



The SDGs as a tool for assessing the comprehensive policy function of River Basin Management Plans

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International Conference

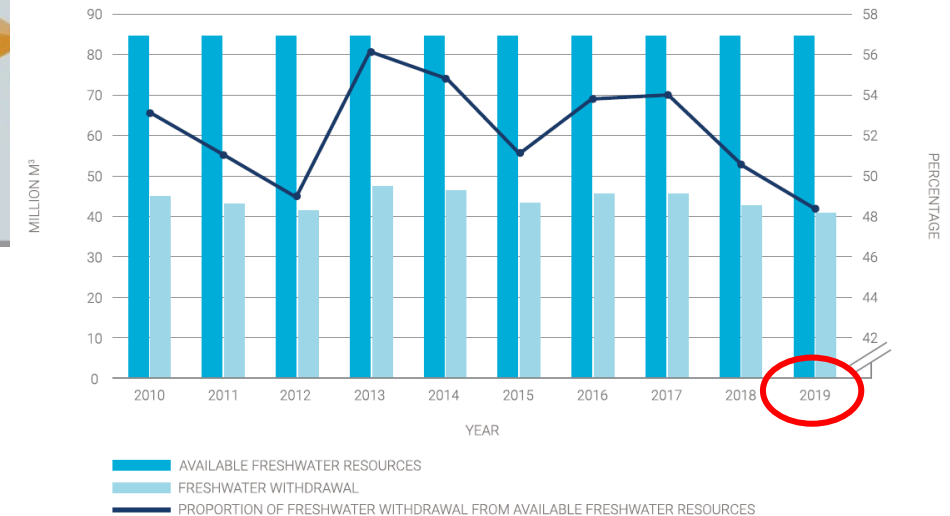
“Groundwater, key to the Sustainable Development Goals”

Paris, May 18-20th, 2022

Baseline

SDGs mainly used as KPIs in detailed statistical “Sustainable Development” reports which:

- are generally sector specific, focusing primarily on sectoral data, and
- take a long time to compile and are generally outdated by the time of publication.



Beyond KPIs

But is this the only way in which SDGs can be used?

SDGs can provide an effective tool to promote the cross-sectoral nature of policies.

Enabling technical experts to acknowledge the impact of “their” policy on other policy sectors.

SDGs can therefore help address “compartmentalised policy making”



Water Policies

Measure:

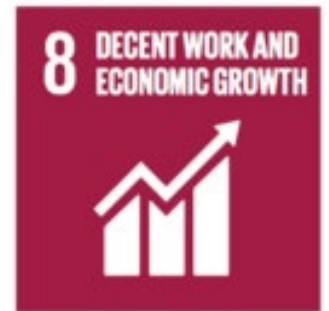
New Energy Efficient Desalination Plant

Quantifiable Impacts:

- Increase in Water Supply Capacity
- Higher Energy Efficiency
- Less Emissions

Non-Quantifiable Impacts:

- Increased availability of water for agricultural purposes
- Retraining of workers
- Ensuring security of water supply for economic growth
- Lower pressure on freshwater resources sustaining natural ecosystems



Assessing Cross-Sectoral Functions

Proposal to develop a classification system, through which to test/illustrate the comprehensive nature of policies/programmes.

System requirements:

- Semi-quantitative/qualitative (no need for detailed statistics)
- Relatively quick to undertake, and
- Provide an easily understandable pictorial outlook

Malta's (draft) 3rd River Basin Management Plan used as a pilot – and will include an SDG-assessment.

Classification System

A cumulative score is determined for each sub-targets under each SDG.

Score based on a qualitative assessment of the “level of impact” and the “typology” of each measure.

System based on “expert judgement” and hence does not require detailed statistical data.

$$\text{Cumulative Score} = \frac{\sum_1^n \{ \text{Score}_{\text{Impact}} \times \text{Score}_{\text{Typology}} \}}{n}$$

where n = number of measures

Level of Impact	Score
High	3
Medium	2
Low	1

Typology of Measure	Score
Direct	2
Indirect	1

Classification System

Tabular structure aligning each Measure in the 3rd RBMP with each sub-target in the SDG framework.

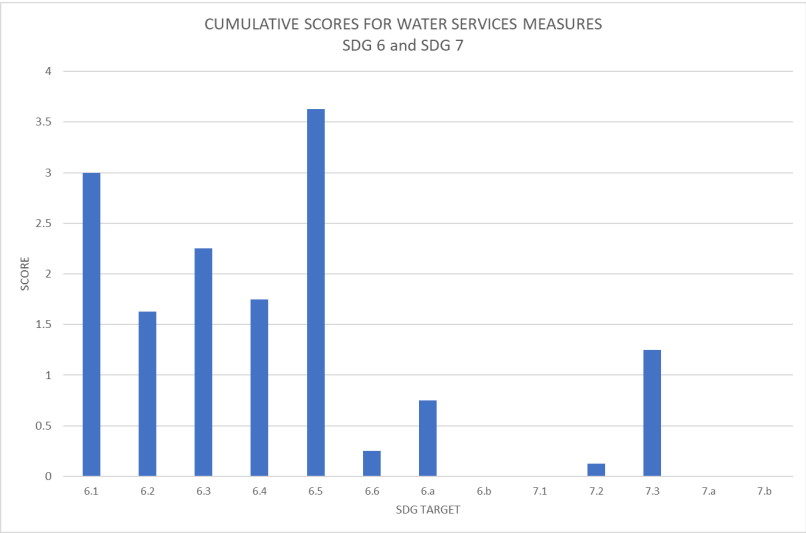
Particular sub-targets which are not of relevance to the particular context of the Malta River Basin District are not considered in the assessment.

Scores for “Impacts” and “Typologies” are inserted for each measure, and a cumulative score is generated for each SDG Sub-Target.

Cumulative score is averaged over the number of measures.

Classification System

				WSC1: Upgrading of sea water desalination plants			WSC2: Optimising the abstraction of groundwater			WSC3: Reducing the level of leakages in the distribution network			WSC4: Optimising the municipal water distribution network			WSC5: Upgrading the sewerage network and wastewater treatment infrastructure			WSC6: Increased sewer discharge control and enforcement			WSC7: Enhancing water reuse capacity			WSC8: Establishing an international academy on desalination services			SCORE
SDG	Title	Target		Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	Imp	Typ	Score	
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	3	2	6	3	2	6	3	2	6	2	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3.0
		6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	6	3	2	6	0	0	0	1	1	1	1.6
		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	1	0	0	3	2	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	6	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.3
		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	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	6	0	0	0	1.8
		6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	1	1	1	3.6
		6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
		6.a	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	6	0.8
		6.b	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
		7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
		7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1.3
		7.a	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and improve investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
		7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0



SDG Label

Scores are calculated for each SDG-Target of relevance to the RBD.

Results are presented in a radial format on a circular SDG background, highlighting the (initially positive) contribution of the measures under the 3rd RBMP's Programme of Measures to each SDG sub-target.



Value of Label

Provides a pictorial representation (easily understandable) highlighting:

- (i) Number of SDGs addressed by Policy Instrument, and which SDGs are of highest relevance, and
- (ii) Cross-Sectoral Nature of the Policy Instrument (RBMP)



Conclusions

SDG Label can be a useful tool to highlight the cross-sectoral nature of policy instruments.

Can help in the identification of:

- (i) inward-looking policies, which are not developed on a broad understanding of interactions with other sectors; and
- (ii) weak links between specific sectors.

Furthermore, provides an easily understandable pictorial representation which can be used for internal and external consultation processes, highlighting the broad impacts of a specific policy instrument.

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Thank-you for your attention.

Further information:

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