Strengthening the Environmental Dimensions of the SDGs

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The SDGs are an indivisible and integrated framework
for action, each goal has economic, social and
environmental targets

Decision makers need to better comprehend the
impact of their decisions on the environment,
and seek to deliver the SDGs as an integrated whole

Asia and the Pacific region has made insufficient progress towards implementing the environmental dimensions of the SDGs

Figure 1.1 - Snapshot of SDG progress in 2017: Asia and the Pacific

Source: UNESCAP 2018

Progress has stalled and even reversed—

the health of the region's oceans has deteriorated since 2015,

protection of natural habitats, in particular, forests, has weakened

Figure 1.2 - Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: Asia and the Pacific

Source: UNESCAP 2018

For too long economic prosperity and environmental impacts have been considered a trade-off

Implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs will be critical for continued socio-economic development

NESTED INTERDEPENDENCIES

Environment

Society

Business

Source: Griggs et al. 2013

ADB has been implementing a regional technical assistance,

…to ensure that environment dimensions of the SDGs, in particular, SDGs 12, 14 & 15, are not neglected

… to strengthen the capacities of ADB's developing member countries to integrate the environment dimensions of the SDGs into national policies, plans and programs

Phase 1 (nearing completion)

Stocktaking and Review Study → Inventory of Approaches, Tools and Methodologies → Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop
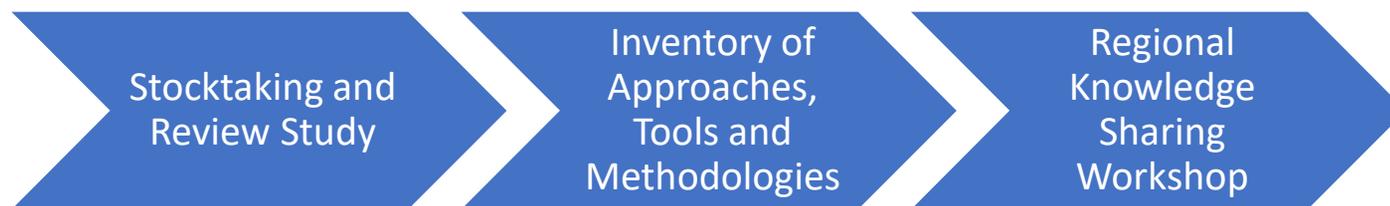
Phase 2 (starting implementation)

Identification activities for Phase 2 countries → Undertake activities to develop tailored recommendations → Regional workshop to disseminate lessons learnt

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Country Stocktake Findings

- Countries recognize the importance of the environment dimensions of the SDGs

- Focus in delivering SDGs is on conventional environmental issues, limited attention to the linkages within or between goals

- In leveraging the SDGs to address the environmental issues, deeper integration within each goal is important

Snapshot of current status with regards integration

27%

33%

27%

13%

- Limited activity
- Mapping SDGs with existing plans
- Reviewing interlinkages
- Allocated resourecs
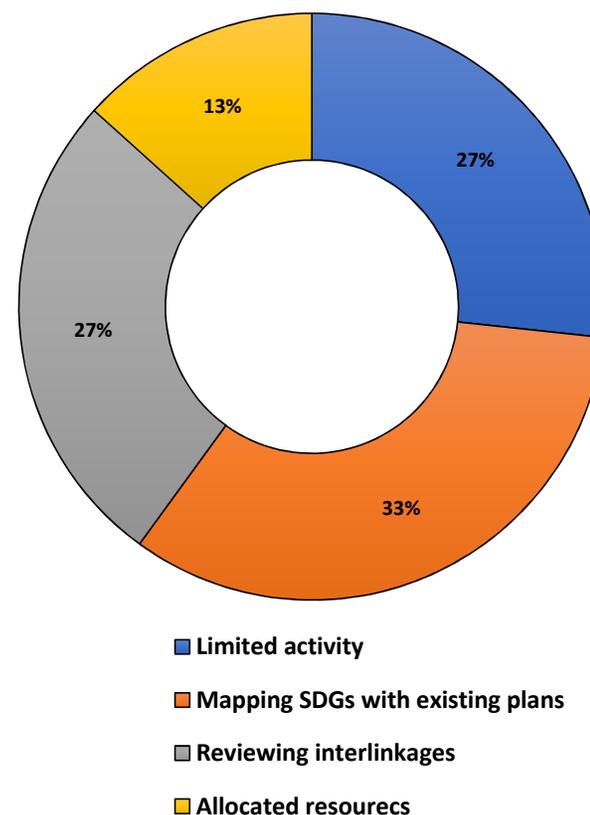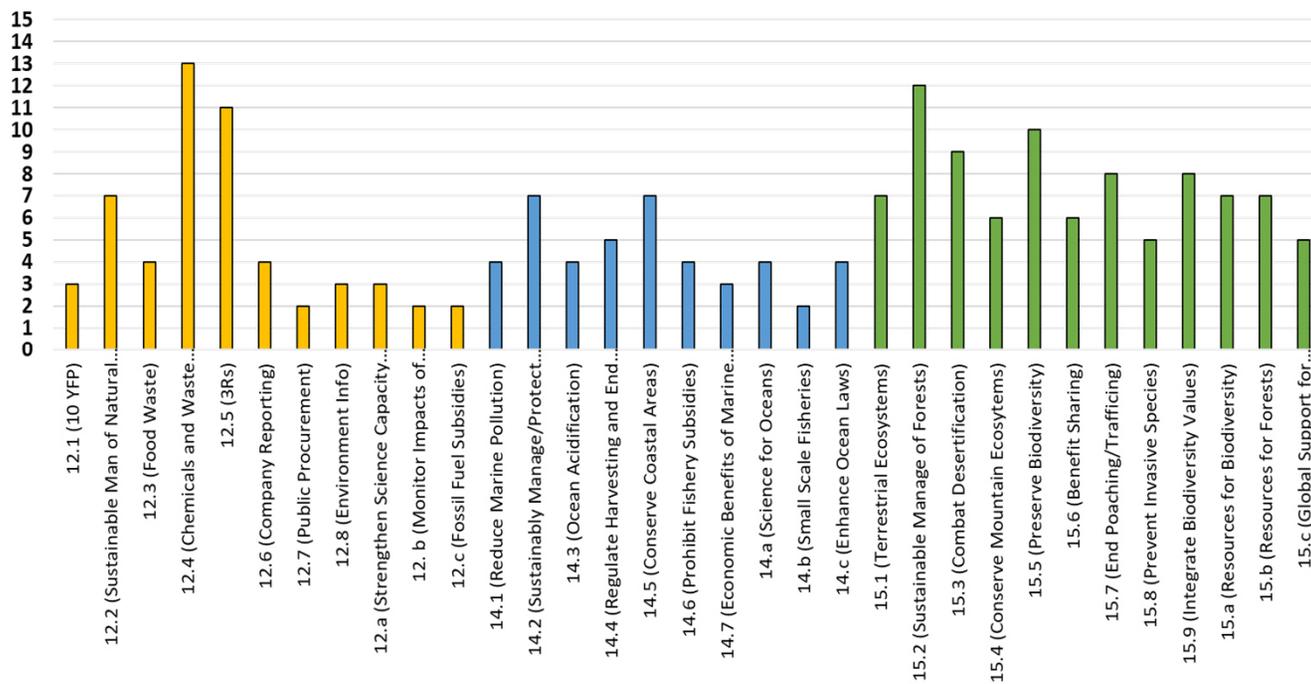
Most Frequently Selected Issues/Priorities
12.4 Chemicals and Waste (13 countries)
15.2 Sustainable Management of Forests (12 countries)
12.5 3Rs (11 countries)
15.5 Preserving Biodiversity (10 countries)
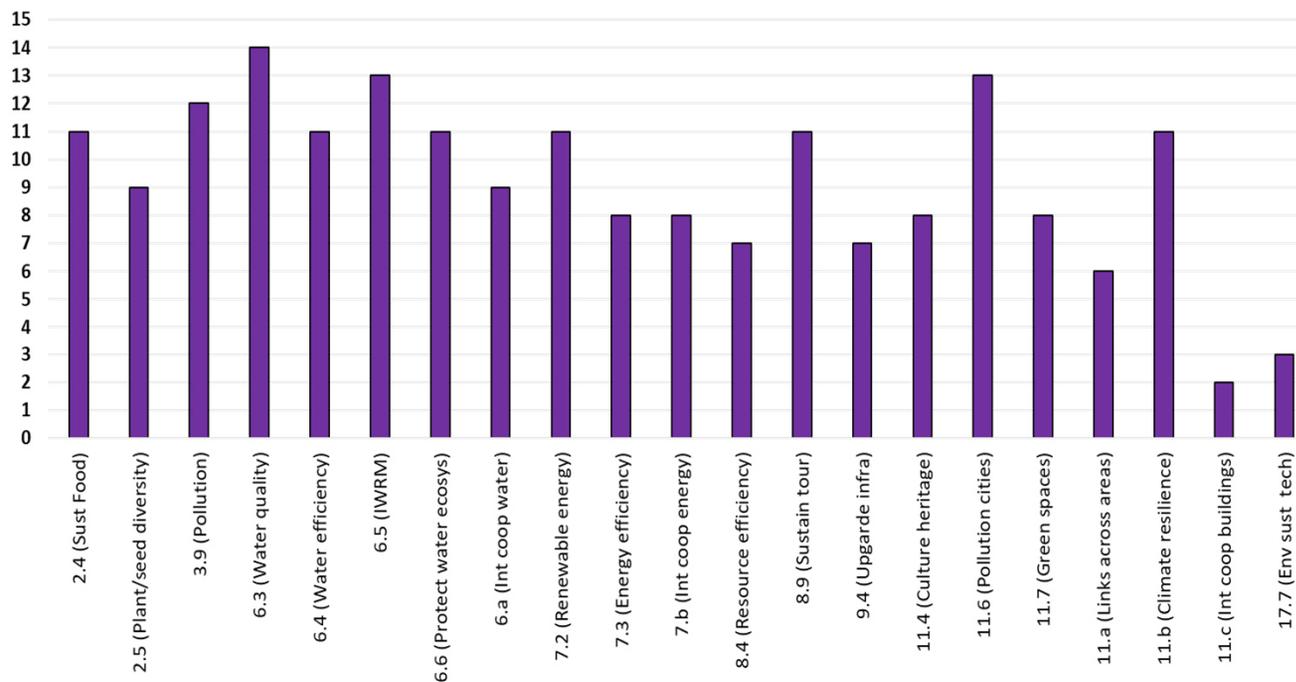
Most Frequently Selected Issues/Priorities
6.3 Water Quality (14 countries)
6.5 Integrated Water Resource Management (13 countries)
11.6 Pollution in Cities (13 countries)
3.9 Pollution Impacts on Health (12 countries)

Visualisation map of the interlinkages between SDG 12 and the other SDGs
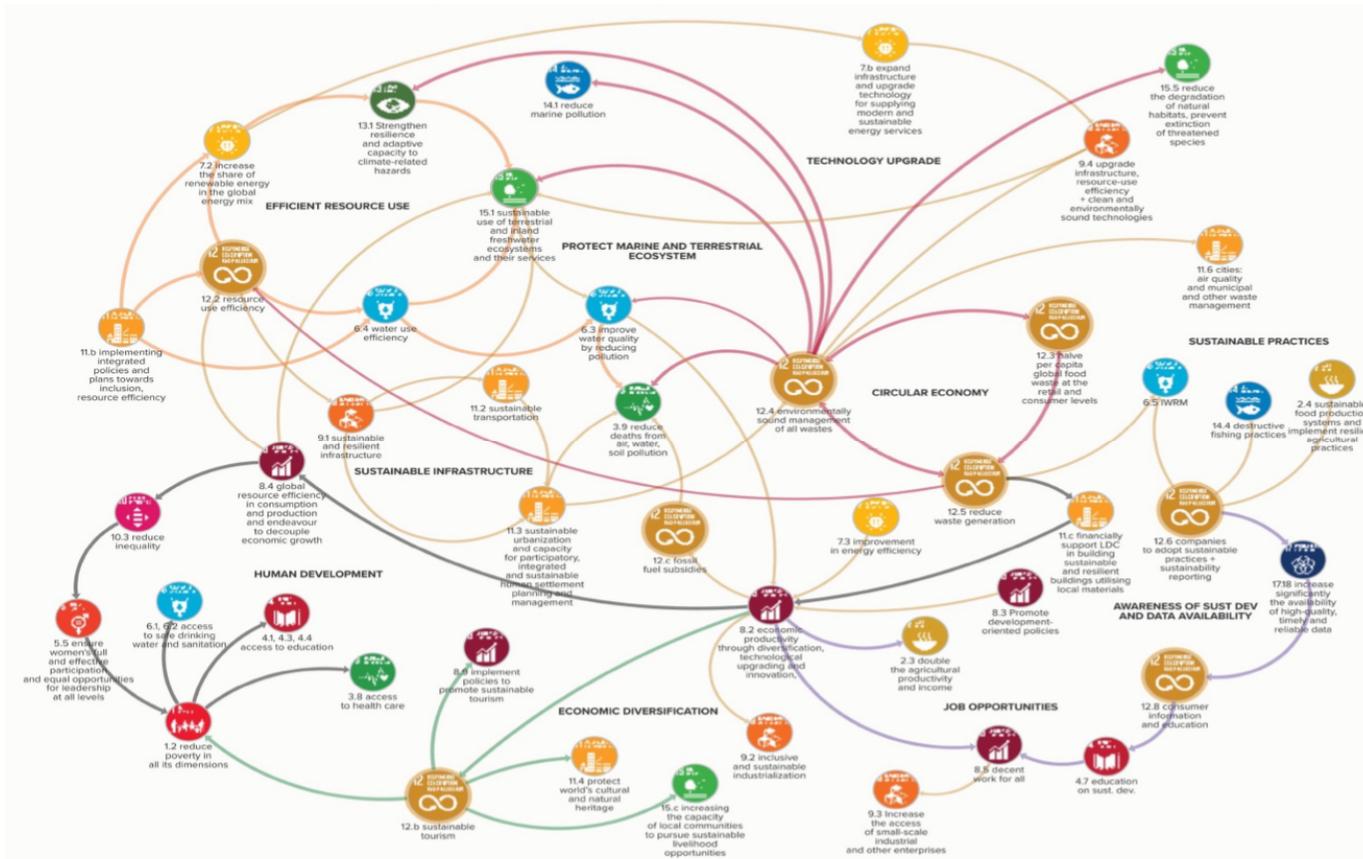
*This visualisation map is to stimulate discussion and does not provide a comprehensive overview of all interlinkages

Identifying policy needs and formulating and approving policies

Monitoring and evaluation

Implementing actions
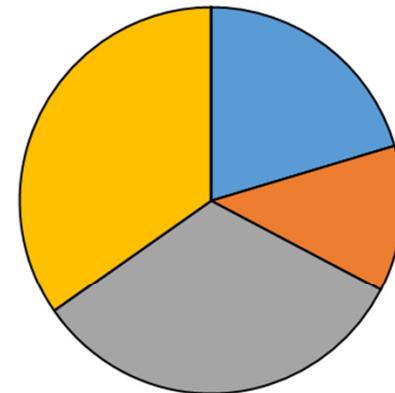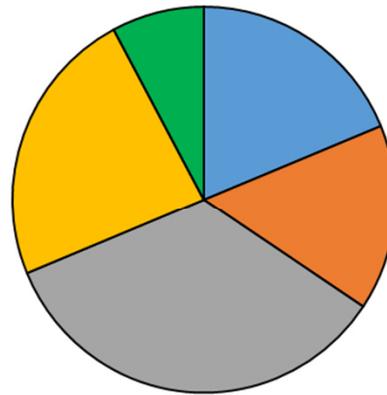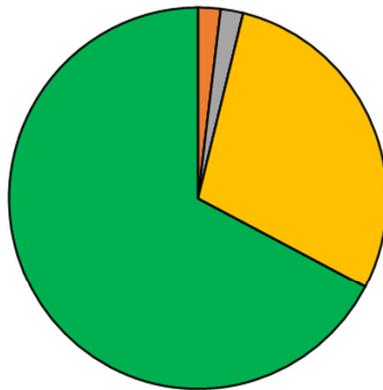
- ■ Lack of Support or Opposition
- ■ Lack of Integration or Incentives
- ■ Lack of Institutional Coordination and Coherence
- ■ Lack of Finance or Capacity
- ■ Lack of Data or Indicators

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Country Stocktake Findings

- Countries and private sector need to maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs between environmental, economic and social impacts, if there is any conflict then strive to rework proposals

- Many existing and innovative tools can help government and the private sector to effectively address inter-linkages and strengthen implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs

STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENT DIMENSIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

JULY 2018

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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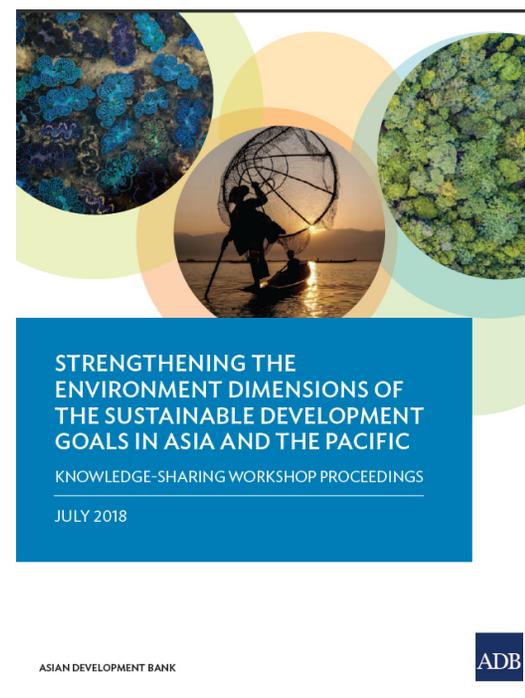
Approaches, Tools and Methods Inventory

- Identified existing approaches, tools and methods with strong relevance to the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and a track record of being used within the policy implementation cycle

- Identified new approaches, tools and methods with a focus on mapping SDG interlinkages and using systems thinking in policy formulation and implementation (main focus is on public sector)

120+ Tools Identified

- SDG application
- Tool typology
- Integration application type (how)
- Use classification
- Policy cycle application (when used)
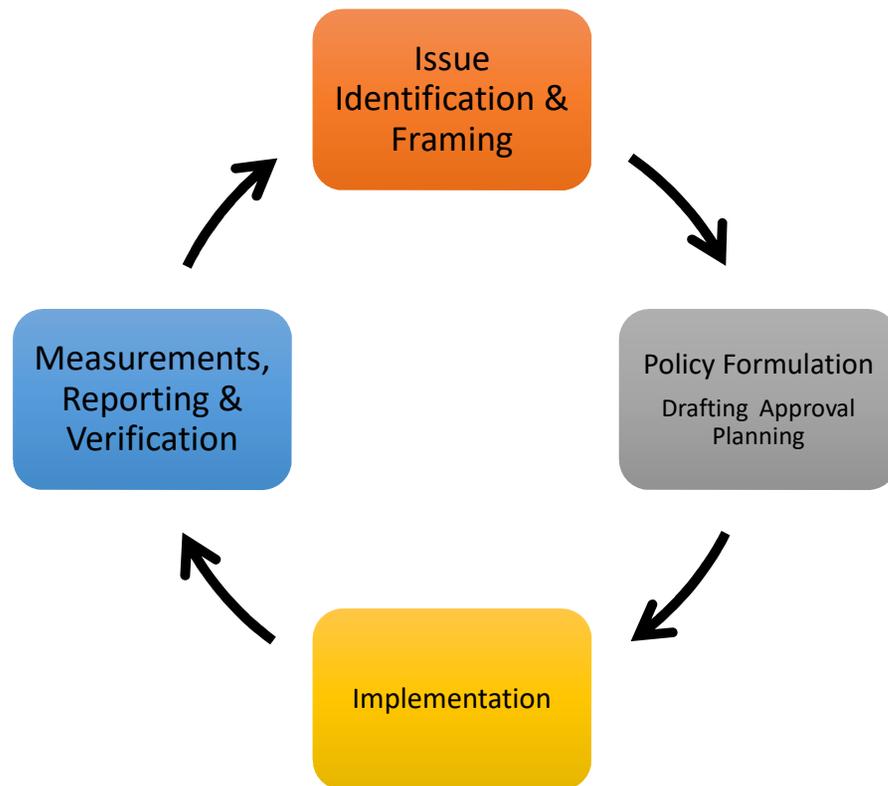
SDG Interlinkages Example

Tool Name	Tool Description	Typology & Use Classification	Policy Cycle Application	Use Requirements (i.e. license or open source)	Alignment with ENV SDGs	Practical Application Experiences
SDG Interaction Scoring Framework	The SDG Interaction Scoring Framework identifies causal and functional relations underlying progress or achievement of particular SDGs and targets. Positive interactions are assigned scores of +1 ('enabling'), +2 ('reinforcing') or +3 ('indivisible'), while interactions characterised by trade-offs are scored with -1 ('constraining'), -2 ('counteracting'), or -3 ('cancelling'); neutral interactions between SDGs are assigned 0. By systematically assessing the interactions and relationships between goals and targets the process supports more supportive and effective horizontal policy coherence across sectors. The strength of this tool is that it is a highly iterative dialogue process that deepens the understanding of SDG target interactions…	Tool typology: • Framework • Tool Integration Application Type: • Strategic Use Classification: • Static Inter-linkage Analysis • Barriers and Bottleneck Identification & Analysis • Stakeholder Engagement • Scenario building • Risk Assessment • Training & Capacity Development • Strategic Communication & Awareness Raising	• Issues Identification and Framing	Open Source	Can be applied broadly with any and all of the SDGs and their respective targets	At present, SEI is piloting the tool in Sweden and Sri Lanka and will soon start applying it for policy coherence in Mongolia with the National Development Agency (NDA) in support of implementation of SDV 2030 and the Medium-term National Development Plan.

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SDG Integration Example

Tool Name	Tool Description	Typology & Use Classification	Policy Cycle Application	Use Requirements (i.e. license or open source)	Alignment with ENV SDGs	Practical Application Experiences
SDG Compass	The objective of the SDG Compass is to guide companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to the SDGs. The guide presents five steps that assist companies in maximizing their contribution to the SDGs. Companies can apply the five steps to set or align their course, depending on where they are on the journey of ensuring that sustainability is an outcome of core business strategy: 1) Understanding the SDGs; 2) Defining priorities; 3) Setting Goals; 4) Integrating; and 5) Reporting and Communicating…	Tool typology: • Guidance • Methodology Integration Application Type: • Strategic • Procedural • Organizational Use Classification: • Static Inter-linkage Analysis • Strategic Planning • Stakeholder Engagement • Consensus Building • Strategic Communication & Awareness Raising • Indicator Development and Measurement • Data Management, Reporting and Verification	• Issues Identification and Framing • Policy Formulation and Drafting • Measurement, Reporting, and Verification	Open Source	Designed for use with all 17 SDGs	SDG Compass guide website includes resources for companies seeking to align their business strategy with the SDGs. The website includes a live inventory of existing business indicators from relevant and widely-recognized sources, mapped against the 17 SDGs and their targets, as well as an inventory of business tools mapped against the SDGs, and a two-page overview for each SDG, covering the role of businesses in their implementation, and illustrative examples of business solutions, indicators and tools.

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SDG 12 Example

Tool Name	Tool Description	Typology & Use Classification	Policy Cycle Application	Use Requirements (i.e. license or open source)	Alignment with ENV SDGs	Practical Application Experiences
The Circularity Indicators Project: An Approach to Measuring Circularity	The Circularity Indicators Project approach and its accompanying web-based tool aims to help companies measure how effective they are in making the transition from a linear to circular economy model. The approach uses indicators that measure how well a product or company performs in the context of a circular economy based business model. Developed indexes consist of a main indicator, the Material Circularity Indicator, measuring how restorative the material flows of a product or company are, and complementary indicators that allow additional impacts and risks to be taken into account. The indicators can be used as a decision-making tool for designers, but might also be used for several other purposes including internal reporting, procurement decisions, and the rating or evaluation of companies…	Tool typology: • Guidance Integration Application Type: • Procedural Use Classification: • Situational Analysis & Assessment • Innovation • Indicator Development & Measurement • Data Management, Reporting & Verification	• Implementation • Data Management, Reporting and Verification	Open Source	Directly aligned with SDG 12 (SCP)	The Circularity Indicators Project approach was tested by a group of leading European businesses with real product data to ensure its robustness and relevance economy-wide as documented on its website. In addition, several other stakeholders from investors, regulators, consultancies, and universities were involved in the project through virtual and in-person workshops to help refine the developed measurement approach.

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SDG 14 & 15 Example

Tool Name	Tool Description	Typology & Use Classification	Policy Cycle Application	Use Requirements (i.e. license or open source)	Alignment with ENV SDGs	Practical Application Experiences
Guide to Corporate Ecosystems Valuation	The Guide to Corporate Ecosystems Valuation provides guidance for companies to understand the benefits and value of ecosystem services. It explains how to examine issues such as: environmental risks of operations, stakeholder compensation options, potential revenue opportunities in emerging environmental markets, and the impact of regulatory changes on the availability of natural resources. It supports improved business decision-making by providing more alignment between the financial, ecological and societal objectives of companies. The Guide is divided into two parts: screening and methodology using a 5-stage process (scoping, planning, valuation, application, embedding) …	Tool typology: • Framework • Guidance Integration Application Type: • Strategic • Procedural Use Classification: • Situational Analysis & Assessment • Static Inter-linkage Analysis • Strategic Planning • Risk Assessment • Strategic Communication & Awareness Raising • Indicator Development & Measurement • Data Management, Reporting & Verification	• Issues Identification and Framing • Policy Formulation and Drafting • Implementation • Measurement, Reporting and Verification	Open Source	Particularly relevant to SDG 15 as its focus is on placing a monetary value on terrestrial ecosystem services enjoyed by companies and how they can benefit from valuing ecosystem services in their business operations and management.	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Study (TEEB) emphasized the concept of ecosystem valuation as a practical and influential aid to decision-making. The Guide to Corporate Ecosystem Valuation "operationalizes" TEEB's key messages and recommendations by providing a practical approach for effective application at the company level. The Guide was developed in close collaboration with partner organizations (ERM, IUCN, PwC and WRI) and 14 WBCSD member testers.

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By selecting appropriate approaches, tools and methods and tailoring them to their country situation and capacity governments and private sector can better…

- Understand the critical interlinkages within and between goals and targets
- Promote policy coherence and integration of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs
- Develop and select appropriate indicators, policies, and institutional arrangements to support the effective implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs
- Ensure that appropriate emphasis is given to SDGs 12, 14, and 15

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Thank You!

https://environmentgoals-asiapacific.squarespace.com/presentations/