

STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

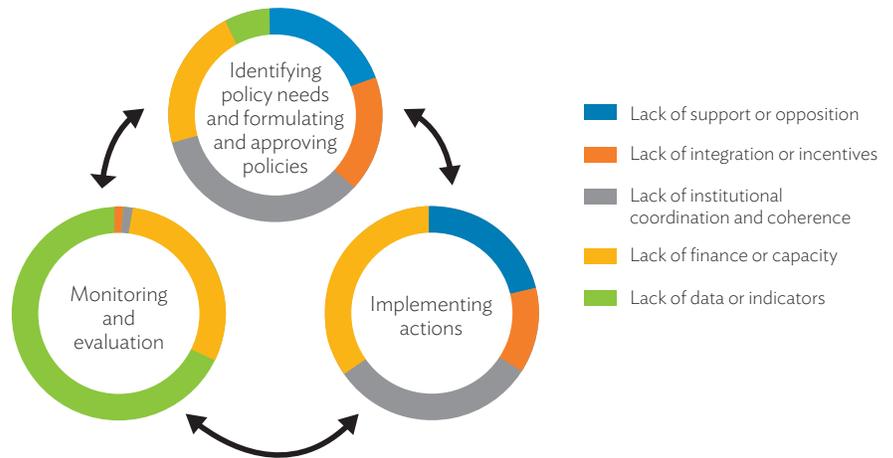
STOCKTAKE AND TOOL COMPENDIUM

Beyond their inclusivity and universality, one of the more notable features of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets is that they place an equal emphasis on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Recent SDG status reports indicate that implementation of SDGs with a stronger environmental focus show limited progress. Asia and the Pacific is arguably the region with the greatest need for strengthening national responses to the environmental dimensions. This need reflects that the region's exceptional growth comes at steep environmental costs undermining the prospects for sustained economic growth and social development within, and even beyond, the region.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) stocktake of national responses to SDGs 12, 14, and 15, and other selected environment-related targets, found that countries are focused on addressing "conventional" environmental issues and their environment ministries or agencies are doing so in isolation of other sectors; such a sector-based approach is not conducive to integration.¹ Frequently cited reasons for limited integration are difficulties with interagency coordination, technical capacity and availability of human resources, costs of collating environmental data, and identification of appropriate monitoring indicators (see figure).

Moving forward, there is no need to invent new concepts. Existing decision-making tools and methods may be used to help promote more integrated and coordinated approaches to the environment, fitting them to specific national and local realities.

Identified Challenges at Different Stages of the Policy Cycle



Prepared by ADB in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Tool Compendium is an inventory of tools that policy makers can use to better...



¹SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14 on Life below Water, and SDG 15 on Life on Land.

APPLICABLE TOOLS...

...to an integrated approach to the SDGs, in general

Examples:

- Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS) Framework
- Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms
- Scenario Development or Planning
- Systems Thinking
- SDG Interactions Framework
- SDG Interlinkages Analysis and Visualization Tool



...to the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, in general

Examples:

- Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
- Nexus Approaches to Environmental Resource Management
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
- Environmental Finance Tools
- Integrated Planning, Budgeting and Investment Tools for Achieving the SDGs: Poverty Environment Initiative Asia-Pacific in Focus
- Green Finance Catalyzing Facility



...to SDG 12

Examples:

- Practical Tools for Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Indicators for a Resource Efficient and Green Asia and the Pacific
- Sustainable Public Procurement
- Sustainability Reporting
- Eco-Labeling and Eco-Certification Schemes



...to SDGs 14 and 15

Examples:

- Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
- Ecosystems Based Adaptation
- Ecosystem Services Review
- Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)
- Earth Observation, Remote Sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)



...to SDG 14

Examples:

- Marine Spatial Planning
- State of the Coasts Reporting
- Integrated Information Management Systems for Coastal and Marine Environments



...to SDG 15

Examples:

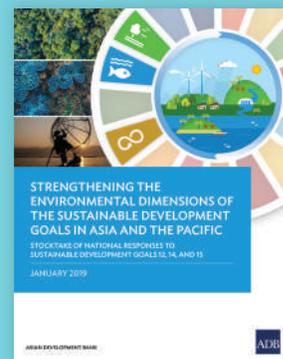
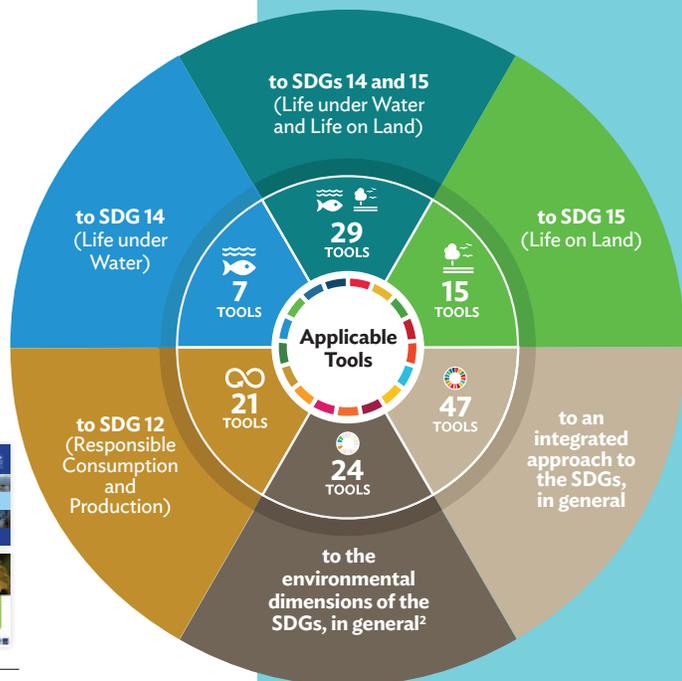
- Integrated Ecosystem Management
- Natural Capital Accounting for Water and Wetlands
- Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology



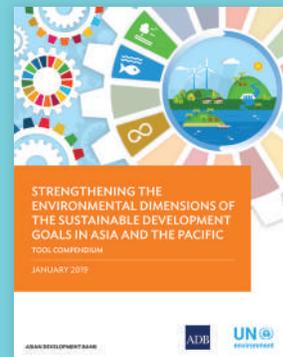
Notes:

The stocktake and tool compendium were completed under the first phase of an ADB technical assistance (TA) project on *Supporting Implementation of Environment-Related Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific*. Source: Asian Development Bank. 2016. *Supporting Implementation of Environment-Related Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/215401/50158-001-tar.pdf>.

² A study by the United Nations Environment Programme has shown that 86 out of 169 targets directly or indirectly seek to reduce environmental damage or emphasize the critical role of natural resources and ecosystem services in ensuring human well-being and prosperity. For practical reasons, the TA project, and thus the tool compendium, is focused on SDGs 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 17. Although climate change (SDG 13) is a significant issue and has many interlinkages with these environment-related goals and targets—for example, through support for climate change mitigation, air pollution reduction, and ecosystems-based adaptation—it is not a focus of the TA project.



<https://www.adb.org/publications/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-national-responses>



<https://www.adb.org/publications/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-tool-compendium>



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