Agenda 2030 with national development plans and objectives.

While the model is not a replacement for detailed, sector-specific analysis, it is a complementary and overarching tool that pulls together and tests the coherence and impact of policies.



Who has used this technology?

T21 technology has been used as an integrated planning tool by more than 40 nations, regional groups and multilateral development institutions, including the governments of Kenya, Senegal, Swaziland, Peru, Venezuela, China, The Philippines, as well as the ECOWAS Commission and UNEP.

Some projects include: The Green Economy Report published by UNEP; Changing Course in Global Agriculture; the Africa Adaptation Programme of the UNDP, and more.

How is the model customized for countries?

The iSDG model is customized for countries through a collaborative process involving consultation with a broad range of local/national stakeholders. This approach ensures that the model reflects the unique development dynamics of each country and fits expressed needs and priorities.

How does the Millennium Institute validate the integrity and accuracy of the iSDG Model data?

During the customization period, the model undergoes a validation process that includes expert review, literature and data reviews, extreme-condition testing, and statistical assessments.

The model is useful as a framework for the harmonization of data, which can come from a broad variety of sources.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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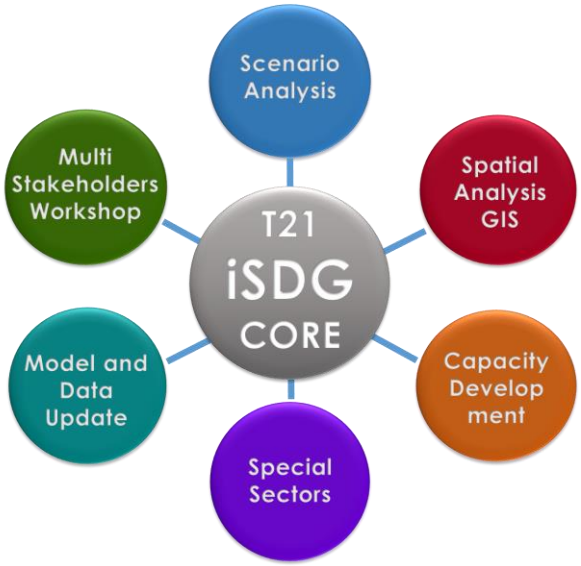
iSDG
INTEGRATED SIMULATION TOOL

Introducing the Integrated Sustainable Development Goals Model



MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE

What is the iSDG Model?

The Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model is a comprehensive simulation tool that can generate country-specific development scenarios to show the implications of policy on a country's progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

How does the iSDG model support the achievement of the SDGs?

The iSDG Model gives policymakers and planning officials the capacity to:

- Visualize progress towards each of the SDGs, highlighting specific areas requiring more attention or resources.
- Evaluate the likely benefits of proposed policies and strategies, and reduce undesired long-term impacts (up to 2050).
- Ensure policy coherence across areas of interventions and facilitate the alignment of SDG strategies with other national development plans.
- Define an efficient policy implementation schedule that facilitates high-impact results and monitors progress towards achieving policy objectives.

How does it work?

The iSDG Model utilizes Vensim modeling software, which gives users the ability to conduct on-the-spot simulations, perform complex policy analyses and visually project results through graphs and data charts.

The interface allows users to chart potential progress toward each of the SDGs, evaluate anticipated benefits of proposed policies and strategies, and foresee long-term impacts. The iSDG Model can generate scenarios up to the year 2050.

Interactive User Dashboard for the SDGs (main figure)

Key:

Anticipated progress towards achieving the SDG by 2030 under 'business as usual' conditions.

Anticipated progress towards achieving the SDG by 2030 after user-defined policy interventions.

What distinguishes the iSDG model from other simulation tools on the market?

1. **Comprehensive SDG Framework**
The iSDG Model is the only simulation tool that incorporates the 17 SDGs into a single, integrated framework, which makes it a unique tool for SDG planning. The iSDG Model's integrated, multi-sectoral and systems approach helps achieve policy coherence and integration at both policy design and evaluation stages.

2. **User-Friendly Interface**
It offers a user-friendly interface, which enhances the ease and speed with which interactive simulation experiments can be run, even incorporating a large number of policies simultaneously. It offers flexibility to address a wide range of development problems.

The interface also provides diagrams and descriptions that give insights into the structural causes of behavior to show the interconnectedness of the SDGs.

3. **Synergies**
In addition to running explorative scenarios in the initial phases of policy making, the model supports the simultaneous simulation of policies developed in different sectors to analyze their synergies and long-term impacts.

Who should use the iSDG Model?

The iSDG Model is highly beneficial to policy makers and planning officials, but can also be used by multiple stakeholders at various levels of society. Based on past applications of T21 technology, ideal users include:

- Policy planning institutions (both government and non-government) that conduct research and analysis for policy decision-makers;
- Government officials and decision-makers who want to explore a range of alternative strategies and trade-offs to achieve desired outcomes;
- Stakeholders in multilateral and bilateral international development organizations, sustainable development experts, educators and researchers committed to the Sustainable Development Goals.