

Call for partners

SDG-PSS: A system to track & report policy-critical SDG 6 progress

National policy makers responsible for water from environmental, socio-economic perspectives have the challenge of putting Sustainable Development Goal 6 into action, and of measuring and reporting on their policy and implementation progress.

UNU-INWEH and partners have developed the SDG policy support system (SDG PSS) to allow governments to measure and report on the progress of six policy critical components for SDG 6. The aim is to enable governments to accelerate SDG success by supporting cross-sector, evidence-based policy and planning; and to accelerate progress towards water-related Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDG [Policy Support System](#) (SDG-PSS) is now released for trial and review by policy makers, international organisations and water experts. The INWEH team aims to work with all interested governments and experts to evolve it into a collaborative system that serves the needs of water and development agencies worldwide.

Using the system, government agencies can map progress against SDG 6 targets and indicators through six components: finance, capacity, policy and institutional strength, gender mainstreaming, disaster risk reduction and resilience mainstreaming, and transparency.

This is the first system that brings policy makers a holistic overview of SDG 6 progress. For example, managers can map advances in gender mainstreaming and compare them against gaps and needs in capacity development for each target of SDG 6.



Why the SDG PSS?

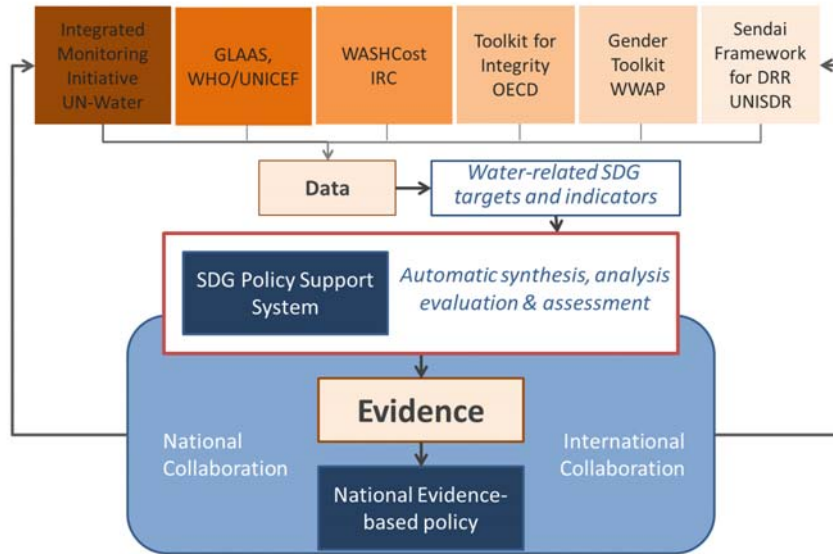
Achieving SDG 6 and target 6.3 is about more than ticking off indicators. Crafting effective policy frameworks and making multi-sectoral decisions are complex processes that require a clear view across environmental, economic and social knowledge and evidence.

To be policy-relevant, the challenge for scientists and experts is to look beyond [collecting data](#), to [translating it into evidence that is fit-for-policy](#).

The challenge for decision makers is to [effectively apply evidence to policy issues](#).

The SDG PSS was developed because although data are the ‘lifeblood’ of decision-making, it is internationally recognised that too often in the water and sanitation sectors, data remain unused because they are not translated for and made accessible to policymakers.

The SDG PSS draws on more than 20 existing water-related tools that cover the six SDG policy-critical themes – see the figure below. The SDG PSS then automatically synthesises and evaluates data from these tools against SDG 6 to create target-specific evidence. In this way, users can view strengths, gaps and needs in a single summary view, as shown in the figure below.



Decision-makers can view strengths, gaps and needs in one summary view, as shown in the figure below.

Home Summary View: Sustainable Development Goal 6, Evidence Base														
Water-related SDG Targets	National Aspiration	Status	National Capacity			Finance				Gender Mainstreaming				
			% Goal	Overall current capacity	Strengthening mechanisms	Overall Progress	Adequacy of financial flows	Accountability	Funding Sources	Financing for equity	National policy	Governance	Organization	
6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	100% of population is using safely managed drinking water services	No evidence	Adequate	No evidence	Inadequate	No evidence	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	No evidence	Adequate	
6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention	80% of population using safely managed sanitation and hand-washing services	-20%	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate
6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	100% of wastewater safely treated	No evidence	Adequate	Adequate	No evidence	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate
		95% of bodies of water with good water quality	41%	Significant	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Significant	Adequate
6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	30% change in water use efficiency	33%	Adequate	Inadequate	Significant	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
		2% of total available water resources used	97%	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate
6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	Score of 47.5 for IWRM implementation	75%	Inadequate	Significant	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate
		100% transboundary basins have water cooperation arrangements	100%	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Significant	Adequate
6.6	By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	12% change in the extent of water-related ecosystems	15%	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	No evidence

The future vision for the SDG PSS is that of an online system created and owned by national and international partners that are specialised in water and environment policy and analysis. This would be a big step toward more aligned action within governments and more effective and coordinated policies that improve water management, regionally and globally.

The SDG PSS trial version will be freely available in English, Korean, French and Spanish. The SDG PSS is currently coded in excel and is being officially trialled in five countries: The Republic of Korea, Ghana, Costa Rica, Pakistan and Tunisia. Project partners are UNU-INWEH, the Korea Environment Corporation, the Ministry of Environment – Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD). See <http://inweh.unu.edu/sdg-policy-support-system/>.