



SDG Indicator 6.6.1

Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

Proposal

Two reporting streams as follows:

1. UN Environment on the internationally comparable methodology with national data and regional and global aggregations for 6.6.1
2. Ramsar secretariat on the official national reporting from the Ramsar Convention on wetlands

Separate reporting series to the SDG Global Data base

Clear delineation of the type of data in each stream

1) Rationale for tier reclassification of UNEP led reporting

- Methodology developed with countries and global leading experts on water-related ecosystems
- Method tested globally via data collection process piloted in 193 countries - feedback and data led to method refinement
- Global water extent data available in 188 countries
- SDG 6 (Water) under review at HLPF July 2018

International comparable methodology

- UN-Water SDG 6 integrated monitoring initiative
- In-country Proof of Concept
- Task team
- Indicator training webinars
- UN Environment help desk
- In-country training workshops
- Every NSO, UN-Water, Ramsar, CBD, GEMS-Water and IWRM focal point included in country communications

Methodology Testing

- Global data collection pilot undertaken Apr 2017 to Feb 2018
- To reduce duplication and reporting burden, data collection for two indicators within one questionnaire
- Received 38 submissions for 6.6.1
- Obtained data (1984-2015) on national water body extent for 188 countries – sent to NSOs
- Methodology refined to be simple, reduce reporting burden, and statistically robust

Adoption process

- Task team on 6.6.1 and collaboration with UN Water
- Group on Earth Observation (GEO)
- UN-CEEA for consultation
- Water extent data sent to NSOs in all UN Member States

2) Ramsar led reporting

- Under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 170 Contracting Parties (CPs) report every 3 years on implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- At its 52nd meeting, in 2016, the Standing Committee agreed that Parties include data on the “extent” of wetlands as per national inventories
- At its 53 meeting in 2017 the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat:
to contribute to the methodological development of target 6.6

2) Ramsar led reporting, cont.

- National Reports for COP13: 140 Contracting Parties (82%)
 - Wetland inventories (COP6 1996): data since 2002; 2018 report = 62% of CP have inventories - gaps identified
 - Data on extent using wetland inventories: 72 CPs, Africa: 16, Americas: 19, Asia & Oceania: 15, Europe: 22
 - Ramsar classification on Wetlands includes 3 categories grouped in Inland; Marine and Coastal; and Human Made Wetlands and uses national definitions
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Conclusions

- UNEP led methodology is based on high quality data and science
- Ramsar led methodology is based on National Reporting to the Ramsar Convention
- Each co-custodian is responsible for its respective reporting line and will jointly contribute to the 6.6 storyline
- Monitoring using the methodology has already started and reporting can be made as soon as the IAEG-SDG approve the Tier reclassification
- The methodology is sustainable up to 2030