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International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific

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# **Strengthening the Environmental Dimension of the Voluntary National Reviews in Asia and the Pacific: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward**

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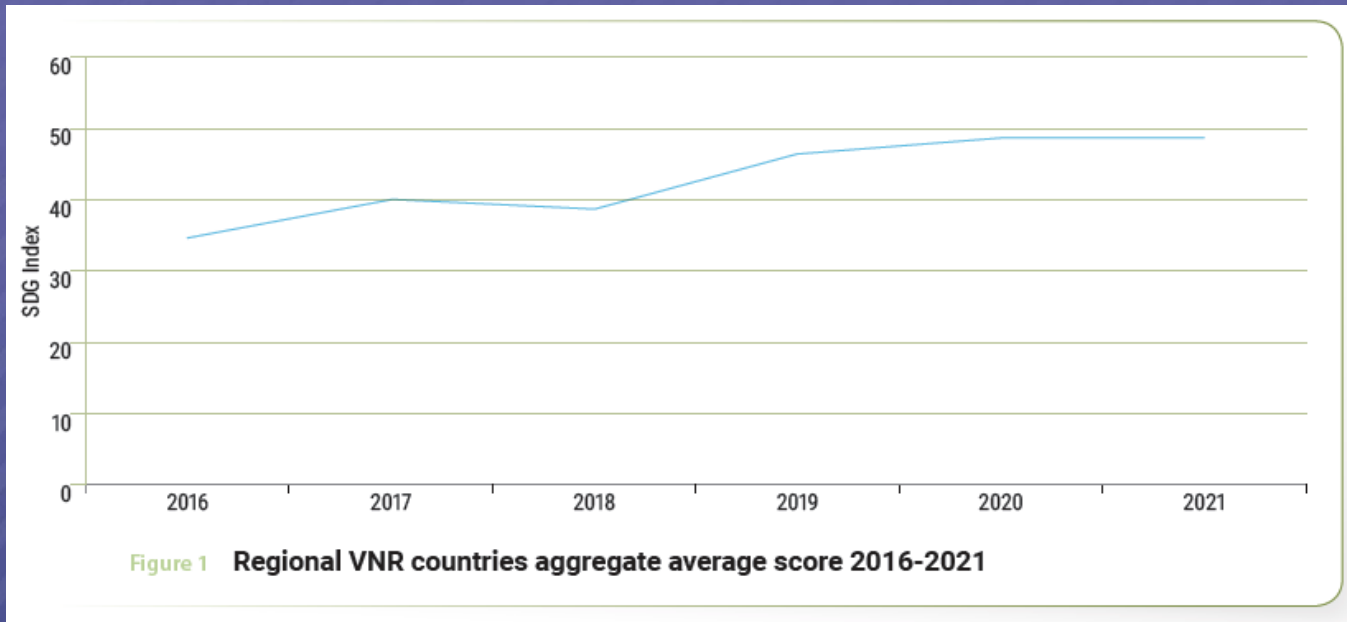
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**Sustainable Development Goals  
are the ambitious plan of action  
for people, planet and prosperity**



## Regional Context: SDG performance is improving--but too slowly

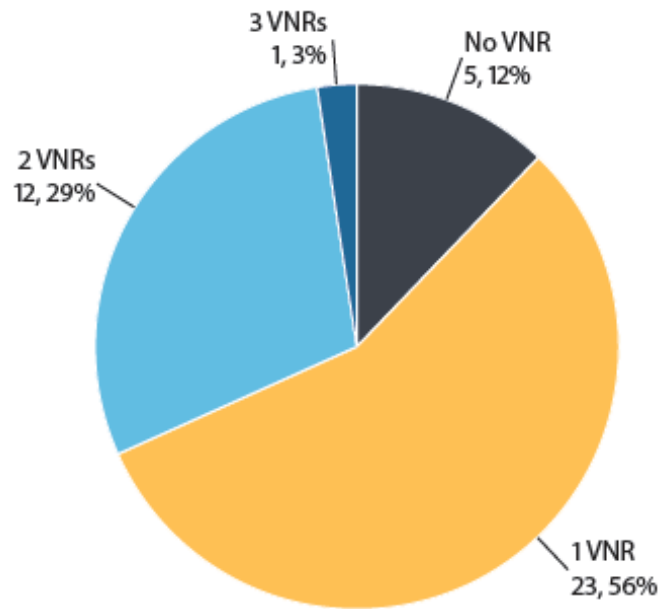


The average SDSN Index Score has increased over time between 2016-2021 in the reviewed countries.

**Asia Pacific may take till 2065 to achieve 2030 SDGs**  
(Asia Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022)



# VNR Production



**Figure 7** Frequency of VNRs 2016-2021

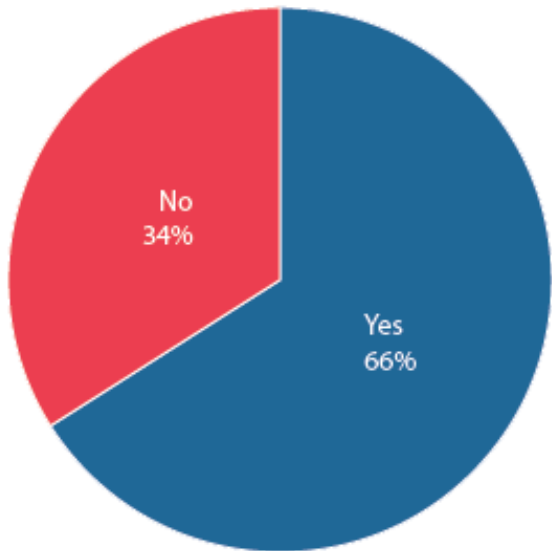
## A total of 50 VNRs between 2016-2021

- Countries tend to produce longer subsequent VNRs compared to their first ones
- Second and third VNRs tend to engage deeper with the SDGs.

**VNRs are an important exercise for countries to tackle the complex and interlinked SDGs.**



## Environmental Dimension of VNRs – how much is the environment featured in VNRs

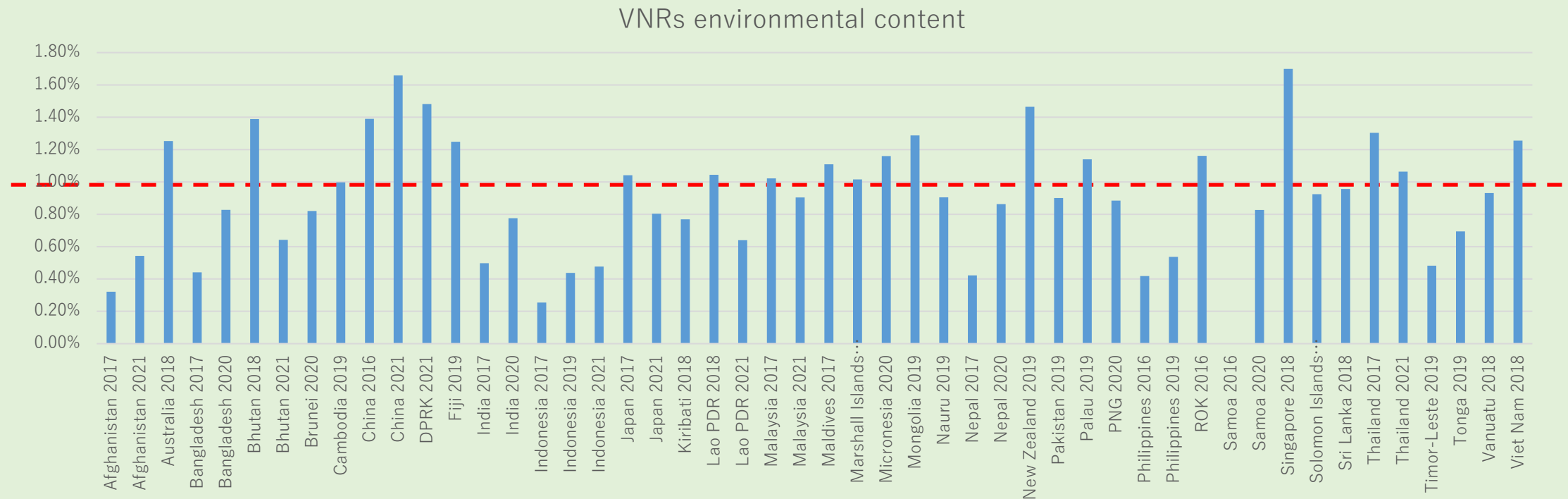


**Figure 13** VNRs with dedicated environmental sections

Two thirds of the reviewed VNRs had dedicated environment chapters or sections discussing the environmental situation.

Recommend future VNRs to have more environmental content than earlier ones

# What Percentage of the VNR Content was environment related?



- Frequency of environmental terms counted show limited discussion of environmental issues in most VNRs—21 out of 50 had 1% of environmental terms or more.
- Discussion of environmental issues should be stronger in future VNRs.



## Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

In general, the region's civil society are actively engaged with the SDGs and the VNRs, although mostly on social rather than environmental issues. This engagement is predominately through countries' consultation processes during their VNR production.

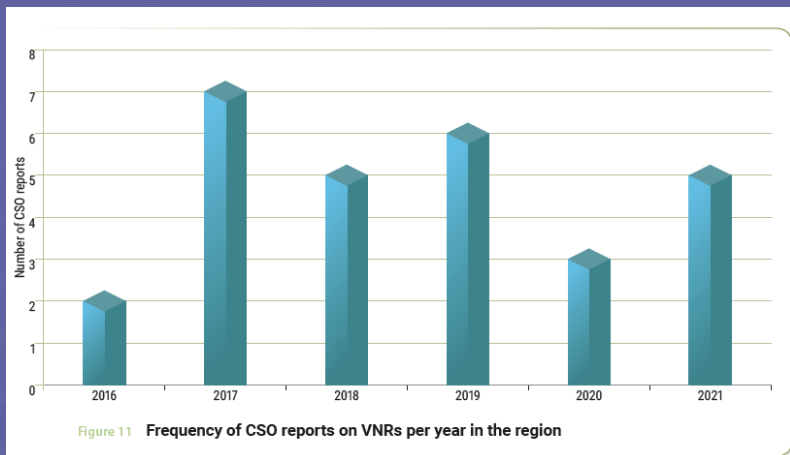


Figure 11 Frequency of CSO reports on VNRs per year in the region

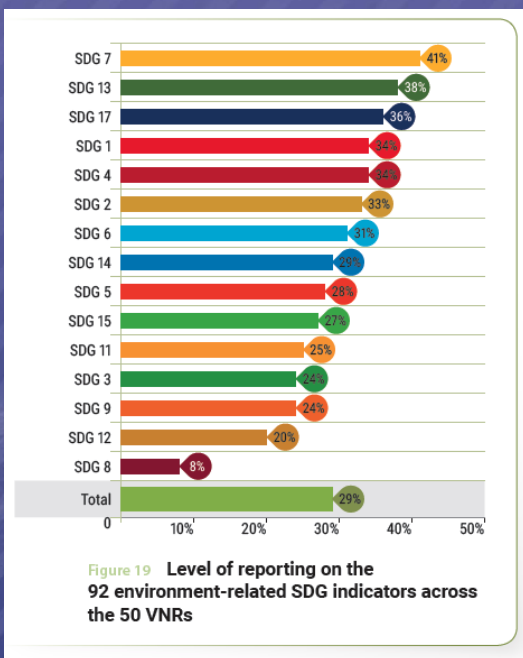


Figure 19 Level of reporting on the 92 environment-related SDG indicators across the 50 VNRs

## Data and Indicators

The level of reporting environment-related indicators in 50 reviewed VNRs remains low. Only 29% of the 92 environment-related indicators were reported in the VNRs.



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## Way Forward

**The need for urgent action, including by building public awareness and ensuring stakeholder participation to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, while also for accelerated efforts on the SDGs.**



**ご清聴ありがとうございました。**  
Thank you very much for your attention.

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