SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

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REGIONAL POLICY ADVOCACY

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FOREWORD

Sustainable Development Goal 12 is about ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. The deterioration of environmental has primarily due to our efforts to secure improved standards of food, clothing, shelter, comfort, and recreation for growing numbers of people. The magnitude of the threat to the ecosystem is linked to human population size and resource use per person.

South Asia, home to a quarter of the world's middle-class consumers, has experienced a long period of robust economic growth, averaging 6 per cent over the past 2 – 3 decades. South Asia is a diverse region home to about 1.64 billion people (24% of the world's population) experiencing a demographic dividend. While the sub-region is expected to reach its population peak by 2030, continued population growth, paired with increases in production and household consumption from increasing economic prosperity will also place increased pressure on the environment, making the need to shift towards resource efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) an imperative for South Asia's Sustainable Development Agenda.

The "SDG 12 monitoring and reporting Capacity Development Guide" prepared by National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka, provides a set of principles and long-term goals that form the basis of policymaking and guidelines and give overall direction to the planning and development of organization and stakeholder networks. It is focused on the organizational scale and three spheres are considered as competencies, resources, and enabling environment to address the capacities.

National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC), Sri Lanka has established itself as a leading service provider in the field of environmental sustainability, providing high-quality services that delight its customers. The professional personnel that has been trained globally has aided this firm in becoming a global service provider.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. SACEP member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

This report showcases the many ways in which SACEP supports work at country and regional level for promotion and implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies, strategies and technologies in the region, working closely with Member States and a wide range of partners.

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Director General
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Abbreviations

CDAT	Capacity Development Assessment Tool
DEWA	Dashboard to Enhance Wellbeing of All
GDP	Gross domestic production
GNHC	Gross National Happiness Commission
IAEG	SDGs Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IT	Information Technology
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NCPC, Sri Lanka	National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NITI Aayog	National Institution for Transforming India Aayog
NKRA	National Key Result Areas
NSO	National Statistics Offices
RPAC	SWITCH Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component
SACEP	South Asia Co operative Environment Programme
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programmes
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UNSTAT	United Nations Statistical Division
VNR	Voluntary National Reviews

Overview of the SDG 12 Monitoring & Reporting Capacity Development Guide

The SDG 12 monitoring and reporting Capacity Development Guide (SDG 12 MRCDG) provides a set of principles and long-term goals that form the basis of policymaking and guidelines and give overall direction to the planning and development of organization and stakeholder networks. It is focused on the organizational scale and three spheres are considered as competencies, resources, and enabling environment to address the capacities. Under each sphere, different elements are addressed.

SDG 12 MRCDG is created based on an assessment conducted based on a baseline survey and a virtual workshop on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting in South Asia. A self-assessment framework was designed based on the UNECE template and countries were reviewed. A questionnaire was developed based on the CDAT framework and shared among the previously identified potential parties responsible for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in the countries. Respective officials were gathered for a workshop and ideas, comments and suggestions were collected.

Identified gaps in the capacity mapping in all three areas of competencies, resources, and enabling environment are addressed by SDG 12 MRCDG. This guide provides a comprehensive

path to follow in order to overcome lack of skills, knowledge, and awareness, lack of integrated policy environment, insufficient stakeholder engagement, inadequate government support, and insufficient resource allocation.

This guidance document comprises of four main parts as follows;
Part Ⅰ: Scope of SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide
Part Ⅱ: Overview of the guidelines
Part Ⅲ: Implementation Guidance
Part Ⅳ: Current Status and way forward

The first section describes the scope of SDG 12 MRCDG and the six guiding principles which prepare the ideal background for capacity development. Part II provides an overview to the guideline with a brief introduction, objectives and development guide. Implementation guidance is included into the part III where the capacity elements are comprehensively detailed. SDG 12 MRCDG concludes by stating current status and the way forward in section IV. It describes the current situation of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asian countries and the future of the actions related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

Part Ⅰ: Introduction to the SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide

1. Introduction

The report Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an inclusive approach to transforming the world towards sustainable development, addressing multiple challenges. It sets forth 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated targets and about 240 indicators to be achieved in 15 years commencing from January 2016. The 2030 Agenda is a blueprint to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030. All South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka signed up to the agenda in 2015 and agreed to establish a focal point for implementing their respective countries.

The SDGs set out an ambitious agenda for countries worldwide, and data is essential to help fulfill that agenda. SDG reporting is the act of collecting, publishing, and disseminating data and statistics on the SDG indicators. SDG reporting is mainly for national governments to track progress towards SDGs and identify actions that need to be taken to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. It is also helpful for other stakeholders (including UN custodian agencies, government policymakers, businesses, NGOs, and the general public) to understand how they can advance progress towards SDGs.

1.1 Background

When reviewing the 11 targets and 13 indicators of SDG 12 in the South Asian region, it was found that progress is still far from achieving the target by 2030. It is one of the least progressed goals in the Asia Pacific, including South Asia (Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021). SDG 12 is a cross-cutting goal on ensuring SCP and encourages the reduction of wasteful consumption and increased efficiency in production patterns by encouraging governments, businesses, and consumers. Thus, there is an utmost need to fill the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting gaps. The significant barrier to accessing accurate national and regional performance against targets and indicators is the lack of baseline information, including the capacity mapping on SDG 12.

1.2 SDG 12 Targets and Indicators

The global indicator framework for SDG s was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed upon at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017. The global indicator framework was later adopted by the General Assembly in July 2017 and is contained in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (unstat.un.org).

The 17 SDG s are associated with 169 Targets. Progress towards these targets is agreed to be tracked by 232 unique Indicators. The 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP is linked to all targets of SDG 12; literature research shows that SDG 12 is connected to a total of 14 other SDGs - making SCP the number one cross-cutting theme across the SDGs. According to the updated tier classification, all the indicators are defined as follows (unstat.un.org);

Table 1 SDG 12 Targets and Indicators

Target		Indicator	Tier Classification
12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, 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 developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production	Tier 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	Tier II
		12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	Tier 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	Tier II
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	Tier I
		12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	Tier II

Target		Indicator	Tier Classification
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse		**12.5.1** National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	Tier II
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 report	Tier II
12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities		**12.7.1** Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation	Tier II
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 are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	Tier II
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** Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	Tier I

Target	Indicator	Tier Classification
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** Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability	Tier I
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 (production and consumption) per unit of GDP	Tier I

South Asia has a population of 1.891 billion people, almost one-fourth of the world's population. It is, therefore, the world's most populous geographical region and is home to a diverse population with diverse cultural, topographic, and geographic backgrounds (One Planet Network, 2019). Due to these population increases and other factors, South Asia has always been given special attention. It is even more prominently highlighted regarding SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

1.3 Highlights of the current efforts and progress of the actions to monitor and report SDG 12 in South Asia

Several efforts were taken to mainstream SDG 12 monitoring and reporting at sub-regional and regional levels. Among them, Policy dialogue on SDG 12 reporting in Asia and Asia and the Pacific SDG 12 Progress Report 2021 are special milestones.

The policy dialogue on SDG 12 reporting was held in Vietnam in 2019 and its main objective was to encourage countries to report on SDG 12 through a coordinated approach in aligning with global indicators which will lead to more convergence of reporting systems and reduce reporting burden. And the set specific objectives display that the dialogue extremely wanted to address the gaps existing SDG 12 reporting in the South Asian Region. Upon realizing the situation, the policy dialogue had come up with four specific objectives namely;

    I.   Raise awareness of the importance of reporting on SDG 12

    II.   Understand challenges faced by countries in reporting on SDG 12

    III.   Showcase how Asian countries are reporting on SDG 12

    IV.   Identify the best ways to support SDG 12 reporting from the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component.

In this policy dialogue following gaps were determined in the Asia region;

- 12.1.1. SCP policies: 11 countries reported through the pilot organized by the One Planet Network in 2017
- 12.2.1. Domestic material consumption: Data available for the 19 countries (estimated data is produced based on data available from different national or international datasets)
- 12.3.1(a). Food loss: no country has reported
- 12.6.1. Companies were publishing sustainability reports: no country has reported
- 12.c.1. Fossil fuel subsidies: 15 countries reported in 2013 and 2015

These gaps reflect an urgent need for guidance to re-enter the reporting and monitoring of SDG, without staying behind the targets.

Moreover, Asia and the Pacific SDG 12 Progress Report 2021 states that the South Asian countries show low or stagnant progress in several indicators and SDG 12 is one of them. In that report, almost all the goals are described with their recent progress, yet SDG 12 is not mentioned due to its low progress with less reporting and monitoring evidences.

Thus, it is evident that there is a gap exists in the monitoring and reporting of SDG 12, and this capacity development guide document will assist in bridging that gap.

1.4 Regional/International action plan and roadmap and potential success stories.

Referring to the "Roadmap for localizing the SDGs: implementation and monitoring at subnational level" report, it visualizes five steps for the localization of SDGs as awareness-raising, advocacy, implementation, monitoring, and way forward. Here, the importance of monitoring and reporting is further subdivided into five elements as follows;

- Develop a set of localized indicators specific to each territory
- Ensure that the information gathered by the local and regional governments is used in national monitoring and reporting

- Enable the participation of local and regional governments and stakeholders in the review of national plans
- Use SDG indicators to monitor and assess local or regional plans
- Ensure that local achievements are recognized. Part of the national SDG progress reports

Many local and regional governments lack adequate mechanisms to gather information and data at the territorial level. Local data sets are often not consistent with national data collection systems. Most countries' national statistical office or national planning service administers the monitoring systems. In other countries, the systems are the competence of an intersectoral commission or council made up of representatives of different ministries. Strengthening these institutions will be essential to monitor and assess the achievement of the SDGs at the territorial level.

A successful initiative to monitor SDG 16 has been promoted by UNDP in 6 pilot countries including El Salvador, Georgia, Indonesia, South Africa, Tunisia and Uruguay. The information to construct a partial baseline, for instance, is already available in Rwanda (through its scorecard), Tunisia (through perception-based data collected as part of its governance, peace, and democracy survey), and to some extent in Albania (through previous experience) with implementing its MDG 9 on good governance. Rwanda can provide additional information by completing its 2015 Citizen Report Card and gender audit for justice, reconciliation, law, and order to feed into its upcoming baseline study. The UK has mapped existing available data sources for SDG 16.

SDG 12 MRCDG addresses the capacity development needs, a set of advice and pathways to achieve the optimal level of capacities in terms of competencies, resources, and enabling environment. Following guiding principles defines an ideal organizational approach to implement the requirements and recommendations of SDG 12 MRCDG. Six guiding principles are described as follows;

- Meeting a minimum threshold of competencies
- Establish an integrated policy framework
- Demonstrating sufficient Stakeholder Engagement
- Institutional frameworks
- Providing Sufficient Resource Allocation
- Introducing and Estimating the Potential Impacts to the Society, Economy and Environment

2. Objectives

The SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide in South Asia aims to drive sub-regional efforts in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting and the advancement of organizational capacities, including competencies, resources, and enabling environment.

The specific objectives of the study are as follows;

I. Guide to assessing the institutional and technical capacity of monitoring and reporting SDG 12 by conducting capacity mapping

II. Guide to overcome significant barriers, challenges, and opportunities on SDG 12 reporting and monitoring in South Asia

III. Identify the capacity development needs in South Asian countries to enable better monitoring and reporting on SDG 12

IV. Promote the participation of local and regional governments and other stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs at the national level.

V. Support local and regional governments in data collection, monitoring and assessment at the local level.

VI. Establish a mechanism of helping Asian countries to understand the guide for SDG 12.

This guide is intended to serve as a comprehensive resource for creating SDG 12 monitoring and reporting capacity. In line with the reports published by India and Pakistan, this framework provides the enabling environment to

drive the region's SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. The research, surveys, and other discussions driven through this guide are based on a thorough consultative process, engaging relevant stakeholders, reinforcing that participation is a significant element needed to achieve the overall SDG.

This guidance document facilitates constructivism for advancing discussions and initiatives on SCP and SDG 12 involving governments, international organizations, development agencies, civil society, research & academia, and the public.

3. Development of the Guide

As a preparation practice, a baseline survey, including capacity mapping, was conducted and presented in a sub-regional workshop on 09th March 2022. The baseline survey identified SDG 12 monitoring and reporting status and analyzed the challenges and gaps in the capacities and opportunities for capacity development.

Desktop research

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)[1], Official websites (UNSTAT, UNSDG), published materials as research papers, reports, and data documented on SCP were reviewed to identify the current monitoring and reporting status of SDG 12 in South Asian Countries. After reviewing those, the UNECE self-assessment template was fed accordingly, considering the availability of data and information.

The official websites of UNEP, United Nations Statistics Division (unstats.un.org), SDG Tracker (https://sdg-tracker.org/), etc. and several online platforms such as SDG GATEWAY Asia Pacific (unescap.org), the Global SCP Projects Database of One Planet Network (https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/ country-profiles) and SDG Hub (sdgs.un.org) were also reviewed to identify the current monitoring and reporting status of SDG 12 in South Asian Countries.

Capacity mapping

To assess the capacities of an organization, its entire performance and capabilities, tools, guidelines, and management processes were reviewed through a survey. To this purpose, the Capacity Development Assessment Tool (CDAT), developed by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) was referred.

Virtual Workshop on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting

As part of the baseline study on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, a virtual workshop on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia was held on March 9, 2022. Held by the National Cleaner Production Center in collaboration with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), the workshop aimed at addressing the capacity building needs and practical pathway to enhance the state of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia.

Thirty stakeholders from government authorities such as the National Statistics Offices (NSOs), focal ministries and line ministries, academia, think tanks, and civil society organizations from all South Asian countries attended the event. The workshop collected valuable feedback from SACEP member countries that were considered in the preparation of the SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide.

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[1]*Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a process through which countries assess and present progress made in achieving the global goals and the pledge to leave no one behind. The purpose of VNRs is to present a snapshot of where the country stands in SDG implementation, with a view to helping accelerate progress through experience sharing, peer-learning, identifying gaps and good practices, and mobilizing partnership*

Part Ⅱ: Scope of SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide

Guiding Principle 1: Meeting a minimum threshold of competencies

Organizations related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting should meet a minimum requirement of competencies within the available and potential staff recruitments. Mandates should be established to inquire about the necessary skills and competencies related to collecting and managing data, technical know-how, determining the data collection points, data collection & management, data aggregation, analysis, data presentation, and reporting. Further, scheduled training should be conducted to refresh the competencies in the areas mentioned above.

Guiding Principle 2: Establish an integrated policy framework

A central policy or long-term planning process should be established to focus on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. The government's policies, programs, and budgets should be aligned with the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting roadmaps.

Guiding Principle 3: Demonstrating sufficient Stakeholder Engagement

Government agencies, private organizations, civil societies, academia, media and development partners should work together to track SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Integrating data systems and setting up an all-encompassing system for collecting data on a regular and periodic basis is essential.

Guiding Principle 4: Institutional frameworks

Government-supported institutional frameworks related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting should be continually followed up, inquired, and encouraged. Personal to be directly appointed for monitoring and reporting with a proper job role. The presence of regular monitoring and reporting activities by the government, availability of refreshers, knowledge sharing, and encouragement sessions on monitoring and reporting on SDG 12 should be performed at defined intervals.

Guiding Principle 5: Providing Sufficient Resource Allocation

Financial, tools, technologies, skilled human resources, and relevant officials with the authorization powers should be precisely allocated. Direct financial allocations from governments and funds from development agencies should be allocated wisely. Sufficient employees should be available to oversee and report on SDG 12 initiatives.

Guiding Principle 6: Introducing and Estimating the Potential Impacts to the Society, Economy and Environment

The potential impact to the society, economy and government should be introduced and estimated beforehand. This action has a potential to trigger the efforts toward SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. A comprehensive analysis is needed and the respective organization should prioritize the analysis by identifying the scope of their job role in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

Part Ⅲ: Implementation Guidance

1. Defining "Capacity," "Capacity Mapping," and "Capacity Development"

'Capacity' is defined as the ability of an individual or an organization and networks to perform their function(s) effectively and sustainably. (UNEP-WCMC CDAT: User Guidelines, 2016).

"Capacity mapping" describes the strategy to find the available latent (or unrecognized) resources and capabilities necessary to achieve a specific objective. To assess the capacities of an organization, its entire performance and capabilities, tools, guidelines, and management processes needed to be reviewed. It is designed to be comprehensive and flexible enough to use in a wide range of capacity development scenarios in a common and systematic way. (Borongon G. and Huno S.K.M., 2020)

'Capacity development' is defined as the process by which individuals and groups, including organizations, institutions and countries, develop, improve and organize their systems, resources and knowledge; all are reflected in their ability, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives. (UNEP-WCMC CDAT: User Guidelines, 2016).

2. Capacity at the organizational scale

Since the capacity mapping in this guide assesses the institutional and technical capacity of monitoring and reporting SDG 12, Capacity at the organizational scale need to be referred. Organizational capacity assessment focuses on the overall performance and capabilities of an organization, including the efficient and effective achievement of its collective goals and the existence of mandates. The assessment also focuses on the tools, guidelines, and management systems that facilitate these goals.

3. Capacity Spheres and Elements

The SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide is built from three interrelated capacity spheres (Figure 1), each of which consists of a set of interrelated capacity elements.

Figure 1 Spheres and elements of the capacity of the organization scale

Table 2 The three capacity spheres

Capacity Sphere	Description
Competencies	The abilities, characteristics, and properties which are necessary for organizations to perform functions and achieve objectives.
Resources	The materials, services, or other assets required to perform functions and achieve objectives.
Enabling Environment	The external working environment that either supports or constrains the ability of organizations to perform functions and achieve objectives.

For the application of the SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting Capacity Development Guide, capacity is considered as a function of the status of all three Capacity Spheres and the constituent Capacity Elements.

A. Sphere 1-Competencies

The competencies comprise three elements; Knowledge and Awareness, Skills, and Internal Structure and Procedures.

A 1) Knowledge and Awareness

A sufficient understanding of the respondents with regard to the concept of SDG 12 indicators to be assessed indicator-wise. It is included the knowledge and awareness on SCP policies, natural resources, address food loss and waste, hazardous waste and chemicals, waste management, sustainable public, procurement, awareness and education on sustainable development and lifestyles, sustainability practices by companies, strengthening scientific and technological capacity on SCP, sustainability tourism, rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies.

A 2) Skills.

Data collection and analysis skills consist of;
    I.   Identify the data & data collection points
    II.   Define the procedure and tools to collect data from defined data collection points
    III. Design the data analysis methodology

    IV. Analyze and aggregate the collected data

Data planning and implementation skills consist of;
    I.   A Design of the strategy of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
    II.   Resource planning (human resources and financial resources) to operate the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
    III. Develop the implementation plan of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
    IV. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the design of the data management plan (database development, digital filing, data quality assurance, data interoperability, etc.).
    V.   Summarize and aggregate the collected and analyzed data to report the SDG 12 indicators.

A 3) Internal Structure and Procedures

The internal structure for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting of the organization should be reported under the following aspects.
    I.   Specific department(s)/ unit(s) arrangement
    II.   Sufficiency of staff allocation
    III. Availability of mandates
    IV. Current challenges for these aspects

The internal procedures are considered to be reported under the existing rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms recognized and adhered to the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

B. Sphere 2-Resources

B 1) Finance

The sufficiency of finance sources should be assessed in order to;

    I.   Obtain sufficient human resources,
    II.   Develop human resources,
    III.   Cover the operational cost and procure sufficient tools and technology

for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

B 2) Tools/Technology

The accessibility to the necessary IT hardware and software and relevant after sales services for data collection, data management, and data analysis needed to be reported with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

B 3) Partners

The relevant stakeholders should be identified in the government sector, private organizations, civil societies, academia, and development partners (UNEP, World Bank, UNDP) related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

It is needed to specify the organizational capacity to engage with stakeholders with relevance to the monitoring and reporting SDG 12 in the following capacity items.

    I.   To establish partners with the necessary expertise, resources, and contacts
    II.   To mobilize the new partners
    III.   Coordination for monitoring SDG 12 indicators
    IV.   Coordination for reporting SDG 12 indicators
    V.   Identifying and creating connections with new potential partners as per the needs

    VI.   Financial support for monitoring and reporting of SDG 12 Indicators

C. Sphere 3-Enabling Environment

C 1) Authority

The organization's authority should be assessed and specified in terms of

    I.   Giving and enforcing orders
    II.   Committing resources, and
    III.   Making recommendations or decisions
    IV.   Challenges

with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

C 2) Legal and Policy Framework

The availability of national, regional, or international policies needed to be reported that enhance or do not constrain SDG 12 monitoring and reporting efficiency and effectiveness.

C 3) External Structure and Procedures

It is needed to check the availability of the structure of the ministries/departments or network of which the organization is a part, enhances, or at least does not constrain, the ability of the organization to perform the monitoring and reporting of SDG 12.

The organization's external structure for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting should be reported under the following aspects.

    I.   Reporting and management relationship
    II.   External coordination and collaboration mechanism and the
    III.   Organization's mandates that are overlapping/conflicting with other organizations

The external procedures should be reported under the internal sector or network-level rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms that influence the organization's capacity to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

C 4) Knowledge and Methodology Base

The availability of a body of knowledge & methodology (guidance documents, standard, template, tools) should be determined that supports the organization for sufficient monitoring and reporting of SDG 12, including their prevailing gaps.

4. Implementation Guidance

The implementation guidance is designed to help organizations to identify the current status and the gap of capacities relevant to SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting. For each overarching and supporting question, the implementation guidance sets out:

- **The objective:** A statement of the question's intent, to help the user understand what it seeks to achieve
- **Supporting guidance:** Additional guidance about how to go about answering the question
- **Relevant information:** Some examples of information that it could be particularly relevant to include in response to the question
- **Target:** Explains the ideal status (or goal) to be achieved
- **Best Practices:** the best practice from regional/global that establishes sufficient authority for monitoring and reporting of SDG 12

Sphere A – Competencies

A 1 Knowledge and Awareness

Table 3 Implementation Guidance for Knowledge and Awareness

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have a sufficient understanding of the concept of SDG 12 indicators?
OBJECTIVE
To gain a comprehensive understanding of the organization's knowledge and awareness for improving SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. To identify the existing gaps and do the needful to improve knowledge and awareness for every indicator of SDG 12.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Knowledge and Awareness refer to the knowledge and awareness within the organization that is relevant to their ability to improve regarding SDG 12 reporting and monitoring. Knowledge Information or understanding that you get from experience or education Awareness Concern about and well-informed interest in a particular situation

RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organizations need to gather applicable information including all SDG 12 indicators and arrange knowledge and awareness sessions on lacking areas as well. Mainly those areas including sustainable consumption and production, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, reduce waste generation, encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices, promote public procurement practices that are sustainable and ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development. (*See Table 01*)

TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Obtain comprehensive knowledge and awareness by organizations to monitor and report SDG 12 indicators.   - Create a training calendar per year including all the necessary areas of knowledge as per the need of the type of organization 's role in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting   - Collect the suggestions on training and awareness from the employees where they feel to develop more as per the need of the type of organization 's role in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting   - Appoint responsibilities to the staff to coordinate the training programmes as per the need of the type of organization 's role in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting

BEST PRACTICE
While developing the Sustainable Consumption and Production National Policy Support Component in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Environment in Sri Lanka pioneered to conduct training and awareness. In here, TOTs were conducted in the areas of SCP covering all the aspects. The activities included; • transferring skills and knowledge of international partners from India and the Netherlands to the Sri Lanka partners, enabling them to reach out to a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); • training of over 400 SMEs on the adoption of best practices in SCP; • training to enable compliance with international standards; • establishing a best practices database on SCP and sharing those practices widely applicable to SMEs in the sector; and • studying current SCP policies in Sri Lanka. Lesson Learned through the best practice: Due to having a comprehensive training session covering all the areas of the project, the audience could get a better knowledge about the activities. And because of the ToTs the knowledge sharing was active and precise. For more details; http://env.gov.lk/web/images/pdf/divisions/environemt_planning/Final_Report_switch_Asia.pdf

A 2 Skills
A 2.1 Skills – Data collection and analysis

Table 4 Implementation Guidance for Data Collection and Analysis

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
With regards to SDG 12, does your organization have skills to, • Identify the data & data collection points • Define the procedure and tools to collect data from defined data collection points • Design the data analysis methodology • Analyze and aggregate the collected data
OBJECTIVE
To gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs for the improvements of the organization's skills for improving SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
The organization needs to identify the country's institutional arrangement for SDG monitoring and reporting (SDG Institutional Framework). It will assist in identifying the data collection points for reporting institutes. For monitoring institutes, organizations should have a thorough understanding of the global indicator framework for the SDG and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets. The global indicator framework consists of metadata for each indicator such as Definition and method of computation, Rational and interpretation, Sources and data collection, Disaggregation, Comments and limitations, Data for global and regional monitoring. The same components are applicable if nationally defined indicators are available. (Official website of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata)
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organizations should gather the following information to assess their capacity; • Identify the data & data collection points • Define the procedure and tools to collect data from defined data collection points • Design the data analysis methodology • Analyze and aggregate the collected data for the following indicators. And also organizations should collect and analyze data about all the areas including sustainable consumption and production, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, reduce waste generation, encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices, promote public procurement practices that are sustainable and ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development. *(See Table 01)*
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Obtain collective skills within the organization sufficient for the organization to collect and analyze data for improving SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

- Identify the gaps in skills in identification of data & data collection points, defining the procedure and tools to collect data from defined data collection points, designing the data analysis methodology and analyzing and aggregating the collected data

- Arrange necessary capacity development activities to develop the respective skills as per the need of the type of organization 's role in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting

BEST PRACTICE

Urban Data Centres were established as a consequence of a partnership between Statistics Netherlands, which publishes the country's official statistics, and municipalities. The centres' objectives are to collect and analyze data at the local level by merging Statistics Netherlands' knowledge, data, and skills with that of municipalities.

The first CBS UDC was launched in the municipality of Eindhoven in 2016. The initiative was soon replicated in other municipalities as Heerlen, the Groningen Region, in the municipalities of Venlo and Zwolle, Leidschendam-Voorburg and the Hague ect.

For more details;

https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/onze-diensten/urban-data-centres

A 2.2 Skills – Planning and implementation

Table 5 Implementation Guidance for Planning and Implementation

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does your organization have skills to, • Design the strategy of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. • Resource planning (human resources and financial resources) to operate the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. • Develop the implementation plan of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. • Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the design of the data management plan (database development, digital filing, data quality assurance, data interoperability, etc.). • Summarize and aggregate the collected and analyzed data to report the SDG 12 indicators.
OBJECTIVE
To understand the whole range of planning and implementation skills including designing, planning, monitoring, analyzing and reporting data and information for improving SDG 12 monitoring and reporting and obtain or develop necessary lacking skills through capacity development.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Organizations needs to identify the country's Institutional arrangement for SDG monitoring and reporting (SDG Institutional Framework) with their legal and resource capacities. For monitoring institutes, organizations should have a thorough understanding of the global indicator framework for the SDG s and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (Official website of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata)
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organizations should gather the information to assess their capacity including design the strategy, resource planning, develop the implementation plans, monitor and evaluate the implementations, design the data management plan, summarize and aggregate the collected and analyzed data to report and monitor the SDG 12 indicators.
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Achieve collective skills within the organization for planning and implementation of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting through skill development of the staff members of the organization to increase the organization's level of skill as needed.
BEST PRACTICE
National Key Result Areas (NKRA) of Bhutan demonstrate the well planning and implementation skills of the respective authorities. NKRAs compiled with the planning and implementation actions related to general waste produced per capita per year, amount of waste recycled at the national level, amount of waste recycled in each thromde, total amount of waste generated, the total amount of waste disposed of through landfill, etc. Skills needed to strengthen the NKRAs are readily available in the respective authority as well. https://www.gnhc.gov.bt/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1st VNR_Bhutan_July2018.pdf

A 3 Internal structure and procedures

A 3.1 Internal Structure

Table 6 Implementation Guidance for Internal Structure

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have the necessary internal structure to conduct the actions with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To develop or create the internal structure of a respective organization (including departments/units and individual roles) that may influence SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Internal Structure refers to the component of the organization, which may influence the capacity of the organization to achieve the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. The components of the Internal Structure refer to the;   - Component of the organization such as key departments or units and individual roles that form the organization.   - Required staff numbers necessary to fulfil their role within the organization   - The mandate of each department/unit or key individual to fulfil a role within the organization   - Coordination and/or collaboration mechanisms between key departments or units
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organizations should gather the following information to assess their capacity;   - Whether the organization has sufficient internal structure through the key separation of departments or units and individual roles   - Staff allocations, respective mandates and the reporting or management hierarchies, structures such as committees, etc.   - Internal organization-level rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms   with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Obtain all the necessary departments/units and individual roles, required staff numbers and all existing rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms of the organization with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting as described below.   - Creating new departments/units, including the possibility of merging existing   - Departments/units, with a new mandate, to fill a currently unoccupied but important   - Creating new individual positions/roles, with a new mandate, to fill a currently unoccupied but important niche

- Clarifying and revising, as necessary, departmental/unit and individual mandates or terms of reference;
- Changing the responsibility of reporting or management relationships
- Changing/removing existing or creating new coordination and/or collaboration mechanisms.

BEST PRACTICE

Belarus has formed a Council for Sustainable Development, with the NSO (Belstat) as a member and leader of the sub-group entrusted with indicator coordination. Belstat has built a section on its official website dedicated to the SDGs, developed a statistical road map for the SDGs compilation (based on the CES Road Map), and formed a working group on the use of remote sensing technologies for SDG measurement and monitoring.

For more information;
https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2012761_E_web.pdf

A 3.2 Internal Procedure

Table 7 Implementation Guidance for Internal Procedure

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have the necessary internal procedure to conduct the actions with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To develop or create formally agreed organization-level rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms which influencing to increase the level SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Internal Procedures refer to the formally agreed internal organization-level rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms which influence internal organization operation and cooperation and may determine the capacity of the organization to achieve the SDG monitoring and reporting. e.g., planning and reporting process, financial management procedures. This procedure should strengthen by adding reviewing options and, where necessary, changing or discarding existing rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms to better support, or remove constraints to, the efficient and effective operation of the organization; identifying and removing barriers to the recognition and adherence to existing rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms, where those rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms support the efficient and effective operation of the Organization and introducing new rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms, where gaps are identified, to better support the efficient and effective operation of the Organization
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organizations should gather information on existing rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms that are recognized and adhered to the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Obtain the number of departments/units and individual roles necessary for the proper operation, required staff numbers, all existing rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms of the organization with regard to a proper operation of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
BEST PRACTICE
The National Council for Economic and Social Policy is the highest authority in planning and coordinating various economic and social reforms and strategies in Colombia. Since 2015, the Council has put forward organization-level rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms to encompass various SDGs. It has prioritized providing assistance to the public, and supporting an environment that would facilitate the achievement of the SDGs. For More information: https://www.cbd.int/financial/un/un-instituitonalsdg2017.pdf

Sphere B – Resources
B 1 Finance
Table 8 Implementation Guidance for Finance

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have the necessary financial resources to conduct the actions with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To obtain necessary financial resources, either within or outside of the organization; and the gain full access, as and when needed, to sufficient financial resources that are necessary for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Finance refers to financial resources that are necessary for the organization to achieve to manage human resources, cover the operational cost, procure sufficient tools and technology for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Financial resources may exist or be held within or outside of the organization.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organizations should assess the availability of financial resources to;   - Obtain sufficient human resources (hire experts, assign an adequate number of staff, etc.   - Develop human resources (provide adequate training for existing staff   - Cover the Operational cost   - Procure sufficient tools and technology   with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
- Obtain financial resources as per the need for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.   - Make annual budgets prior to the start of each and every year requesting necessary finance for the planned activities and projects.   - Organizing fundraising programmes
BEST PRACTICE
Institution and arrangements to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in Viet Nam, the National Council on Sustainable Development was established in 2005 and is responsible for providing the government and Prime Minister with advice on implementing SDGs in Viet Nam. Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Finance oversee regular allocations of resources from the state budget to support monitoring data collection of SDGs. The Planning-Finance Departments of other ministries and related agencies and provincial Departments of Planning and Investment (DPI) are focal agencies to implement the 2030 Agenda. Some ministries, related agencies and provinces have also established steering committees, sustainable development offices or/and supporting units on sustainable development For more information; https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19967VNR_of_Viet_Nam.pdf

B 2 Tools and Technology

Table 9 Implementation Guidance for Tools and Technology

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have access to the necessary hardware, software and after sale services for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To explain the accessibility of hardware, software and after sale services which is needed to optimize SDG 12 reporting and monitoring.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Tools and technology refer to equipment and software necessary for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. They may be held or exist within or outside of the organization. After-sale services refer to consulting, customer training, trials and evaluation, and maintenance services by the equipment and software suppliers. e.g. Hardware - Computers, data storage, servers, network devices, data center Software - Data collection, data management, and data analysis software After-sale services - Consulting, Customer training, Trials and evaluation, Maintenance, etc.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, the organization should gather the following information to assess its capacity; • Whether the organization has necessary IT Hardware and necessary software for data collection, management, analysis for monitoring and reporting of SDG 12 • Whether the organization can access the necessary after-sale services of IT Hardware and Software
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
To obtain all the necessary equipment, either within or outside of the organization and the organization has full access, as and when needed, to sufficient equipment that is necessary for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. To obtain all necessary software, either within or outside of the organization, and the organization has full access, as and when needed, to software. The target will be achieved through • Providing equipment, software, or software licenses (or the financing for them) that the organization needs; • Training members of the organization to better access existing equipment and software; • Coordinating alliances and strengthening networking or partnerships to allow technology transfer • Reviewing and redirecting financial allocations and flows within the organization to ensure sufficient financing for equipment and software needs.

BEST PRACTICE	
	29
"Dashboard to Enhance Wellbeing of All" - DEWA dashboard in Bhutan - Database for all the SDG-related data. Since the first VNR, Bhutan has developed the DEWA Platform—an integrated dashboard to monitor GNH, SDGs and development management in the country. It enables more up to date analysis of SDG indicator status as well as current state of data gaps and availability. The dashboard aims to bring together into a consolidated platform data across a wide spectrum in Bhutan, and thus also includes updated data for indicators in the 12th FYP NKRAs and GNH. For more information: https://www.gnhc.gov.bt/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2nd-VNR-Report-SDGs.pdf	

B 3 Partners

Table 10 Implementation Guidance for Partners

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have the capacity to engage with stakeholders with relevance to the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To strengthen the stakeholder engagement in order to optimize SDG 12 reporting and monitoring.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Partners refer to other individuals or organizations whose capacity to perform a specific complementary function, provide technical advice, or facilitate access to other resources, for a fee or otherwise is necessary for SDG monitoring and reporting. By definition, partners exist outside of the organization being assessed.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organization should gather the following information to assess their capacity; • To establish partners with the necessary expertise, resources, and contacts to mobilize the new partners • Coordination for monitoring SDG 12 indicators • Coordination for Reporting SDG 12 indicators • Identifying and creating connections with new potential partners as per the needs • Financial support for monitoring and reporting of SDG 12 Indicators
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Resources and contacts exist to identify and create potential partners with the necessary expertise. The organization has relationships with and full access to the services of all necessary partners, as and when needed, to support the organization for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. The target will be achieved through, • Identifying and creating connections with new potential partners as per the needs of the organization; • Training members of the organization to source partners and build and maintain strong partnerships; • Coordinating alliances and agreements and strengthening networks to enhance access to partners; • Providing financing to ensure the organization's access to partner services; and • Reviewing and redirecting financial allocations and flows within the organization to ensure sufficient financing for partner services.

BEST PRACTICE

Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka recognized 24 ministries and 83 agencies within these ministries being responsible for the implementation of SDG 12.

12.1 Ministry of Environment

12.2 Department of Census and Statistics, Sustainable Energy Authority, Ministry in charge of Petroleum, Ministry of Industries

12.3 Department of Census and Statistics, Agricultural & Agrarian Insurance Board, National Livestock Development Board, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Ministry incharge of Local Government, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

12.4 Department of Census and Statistics, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Central Environmental Authority

12.5 Central Environmental Authority

12.6 Ministry of Environment

12.7 Ministry of Environment

12.8 National Education Commission, Ministry of Education, National Institute of Education

12. a Sustainable Energy Authority

12. b Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA)

12. c Department of National Budget

For more information:
https://sdc.gov.lk/en/agencies/19/12

Sphere C – Enabling Environment
C 1 Authority

Table 11 Implementation Guidance for Authority

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Does the organization have the necessary authority to conduct the actions with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To enable, encourage and empower authority to give and enforce orders, commit resources, and make recommendations or decisions, which is needed to optimize SDG 12 reporting and monitoring; and make sure that all external entities with whom the organization interacts to achieve the same.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Authority refers to any formal or informal mandate, bestowed by an external entity, establishing the power or right to give and enforce orders, commit resources, and make recommendations or decisions, and legitimacy of the organization's authority to perform the SDG12 monitoring and reporting, respond to orders or requests.   Give and Enforce order   Enforcing an order means ensuring that what the organization ordered is done or executed.   e.g.   Organizational mandate   Organizational Procedures   Commit Resources   A resource that is formally allocated to any task of SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting.   e.g.   Financial Statement   Organizational Structure   Make recommendations or decisions   The authority to make a decision is a right, power, or obligation to do so, and the responsibility to account for its success or failure.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, the organization should gather the following information to assess its capacity;   • Whether the organization has authority through organizational mandates, acts and circulars to give and enforce orders, commit resources and make recommendations or decisions with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting   • Whether the stakeholders recognize and respect the organization's authority to perform these tasks

TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Obtain all the necessary authority to the organization through organizational mandates, acts, and circulars; • To give and enforce orders • Commit resources • Make recommendations or decisions which is necessary to optimize the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting Establish a viable vision, mission, powers and functions, and an action plan Increase visibility of the organization for stakeholders to recognize and respect the organization's authority to optimize the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

BEST PRACTICE
• Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) is acting as the focal point in Bhutan and it facilitates all stakeholders to provide their inputs to VNRs and other reporting. For more information: https://www.gnhc.gov.bt/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1st-VNR_Bhutan_July2018.pdf • VietNam, policymakers decided to share the responsibilities for environment-related goals and targets across the several ministries. For more information: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19967VNR_of_Viet_Nam.pdf

C 2 Legal and Policy Framework

Table 12 Implementation Guidance for Legal and Policy Framework

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Are there any national, regional, or international policies that do not constrain and enhance or support SDG 12 monitoring and reporting?
OBJECTIVE
To establish, review and/or revise national, regional, or international policies needed to be reported that do not constrain and enhance or support SDG12 monitoring and reporting efficiency and effectiveness.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
Any local, national, regional, global legislation, regulations, policies, plans, and strategies that are agreed and implemented and impact the ability of the organization to achieve the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting e.g. Local & National - Environment Act / SCP policy /Food & Agriculture policy Regional & Global - International laws as the Vienna convention, Stockholm convention, Minamata Convention
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, the organization should be aware of whether the legal and policy framework enhances or does not constrain the efficiency and effectiveness of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. The legal and policy framework consists of legislation, policy, plans, and strategies in • Local & National • Regional & International
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Identify and make available relevant legislation, regulations, policies, plans, and strategies related to SDG12 monitoring and reporting efficiency and effectiveness. Identify the statutory, regulatory and other gaps in recent legislation, regulations, policies, plans, and strategies related to SDG12 monitoring and reporting efficiency and effectiveness Review, revise or introduce relevant legislation, regulations, policies, plans, and strategies to enhance or remove constraints upon the organization's capacity to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting effectively.

BEST PRACTICE
The enactment of the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017 lays the foundation for a well-organized institutional mechanism to implement the SDGs utilizing the existing system of public institutions. -The Sustainable Development Council, Sri Lanka. It is the nodal government institution with responsibilities for coordination, facilitation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka. For more information: https://sdc.gov.lk/ https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/481246/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-stocktake-report.pdf

C 3 External Structure and external procedures

C 3.1 External Structure

Table 13 Implementation Guidance for External Structure

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
- Is there any structure of the ministries/departments or network of which the organization is a part, enhances, or at least does not constrain, the ability of the organization to perform the monitoring and reporting of SDG 12?   - Is there any influence from the external structures, (structure of the sector or network of which the organization is a part)?
OBJECTIVE
To create the optimal structure as the structure of the sector or network of which the organization is a part enhances or at least does not constrain the organization's ability to perform.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
External Structure refers to the parts of the wider sector or network that the organization is a part of. These parts are the key organizations and individual roles that make up the sector or network, as well as how these organizations and roles are organized in terms of their mandates and reporting or management hierarchies, as well as any structures like committees that could affect the organization's ability to monitor and report on SDG 12. e.g. Organization's mandates are clear and do not conflict with other organizations' mandates; reporting and management relationships provide the necessary support while allowing sufficient autonomy for the organization to be proactive and fulfil its role without undue constraints.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organization needs to aware of the external structures (structure of the sector or network of which the organization is a part) as; 1.) Reporting and management relationship 2.) External coordination and collaboration mechanism 3.) The organization's mandates are overlapping/conflicting with other organizations
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Review, acquire or establish an external structure of the sector or network of which the organization is a part, enhances, or at least does not constrain, the ability of the organization to SDG monitoring and reporting through;   - Reviewing or establishing mandates of specific organizations within the sector/network;   - Reviewing or establishing reporting and/or management relationships; and   - Reviewing or establishing coordination and collaboration mechanisms

BEST PRACTICE
In Vietnam, SDG 12 aims are spread over eight ministries. This method of broadly delegating responsibilities can help countries that haven't yet implemented SDG 12. Environmental, social, and economic targets link SDG 12 to several other SDGs, including those on energy, water, industry, and infrastructure. To achieve the necessary integration, it may make sense for governments to assign responsibility for SDG 12 to ministries of finance, economy, planning, industry, and environmental ministries or organizations. For more information: https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/481246/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-stocktake-report.pdf

C 3.2 External procedures

Table 14 Implementation Guidance for External Procedure

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Are there any formally agreed internal sector or network-level rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms that determine or influence the way in which the organization operates and cooperates, which may influence the capacity of the organization to monitor and report the SDG 12?
OBJECTIVE
To ensure all existing rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms support, or at the very least do not obstruct, SDG 12 monitoring and reporting; and all rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms required for efficient and effective SDG 12 monitoring and reporting have been established and agreed upon by all sector or network members.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
External Procedures refer to the formally agreed internal sector or network-level rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms that determine or influence the way in which the organization operates and cooperates, which may influence the capacity of the organization to achieve the desired objective. e.g. data sharing protocols.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organization needs to aware on the external procedures as rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms.
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
- Reviewing and, where necessary, changing or discarding existing rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms to better support or remove constraints to the efficient and effective operation of the organization.   - Identifying and removing barriers to the recognition and adherence to existing rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms, where those rules, policies, protocols and other mechanisms support the efficient and effective operation of the organization.   - Introducing new rules, policies, protocols, and other mechanisms, where gaps are identified, to better support the efficient and effective operation of the organization.
BEST PRACTICE
The NITI Aayog, the Indian government's supreme policy outfit, developed a matrix of in-progress and planned policy schemes at the national level to achieve each SDG s. Reference: Evolving Indian Strategy on SDGs and Scope for Regional Cooperation, Sachin Chaturvedi, March 2021 ESCAP South And South-West Asia Office, South and South-West Asia Development Papers 21-01, March 2021

C 4 Knowledge and Methodology Base

Table 15 Implementation Guidance for Knowledge and Methodology Base

ASSESSMENT QUESTION
Is there any available body of knowledge & methodology that support your organization for sufficient monitoring and reporting of SDG 12?
OBJECTIVE
To establish and/ or develop a knowledge and methodology base to support monitoring and reporting of SDG 12.
SUPPORTING GUIDANCE
- Knowledge Base refers to the body of existing knowledge that can be drawn upon or utilized by the organization and which is necessary for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting e.g., knowledge of natural and social systems and processes.   - Methodology Base refers to the body of existing methodology that can be drawn upon or utilized by the organization and which is necessary for the organization to achieve the desired objective, e.g., planning techniques or environmental valuation methods.
RELEVANT INFORMATION
To answer the assessment question, organization should be aware of the relevant body of knowledge & methodology as guidance documents, standards, templates, tools for the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.
TARGET (or ASSESSMENT CRITERIA)
Identify the gaps and the real need of in particular knowledge and methodology base. Commissioning or conducting research work or analysis to strengthen the knowledge base and methodology base in necessary areas.
BEST PRACTICE
Bhutan's sixteen National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are tightly linked to the 17 SDGs, including increasing the knowledge and methodology base for SDG 12. For more information: https://www.gnhc.gov.bt/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1st-VNR_Bhutan_July2018.pdf Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Islamabad is working as a research institution in various policy areas, including SCP related policy. For more information https://socialprotection.org/connect/stakeholders/pakistan-institute-development-economics-pide/publications

Part IV: Current Status and way forwards

1. Country Analysis

The current status of the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in the seven countries of the southern region of Asia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka were analyzed, and the results are as illus.
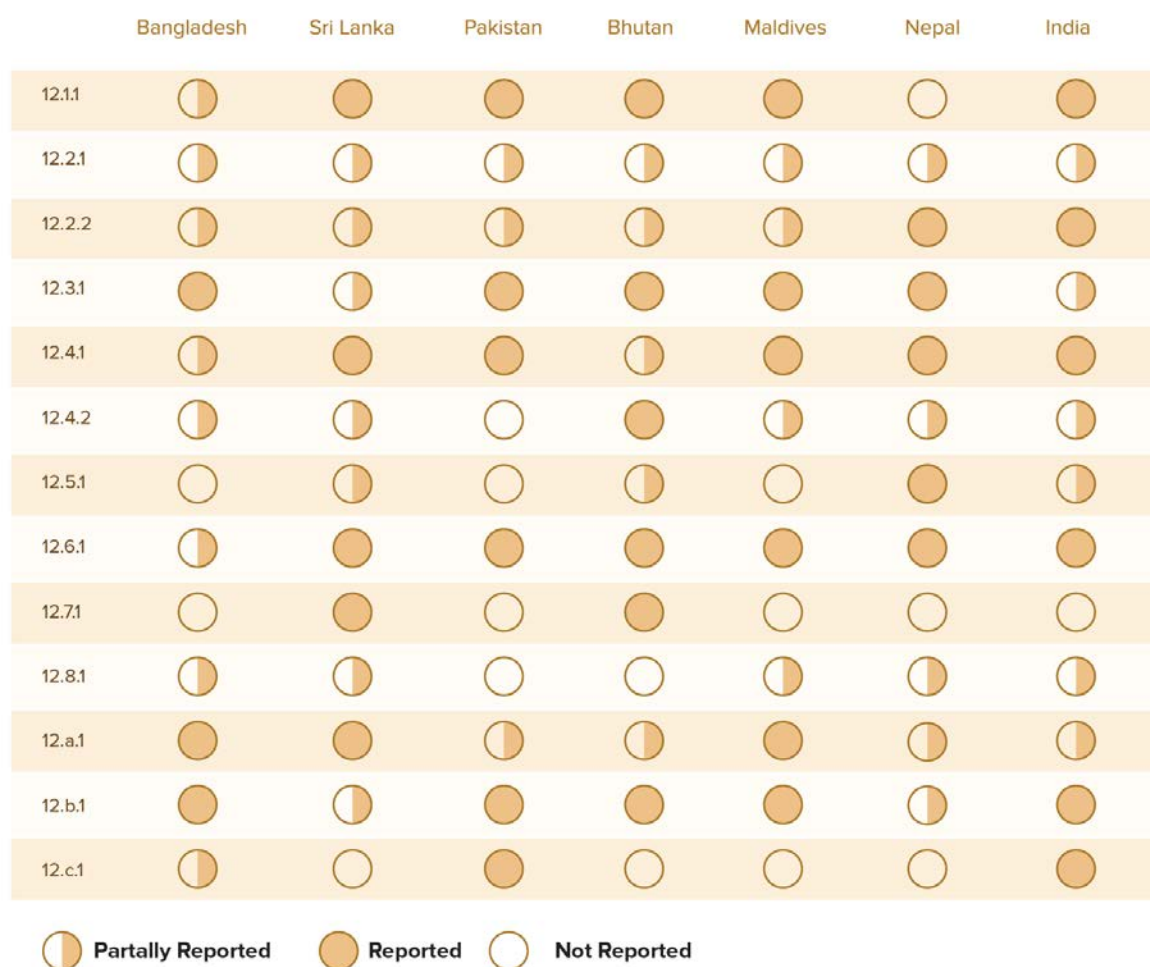

Figure 2 South Asian Region Country Analysis on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting

As shown in the figure 2, Bangladesh has only reported three of the 12 indicators, namely 12.3.1, 12.a.1, 12.b.1 indicators. Yet, the majority of the indicators have been reported partially with limited information availability, capacity gaps and inadequate data quality assurance/ control (QA/QC). These indicators include 12.1.1, 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.4.1, 12.4.2, 12.6.1, 12.8.1, 12.c.1. The balance two indicators (12.5.1 and 12.7.1) are not reported due to absence of data. It is not

apparent whether the indicators are nationally adopted.

It can be seen in figure 2, that Bhutan has only reported six of the 13 indicators, namely 12.1.1, 12.3.1, 12.4.2, 12.6.1, 12.7.1, 12.b.1 indicators. Furthermore, five of the 13 indicators have been reported partially with limited information availability, capacity gaps and inadequate data quality assurance/ control. These indicators include 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.4.1, 12.5.1 and12. a.1. The

balance two indicators (12.8.1 and 12.c.1) are not reported due to absence of data.

Meanwhile India has reported 6 of the 13 indicators, namely 12.1.1, 12.2.2, 12.4.1., 12.6.1, 12.b.1, 12.c.1. Also, another six indicators of the 13 indicators have been reported partially due to limited information availability, availability of national indicators and capacity gaps. However, data for 12.7.1 is not reported. Figure 2 also shows the current status of reporting and monitoring of all SDG 12 indicators in Maldives which is reported six of the 13 indicators. They are 12.1.1, 12.3.1, 12.4.1, 12.6.1, 12.a.1, 12.b.1. Yet, the four indicators as 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.4.1, 12.8.1 have been reported partially and three indicators (12.5.1 and 12.7.1, 12.c.1) are not reported owing to absence of data. It is not evident whether the indicators are nationally adopted.

According to figure 2 Nepal is reporting five indicators namely 12.2.2, 12.3.1, 12.4.1, 12.5.1 and 12.6.1. Five indicators as 12.2.1, 12.4.2, 12.8.1,12.a.1 and 12.b.1 have been reported partially with insufficient cooperation between relevant institutes, low data availability and capacity constraints. The balance three indicators as 12.1.1, 12.7.1 and 12.c.1 are not reported owing to lack of data. Nepal has 14 nationally determined indicators connected with the 13 global indicators.

Furthermore, it is noticed that Pakistan has reported six out of 13 indicators, namely 12.1.1, 12.3.1, 12.4.1, 12.6.1, 12.b.1 and 12.c.1. Three indicators have been reported partially due to capacity gaps, inadequate tools and technology and less coordination with external structures and procedures etc. These indicators are for 12.2.1, 12.2.2 and 12.a.1. However, data for 12.4.2, 12.5.1, 12.7.1, 12.8.1, are not reported globally due to absence of data.

Also, it was observed that Sri Lanka had reported five out of 13 indicators, namely 12.1.1, 12.4.1, 12.6.1, 12.7.1 and 12.a.1. The majority of indicators have been reported partially due to capacity gaps, inadequate data compilation methodology etc. These indicators are for 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.3.1, 12.4.2, 12.5.1, 12.8.1 and 12.b.1. However, only 12.c.1 is not reported due to absence of data. Moreover, Sri Lanka has nationally adopted SDG indicators.

2. South Asian Country Summary of SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting

Figure 3 illustrates the current status of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting of the South Asian Region. Each and every countries' performance each analyzed and illustrated under each indicator as follows;
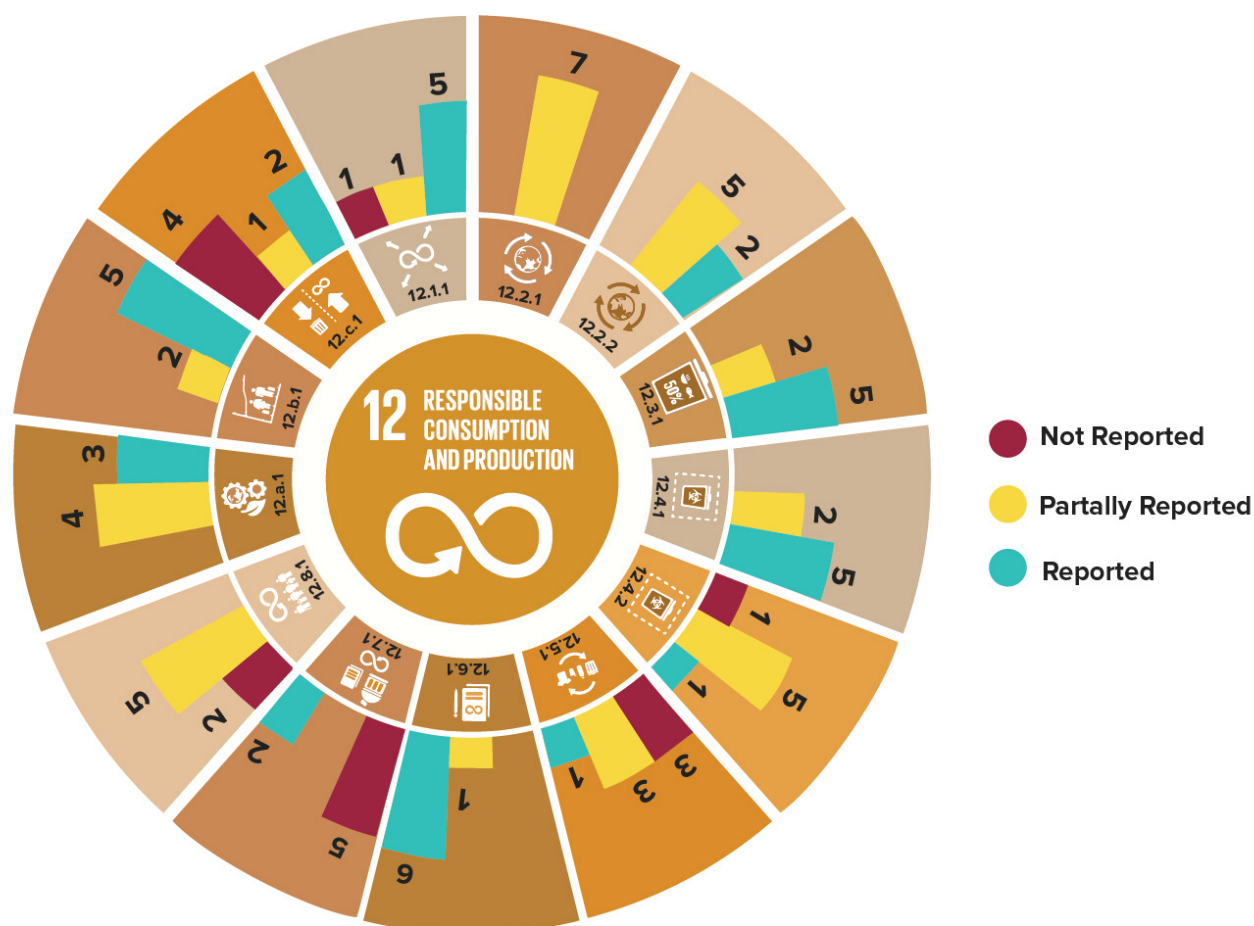
Figure 3 Sub Regional Summary of SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting in South Asia

Five countries (Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) have reported on indicator 12.1.1, and they have included SCP into their policies, plans, programs, or strategies. But Nepal has not reported the progress under 12.1.1 and according to the records they are taking the necessary measures to accelerate the actions for that. Due to having some issues in the monitoring and reporting, Bangladesh has not met the complete reporting and monitoring requirements for 12.1.1. Recently it's in the partial reporting and monitoring stage.

No country has reported on indicator 12.2.1. However, data are partially available to calculate the indicator in all seven countries. Nepal and India have reported on indicator 12.2.2. The remaining five countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) have reported partially by providing data for the years 2000-2017 on their domestic material consumption by type of raw material, domestic material

consumption per capita by type of raw material, and domestic material consumption per GDP by type of raw material.

Five countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan) have reported on indicator 12.3.1; (a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index. However, in India and Sri Lanka, data are partially reported for the indicator.

12.4.1. Indicator 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. Five countries (India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) reported on this indicator, and in Bangladesh and Bhutan, data are partially reported to calculate the indicator. Only Bhutan has reported on 12.4.2 Indicator; (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of

hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment. Five countries of seven (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka) reports data to calculate the 12.4.2 Indicator. However, Pakistan has not reported on this indicator. Only Nepal has reported on Indicator 12.5.1; National recycling rate, tons of material recycled. And also, in Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka, data are partially available to calculate the indicator, while Bangladesh Pakistan and Maldives are not reporting.

Six countries (Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) have reported on 12.6.1 indicators related to the number of companies publishing sustainability reports. No reports have been observed by Bangladesh under this indicator yet. Bhutan and Sri Lanka reported on 12.7.1 indicator; Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation. Five countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan) have not reported on this indicator. No country has reported on the 12.8.1 indicator, the extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment. However, data are partially available in Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, India and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka have reported on the indicator 12.a.1; Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries. The data are partially available for Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan

Five countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Maldives) have reported on 12.b.1 indicator, which relates to the implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor tourism sustainability's economic and environmental aspects. Data is partially available in Sri Lanka and Nepal to calculate the indicator.

India and Pakistan have reported on 12.c.1 indicator related to fossil-fuel subsidies. In Bangladesh, data is partially available. Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have not reported on this indicator.

3. Summary of the capacity mapping related to SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting in the South Asian Region

Summary of the capacities identified under three capacity spheres; competencies, enabling environment and resources are displayed in figure 3. The colored number of cubes in a respective row of five parts each display the recent level of capacities of each country in a grading system from low capacity, insufficient capacity, moderate capacity, sufficient capacity and full capacity.
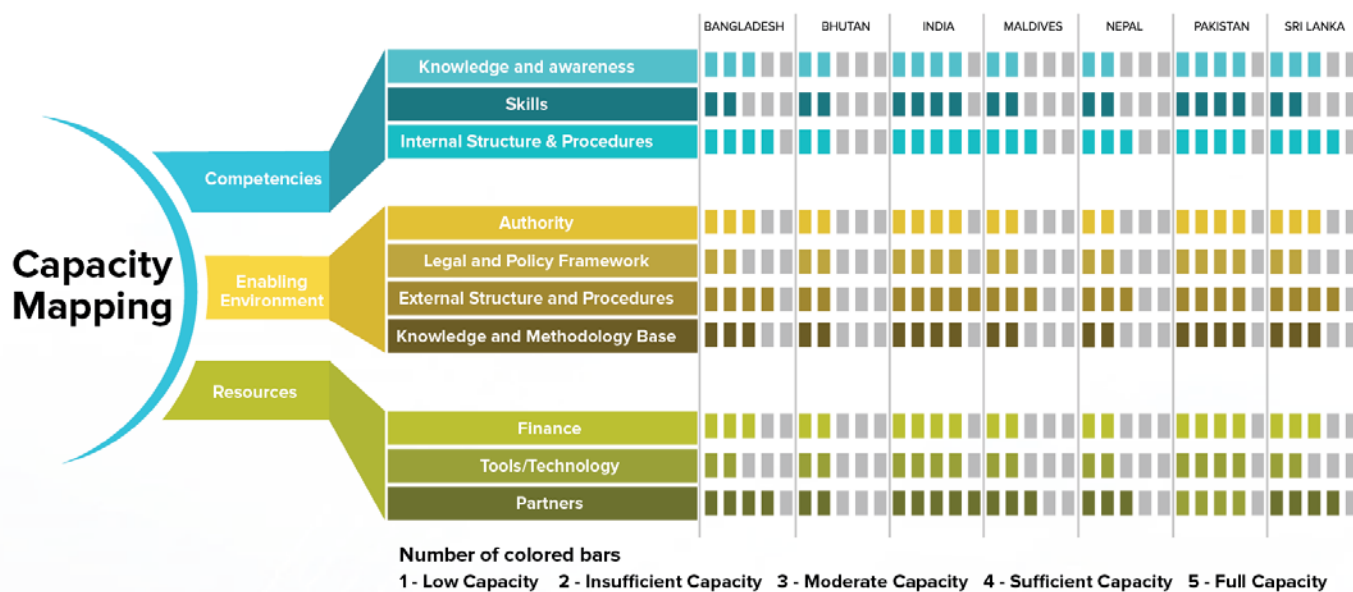
Figure 4 Capacity Mapping related to SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting in South Asia

Recent status of competencies of the South Asian countries

Figure 4 shows that the relevant authorities of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in Bangladesh have a moderate capacity in the area of knowledge and awareness to understand SDG 12 indicators. However, the data collection and analysis skills are insufficient for the majority of the indicators. Bangladesh has a sufficient internal structure for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Yet the existing rules and policies are insufficient to adhere to SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting.

Bhutan has insufficient capacities in knowledge and awareness, skills, internal structure and procedure to monitor and report SDG 12 and its activities. Mainly lack of expertise skills, limited knowledge, inadequate sectoral coordination, lack of data, and limited human and technical capacity can be listed as the main gaps in competencies. Data management skills, planning, and management skills are not sufficient. India shows a sufficient understanding (knowledge and awareness) of SDG 12 indicators. For monitoring and reporting purposes, sufficient skills are available. And also, full capacity availability can be observed for

internal structure and procedures. In contrast to India, the Maldives' lack of technical skills, especially collecting and managing data, is still a big problem regarding the SDGs. There aren't enough technical people who know how to collect and manage data. They have insufficient knowledge and awareness on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Since there are some organizations appointed for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, a moderate level of capacities is observed.

Nepalese authorities are aware of SDG 12 aims and indicators. But knowledge is not sufficient to comprehend the indicators. Skills to establish procedures and equipment to collect data from specific sites are not sufficient. If the indicators' procedures are clear, existing capabilities can be adequate. The level of skills in data management is insufficient to report on all of the indicators. The skills for summarizing and aggregating the data are available to a certain extent. Existing capacities for developing and designing strategies are insufficient. While Nepal's resource planning skills are adequate, the country's human and financial resources are insufficient to manage the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting system. Skills to monitor disaggregated data in addition to national-level data are not sufficient. Nepal has a moderately-

organized internal structure. The country has assigned "SDG codes" to all budget-supported projects and activities to make tracking progress toward the goals easier.

The relevant authorities in Pakistan have a sufficient understanding of all SDG 12 indicators. Further, sufficient skills to collect, analyze and aggregate the data are available. Though Pakistan has sufficient understanding and skills on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting; due to the capacity gaps, inadequate tools and technology and less coordination with external structures and procedure etc. leads to lack of reporting on some indicators. Sri Lanka has moderate knowledge and understanding of the SDG 12 targets and indicators. However, some indicators have been identified for methodology development in 2022. Yet their skills are insufficient in Data and Information Collection. Technical Support is required for officers' methodology and capacity development in relevant institutions. Organizational skills related to designing the strategy, resource planning, developing the implementation plan, and monitoring and evaluating the implementation of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting are developed adequately.

Recent status of Enabling Environment of the South Asian countries

The organizations for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in Bangladesh have moderate authority to give and enforce the orders, commit resources and make decisions regarding SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting. They have only national policies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. So, the level of capacity on legal policy frame work is insufficient. In Bhutan, the authority for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting is insufficient. Even though a proposal has been developed to create a policy in SCP, insufficient explicit policy instruments is observed. In the context of India, there are defined organizations established to give and enforce orders, commit resources and make recommendations or decisions. Legal and policy framework is sufficient enough to Strengthen the SDG 12

monitoring and Reporting. Depending on the type of project, external structures help to the activities related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting with their full capacity.

The Maldives currently lacks a national development plan and a long-term planning framework. So, their capacity related to legal and policy framework is insufficient. There is no overarching document that integrates all sectoral plans and policies. Moreover, availability of external structure in a moderate level and the capacities related to knowledge and methodology is insufficient. There are no integrated SCP policies on the environment of achieving the SDGs as a whole in Nepal. Formalize external processes are available into a moderate level. Provinces have set up Policy and Planning Commissions to handle policy and planning. These commissions help provinces build annual and periodic plans to achieve the SDGs.

In Pakistan an authority to give and enforce the orders is observed to be in a sufficient level. To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of SDG 12 reporting and monitoring, national policies are available to a sufficient level. Institutional Knowledge and methodology base for monitoring and reporting is sufficient. And in Sri Lanka, the relevant organizations have a moderate level of authority to give and enforce orders. Availability of national, regional, or international policies that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting is insufficient.

Recent status of Resources of the South Asian countries

According to the data gathered through the study, the organization SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting in Bangladesh have moderate financial sources in order to manage human resources with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting. But the availability of tools and technology is insufficient to handle their operations appropriately. In the context of Bhutan, the availability of capacities for finance,

tools and technology and partners are insufficient. Separate financial allocations are not available for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. As a technological resource, the DEWA dashboard provides a database for all the data related to SDGs in Bhutan. Shareholders are there to be involved in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. But as a whole the resources are insufficient to operate properly.

In India, most of the monitoring and reporting activities are sufficiently financed by the development agencies in a high percentage other than the government. All kinds of resources are sufficiently available when the activities are covered under the projects of those development agencies. Hence some government involvement is needed to improve the country's facilities for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. In the context of Maldives the capacity of the partners is moderate while all resources including finance, tools and technology are insufficient. Nepal's financial resources are not allocated in line with SDG 12. Affording enough human resources, educating current personnel, and purchasing adequate tools and technology are all insufficiently funded. However, government policies, programs, and budgets are out of pace with national SDG s, and cross-departmental coordination and communication are lacking for resource management. Community-based organizations, NGOs and international government organizations (INGOs) are keen to involve with the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in Nepal.

In Pakistan financial resources for the development of human resources and cover the operational cost are available. Resources are sufficiently available when the activities are covered under the projects of those development agencies. Financial backup for the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting is observed as a need for all types of arrangements including obtaining sufficient human resources, to procure sufficient tools and technology for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

4. Barriers and Challenges

As a whole, the appraisal SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in the seven regional countries conducted in this study, as given above, signifies a considerable level of inadequacy to monitoring progress towards the SDG 12 at the local, national, regional and global levels. This in turn reflects an absence of sound indicator framework that is required to translate the SDG 12 and its targets into a management tool to help countries develop implementation strategies and allocate resources based on the measured progress towards sustainable development, while ensuring the accountability of all stakeholders for achieving the SDG 12 as well as other related SDGs. It is evident that high-quality statistics are needed to enable the relevant stakeholders including national government, local authorities, the private sector and civil society to measure progress towards achievement of the SDGs, while the very comprehensiveness of the 2030 Agenda creates the need for an unprecedented range of statistics at different levels, including those derived from official statistical systems and from administrative and non-traditional data sources. These demand for a wide range of resources and competencies, which in turn reflect the presence of a host of barriers and challenges face by all countries for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Therefore, a proper understanding of them becomes a fundamental requirement to take remedial actions. In this section, barriers and challenges perceived in the seven countries are synthesized under a number of categories, as presented below.

Lack of competencies

The need of high-quality and wide range of statistics at different levels demands new set of knowledge and skills for the staff involved in the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting process. Thus, lack of competent staff with technical skills to collect and manage data is one of the key challenges. The competencies required are in relation to identifying data collection points, data collection and management, data aggregation, analysis, data presentation, reporting, and there exist gaps in all these areas.

Lack of integrated policy framework

The data collection and analysis are also affected by policy incoherence, inconsistency, more frequent changes and discontinuity. Further, unavailability or insufficiency of a central policy or lack of an integrated policy framework that is supported by a long-term planning process, as well as the less focused government's annual programs, and budgets to achieve SDG 12 monitoring and reporting activities are observed. As the indicators should essentially reflect and align with national planning and budgetary processes, SDG 12 monitoring and reporting has become a difficult task.

Insufficient Stakeholder Engagement

Monitoring and reporting of indicators should be supported by a broader consensus among many stakeholders including government agencies, private organizations, civil societies, academia and development partners and on their resources and competencies. In particular, indicators should be broadly consistent with systems of national accounts, systems of environmental-economic accounting, and other systems-based information, reflecting localization. Thus, inadequate engagement and participation of these stakeholders to keep track of and monitor progress on the SDG 12 is perceived as a key barrier. This, in turn, has affected the proper integration of data systems and the setting up of an all-encompassing system for collecting data on a regular and periodic basis.

Inadequate Government Support

Further to the policy and planning level challenges highlighted above, lack of mandating and assigning of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting for the relevant staff is observed, even though in almost all the countries have well-established government-supported institutional frameworks related to SDG. This has resulted in the absence of regular monitoring and reporting activities, unavailability of a refresher, knowledge sharing, and encouragement sessions on monitoring and reporting, which have been identified as key lacking areas of government responsibility.

Insufficient Resource Allocation

The lack of positive policy environment and limited engagement of stakeholders have also resulted in limited allocation of financial resources by relevant authorities towards SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in all the countries in the region. Hence almost all the projects related to this topic have been supported by the funds and other resources (such as tools, technologies and expertise) provided by development partners. However, lack of competent human resources has affected the effective and efficient management of allocated resources.

5. Way Forward

The Capacity Development Guide for SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting is the key product of a research-based activity that the National Cleaner Production Centre Sri Lanka has pioneered (NCPC, Sri Lanka) under the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC). The research focused on the monitoring and reporting status of SDG 12 in South Asia, its current status, challenges and barriers, and capacity development needs of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia.

The research was undertaken through four main steps: desktop research, a questionnaire, a session with interviews, and a virtual workshop. A background report was created based on the outputs from the desktop research, questionnaire and interviews. And the guide was created using all inputs from the background report and the virtual workshop. This guide helps to understand the current status, capacities, challenges and barriers and the way forward of SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting of South Asia. As a significant output of the project, this guide is to strengthen the regional reporting process on SDG 12 by harmonizing the national indicator framework with the global indicator framework to the extent possible. This knowledge product aims to systematize guidance on the Indicator

Framework for SDG 12 to take necessary steps for monitoring and reporting.

Awareness and Education for Competency Development

SDG 12 monitoring and reporting organizations should have sufficient staff /recruits with a minimum set of competencies (knowledge and skills) relevant to the assigned roles and responsibilities. In order to gain competencies relevant to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, organizations need to generate knowledge and build capacities to support the uptake and reporting of this SDG in the region. Moreover, awareness and public education should be key elements in long-term SDG 12 monitoring and reporting

Thus, appraisal of the present level of competencies against those required for proposed monitoring and reporting should be done for all the staff in a collective manner to understand the gaps in individual staff as well as the institution as a whole. In particular, competencies relating to data collection, management, aggregation, analysis, reporting and presentation should be assessed.

Based on the competency gap analysis, a comprehensive communication and education strategy and action plan should be developed. Under this plan, scheduled training should be conducted to enhance and refresh the required competencies. Providing coordinated technical, financial, technological and capacity-building assistance will be more helpful for the relevant organizations for the SDG 12 reporting and monitoring purpose.

Data and Information

It is crucial to make a mechanism to collect and disaggregate the data for sharper SDG monitoring, leading to focused policy advice. Here, it is important to emphasis that the effective SDG 12 monitoring and reporting is critically determined by the localization of the targets and indicators, which is not yet seen in

most of the countries. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to identify local data required for the monitoring and reporting.

In order to facilitate locally adaptable systems that provide a better understanding to the organizations related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, it is vital to develop a methodical framework for the classification of data and data quality. Moreover, it is important to incorporate strategies that improve statistical capacity-building effectively and sustainably. Consulting National Statistical Officials and the national statistical system before conducting any statistical capacity-building activity is crucial with regard to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. In fact, the challenges of SDG 12 measurement and monitoring at the national and local levels indicate the need for modernization of statistical processes and systems. Such modernization should (i) ensure the use of standard statistical processes and tools between national, regional and global statistical systems; (ii) enable international comparison and exchange of statistics; and (iii) integrating non-traditional data sources into official statistics to deliver them in a more timely and cost-efficient way.

Governance

Proper policy and institutional eco-system is a fundamental requirement for an effective monitoring and report of SDG 12. In particular, an overarching policy and integrated long-term planning approach should be established to monitor SDG 12. Budgets and policies should incorporate the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting roadmaps. SCP policies should be properly integrated into all national policies and plans for effective monitoring and reporting. This should also be supported with proper awareness-raising and education for all stakeholders. Even for establishing an integrated policy, authorizing a central authority covering the South Asian region would be more practical to continue the uniqueness of the actions and integrity.

In order to strengthen the institutional structure, a focal body from each country can be assigned to report directly to the central authority of the

region. Although challenges oppose developing a central framework, it can be implemented if the international aid perspective is linked to monitoring and reporting. All national-level plans and policies should be aligned with the global framework, avoiding repetitive and out-of-scope work. Policies should be addressed and decentralized responsibilities through all the stakeholders, including government, line ministries, NGOs, academia, development agencies, etc. Policies should focus more on research to strengthen the monitoring and reporting frameworks and identify the existing challenges and barriers at the ground level. In relation to educational policies, secondary and tertiary educational curriculars should be nourished with SDG 12 monitoring and reporting related contexts to inform and inline the younger generation towards these concepts. It would be a great investment not only for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting but also for the rest of the SDGs.

Adoption of outcome-based approaches strengthening decentralization can empower local administrations to function effectively to deliver the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting goals. Adequate authority, capacity and resources need to be invested at this level, and coordination between national and local levels is required. It will help maintain accountability and encourage effective stakeholder participation of the stakeholders. Ensuring stakeholder participation in monitoring and reporting at all levels is key to success and keeping policy design relevant and responsive will make it more practical.

Moreover, the government should support institutional frameworks for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting and should be continuously followed up on, questioned about, and encouraged. Individuals to be directly designated for monitoring and reporting with a specific job responsibility. The government should conduct frequent monitoring and reporting activities and provide a refresher, information exchange, and encouraging sessions on monitoring and reporting on SDG 12.

Stakeholder Engagement

There are several stakeholders having a role to play in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, either as providers of basic data or statistics, as compilers or disseminators of indicators or as users of data, statistics or indicators. Although traditional suppliers of official statistics remain central to the monitoring and reporting efforts, they need to adopt new data sources and production processes more widely and quickly than in the past, thus need to collaborate with other government agencies and stakeholders. Coordination of activities among all the stakeholders is needed to ensure that monitoring and reporting is efficient, effective and transparent.

Accordingly, government agencies, ministries, private organizations, civil societies, academia, and development partners should work together to track SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Integrating data systems and creating a comprehensive data collection system is critical. At the national level, the availability of a national coordinating agency is critical for effective implementation of SDG 12 through a range of objectives and the need for cross-sector coordination should be highlighted.

Regional Coordination and Collaboration

Subregional coordination would benefit countries by allowing them to share development experiences, strategies, challenges and barriers for addressing various difficulties. Regional coordination at the larger Asia-Pacific level can also be beneficial in terms of fostering knowledge-sharing and reciprocal learning. Further, regional monitoring can play an important role in peer review across countries in the same region. It will also promote shared accountability for regional priorities.

As per the reports, SAARC has been tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and cooperating in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. Hence it is beneficial to have more authorities like it to take the responsibility of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia. It will also provide a benchmark for other monitoring and reporting activities related to the rest of the

SDGs. Some suggestions can be given as follows to enforce the focus on SDG 12 reporting and monitoring at the level of coordination;

- Establishing a regional coordination mechanism led by SACEP
- Setting up a regional working group on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting,
- Establishing (or identifying) leading agencies and/or separate departments on regional knowledge management activity and capacity development and platform development on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

Resource Management

Finances, tools, technology, competent human resources, and applicable authorities should be deployed accurately. Direct government funding and funds from development agencies should be used wisely. SDG 12 efforts should be overseen and reported on by enough employees. Local, provincial, and national plans should be connected with SDG targets and indicators, and the planning process should be prioritized based on local needs. It is critical for municipal and provincial governments to make strategies and carry out implementation in accordance with the SDGs priority agenda. Further, facilitating fair allocation of resources would play a vital role in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting. Allocating adequate staff to the necessary institutes and assigning current staff to part-time work related to SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, with additional payment to

enhance SDG 12 monitoring and reporting efforts.

Dissemination and Communication

Given the highly public and political nature of the SDG 12, effective indicator dissemination and communication are an essential elements in successful monitoring and reporting. Failure to provide stakeholders and users with ready access to the indicators and clear documentation of their strengths and weaknesses risks bringing accusations of bias on the
part of data collectors and analyzers. Moreover, regional and global organizations have created their own dissemination and communication platforms and approaches with which national governments have to align to the greatest extent possible. This constrains the range of options available to governments and sets expectations in terms of the quality and nature of dissemination and communication. Further, transparency in dissemination and communications is essential for all official statistics and SDG 12 indicators.

Further, other than the reports such as VNRs, presentations and annual reports, it is important to use real-time and updated media to gear up the awareness of these concepts. Social media platforms video streaming platforms like YouTube can be used as communication media to share the regional best practices of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

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