

Kelp Overlooked

*Acknowledgement in International environmental
governance*

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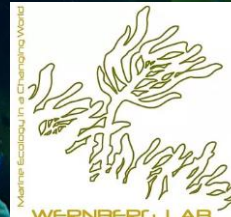
School of Biological Sciences

Oceans Graduate School

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GREEN GRAVEL
ACTION GROUP



KELP FORESTS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Context



Context of the research
& context of the field.

Method & Approach used

Results



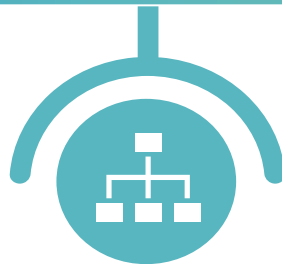
Kelp forests
acknowledgment in IEG

Why this approach &
why it matters?

Discussion



Research outcomes
Update



Structure



Significance

Master Research – Kelp & international Law



Prof Thomas Wernberg

- Marine ecologist
- Temperate reefs
- Restoration



Dr Karen Filbee-Dexter

- Marine ecologist
- Arctic & Temperate reefs
- Restoration



Prof Erika Techera

- Ocean Governance
- International Environmental Law (IEL)
- Ecosystem governance

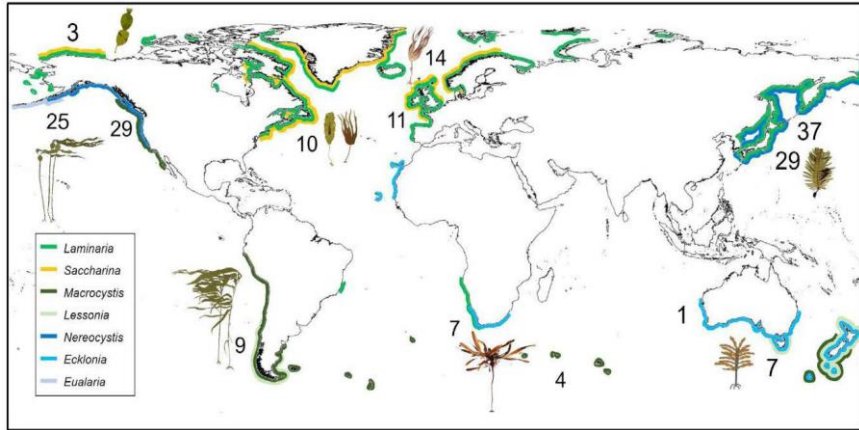


Why haven't I heard (more) of kelp before?

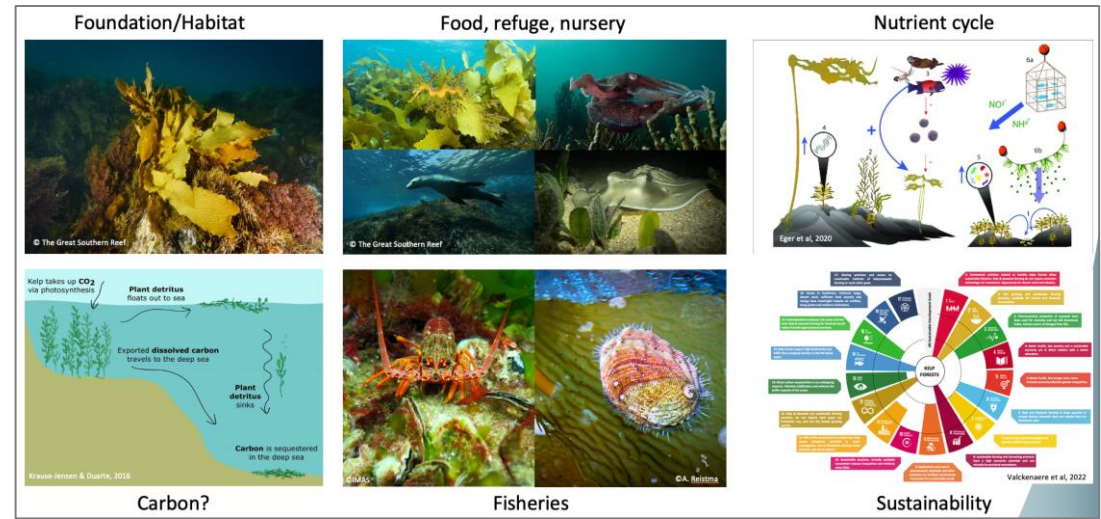


Context

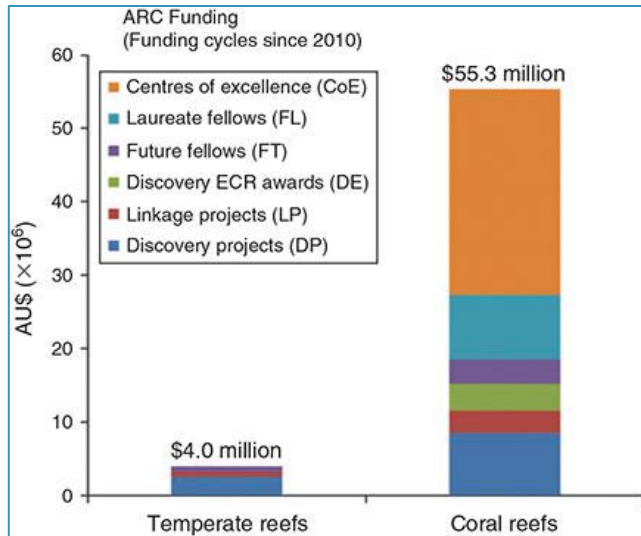
Despite...



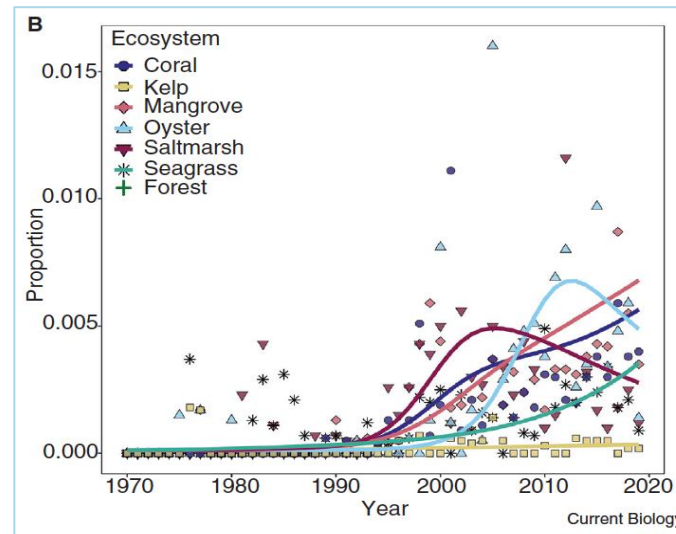
Wernberg et al, 2019



Yet...



Bennet et al., 2016



Saunders et al, 2020

Could it be coming from higher places?



International Environmental Governance of marine ecosystems (simplified)



Not the same as a speeding ticket !



LAW

Convention on Biological Diversity

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

World Heritage Convention

Sustainable Developments Goals

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Paris Agreement

... and other Agreements, Convention, Protocol, Treaty, Declaration, Accords, Plan of Action, ...



Institutions



Actions



International environmental governance can incentivise significant national policies and support for marine ecosystem protection, conservation and restoration.

Research question

What is the representation of kelp forests in international environmental governance and how does this compare to other coastal marine ecosystems?



Method

- *Determine inclusion of marine ecosystems in IEG communication/knowledge platforms through keyword search: **Kelp; Coral; Seagrass; Mangroves; Salt Marshes***

6 'LAWS'

- *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
- *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*
- *World Heritage Convention (WHC)*
- *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*
- *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)*
- *Paris Agreement (PA)*

7 INSTITUTIONS

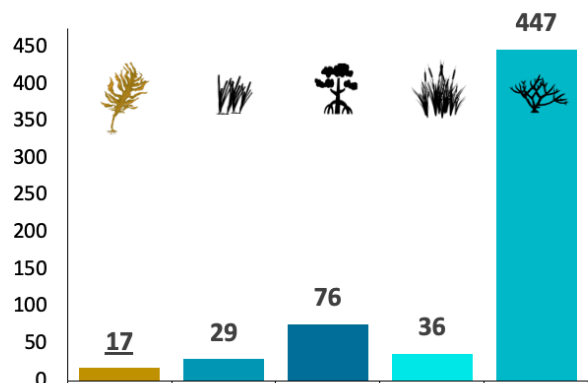
- *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*
- *UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)*
- *UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*
- *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Ecosystems Biodiversity & Services (IPBES)*
- *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*
- *Global Environmental Facility (GEF)*
- *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*



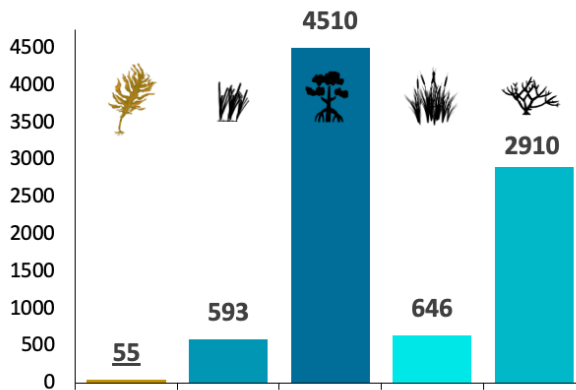
Results - LAW

Number of Mentions

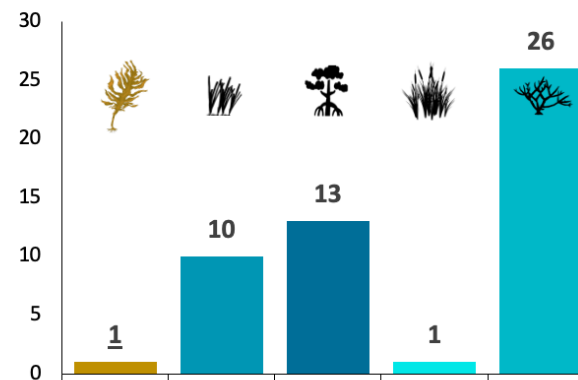
Convention on Biological Diversity



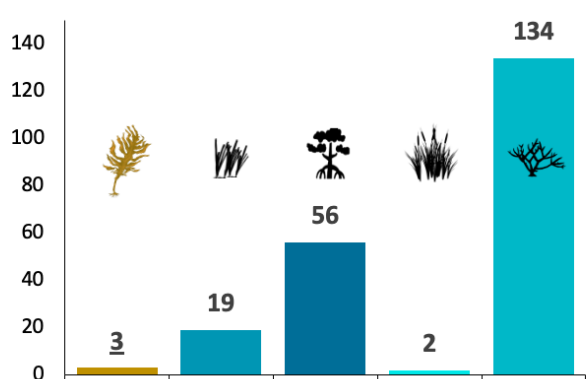
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



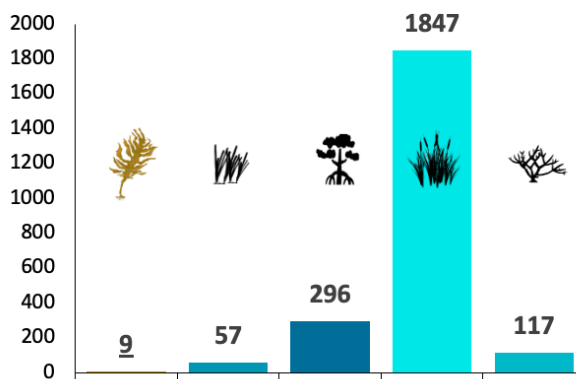
World Heritage Convention



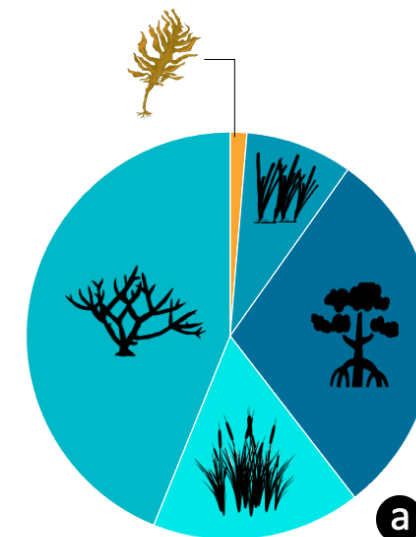
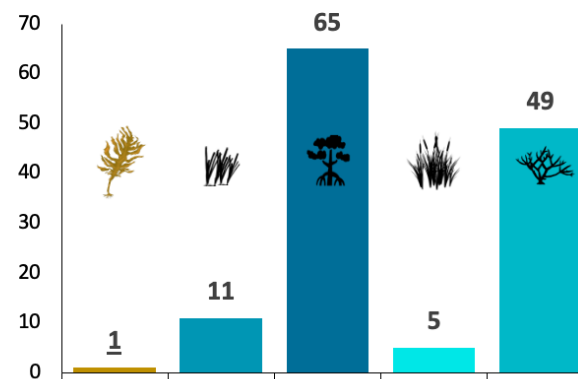
Sustainable Development Goals



Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



Paris Agreement



- Kelp Forests
- Seagrass Meadows
- Mangrove Forests
- Salt Marshes
- Coral Reefs

Marine Ecosystems

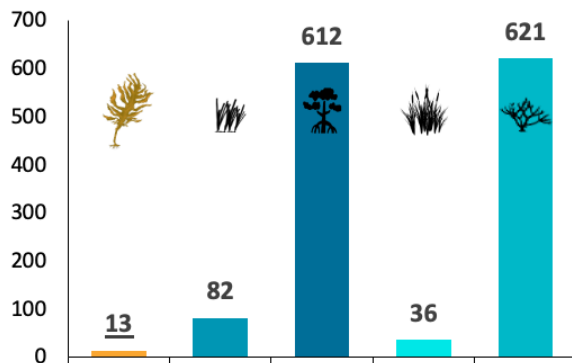
Valckenaere et al., in prep 2022



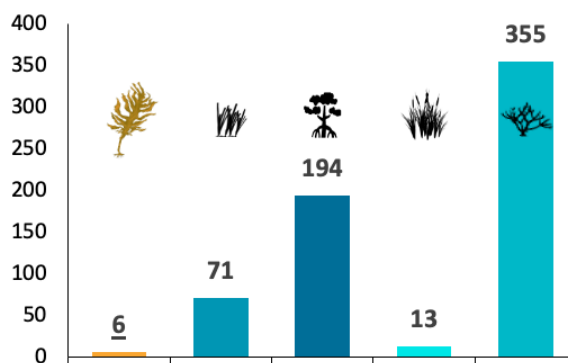
Results - Institutions

Number of Mentions

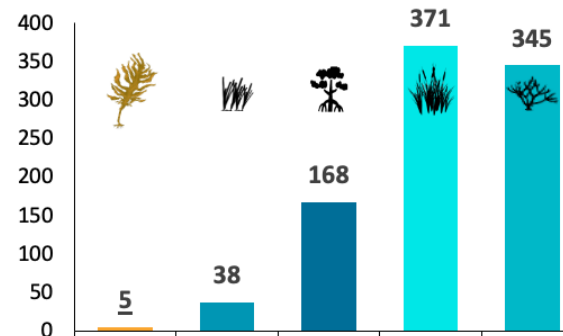
International Union for Conservation of Nature



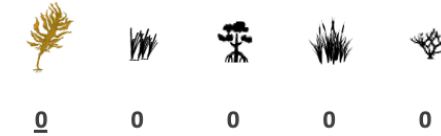
UN Environmental Programme



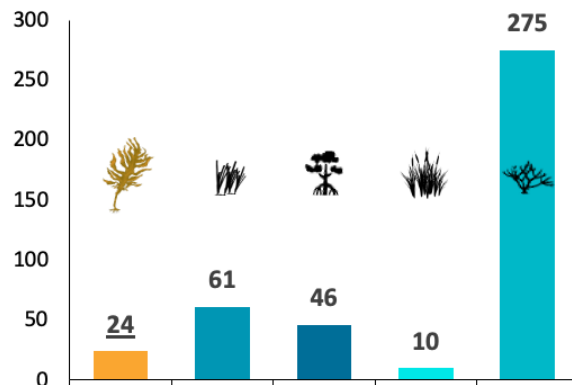
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



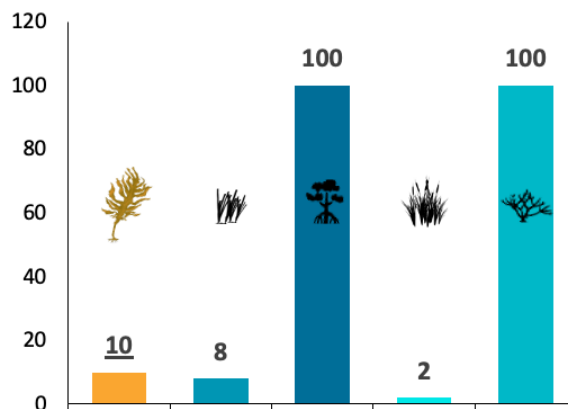
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



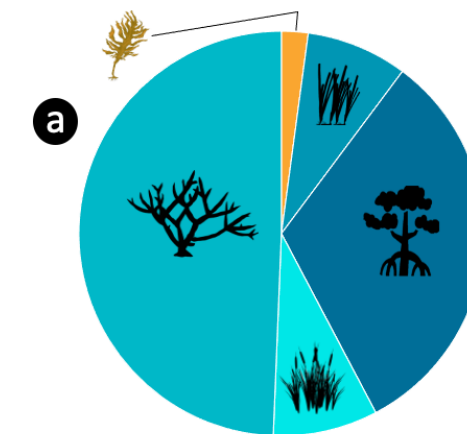
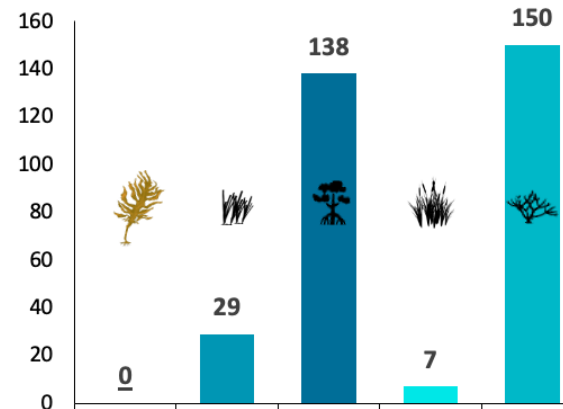
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services



Food and Agriculture Organization



Global Environmental Facility



- Kelp Forests
- Seagrass Meadows
- Mangrove Forests
- Salt Marshes
- Coral Reefs

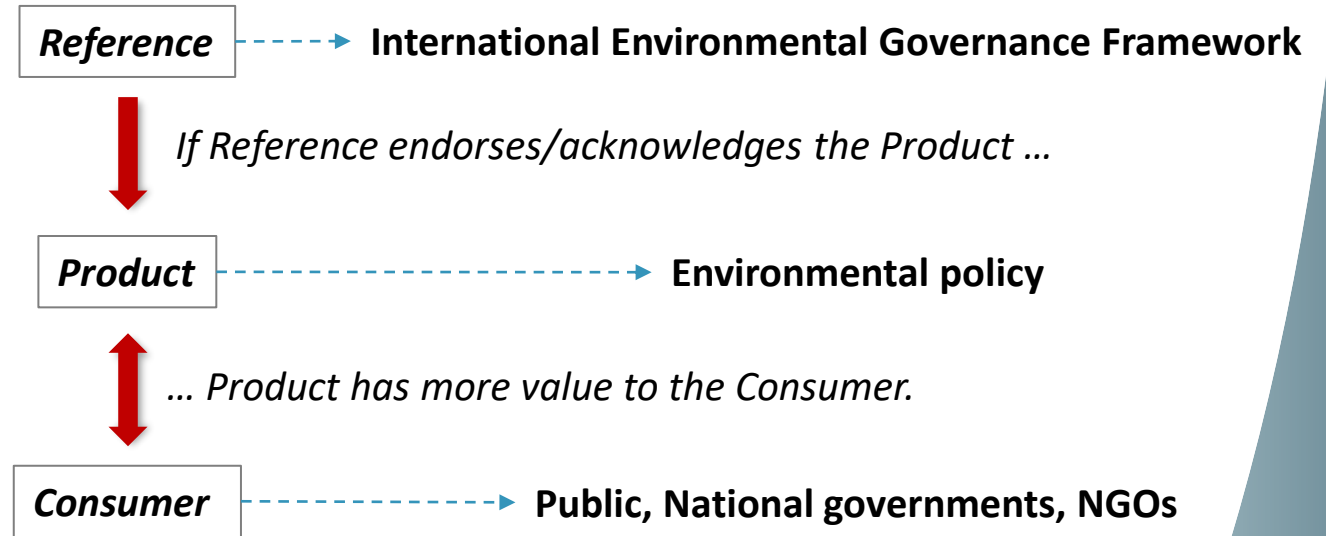
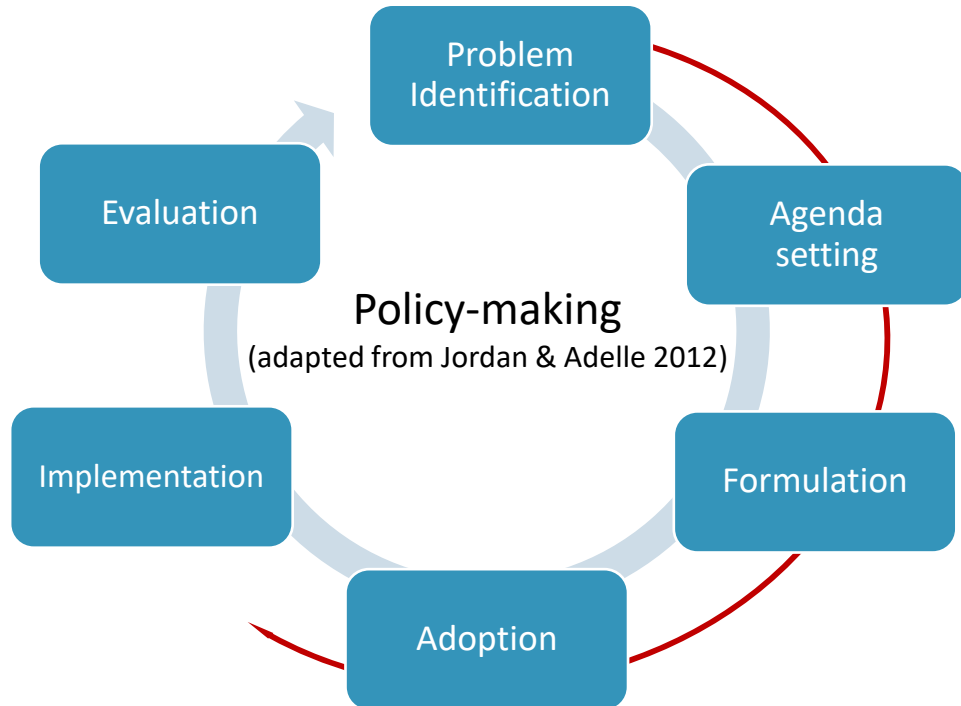
Marine Ecosystems

Valckenaere et al., in prep 2022



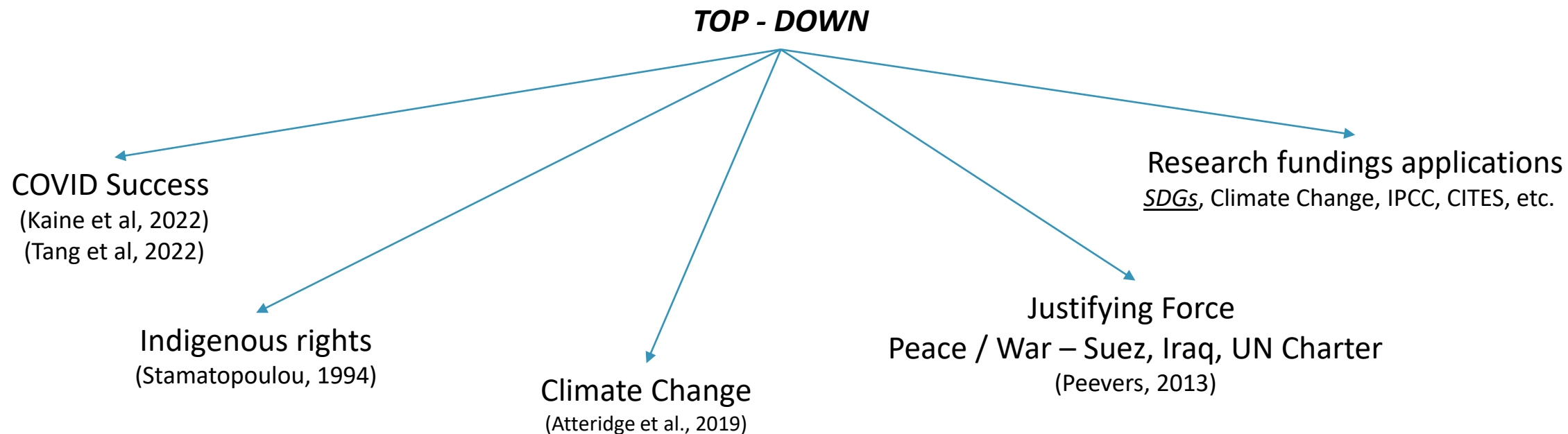
Significance

Why this approach ? → From a 'consumer perspective'



TOP - DOWN





BOTTOM - UP changes do exist (Plastic Treaty, Tropical Reefs, Climate Change, Antarctic Whaling, etc)



While a scientific knowledge basis matters in the policy-making process, it is not always sufficient to gain public support and ensure implementation. Endorsement, acknowledgement, and/or alignment with international frameworks and institutions is increasingly vital to the legitimization of national policies.

Domestic implementations (policies, laws, regulations, guidelines, ...) are stronger when derived from international 'guidelines' (Alasuutari & Qadir, 2014)

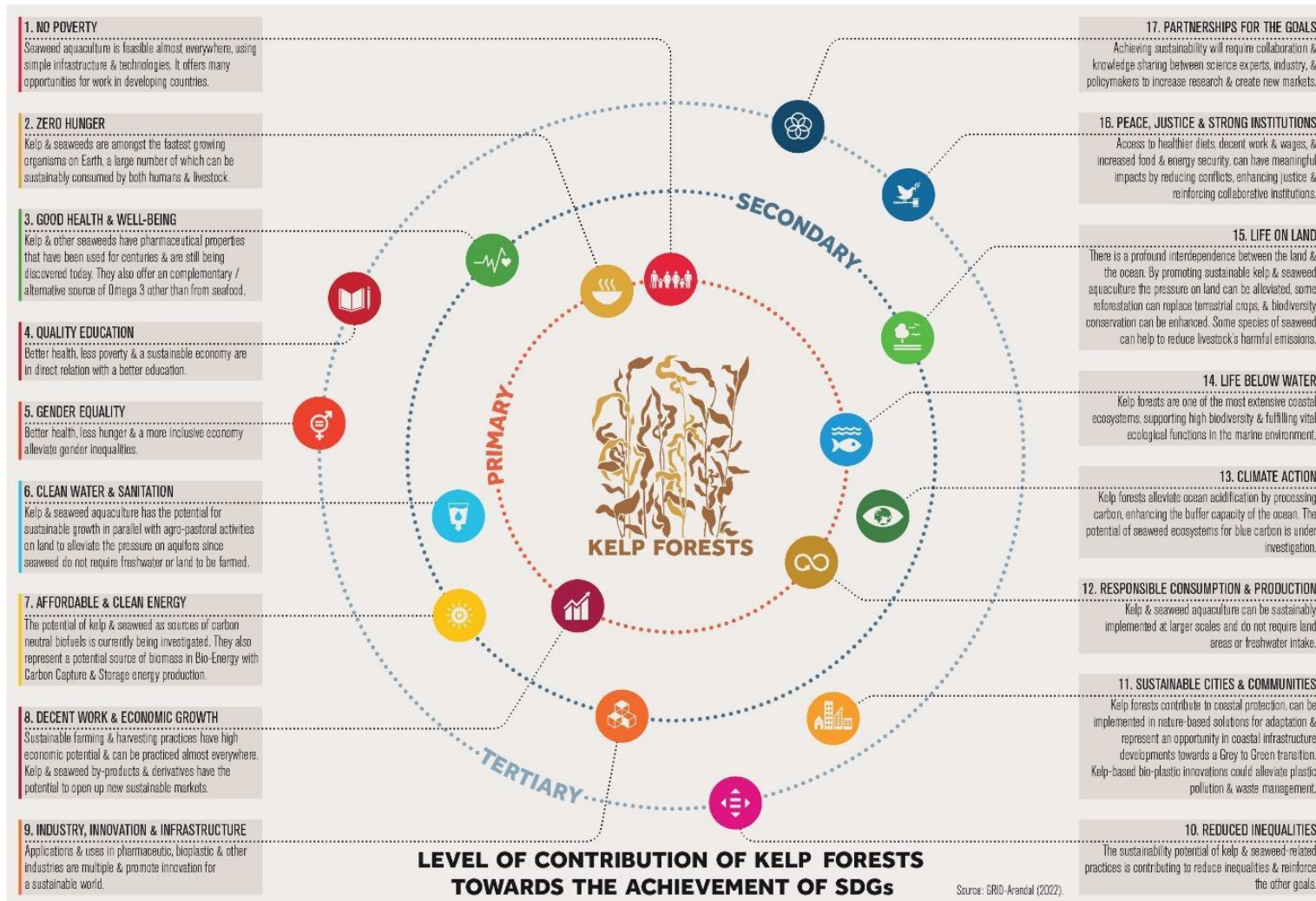


Lack of inclusion in international frameworks represents one barrier for help conservation and restoration



Opportunities for kelp forests

Kelp can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can also benefit from soft law targets set by the SDGs.



Techera E, Valckenaere J, et al. (in press). Kelp forests in law and policy. *In: Into the Blue: Securing a Sustainable Future for Kelp Forests*. UNEP, Nairobi. Chapter 5.

- Kelp forests are **underrepresented** in international laws, institutions (and actions.)
- This represents a barrier for kelp conservation and restoration because international acknowledgement can reinforce domestic policies and provide justification, support, funding, etc.
- Further paths to explore:
 - How practitioners develop their project proposals?
 - Other legal barriers to kelp restoration at the local scale?
 - Ways to justify actions without international acknowledgment?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Dr Karen Filbee-Dexter,
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Wernberg Lab

Green Gravel Action Group

Ocean Graduate School

Oceans Institute



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

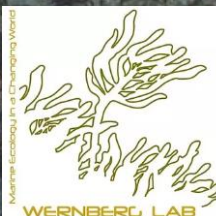
**OCEANS
INSTITUTE**

QUESTIONS ?

Thank you



**GREEN GRAVEL
ACTION GROUP**



Marine Ecology in a Changing World

WERNBERG LAB