Full Report
Virtual Workshop on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia

Date: Thursday 09 March 2022 | 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm (IST)

Venue: Online via Zoom

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Implemented by

Contents

List of Acronyms

NCPC, Sri Lanka	**National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka**
NGO	**Non Governmental Organizations**
NSO	**National Statistics Offices**
RPAC	**SWITCH Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component**
SACEP	**South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme**
SCP	**Sustainable Consumption and Production**
SDG	**Sustainable Development Goals**
UN	**United Nations**
UNDP	**United Nations Development Programmes**
UNEP	**United Nations Environment Programme**
UNSTAT	**United Nations Statistical Division**
UNSDG	**United Nations Sustainable Development Group**

Background

SDG 12 progress has been most uneven among the Asia Pacific subregions. The significant barrier to accessing accurate national and regional performance against targets and indicators is the lack of baseline information on SDG 12. SDG 12 data collecting, monitoring, and reporting capacity needs have been assessed through this research-based activity by NCPC Sri Lanka, which was supported by EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC). As part of this activity, this workshop was designed to highlight the importance of tracking SDG 12 and discuss the capacity development needs and the practical pathway to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop was expected to generate insights to illustrate the practical guide to strengthen the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asian countries. Accordingly, the objectives of this workshop were:
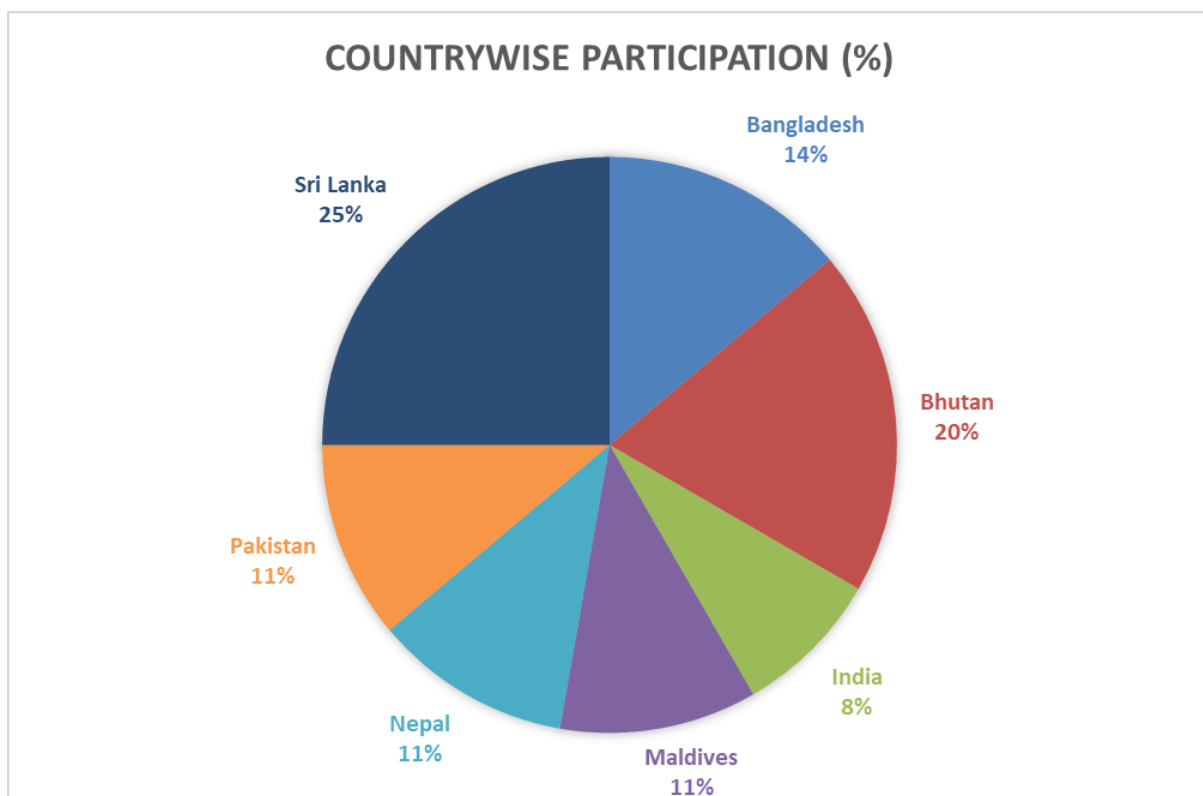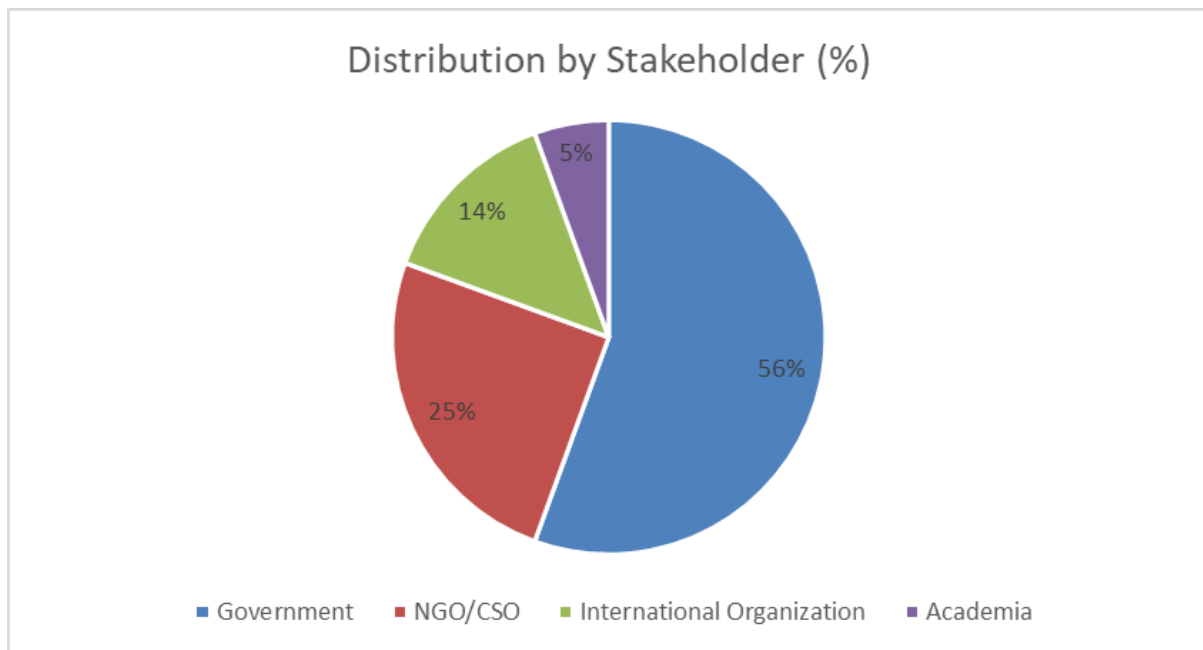
- Highlight the importance of tracking SDG 12 and understand further the current status and capacities of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia
- Showcase the best practice and lessons learned from South Asian countries and other regions and enhance the exchange of knowledge
- Present the findings of the baseline study and survey-based research for the validation of findings and further augment the capacity development needs for the sub-region
- Discuss the practical pathway to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia.

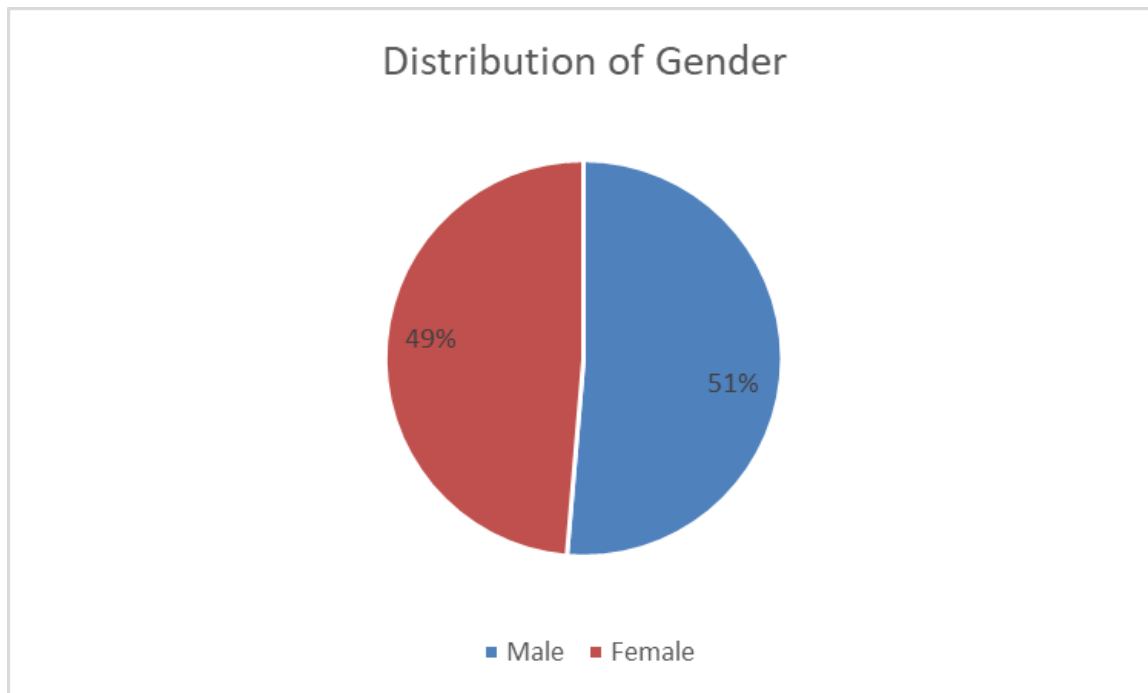# Logistical Information about the event

The workshop was organized with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and NCPC, Sri Lanka, under the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia RPAC. The event occurred through Zoom on the 9th March 2022 from 13.30 to 16.00 hrs (Indian Standard Time) with 38 participants from South Asian Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka).

Review of the Participants

More than 39 participants registered prior to the event. The workshop was attended by 38 participants belonging to different stakeholder groups and organizers via Zoom. Figures below present the details of participants. Based on the registrations, 51% of the participants were female and 49% were male.

Distribution by Stakeholder (%)

- Government 56%
- NGO/CSO 25%
- International Organization 14%
- Academia 5%

COUNTRYWISE PARTICIPATION (%)

- Bangladesh 14%
- Bhutan 20%
- India 8%
- Maldives 11%
- Nepal 11%
- Pakistan 11%
- Sri Lanka 25%

Distribution of Gender

Summary Key Massage

The workshop brought together stakeholders from government, private sector, academia civil society organizations, NGOs and international organizations. Regional experiences in the SDG 12 data monitoring and reporting processes, the challenges in the monitoring and reporting SDG data, statistical challenges involved in obtaining the necessary data for the global agenda were shared with the participants. Challenges and barriers, practical pathway to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia and best practices were shared through the group discussion, followed by three break-out discussion groups in the aspects of,

1. Competencies - knowledge and awareness, skills, internal structure and procedure
2. Resources - finance, tools and technology, partners
3. Enabling Environment - authority, legal and policy framework, external structure and external procedure, knowledge and methodology

It is highlighted that 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. 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. SCP policies should be properly integrated into all national policies and plans for effective monitoring and reporting. Further, government agencies, ministries, private organizations, civil societies, academia, and development partners should work together to track SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

Session I: Opening Plenary

Introduction and Welcome Remark

The workshop opened with a welcome address by Dr. Mushtaq Memon (Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Asia Pacific Regional Office Project Manager SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC)), followed by the introduction to the workshop.

Keynote Speech 1

Dr. Md Masumur Rahman, Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), opened with the policies, activities, and experiences of promoting sustainable consumption and production in South Asia as the first keynote speech of the workshop.

Presentation 1

Ms. Iresha Gurusinghe, Senior RECP Expert, National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCPC, Sri Lanka) gave a brief presentation about the reserch based assessment on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia. She emphasized the objectives of this study to determine the current status, assess the institutional and technical capacity, identify major, challenges, barriers and opportunities and identify the capacity development needs in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia. She presented the methodology for the study while taking into account conducting capacity mapping, identifying the capacity development needs, and the practical pathway to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia. She further noted that the enabling environment is strengthened by the policy availability of the majority of the countries, while external structure and procedures and knowledge and methodology base are not strong enough for SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting. According to the study, Ms. Iresha Gurusinghe highlighted that lack of competencies, lack of integrated policy framework, insufficient resource allocation, and lack of stakeholder engagement are the main challenges and barriers for the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in the South Asian Countries.

Presentation 2

Dr. Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Sustainable Development and Outreach, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), presented the best practice and lessons learned in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in India /South Asia. She stated the status of SDGs monitoring and reporting mechanism in India. According to her, the NITI Aayog has the overall coordination and planning of SDGs while the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation is responsible for the overall reporting of SDGs. Nodal

ministries are responsible for each SDG including SDG 12, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal ministry. Dr. Shailly further mentioned key considerations in the indicator frameworks by TERI. Moreover, she explained the global and national indicators adopted by India and the relevant gaps to be filled with a way forward.

Presentation 3

Dr. Young Woo Park, Former Senior Advisor for Environmental Policy and Project Development (SACEP) stated the Best practice and lesson learned in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in other region/s. Dr. Park highlighted the three planetary crises linked between Covid-19 and environmental degradation. To accelerate the national agenda, he explained the approaches of Green infrastructure, Waste management and circularity, net Clean energy, circular economy, green jobs, etc. According to him, the government can take legislative, budgetary, and oversight actions on the above-mentioned approaches. In order to successfully implement and achieve SCP and SDG12, he explained the progress toward the SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region.

Session II: Moderated Group Discussion (Break-out rooms)

The group discussion was chaired by Dr. Thusitha Sugathapala, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa. This session facilitated discussions to highlight the regional experiences in the SDG 12 data monitoring and reporting processes, the challenges in monitoring and reporting SDG data, statistical challenges involved in obtaining the necessary data for the global agenda. The participants were divided into three groups as break-out rooms based on their countries, institutions and gender. Three worksheets were distributed among groups. They were asked to fill practical pathways to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia, challenges and barriers and the best practices were asked in terms of;

1. Competencies - knowledge and awareness, skills, internal structure and procedure (Group 1)
2. Resources - finance, tools and technology, partners (Group 2)
3. Enabling Environment - authority, legal and policy framework, external structure and external procedure, knowledge and methodology (Group 3)

A note-taker was appointed to each group and during the group discussion, the important points were taken. Thereafter, one presenter from group presented the challenges,

barriers and practical pathways to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia and the best practices recorded in each group.

Wrap up and Closing Remark: The Way forward

Eng. Samantha Kumarasena, Chief Executive Officer, National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCPC, Sri Lanka) thanked all the speakers and participants for participating in this insightful virtual workshop on the timely need for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in the South Asian Region. He remarked that the identified gaps through the group discussion would help to improve the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting Capacity Development Guide. The guide will be able to provide a set of principles and long-term goals that form the basis of making policies and guidelines and to give overall direction to planning and development of organization and stakeholder network.

Lesson Learnt

It was observed that the workshop would be more efficient if there were more time allocation for group activity and lesser time for the presentations of the thematic session. One of the objectives of the workshop is to discuss the practical pathway to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia; it is important to increase the allocated time for the group discussion.

Moreover, the total time of the workshop was observed to be too long. It was noted that the government officials would prefer a short period of virtual meetings. In addition, perhaps a physical presence and discussion could be an authentic experience in knowing and developing an in-depth understanding of SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia.

While some countries in the South Asian region have advanced the progress on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting, others are still in the early stages and hence capacity building efforts are required. A physical workshop is suggested to be held in the future while allocating more time to group work.

Highlights of discussions

Through the well-designed speeches and group discussions, the participants were clearly inspired and they tended to get the current status and the action needed to establish a good monitoring reporting system for SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia.

The participants actively engaged in discussions held in break-out rooms and shared valuable information and ideas. All the participants actively presented ideas related to competencies, resources and enabling environment based on their country context.
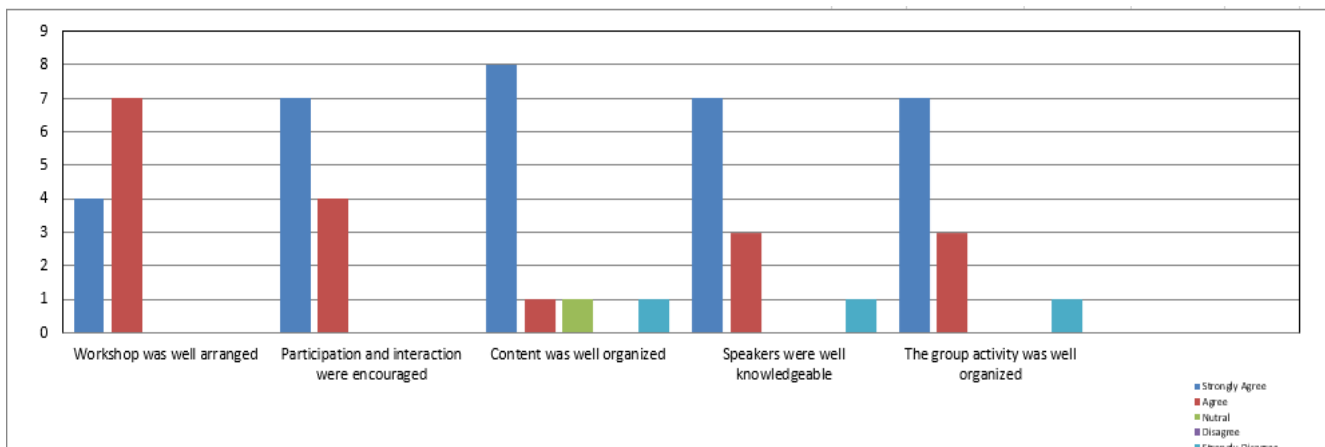
Evaluation results

The evaluation survey was designed and conducted to provide an informal measurement to collect feedback and comments on this virtual workshop on SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting in South Asia

It was assessed by using the scale from five aspects as, Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, and Strongly Agree to see how satisfied are the participants with the event and the extent to which the workshop improved their understanding and interest to learn to share the knowledge about SDG 12 monitoring and Reporting in South Asia. Totally 11 feedbacks were received, through which it can be observed that 100% of respondents agreed that the workshop was well arranged and that participation and interaction were encouraged.

Furthermore, 72% of the respondents strongly agreed that the course content is well organized while 63% strongly agreed with the good knowledge of the speakers. And also, according to the feedback, 63% strongly agreed that the group activity was well organized.
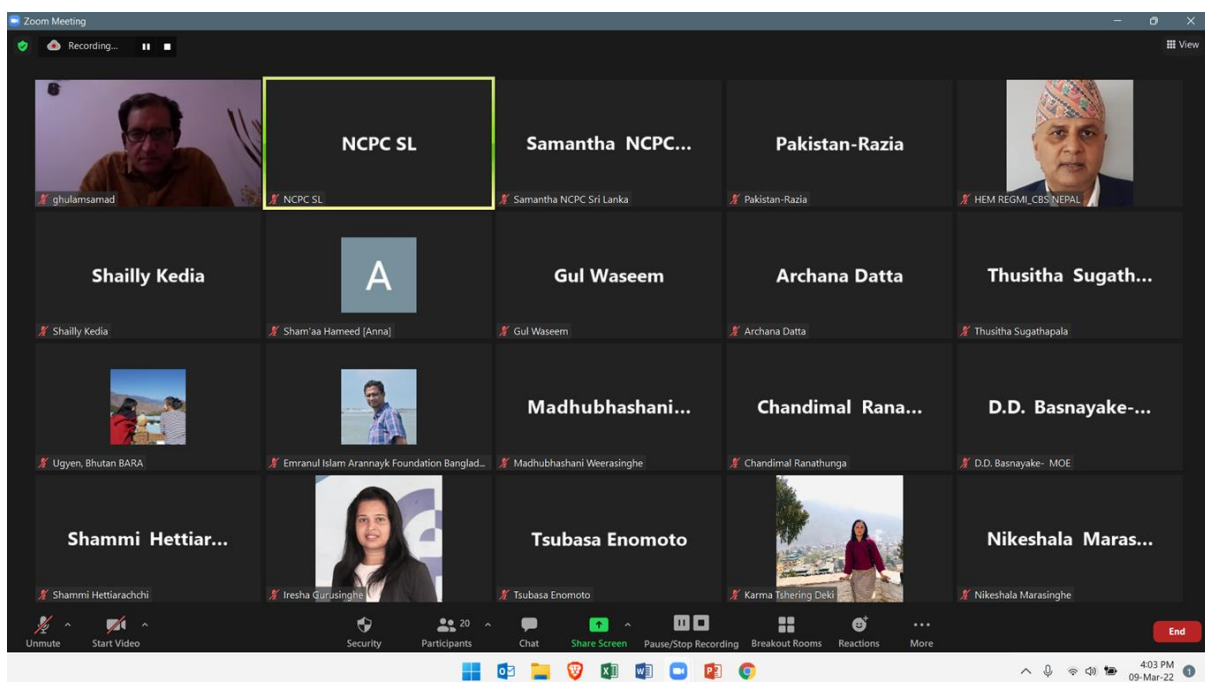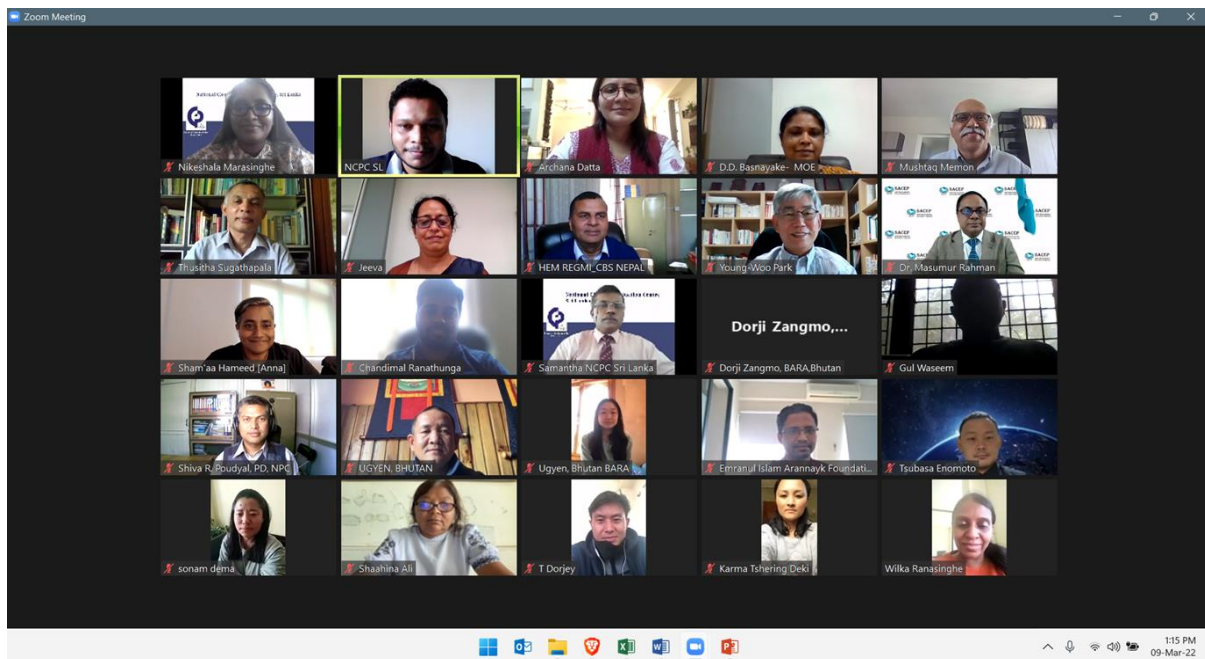
Topic	Strongly Agree	Agree	Nutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Workshop was well arranged	4	7			
Participation and interaction were encouraged	7	4			
Content was well organized	8	1	1		1
Speakers were well knowledgeable	7	3			1
The group activity was well organized	7	3			1

Moreover, some additional comments were found in the feedback related to the good platform built and the great effort behind the good work. Many of the respondents requested more workshops like this and some had been requested more time for group discussion as well. The majority of the respondents were likely to participate in physical workshops
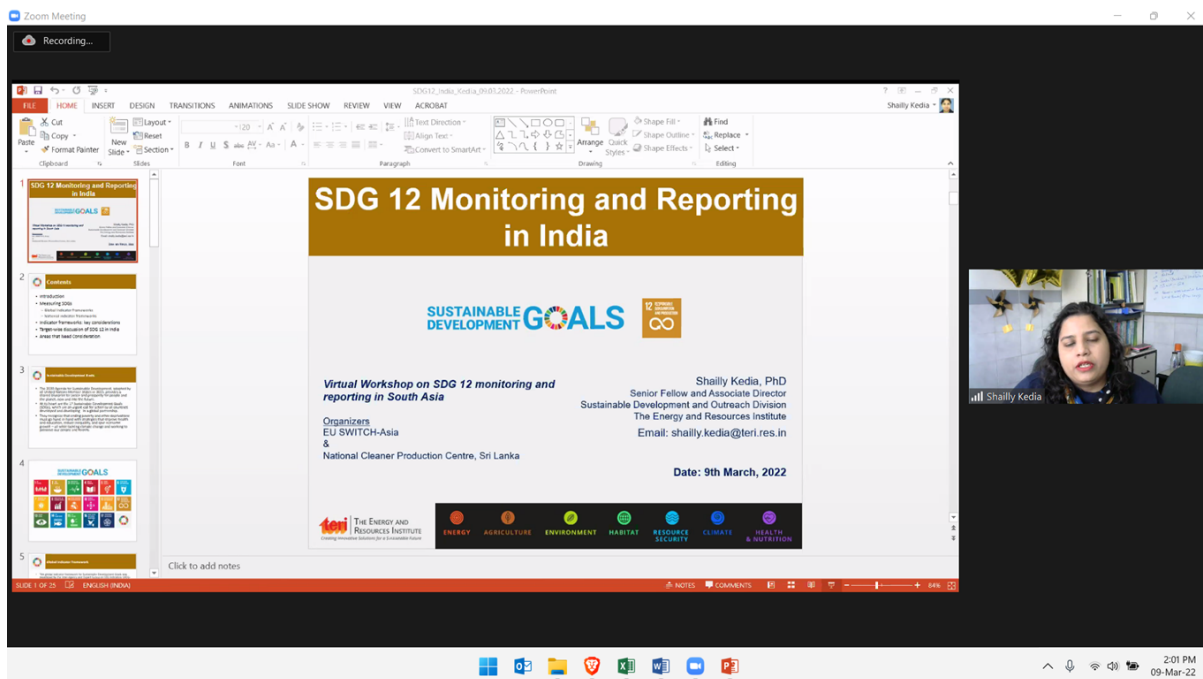
Snapshots

Accelerating the national agenda - Policy directions

Key approaches:
- Green infrastructure
- Waste management and circularity/ circular economy
- Clean energy/net-zero
- Green jobs
- Biodiversity and nature-based solutions
- Rule of law

7

SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting in India

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Virtual Workshop on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia

Organizers
EU SWITCH-Asia
&
National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka

Shailly Kedia, PhD
Senior Fellow and Associate Director
Sustainable Development and Outreach Division
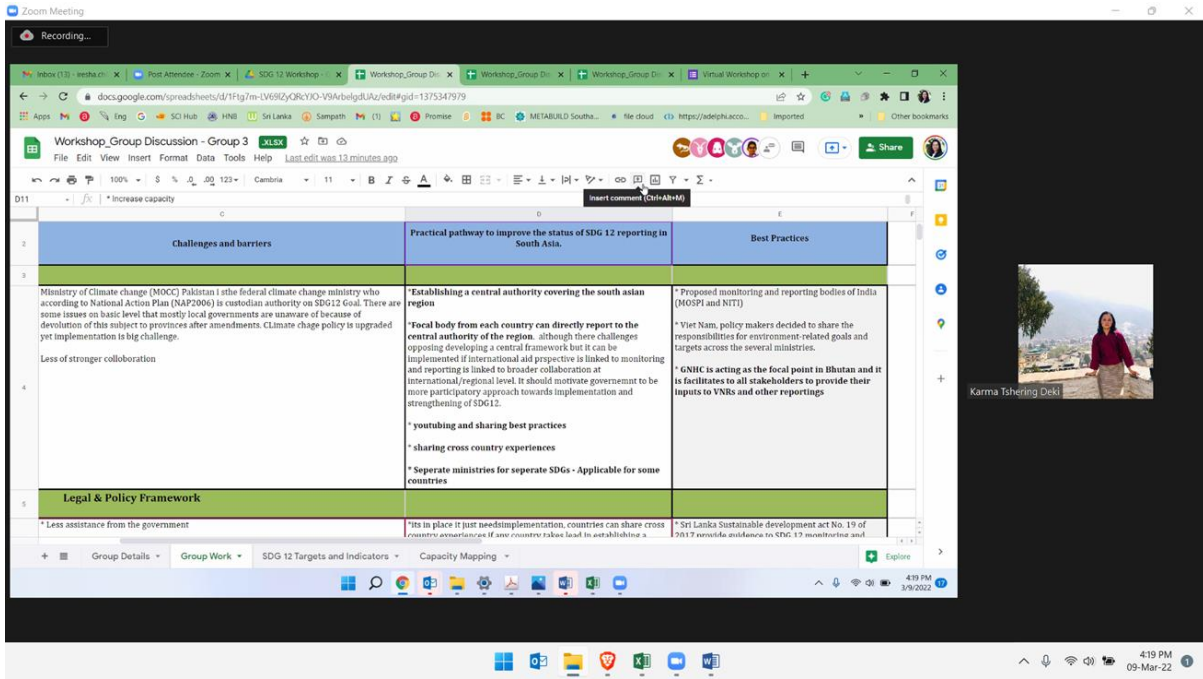The Energy and Resources Institute
Email: shailly.kedia@teri.res.in

Date: 9th March, 2022

THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Implemented by

Challenges and barriers	Practical pathway to improve the status of SDG 12 reporting in South Asia.	Best Practices
Ministry of Climate change (MOCC) Pakistan i sthe federal climate change ministry who according to National Action Plan (NAP2006) is custodian authority on SDG12 Goal. There are some issues on basic level that mostly local governments are unaware of because of devolution of this subject to provinces after amendments. CLimate chage policy is upgraded yet implementation is big challenge. Less of stronger colloboration	*Establishing a central authority covering the south asian region *Focal body from each country can directly report to the central authority of the region. although there challenges opposing developing a central framework but it can be implemented if international aid prspective is linked to monitoring and reporting is linked to broader collaboration at international/regional level. it should motivate governemnt to be more participatory approach towards implementation and strengthening of SDG12. * youtubing and sharing best practices * sharing cross country experiences * Seperate ministries for seperate SDGs - Applicable for some countries	* Proposed monitoring and reporting bodies of India (MOSPI and NITI) * Viet Nam, policy makers decided to share the responsibilities for environment-related goals and targets across the several ministries. * GNHC is acting as the focal point in Bhutan and it is facilitates to all stakeholders to provide their inputs to VNRs and other reportings
Legal & Policy Framework		
* Less assistance from the government	*Its in place it just needsimplementation, countries can share cross country experiences if any country takes lead in establishing a	* Sri Lanka Sustainable development act No. 19 of 2017 provide guidance to SDG 12 monitoring and

Karma Tshering Deki

Annex: The Final agenda

Agenda: March 09th, 2022 (GMT +5:30)

**Session I: Opening Plenary**

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Session I: Opening Plenary
Introduction to the workshop, the official opening of the meeting followed by the presentation of the assessment of existing data collection methods for SDG12 by showcasing the best practice and lessons learned from South Asian countries and other regions.
<i>Chaired by: Eng. Samantha Kumarasena, Chief Executive Officer, National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>13:00- 13:05</td><td>Introduction and Welcome Remark

<i>Dr. Mushtaq Memon (Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Asia Pacific Regional Office Project Manager SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC))</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>13:05 - 13:15</td><td>Keynote Speech 1
The policies, activities, and experiences on promoting sustainable consumption and production in South Asia

<i>Dr. Md Masumur Rahman, Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>13:15 - 13:35</td><td>Presentation 1
SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in South Asia: Current status, major challenges, barriers, and opportunities based on capacity assessment in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting

<i>Ms. Iresha Gurusinghe, Senior RECP Expert, National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCP, Sri Lanka)</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>13:35 - 13:55</td><td>Presentation 2
Best practice and lesson learned in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in India /South Asia

<i>Dr. Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Sustainable Development and Outreach Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>13:55 - 14:15</td><td>Presentation 3
Best practice and lesson learned in SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in other region/s
<i>Dr. Yongwoo Park, Former Senior Advisor for Environmental Policy and Project Development, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>14:15- 14:20</td><td>Break</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Session II Group Discussion (Breakout rooms)

Facilitated discussions to highlight the regional experiences in the SDG 12 data monitoring and reporting processes, the challenges in the monitoring and reporting SDG data, statistical challenges involved in obtaining the necessary data for the global agenda.

<i>Chaired by Dr. Thusitha Sugathapala, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>14.20-14.30</td><td>Guidance of the group discussion

<i>Dr. Thusitha Sugathapala, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>14.30- 15.30</td><td>Group Discussion</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">Session III Closing Plenary</td></tr>
<tr><td>15.30-15.45</td><td>Group Presentations (5 mins per each group)</td></tr>
</table>

15.45- 16.00	**Wrap up and closing remarks: The way forward** *Eng. Samantha Kumarasena, Chief Executive Officer, National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCPC, Sri Lanka)*