

INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES IN SDGS IMPLEMENTATION

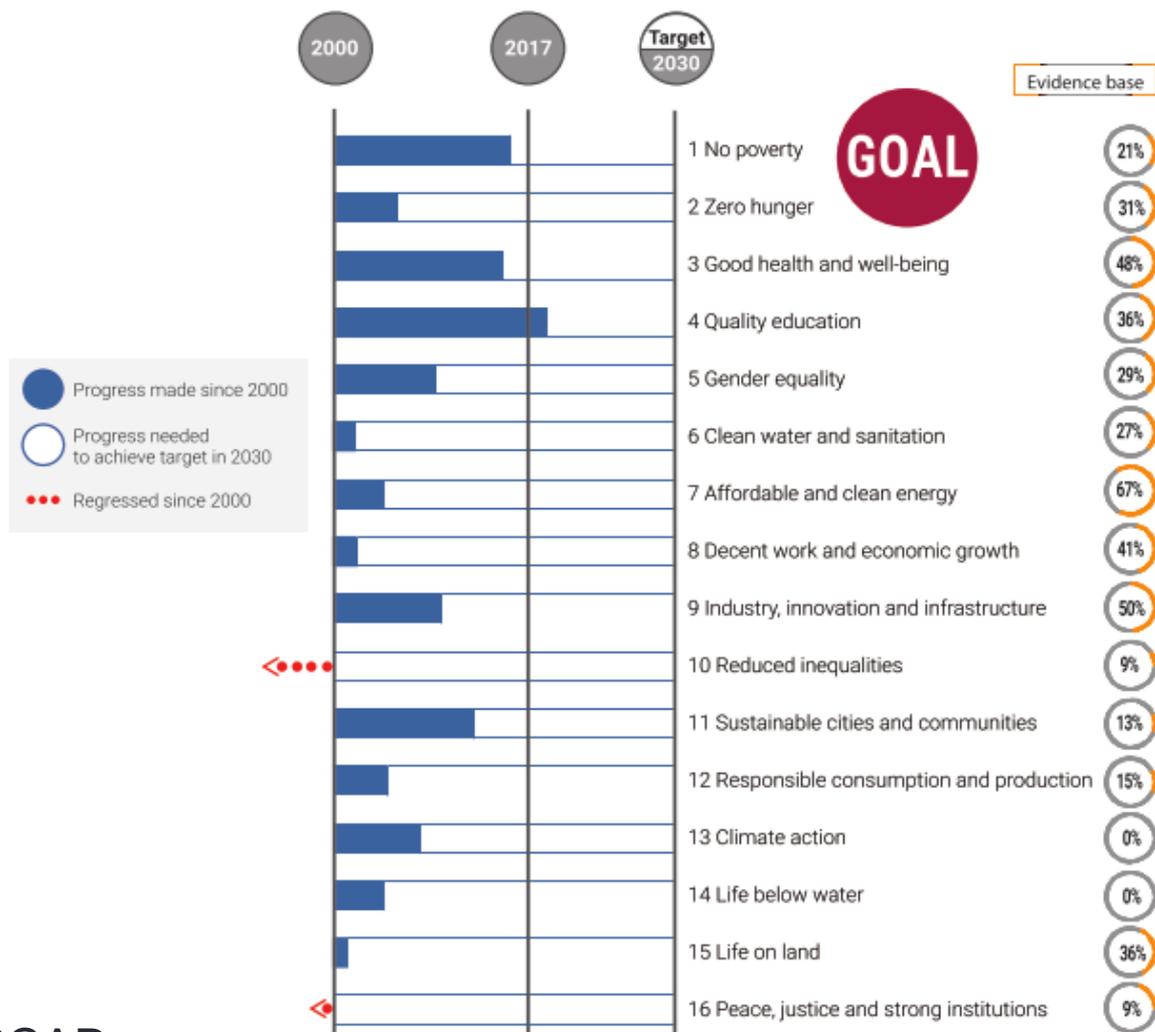
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Current situation on SDGs: Challenging

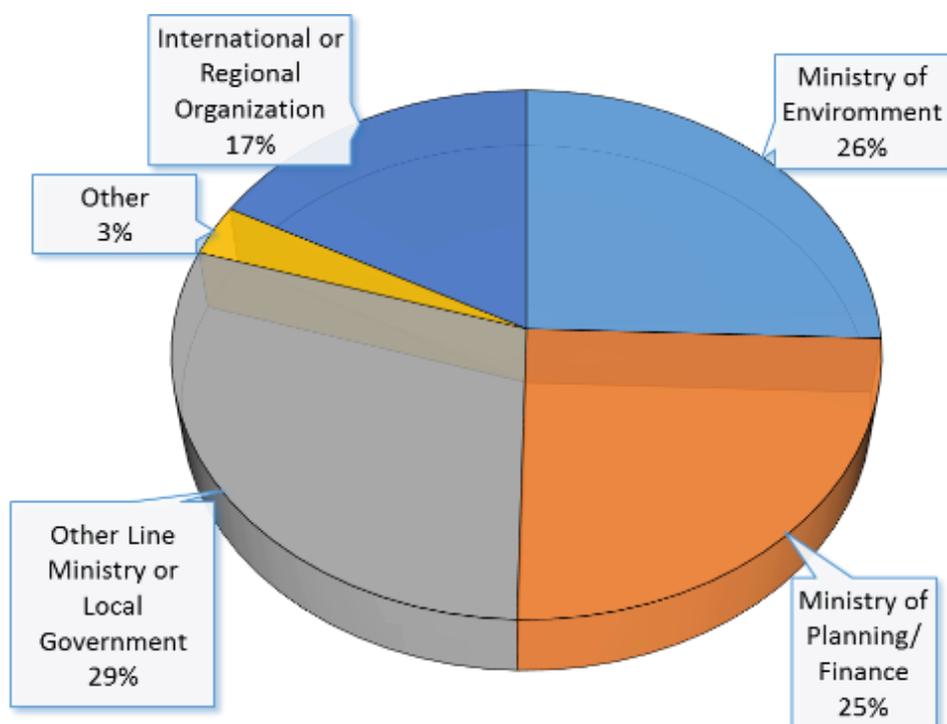


Source: UNESCAP, 2017.

Background: ADB Project on Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the SDGs

- Countries may neglect environmental SDGs (particularly SDGs 12, 14 and 15)
- Project took stock of how 15 countries are integrating SDGs 12,14, 15 and other environment-related SDGs into their development strategies and plans
- Desktop review followed by in-country work (consultants in 14 out of 15 countries) and interviewed approx 150 ppl in and beyond environment sector
- Phase 2 will take place in 3-4 countries to help with decision making tools to support integrated approach

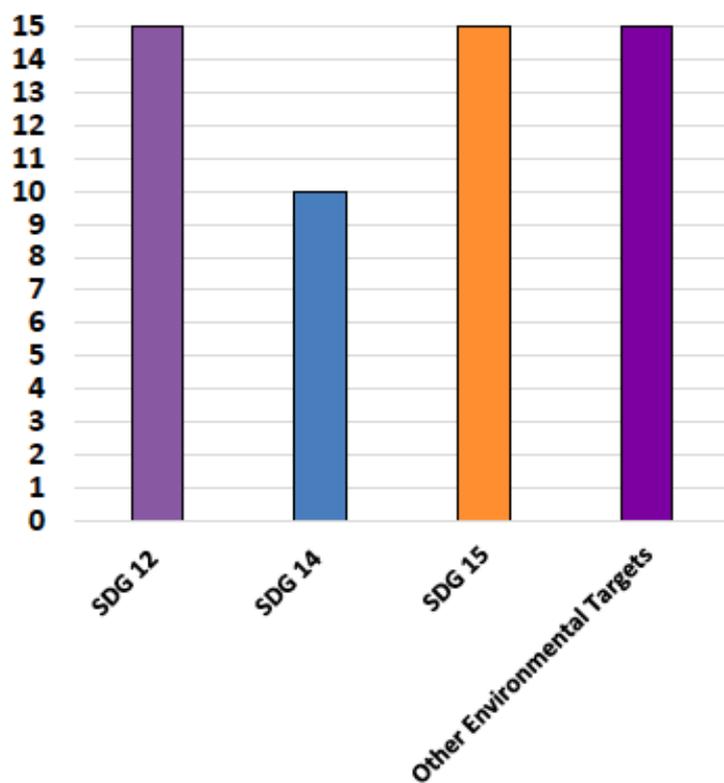
Interviewed people from various sectors:



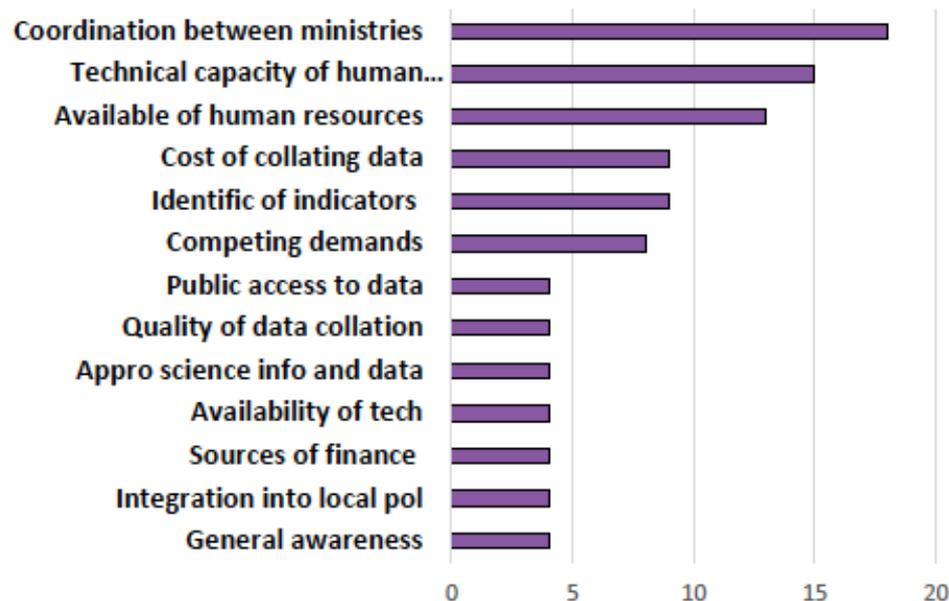
Surveyed countries recognize environment is critical for SDGs

But many challenges to integrating environment into development plans often involving governance

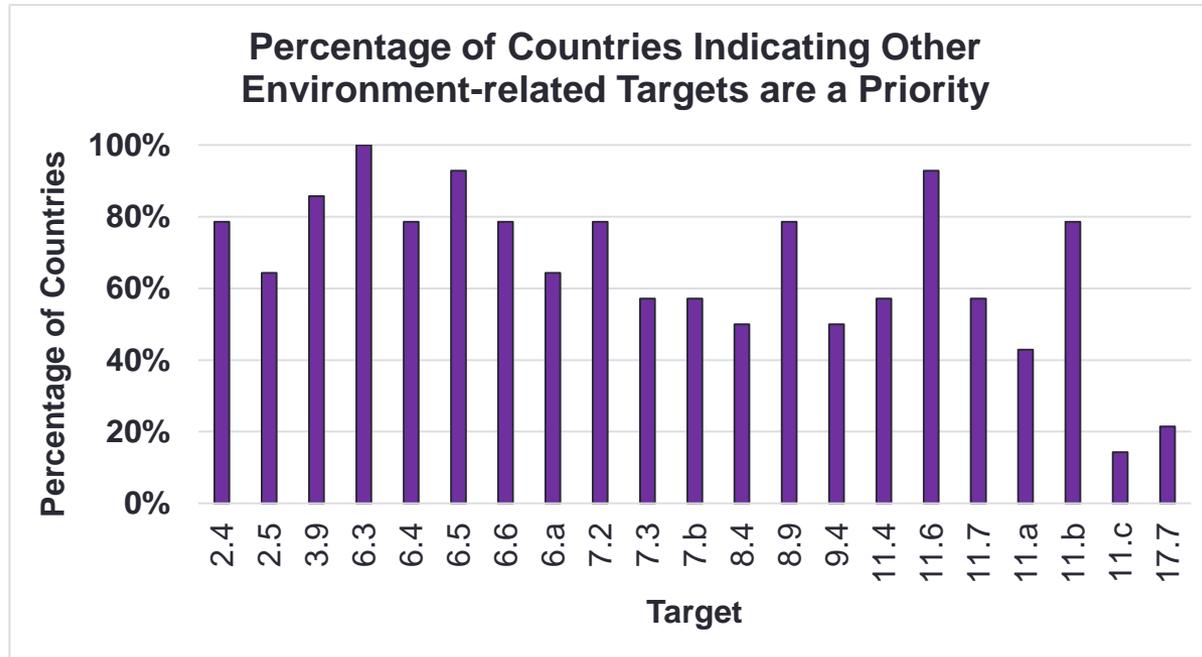
Number of Countries Focusing on the Below SDGs



Most Frequently Selected Barriers to Environment Related SDGs

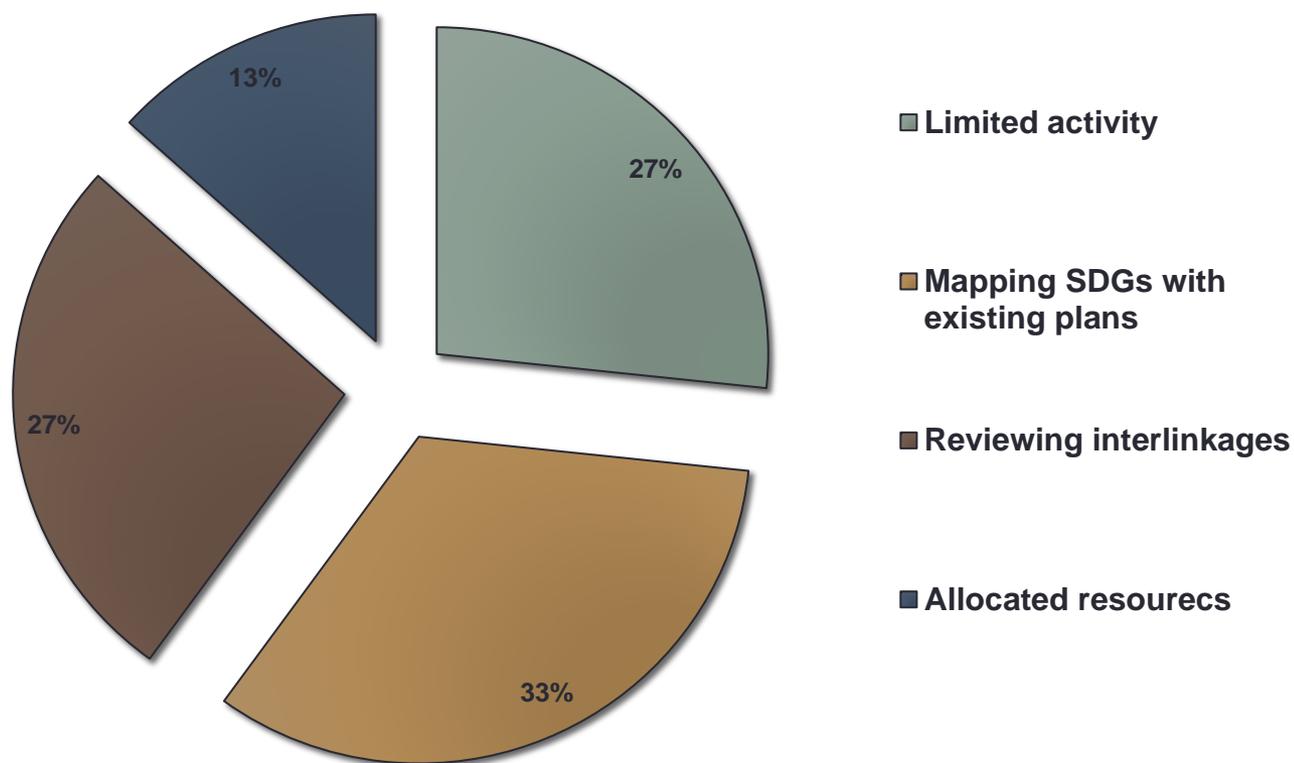


Other Env-related SDGs

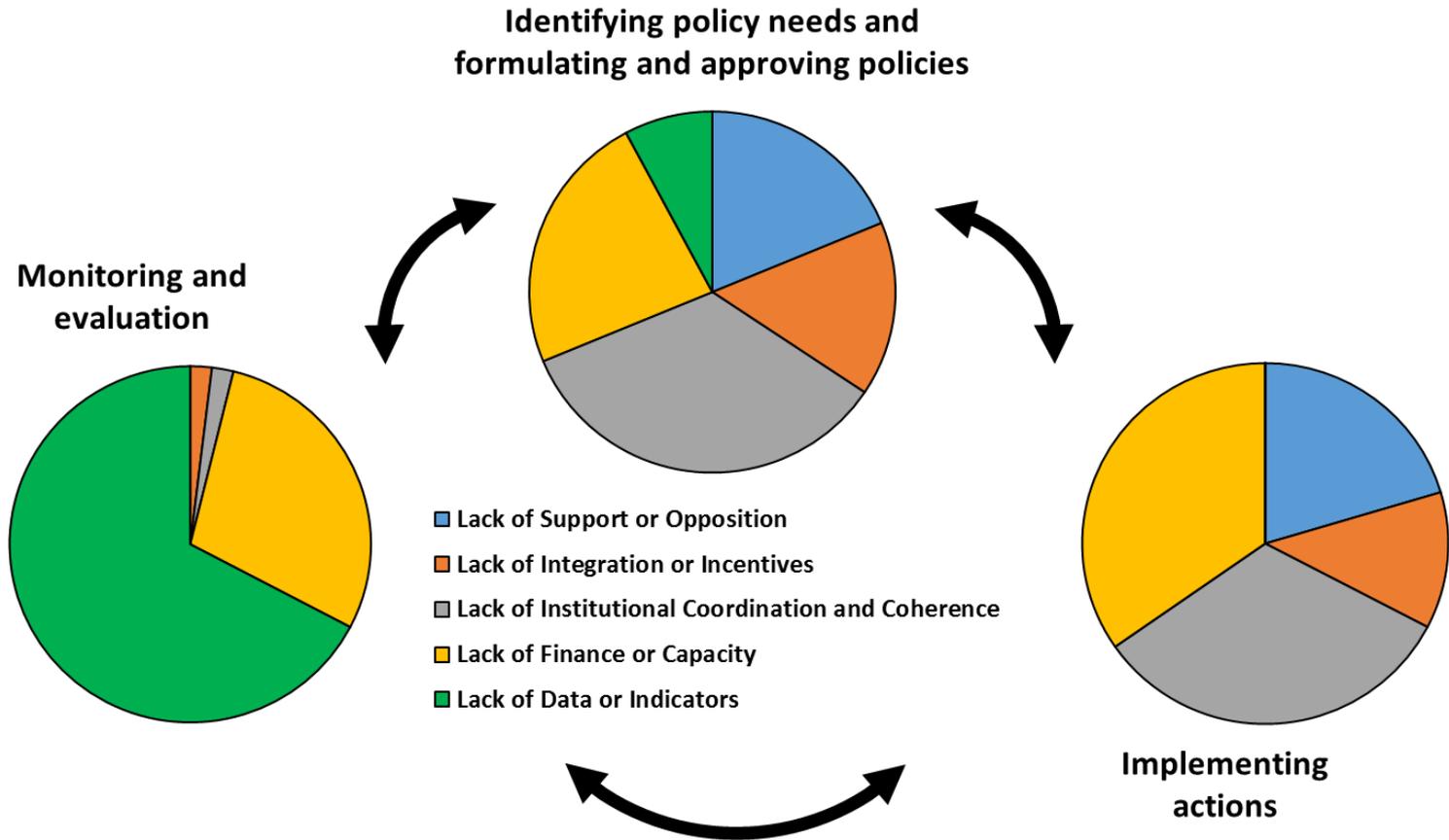


2.4 Sust Food	6.a Int coop water	11.4 Culture heritage
2.5 Plant/seed diversity	7.2 Renewable energy	11.6 Pollution cities
3.9 Pollution	7.3 Energy efficiency	11.7 Green spaces
6.3 Water quality	7.b Int coop energy	11.a Links across areas
6.4 Water efficiency	8.4 Resource efficiency	11.b Climate resilience
6.5 IWRM	8.9 Sustain tourism	11.c Int coop on buildings
6.6 Protect water ecosys	9.4 Upgarde infrastructure	17.7 Env sustainable tech

Snapshot of current status with regards to environment-related SDGs



Challenges at Different Stages of the Policy Process



1: Identifying policy needs and formulating and approving policies

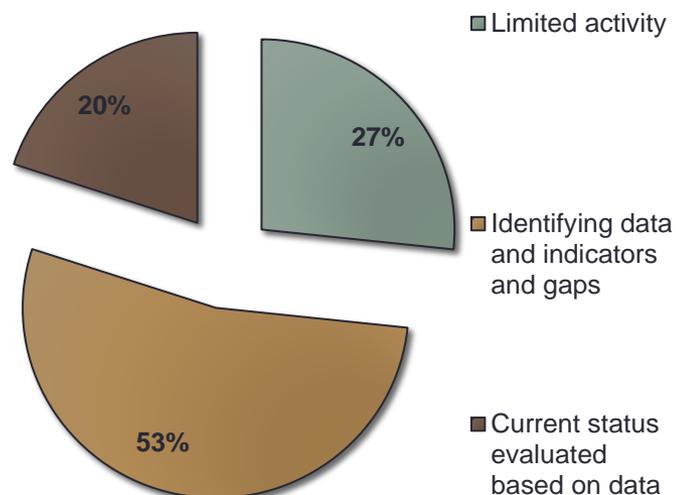
- Public Awareness low
 - Gov't awareness is higher, but 'outside' those people dealing directly with SDGs awareness lower;
- Lack of awareness and understanding of the systemic relationships between economic, social and environmental dimensions
- Lack of effective interministerial coordination arrangements
- Need for better engagement of all development stakeholders in the early stages of policy assessment and formulation.
 - Need for tools and methods to improve stakeholder engagement

2: Implementing Actions: Finances and financing landscape

- Limited capacity at local levels (technical, financial, human resources, mandate)
- Need for info on tools and methods to link national SDG plans with financing and investment opportunities and sources
- Need info on tools
 - Budget tagging, green taxes, green finance and credit, green investment
- Need for best practices sharing for green economy technologies and approaches to integrate environment
 - Corporate sustainability reporting, circular economy and green procurement guidance
- Need for tools that assist with prioritization and sequencing of action on selected targets.
- Lack of statistical data, frameworks with which to propose roadmaps for targets

3: Monitoring, evaluation, indicators

- **Challenges:**
 - Lack of data for indicators prevented environmental policy makers in some countries from making environment-related targets a priority.
 - Old/out of date data
- **Good practices:**
 - Some countries are using context appropriate proxies based on different needs and circumstances
- **Needs:**
 - Technical capacity development, technology, software and access to external monitoring data (satellite)
 - More disaggregated SDGs data are crucial to identify disparities across regions and socioeconomic groups



Good practices 1

- Some countries have environmental ministries (or ministries in charge of biodiversity issues) taking the lead on the SDGs.
 - Then cooperate with larger powerful ministries to ensure environment is included.
- Others take different approach → allocating environmental goals and targets among different sectoral ministries
- One country assigned 'SDG codes' to all programmes and projects under the national budget to help track how allocations contribute to the SDGs.

**National political context and focus of goal or target
may merit different approach**

Good practices 2

- Vertical integration begins with identifying indicators to determine baselines at the subnational level;
- International actors also work to support localisation (PEMSEA, UCLG etc.)
- Countries update existing regulatory frameworks and bring them in line with the SDGs (only few have done this)
 - Four countries passed new resolutions, regulations, orders...to support SDG implementation
 - Can also benefit the environmental SDGs.
 - Or update existing regulatory framework

Necessary to strengthen the capacity of responsible agencies to enforce and ensure compliance.

Barriers and good practices 3

- Most actions on the environment are often driven internationally
 - How to nationalise long term financing?
 - How to recognise contribution of FDI to SDGs (positive and negative)?
 - How to engage with private sector?
 - A precautionary approach towards new investments may be helpful to avoid bad choices
- Gain familiarity with annual budget cycle/budget calls
- Create SDG alliances beyond your sector

“Be prepared to explain why good performance on the environmental SDGs will benefit society and economy as a whole”

Conclusions 1

- Most countries created institutions to manage the SDGs generally
 - Only few focus on the environment-related SDGs.
- Several countries are updating and strengthening their environmental regulatory policy frameworks to match the SDGs
- Decision-making tools and analytical approaches exist that could help countries integrate the environmental dimensions of the SDGs into development plans and action; applicability of tools helpful for integration often depends on issue, stakeholders and specific national contexts.
 - ADB will publish Tools Compendium together with UNE

Conclusions 2

- Some level of awareness of env. dimensions and their linkages exist
- There are some good practices that strengthen action on env. dimensions and their linkages to other goals;
- But...awareness is still rather shallow and the scope of the good practices are rather narrow
- Deeper understanding and broaden existing good practices requires attention to the actions at the different stages--institutions; financing; and monitoring
- But probably also good with small success stories that can inspire!

Thank you

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