



Asia's reporting on SDG12:

An analysis of the reporting mechanisms and current status of the reports

SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy
November 2019



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Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
Foreword	4
1. Background	5
1.1 SWITCH-Asia's Mandate	5
1.2 Overview of SDG 12 Targets and Indicators	5
1.3 Custodian Agencies	7
2. Reporting Mechanisms	8
2.1 SDG 12 Reporting at the Global Level	7
2.2 SDG 12 Reporting at the National Level in Voluntary National Reviews	8
3. Status of SDG 12 Reports in Asia	8
3.1 Reports to the Global Indicator Framework	8
3.2 Reports at the Voluntary National Reviews	11
4. Conclusions and Recommendations	19
References	21

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
IAEG-SDG	Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SWITCH-Asia RPAC	SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO-UIS	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Institute for Statistics
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization

Foreword

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 which calls for responsible consumption and production, essentially decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and emissions and improving the management of hazardous substances and waste, has identified eleven (11) targets and thirteen (13) indicators for reporting.

Robust monitoring systems help decisionmakers set priorities for implementation, depict interlinkages between goals, and communicate on progress. Effective monitoring and reporting can spur investment and inspire political commitment and advocacy. Moreover, through the process of reporting, countries can share the challenges and lessons learned with other countries turning the process into a learning exercise for themselves and others.

Evidence in Asia shows that many countries are taking actions towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). However, many of those achievements are not being reported, which could be giving a wrong image of the region's merits and efforts towards SCP. *Properly reporting that progress is important in order to follow up on strong commitments and policies contributing to SCP as well as to encourage cooperation on SCP and to highlight the progress achieved in order to get accelerate the implementation; share the challenges and lessons learned with others; and get international recognition.*

According to the "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2019" (UNESCAP, 2019), the lack of data remains one of the biggest challenges for the Asia-Pacific region to measure progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; less than 40 per cent of the global SDG indicators are available for regional SDG progress assessment. This is especially relevant for SDG 12 indicators since most of them are still classified as Tier III and countries don't know how to report on those under Tier II and I.

SDG 12 in the region is running behind and countries are not taking the best profit of the mechanisms they have at their disposal to report.

As a call to action for all the Asia and the Pacific stakeholders involved in SDG 12 reporting (who play a crucial role in ensuring sustained progress towards the goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda), *Asia's reporting on SDG 12: An analysis of the reporting mechanisms and current status of the reports* explains the different mechanisms through which countries can make use of to report the progress that has already been made. Additionally, it examines the current status of the reports for SDG 12 in nineteen East, South and South-East Asia countries which are part of the SWITCH-Asia programme: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, PDR Lao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

1. Background

1.1 SWITCH-Asia's Mandate

Rapid economic growth in Asia and Central Asia has lifted many countries out of poverty. This has come at a cost of increased use of natural resources, growing GHG emissions and amounts of waste. Sustainability today is no longer simply about increasing efficiencies or complying with regulations. It is about making fundamental changes in the way business is done and the way the world consumes. Results can only be achieved rethinking our business models and supply chains and designing new consumption patterns.

The European Union is committed to tackle these global challenges together with its partners in Asia and Central Asia by building a path towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). Launched in 2007, its SWITCH-Asia programme has achieved more than a decade of progress on SCP in 24 countries in the region.

This has been possible through the joint efforts of the three SWITCH-Asia components:

- The **Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)** – implemented by UN Environment.
- The **Sustainable Consumption and Production Facility** – implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and adelphi.
- The **SWITCH-Asia Grants Programme** – directly managed by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission.

The overall objective of the SWITCH-Asia RPAC is to strengthen the dialogue at regional, sub-regional and national policies on Sustainable Consumption and Production in selected countries from the Asia region, thereby contributing to green growth and reduction of poverty in Asian countries. It has been promoting sustainable and inclusive growth as well as contributing to the economic prosperity; poverty reduction; and the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy in the region.

SDG reporting is an important part of the Regional Policy Advocacy's project work plan, as it is explicitly mentioned under its logical framework as the main indicator for Outcome C "Number of countries to report on SDG 12." As one of the main outputs of its programme, SDG reporting is key for SWITCH-Asia RPAC, which is committed to continue supporting countries in the region to improve their reports in order to accelerate implementation of SCP and get international recognition.

1.2 Overview of SDG 12 Targets and Indicators

SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production comprises eleven targets: eight related to outcomes (Targets 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8) and three related to means of implementation (Targets 12.a, 12.b and 12.c).

The Interagency and Expert Group on SDGs has classified the global indicators into three groups (Tier I, II, III) according to their level of methodological development and the global status of data availability:

- **Tier I:** internationally established methodology and standards exist; data regularly available at country level

- **Tier II:** internationally established methodology and standards exist; data not regularly available at country level
- **Tier III:** internationally established methodology and standards lacking or under development

As shown in table 1 (see below), most SDG 12 indicators (8 out of 13) are still classified as Tier III, which hinders countries from using global indicators to report; while only 2 are classified as Tier I; and 2, as Tier II. As it comes to Indicator 12.3.1, part (a) corresponds to Tier II, while part (b) is still classified as Tier III.

Table 1: Overview of SDG 12 targets

Target	Indicator & Custodian Agencies	Tier
12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies (UN Environment)	II
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP (UN Environment)	II
	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP (UN Environment)	I
12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	12.3.1 (a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index (FAO/ UN Environment)	II(a)/ III(b)
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement (UN Environment)	I
	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment (UNSD/ UN Environment)	III
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled (UNSD/ UN Environment)	III

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports (UN Environment/UNCTAD)	II
12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans (UN Environment)	III
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment (UNESCO-UIS)	III
12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	12.a.1 Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies (OECD, UN Environment, UNESCO-UIS, World Bank)	III
12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools (UNWTO)	III
12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities	12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels (UN Environment)	II

1.3 Custodian Agencies and UNSD

Custodian agencies are UN bodies or other affiliated international organizations that carry the responsibility of gathering and validating country data and reporting it to UNSD. To allow for the comparison of data between countries, custodian agencies coordinate international standards and methodologies for SDG 12 monitoring. Custodian agencies and other UN agencies also support member States by providing monitoring tools and guidelines and capacity building opportunities.

There are eight custodian agencies for SDG 12, as depicted in Table 1: UN Environment, FAO, UNSD, UNCTAD, OECD, UNWTO, UNESCO-UIS and the World Bank.

2. Reporting mechanisms

2.1 SDG 12 Reporting at the Global Level

Monitoring and reporting progress are essential to guiding member States and strengthening SDG implementation, and a key component of the 2030 Agenda.

The purpose of the global indicators is to broadly track progress towards the Goals and targets at the global level through reports to the Global Indicator Framework. Each indicator has its own reporting mechanisms and they are useful for countries to communicate their current situation both to the international community to raise awareness of challenges and needs, and to their own population to show that progress is being made.

The responsibility of data collection and monitoring at the country level lies with member States who report national data to custodian agencies, which then organize and report on global progress toward the SDGs. Countries are free to decide on the level of detail in the data or metadata they share, but if possible are asked to disclose a minimum of one national aggregate per indicator to custodian agencies.

2.2 SDG 12 Reporting at the National Level in Voluntary National Reviews

As part of the follow-up and review process, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member States to conduct regular and comprehensive reviews on progress towards the 2030 Agenda called Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). These voluntary, state-led reviews serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF and aim to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by facilitating the sharing of experiences and strengthening policies and stakeholder support for SDG implementation. Despite being voluntary, VNRs are a learning exercise and a great opportunity to improve implementation and gain international recognition.

3. Status of SDG 12 Reports in Asia

3.1 Data reported to the Global Indicator Framework

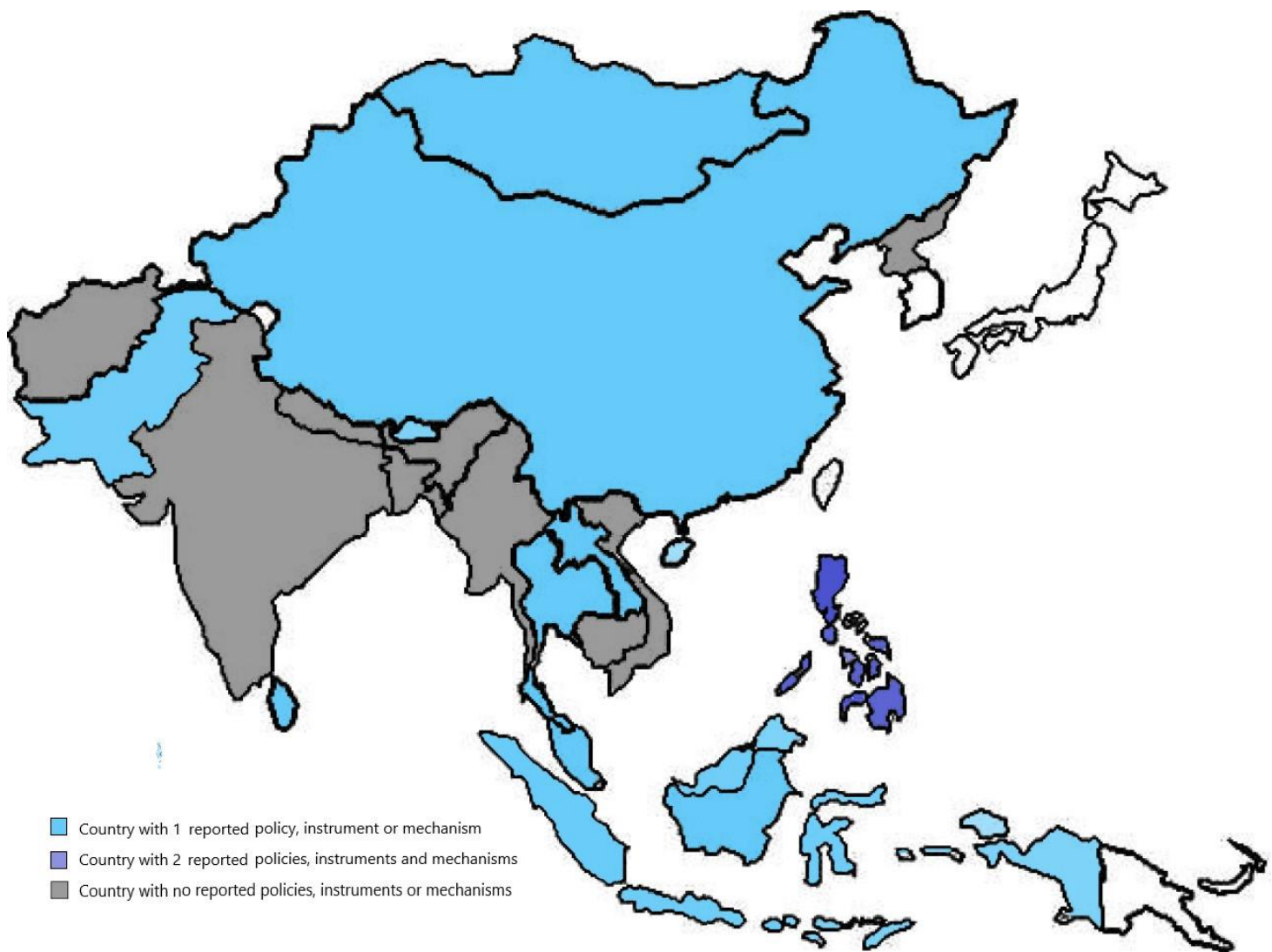
As previously mentioned, most SDG 12 indicators are still under Tier III. As standards for those 8 indicators are lacking and therefore reports are not being done on those indicators, this section will focus on describing the available data on those indicators classified as Tier I or Tier II:

Indicator 12.1.1

This indicator relates to the number of National Action Plans and/or policies that mainstream SCP as a priority. It was reviewed at the 6th IAEG-SDG meeting and it is classified as Tier II.

As a result of a pilot reporting exercise organized by One Planet Network in 2017, countries were classified depending on the data that they provided regarding policies, instruments and mechanisms in place. 11 out of the 19 SWITCH-Asia countries reported to have policies, instruments and mechanisms in place. Out of those, 1 country (Maldives) reported to have a Coordination mechanism; 8 countries (China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) reported to have a macro-policy; and 3 countries (Bhutan, Indonesia, Philippines) reported to have a policy instrument to implement SCP.

Figure 1: Number of policies, instruments and mechanisms for the implementation of SCP reported in Asia



Source: SWITCH-Asia RPAC, 2019

Indicator 12.2.1

This indicator, which relates to the material footprint, was reviewed at the 9th IAEG-SDG meeting and it is classified as Tier II. However, there is an agreed monitoring methodology on it only at global level but not for country level. For this reason, reports on this indicator are not currently being done at the national level.

Indicator 12.2.2

This indicator relates to domestic material consumption. Its data availability was reviewed in 2017, and it was classified as Tier I. All 19 countries that this document comprises have reported on this indicator by providing data for the years 2000-2017 on their domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP, classified by the following types of raw materials: biomass, coal, crop residues, crops, ferrous fuels, natural gas, grazed biomass and fodder crops, metal ores, non-ferrous ores, non-metallic minerals (total, industrial/agricultural dominant, and construction dominant), oil shale and tar sands, petroleum, wild catch and harvest, wood, and all raw materials.

As it includes data for a long period of time, this indicator is a good tool to assess the progress and evolution of domestic material consumption in each country.

Indicator 12.3.1

This indicator is divided into two parts: the first part (a) relates to food loss, while the second part (b) relates to food waste. While part (3) remains as Tier III, part (a) was classified as Tier II after its revision at the 8th IAEG-SDG meeting. However, countries in the Asian region are not currently reporting on it, and there is no data available.

Indicator 12.4.1

This indicator, classified as Tier I, relates to the number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement. Countries do not report on this indicator as the information is obtained directly by the United Nations system. According to the available data:

- All 19 SWITCH-Asia countries are 100% in compliance with the Montreal Protocol on hazardous waste and other chemicals.
- From the 15 SWITCH-Asia countries that have signed it, only 1 country (Malaysia) is in full compliance with the Rotterdam Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals. Other 4 countries (Afghanistan, China, India and Thailand) are over 80% in compliance.

- Out of the 18 SWITCH-Asia countries that have signed the Basel Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals, 5 (China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand) are in full compliance with it.
- Out of the 17 SWITCH-Asia countries that have signed the Stockholm Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals, none have reached 100% compliance.

Indicator 12.6.1

This indicator, which relates to the number of companies publishing sustainability reports, was reviewed in September 2019 and it is currently classified as Tier II. However, no reports have been done by countries in the region yet.

Indicator 12.c.1

This indicator, reviewed in 2018 and classified as Tier II, relates to the amount of fossil-fuel subsidies. 15 SWITCH-Asia countries have reported information on fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies, fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies per capita, and fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies as a proportion of total of GDP (%) both for the years 2013 and 2015.

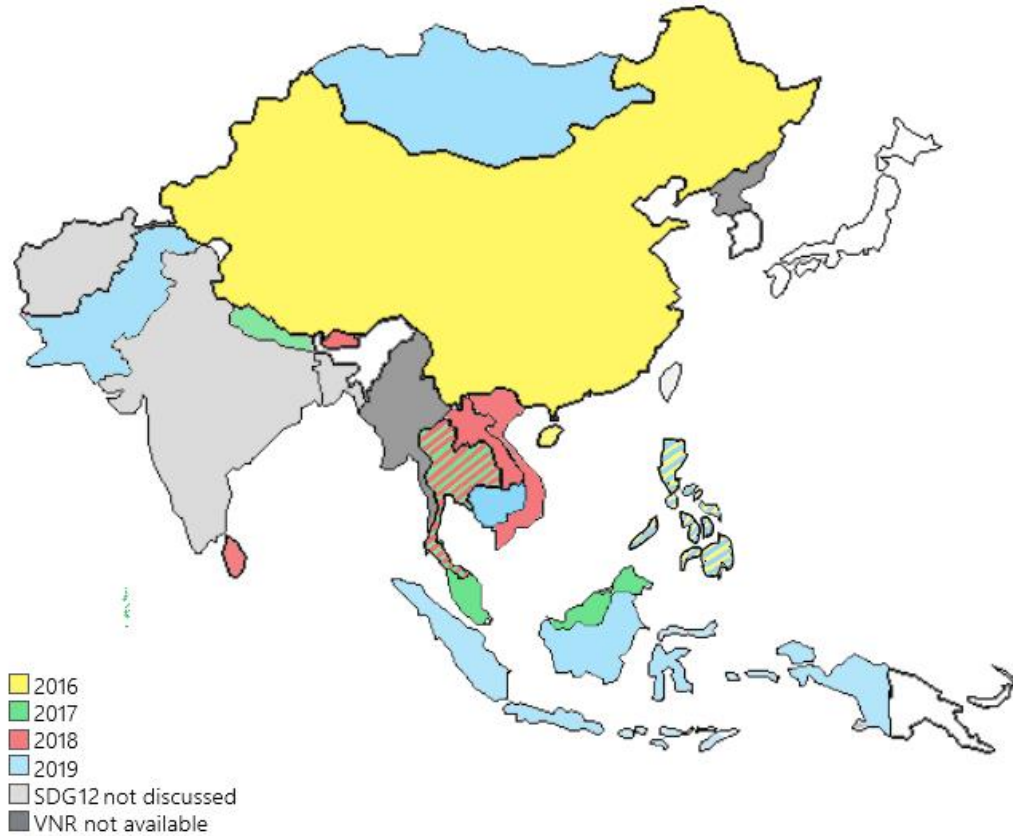
This data has shown that:

- 2 countries (Afghanistan and Myanmar) have increased the number of subsidies to fossil fuels.
- 4 countries (Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal and the Philippines) have maintained the same number of subsidies to fossil fuels.
- 9 countries (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Thailand) have reduced subsidies to fossil fuels. Out of those 12, 3 of them (China, Malaysia and Thailand) have achieved the total elimination of fossil fuel subsidies.

3.2 Data reported at the Voluntary National Reviews

So far, 17 out of the 19 countries that are part of the SWITCH-Asia Programme in Asia and the Pacific have submitted at least one Voluntary National Review. 14 of them have discussed some issues related to SDG 12 in their VNRs.

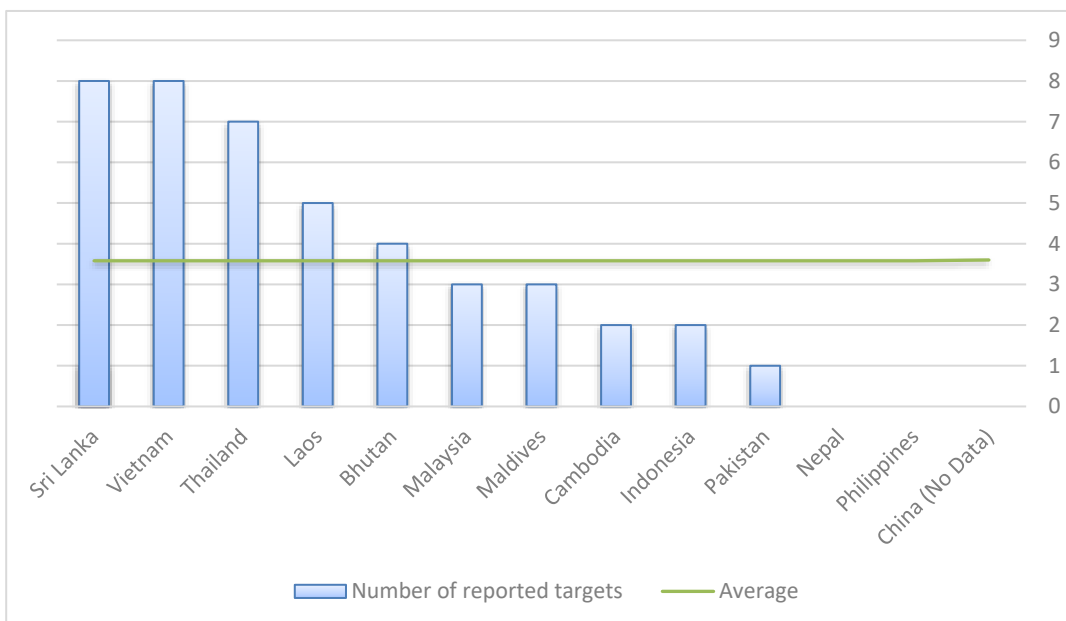
Figure 2: VNRs that discuss SDG 12 and year published



Source: SWITCH-Asia RPAC, 2019

The average number of targets tackled by those 14 countries is 3.58 out of 9 targets. The widest range of SDG 12 targets was covered by Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand, while Nepal and Philippines, with no targets tackled, are the ones which have reported on the least number of targets.

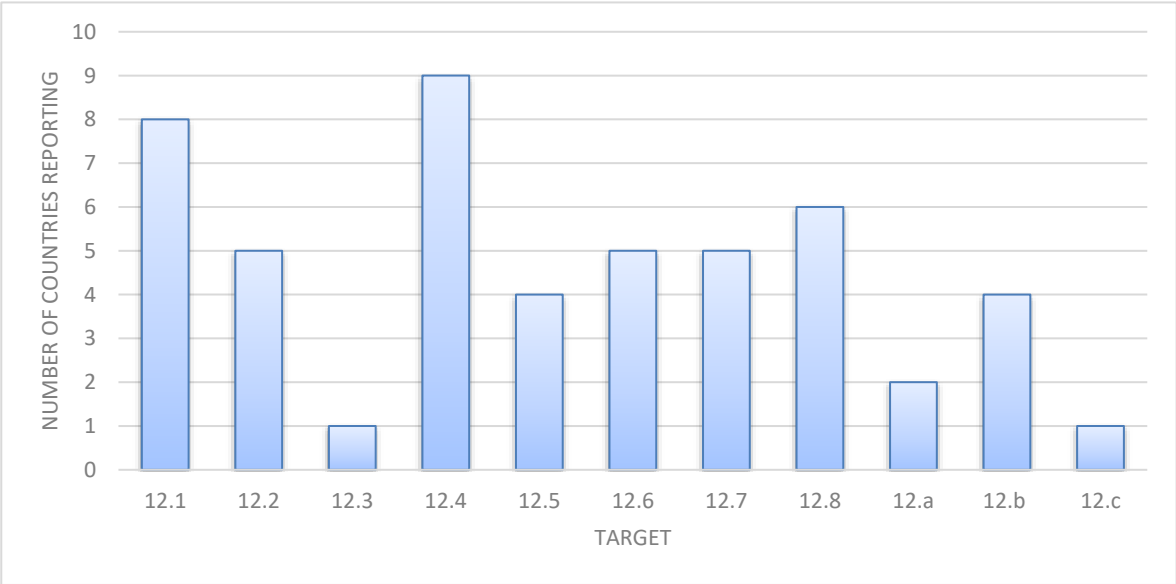
Figure 3: Number of targets tackled by country



Source: SWITCH-Asia RPAC, 2019

The most tackled targets are Target 12.4, followed by 12.1, which seem to be the easiest for countries to report on, while issues related to targets 12.3 and 12.c appear to present more difficulties, as show in table 4:

Figure 4: Number of countries reporting on each target



Source: SWITCH-Asia RPAC, 2019

Some examples of actions reported in the VNRs include National Action Plans on SCP and other policies, strategies, plans, policies, laws, guidelines or activities related to issues intrinsically related to SDG 12 such as green/sustainable public procurement, eco-labelling, resource efficiency, private sector, water efficiency, green tourism, waste management and recycling, among others.

Quantitative data provides a better-defined picture of the situation of the different issues in the countries. 6 countries (Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam) have successfully provided quantitative data related to their situation and achievements regarding at least one of the following issues:

- Average government procurement expenditure;
- Proportion of companies contributing positively to the environment;
- Percentage of Carbon intensity of the economy reduced;
- Expenditure in sustainable/green public procurement;
- Percentage of hazardous waste generated from the mining and heavy industry sectors;
- Tons of waste generated; percentage of waste being recyclable and recycled;
- Number of provinces and land extension where environmentally sound agricultural practices are being applied;
- Percentage of energy saved.

Data per target

The following tables correspond to each of the SDG 12 targets and assess the reports in terms of quantity, that is, how many countries have provided information related to each particular target in their VNRs; and quality and contents. Within this last point, the tables identify which types of contents are part of the reports on each of the targets. There are four different types of contents: (1) actions (e.g. policies, plans, programs, strategies, guidelines, initiatives), (2) goals, (3) challenges, and (4) situation tracking (data that allows to track and assess the situation and progress of the issue/s related to that target in the country).

TARGET 12.1:	
<i>"Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	8 countries (Bhutan, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported on target 12.1.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All 8 Countries have reported to have included SCP into their policies, plans, programs or strategies. - 3 Countries (Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported to have a National Action Plan on Sustainable consumption and Production

TARGET 12.2:	
<i>"By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	5 countries (China, Laos, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported on target 12.2 in their VNRs.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Goals:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 countries (China and Laos) have reported to have set the efficient use of resources as a goal and included it in their National Strategies. • <u>Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 countries (Thailand and Vietnam) have reported to be implementing some type of practices/policies for the efficient use of natural resources. • <u>Challenges:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 country (Mongolia) has expressed its concern about the need to strengthen the efficient use of resources.

TARGET 12.3:	
<i>"By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	Only 1 country (Maldives) has reported some type of information related to target 12.3.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Challenges:</u> - Maldives has expressed its concern about food waste as a result of inadequate storage and transportation and has declared it to be a significant challenge for the country.

TARGET 12.4:	
<i>"By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	9 countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) have reported on target 12.4.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Goals:</u> - 1 country (China) has reported the percentage of CO2 emissions per unit of GDP that has been targeted to be reduced in the following years. • <u>Actions:</u> - 3 countries (Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand) have reported to have ratified the Stockholm Convention; - 1 country (Thailand) has reported to have ratified all four international conventions on chemicals and wastes, namely the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and recently the Minamata Convention on Mercury; - 2 countries (Indonesia and Sri Lanka) have reported to be measuring SCP patterns and pollution from industries; - 4 countries (Cambodia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Thailand) have reported to have a national plan, action or policy on waste management; - 1 country (Viet Nam) has reported to be implementing agricultural practices to reduce GHG emissions; • <u>Challenges:</u> - 1 country (Sri Lanka) have shown their concern for the lack of statistics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 countries (Cambodia and Maldives) have shown their concern for their reliance on chemicals hazardous substances. • <u>Situation tracking:</u> - 2 countries (Indonesia and Malaysia) have reported improvements in the carbon intensity of the economy and the proportion of companies contributing positively to the environment; - 1 country (Mongolia) has reported and increasement of urban pollution.
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TARGET 12.5:	
<i>"By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	4 countries (Bhutan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) have reported on target 12.5.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actions:</u> - All 4 countries have reported to have developed or be implementing some type of policy, action, project or law to prevent, reduce, recycle and/or reuse waste. • <u>Situation tracking:</u> - 1 Country (Mongolia) has reported an increasement of generated waste in recent years.

TARGET 12.6:	
<i>"Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	5 countries (Cambodia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported on target 12.6.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actions:</u> - 2 countries (Cambodia, Sri Lanka) have reported to have developed or be implementing some type of policy or action to encourage companies to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. - 1 country (Thailand) has reported to have developed or be implementing some type of policy, action, project or law to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices. • <u>Challenges:</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 country (Mongolia) has shown its concern for the need of promotion of sustainability reports among companies. - 1 country (Vietnam) has reported a lack of awareness of the benefits from sustainability reports by enterprises. • <u>Situation tracking:</u> - 1 country (Vietnam) has reported improvements in the engagement of enterprises into sustainability initiatives.
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TARGET 12.7:
"Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities"

QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	5 countries (Bhutan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported on target 12.7
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Situation tracking:</u> - 1 country (Bhutan) has provided numbers related to public procurement expenditure. - 1 country (Malaysia) has provided numbers related to Green public procurement expenditure. • <u>Actions:</u> - 2 countries (Sri Lanka and Vietnam) have reported to have included SPP in their national documents/guidelines or policies. - 3 countries (Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand) have reported to be implementing some type of initiative to introduce Eco-labeling or some type of accreditation system. - 1 country (Thailand) has reported to be implementing some type of project/s to promote sustainable/green public procurement.

TARGET 12.8:
"By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature"

QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	6 countries (China, Indonesia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported on target 12.8.
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Goals:</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Country (China) has expressed its commitment to achieve a transition into a green low carbon development and lifestyle. • <u>Actions:</u> - 1 Country (Laos) has reported to have developed localized indicators to monitor this target. - 3 Countries (Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) have reported to be implementing some type of initiative to raise awareness on SCP and promote the shift of consumption patterns. - 1 Country (Kazakhstan) has reported to be implementing an action plan to improve public awareness and environmental culture
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TARGET 12.A:	
<i>"Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	2 countries (Laos and Thailand) have reported on target 12.A
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actions:</u> - 1 country (Thailand) has reported to be taking action and cooperating with agencies to promote capacity-building based on science and technology. • <u>Challenges:</u> - 1 country (Laos) has reported on the need for access to technologies and tools.

TARGET 12.B:	
<i>"Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	4 countries (Bhutan, Laos, Maldives and Sri Lanka) have reported on target 12.B
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Situation tracking:</u> - 1 country (Maldives) has reported to have a tourism sector that serves as a model for Sustainable tourism • <u>Actions:</u> - 3 countries (Bhutan, Laos and Sri Lanka) have reported to be promoting Sustainable tourism through national plans/strategies or guidelines.

TARGET 12.C:	
<i>"Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities"</i>	
QUANTITY OF REPORTS:	1 country (Vietnam) has reported on target 12.C
QUALITY AND CONTENTS OF REPORTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actions:</u> - 1 country (Vietnam) has reported to have abolished direct subsidies for fossil fuels (Target 12.c).

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Reporting on SDG 12 in the region is running behind and countries are not taking the best profit of the different mechanisms to report. That is giving a wrong image of the efforts and progress made in the region. In order to improve implementation and get international recognition, countries should report both to the Global Indicator Framework and in their Voluntary National Reviews. Following this objective, countries are encouraged to use the different existing dialogue spaces and tools that they have at their disposal, such as the One Planet Network and the SWITCH-Asia programme.

There is a need to integrate reporting mechanisms and improve coordination between the actors involved in SDG monitoring and reporting in order to reduce institutional fragmentation and improve the quantity and quality of the reports. As it comes to the Global Indicator Framework, most indicators are still stuck behind at Tier III. More efforts will be needed from all stakeholders to agree on standards and move them to Tier II. Regarding indicators that are already classified as Tier II or Tier I, data from all 19 SWITCH-Asia countries is only available for indicator 12.2.2. Indicator 12.c.1 has also been reported by a rather high number of countries (15). However, only 11 out of the 19 countries have reported on Indicator 12.1.1; and up to now no countries in the region have reported on the part (a) of indicator 12.3.1 related to food loss, which has already been classified as Tier II.

As it comes to the Voluntary National Reviews, in general terms, the quantity of the reports on each of the targets is still very limited. Out of the 14 SWITCH-Asia countries that have submitted a VNR, the average number of countries tackling each target is 4,54.

There are still some targets which have been tackled by only 1 or 2 countries, and sometimes nothing substantial is reported. Especially target 12.3, which was tackled by only one country and the contents of that report only

mentioned a challenge. That shows that reporting and providing numbers on food waste and food losses still poses a big challenge for all countries as no countries have succeeded to provide significant data on this target. Moreover, the most tackled targets do not include all the important information that they could be including either. For example, as it comes to target 12.1, on which a high number of countries have reported, not all countries with which do have National Action Plans for SCP have reported about that in their VNRs. That is the case of Indonesia, which adopted the “National 10YFP on SCP” in 2013; Malaysia, which adopted the “National SCP Blueprint 2016-2030” in 2016; and Vietnam, which has not reported on its “National Action Plan on SCP to 2020,” adopted in 2016. This lack of reporting also occurs with other targets, another example relates to target 12.7 as several countries have been identified to have taken actions towards Sustainable Public Procurement but most of them were not part of their VNR reports.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that there is a lack of consistency between reports done by the different reporting mechanisms, that is the global monitoring initiatives and the national governments. For example, Vietnam has not reported on indicator 12.1.1 through the Global Indicator Framework, but it has reported a wide range of contents on that indicator within its VNR. It is important to ensure the alignment of these data. Consistency in reporting is key to the accurate monitoring and evaluation of regional and global progress. Reporting on data measured and synthesised per agreed-upon methods increases the comparability of data over time and between countries. As national statistical systems are at the core of robust monitoring systems, relevant stakeholders should ensure that national, regional, and global monitoring processes are harmonised. This is particularly relevant in the context of the Voluntary National Reviews, which are vital to the follow-up and review process.

As a conclusion, it is important for countries to cautiously report on SDG 12 by providing all available information and tackling a higher number of targets in order not to be detracted from their merits and progress. On its behalf, the SWITCH-Asia RPAC will continue to generate knowledge and build capacities to support the uptake and reporting of this SDG in the region.

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