



ISAP 2022

International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific

IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

Indicators and data gaps in measuring environment-related SDGs: Results from UNEP's regional review of VNRs in Asia-Pacific and possible solutions

TT12: Introduction of forthcoming UNEP Report entitled: Strengthening the Environmental Dimension of the Voluntary National Reviews in Asia and the Pacific: Lessons Learned and Ways Forward

2 December 2022, Online

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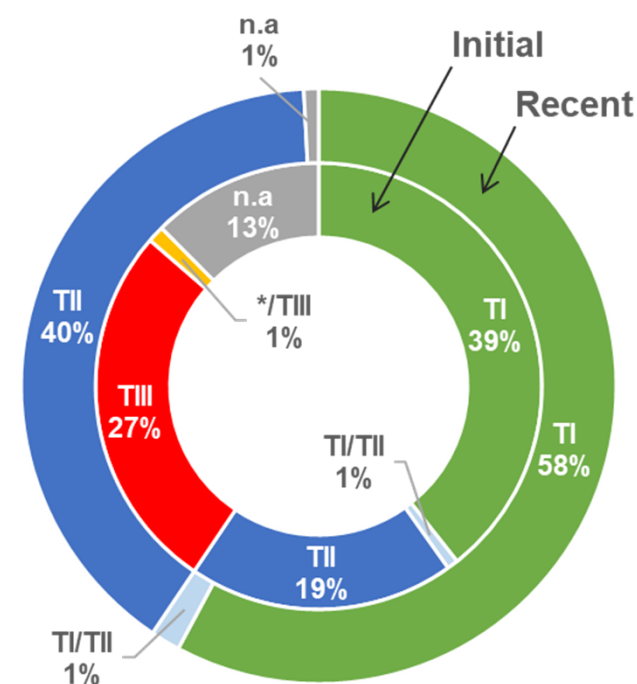
United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 17 Goals, 169 targets and 231 indicators (92 related to the environment)



Classification of SDG indicator tiers and the status

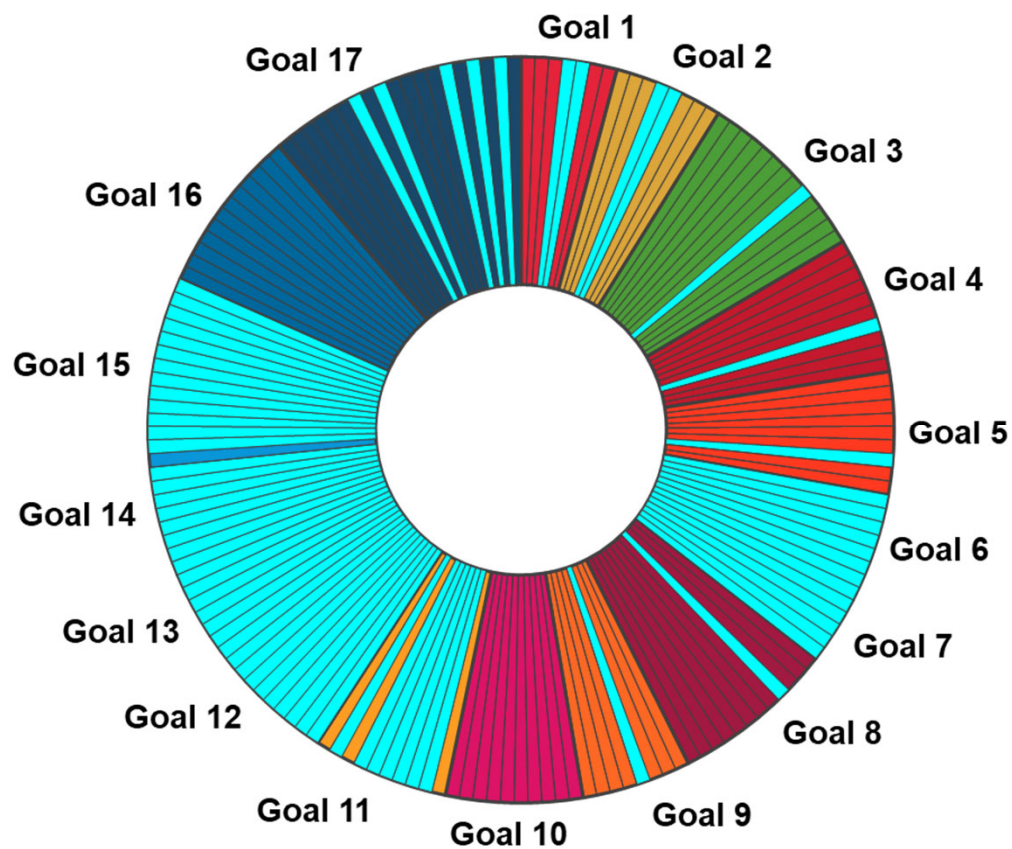
| Tiers | Definition (as of 4 February 2022) |
|--------|--|
| Tier 1 | Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant. |
| Tier 2 | Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries. |
| Tier 3 | No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. (As of the 51st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the global indicator framework does not contain any Tier III indicators). |

Tiers: Evolution

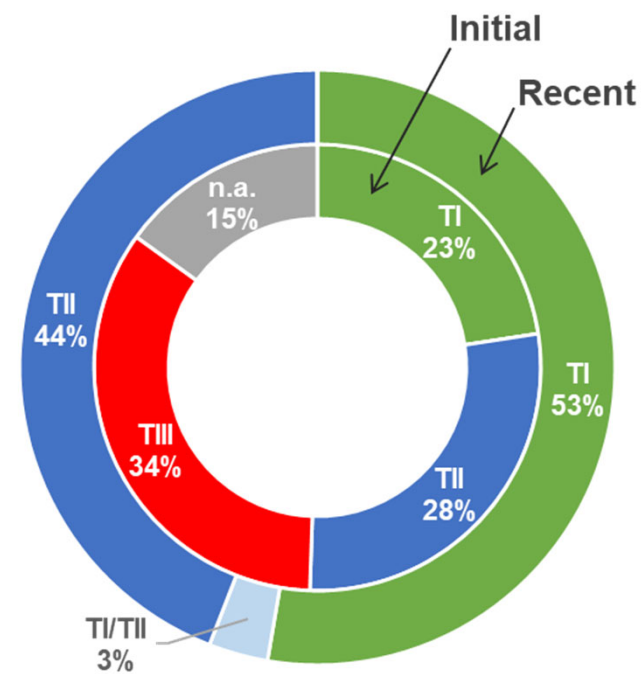


Source: Compiled by X. Zhou based on data from UNSD (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>)

Environment-related SDG indicators: Tiers and the status

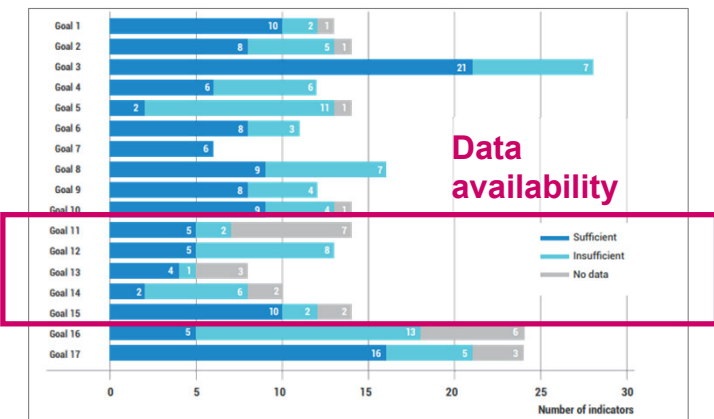
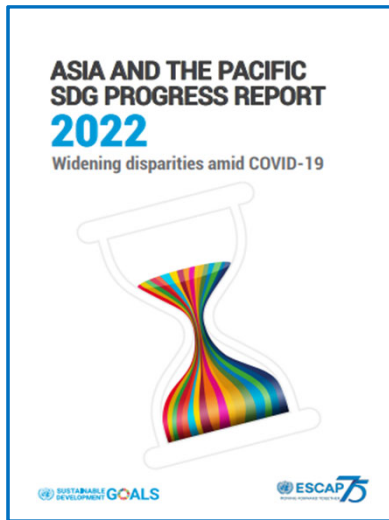


Tiers (Environment-related indicators): Evolution



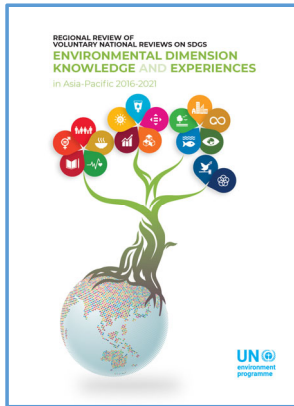
Source: Compiled by X. Zhou based on the data from UNSD (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>)

Environment-related SDG progress and data constraints in Asia and the Pacific



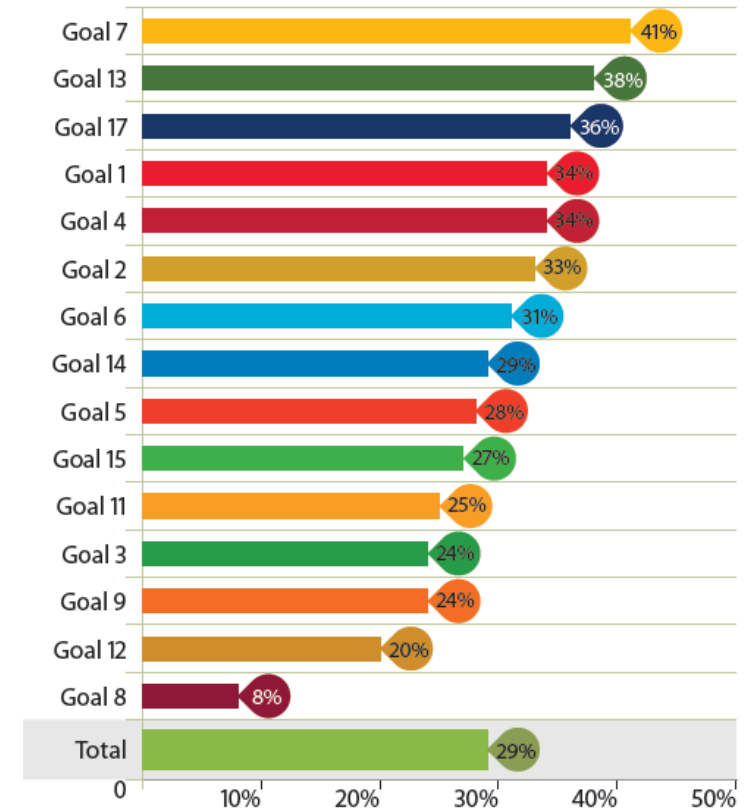
Source: UNESCAP, 2022. https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP-2022-FG_SDG-Progress-Report.pdf#page=100

Regional review of VNRs in Asia and the Pacific: 36 countries, 50 VNRs and 92 environment-related indicators



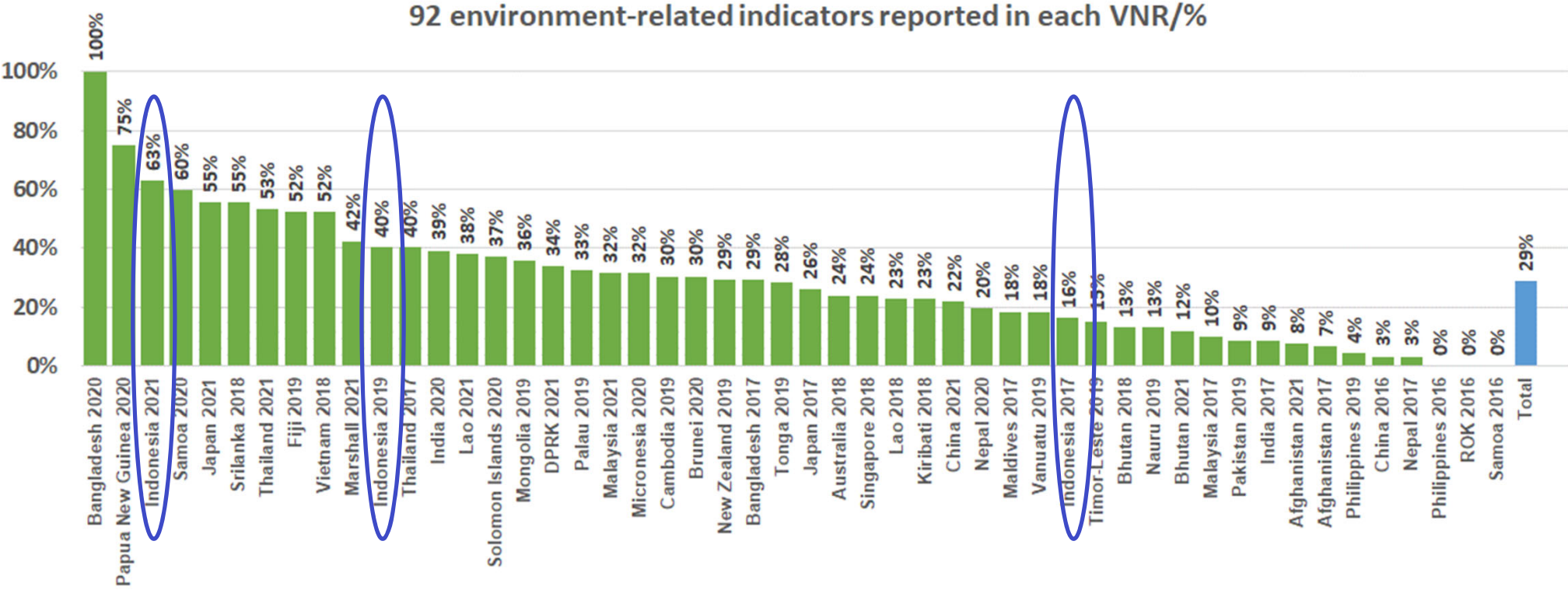
REGIONAL REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS ON SDGS ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES in Asia-Pacific 2016-2021

| Goal | Target | Indicator | Country (Year) | | | | |
|------|--------|-----------|----------------|---|----------|-------|----------------|
| | | | Reported (Y/N) | Global SDG indicators: Same/Similar/Different | Progress | Notes | Key challenges |
| | | | | | | | |



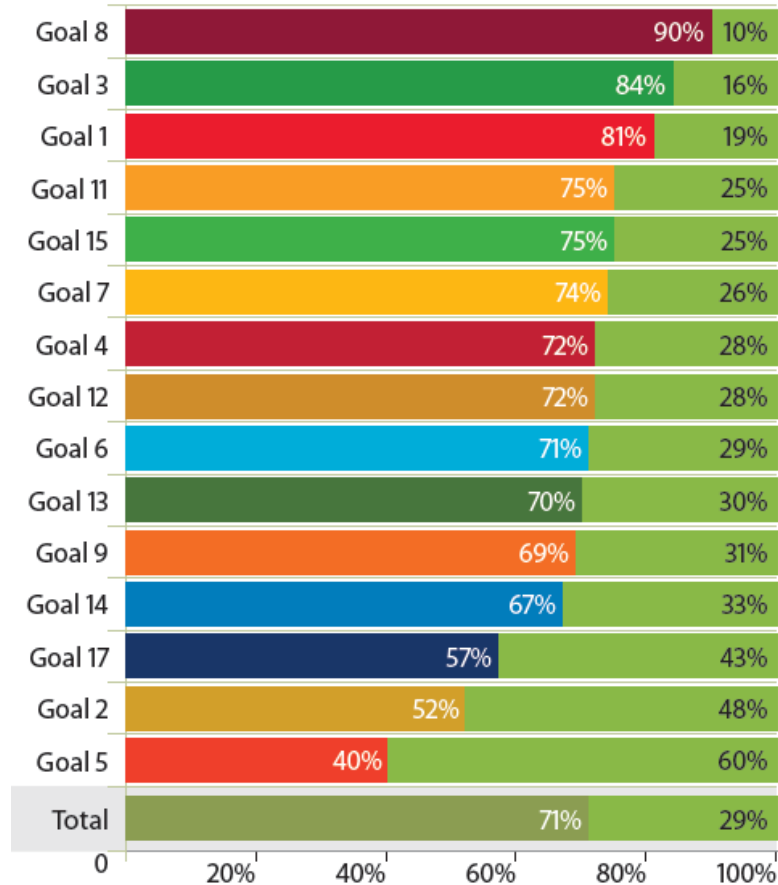
Level of reporting of 92 indicators across 50 VNRs

Reporting of environment-related SDG indicators in individual VNRs






Source: UNEP, 2022.

Use of global SDG indicators for environment-related reporting in VNRs

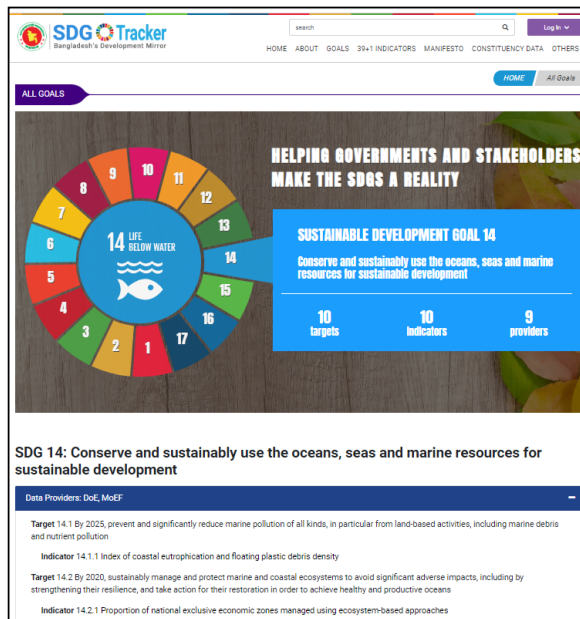


Source: UNEP, 2022.

-  Across the 50 VNRs, about 71% of the environment-related indicators used global indicators.
-  At the goal level, this ranges from 90% (Goals 8) to 40% (Goal 5).
-  Increasing trend of using global SDG indicators, e.g. 67% (Japan's VNR 2017) increased to 92% (Japan's VNR 2021).

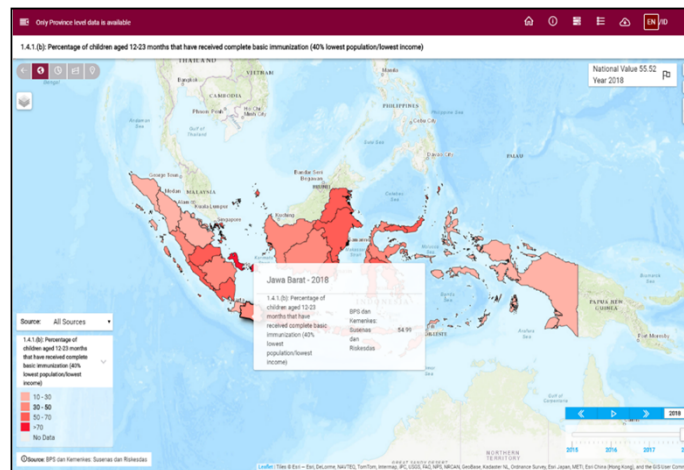
Use of national SDG indicators and data

Bangladesh



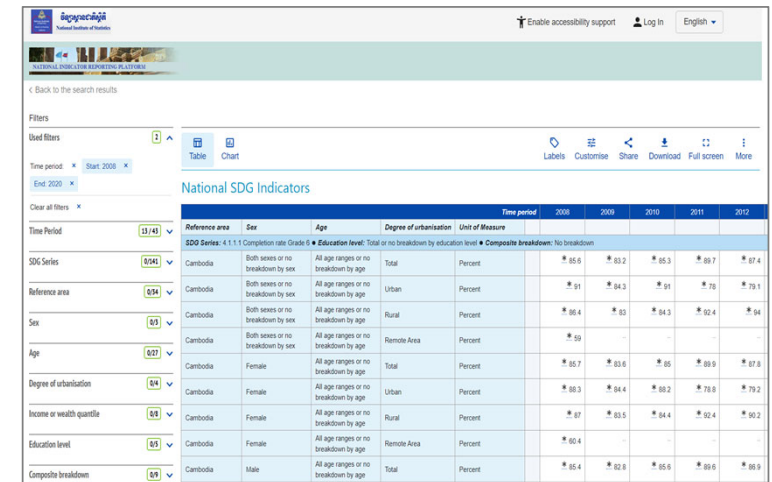
Source: Bangladesh SDG Tracker

Indonesia



Source: Indonesia SDGs Dashboard

Cambodia



Source: Cambodia National SDG Indicators

Key findings on environment-related indicators in VNRs

- 🌍 The overall level of reporting of environment-related indicators in VNRs is low though with an increasing trend and there are big differences across countries.
- 🌍 Global SDG indicators were often used for reporting environment-related indicators with an increasing trend.
- 🌍 National indicators are also used based on the national context and data availability.
- 🌍 Indicators and data are often provided in the Annex but not consistent nor with sufficient data track the progress through VNRs.
- 🌍 Reporting format, indicators, use of global indicators, trackable data, and progress assessment, etc. differ largely across countries and across VNRs for the same country, which make it difficult to track progress and make comparisons across countries.

Recommendations

- 🌍 Strengthening the reporting of environment-related indicators in general and with a focus on those under Goals 3, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 15.
- 🌍 UNDESA and UNEP provide guidelines on how to report environment-related indicators in VNRs, including the format, VNR monitoring process, indicator use (global indicators and national indicators), data, and progress assessment, etc.
- 🌍 Capacity building in least developed countries and developing countries;
- 🌍 Develop a couple of country cases to enhance the reporting capacity;
- 🌍 Closing indicator and data gaps (proxy indicators and national indicators).

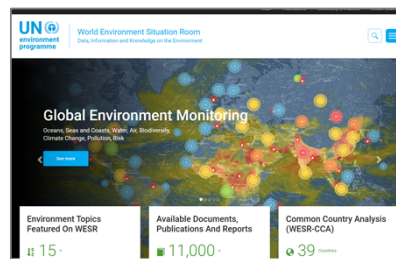
Closing the gaps in environment-related SDG indicators and data: Proxy indicators

Global Proxies for Some Tier III Indicators

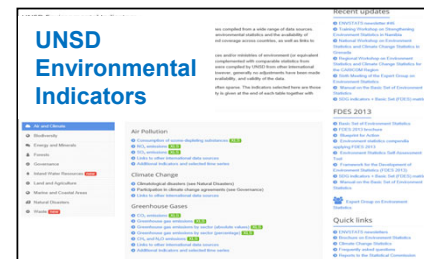
Developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

25 February 2019

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Proxies%20Summary.pdf>



<https://wesr.unep.org/>



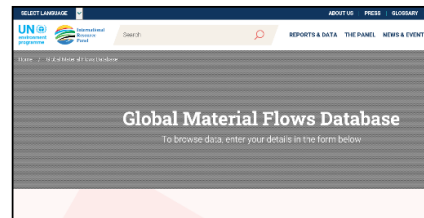
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators.cshtml>



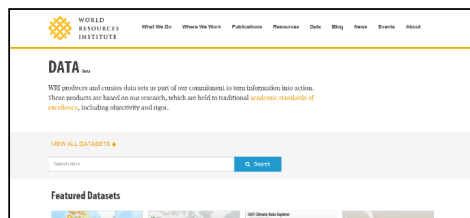
<https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgatlas/>



<https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/>



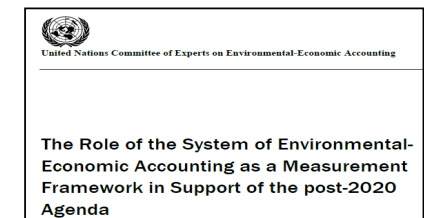
<https://www.resourcepanel.org/global-material-flows-database>



<http://datasets.wri.org/>



https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=GREEN_GROWTH



https://sea.un.org/sites/sea.un.org/files/see_a_as_a_measurement_framework_in_support_of_the_post-2020_agenda_1.pdf



SDG Interlinkages Analysis & Visualisation Tool (V4.0)



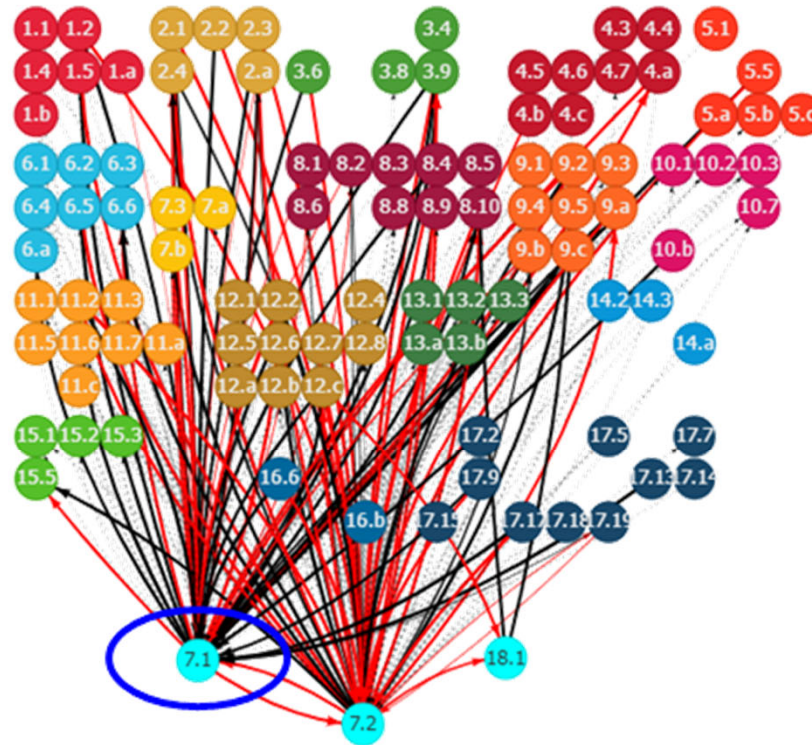
Home Project Methodology SDG Interlinkage Visualisation River Basin SDG Tool Dashboards and Data Publications

1 Afghanistan Detailed Explanation Export Chart Edit mode MyData MySelection How To Use

2 Add My Target Select all

3 Run Save Selection Save to MyData

MyData is now being used.



Visualisation Options

Types of linkage

- All linkages
- Out-degree linkages (directed links pointing from the selected target to other targets)
- In-degree linkages (directed links pointing from other targets to the selected target)

Positive/Negative linkages

- Positive linkages (synergies)
- Negative linkages (trade-offs)
- Data not available

Layouts

- Default
- Grid

Line thickness levels for the strength of the linkages

5

Selected targets and their interlinkages with the following goals

- Select all
- Goal 1. No poverty
- Goal 2. Zero hunger
- Goal 3. Good health and well-being
- Goal 4. Quality education
- Goal 5. Gender equality
- Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7. Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10. Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities

Free online tool:
<https://sdginterlinkages.iges.jp/visualisationtool.html>

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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