

Framework for Achieving the Environmental SDGs

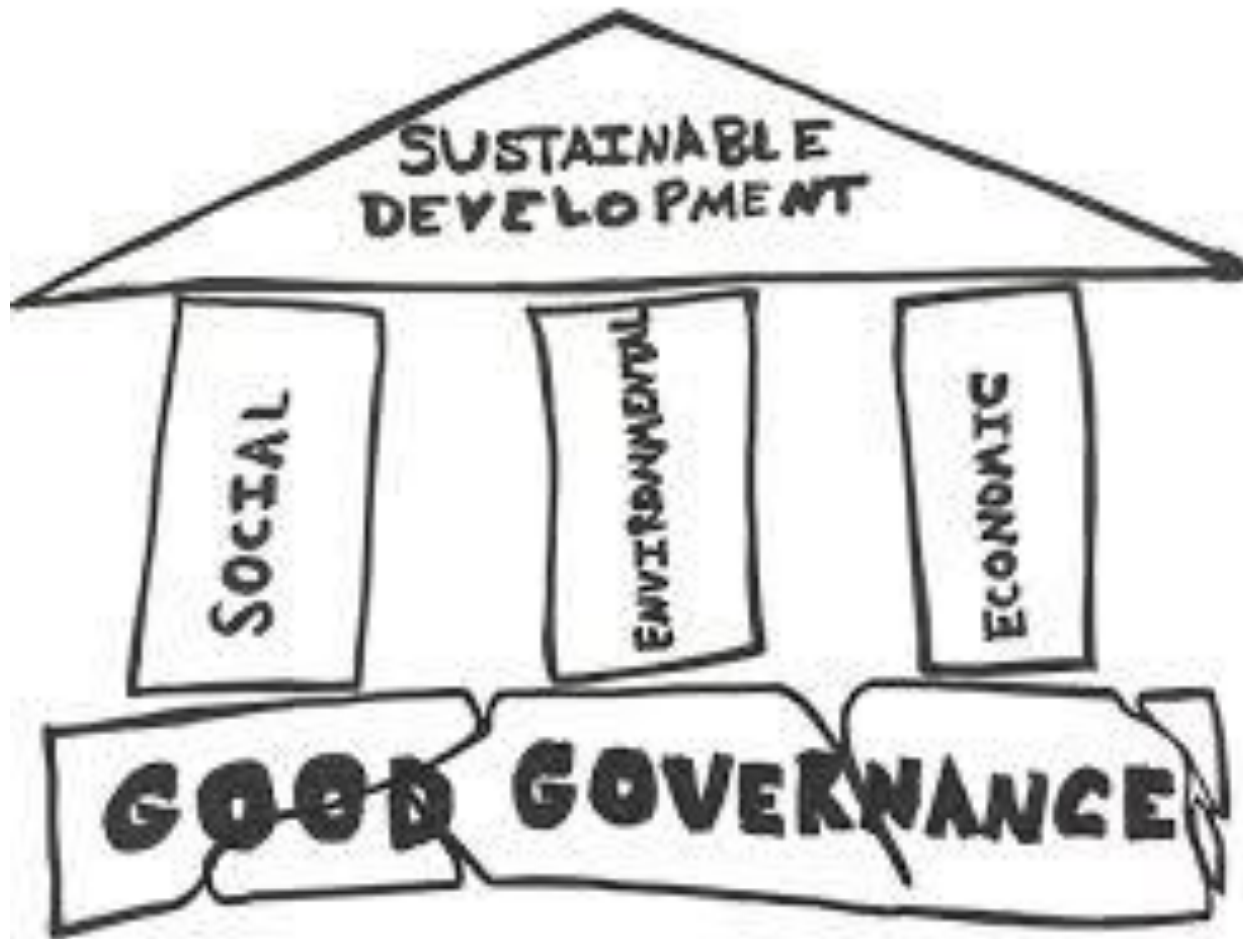
Enda Murphy

Geography and the SDGs workshop, Enniscorthy, Nov 22, 2018

UCD Team

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- EPA Funded

SDG 'Pillars'



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- One global development framework with:

17 goals

169 targets

232 indicators

(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>)

The SDG Data Problem

Tier Classification Criteria/Definitions:

Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

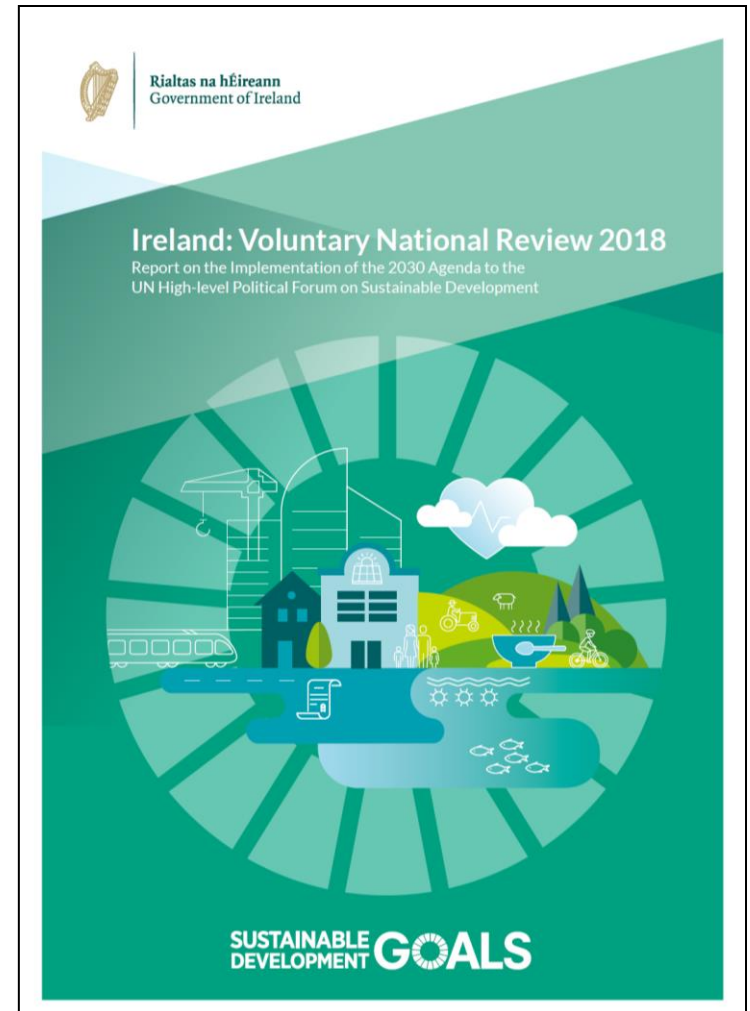
Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.

Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

- As of May 2018, there are **93 Tier I indicators (40%)**, **72 Tier II indicators (31%)** and **62 Tier III indicators (27%)**
- There are 5 indicators that have multiple tiers (2%)

HLPF and VNRs

- 111 countries have thus far produced VNRs (of 193 UN nations)
- Progress is very slow and there are serious issues with data for meaningful assessment
- Ireland's data heavily reliant on Eurostat indicators
- Very significant gaps

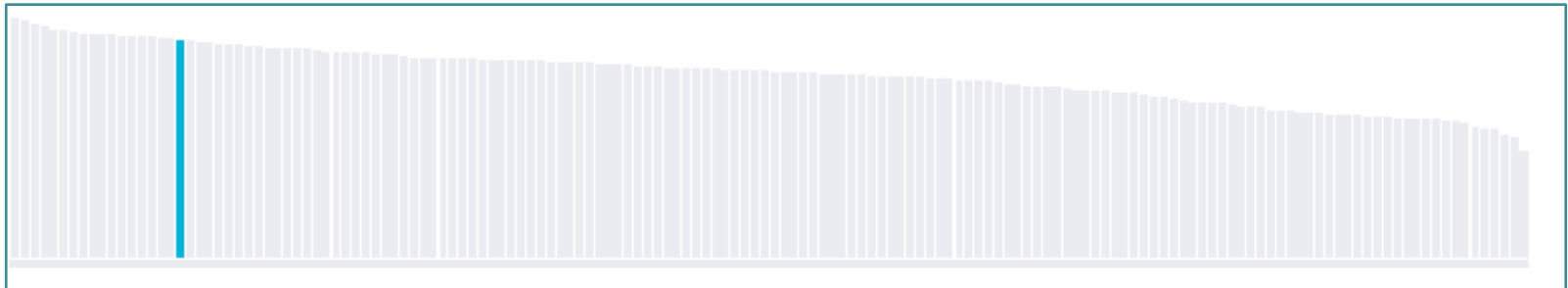


Eurostat and Environmental Indicators

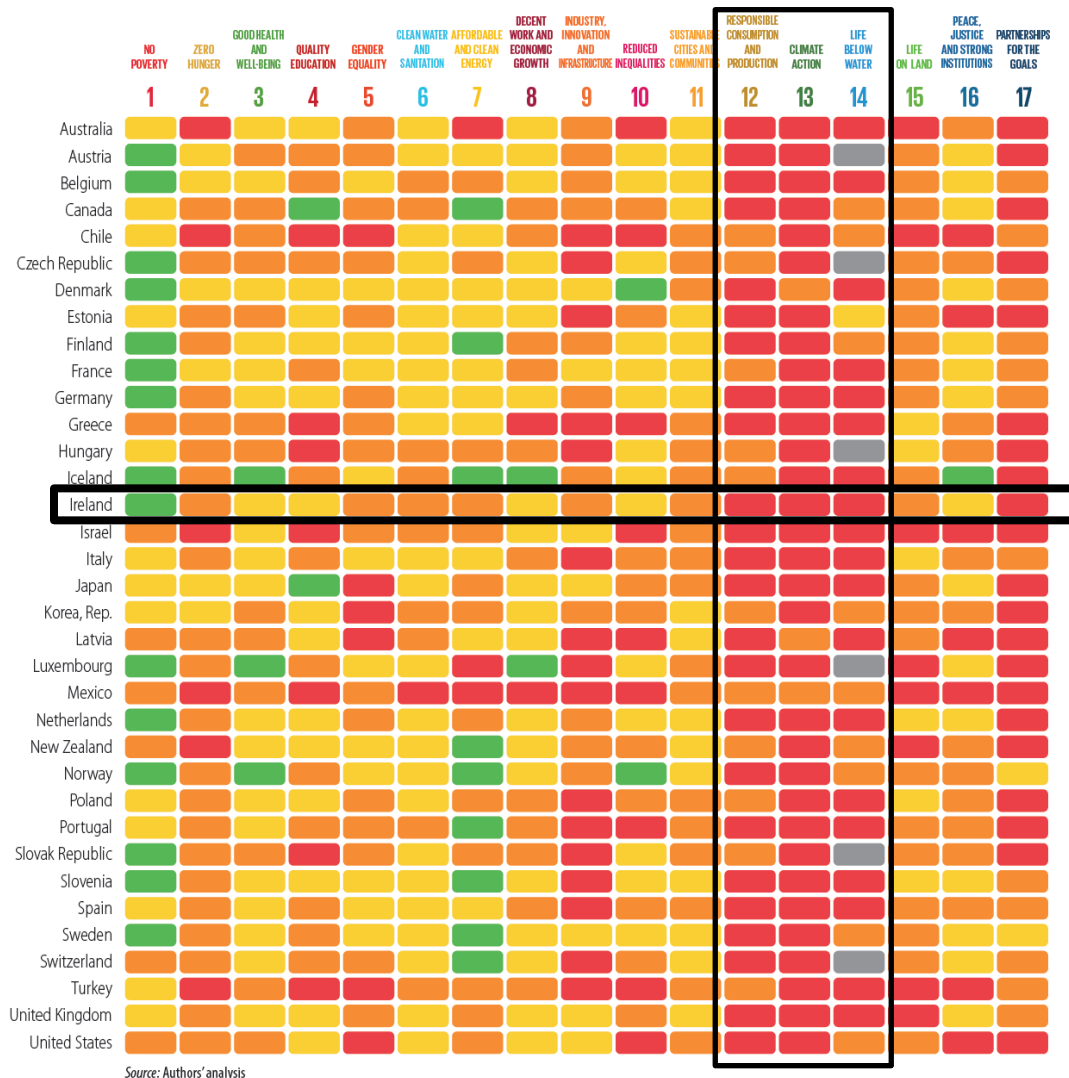
Goal	UN Indicators (amount)	Eurostat indicators (amount)
13	8	6
14	10	5
15	14	6
Total:	32	17

SDG Index and Dashboard

- UN SDSN has a global dashboard of progress updated annually
- Ireland placed at number 18 of 156 nations with an overall score of 77.9
- Ireland's performance on the environmental pillar, in particular, is considered poor



Progress versus OECD nations



Source: Sachs et al. (2018)

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Project Objectives

1. To review international best practice on governance for the SDGs, in particular multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs);
2. To synthesize environmental data on the official UN and EU SDG indicators and create a national environmental data map for Ireland to identify data availability, crucial data gaps and current monitoring challenges;
3. To construct a national environmental SDG Index for the purpose of ranking goals, targets and indicators in order to identify priority areas;
4. To identify SDG policy gaps and conflicts between the national environmental SDG index and current environmental legislation, politics and strategy;
5. To develop practical recommendations and guidelines for inclusive institutions and multi-stakeholder processes for environmental policy formulation and implementation at national and regional level in identified priority areas;
6. To build capacity, knowledge and awareness among key policy makers and professional stakeholders of emerging needs in relation to SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting in Ireland.

- Data and the development of an environmental SDG index
- MSPs – how best to adapt institutions for the delivery of the SDGs

Environmental Indicators?

- UN Statistical Division (2015) note that environmental indicators must successfully capture the following criteria:
 - Impacts of economic activity on the environment (e.g. resource consumption, pollution emissions, waste management);
 - Effects of resource productivity on the economy (e.g. economic efficiency);
 - Impacts of environmental degradation on economic productivity (e.g. reduction in absorptive capacity, loss of forest cover);
 - Effects of environmental improvement on society (e.g. congestion costs, improvements in well-being, societal costs)

Indirect Indicators?

- Informed by the United Nations Environment Programme
- The environment provides basic **inputs** to the economy - water, building materials, energy and fuels, textiles, productive soils, navigation routes for our trade, and offers livelihoods in forestry, fisheries, and agriculture
- The environment also provides **services** that makes the planet habitable - regulation of climate, hydrological systems, natural disaster barrier
 - Supporting services arise from the continuous cycling of energy and materials necessary to support all living things
 - Cultural services provide well-being to humans - scenic views, wildlife, etc.
- Taken together, they are part of the vast collection of natural resources and vital ecosystem services that are indirectly related to the environment

Environmental Indicators

- 88 Indicators – 83 of which are unique
- 38% of all indicators are environmental-related
- Geohive currently has data for 12 of our 83 environmental indicators
- CSO currently working on gathering additional data
- Our tier one data file has 34 indicators

Data Availability Characteristics

Table 5. Summary of Indicator Data Availability by Key Characteristics

Indicator	Data Format	Spatial Scale	Source	Year(s)	Data matches indicator	Data as a proxy
1.5.1 11.5.1 13.1.1	Excel	National	Geohive	1980-2016	Yes	
6.1.1.	Excel	Local, National	EPA	2000- 2017	Yes	
6.2.1.	Excel	Local, National	Geohive	2016	Yes	
6.3.1.	Pdf	National	EPA	2016	Yes	
6.3.2.	Excel	Local, National	Geohive	2015		Yes

Data Sources and Assessment

TABLE 1: The Environmental Sustainability Pillar of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets for Ireland 2018

(Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

Tier National* and IEAG**	Indicator	Source* and Assessment**
Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere		
*2 **2	1.5.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 (11.5.1, 13.1.1)	*United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) http://www.emdat.be/country_profile/index.htm ! **The UNISDR has some data for Ireland including the nature of the event, number of deaths, and cost of damage caused. It would be a useful starting point but a lot of data collection and evaluation would be necessary to make this a Tier I indicator for Ireland.
*2 **2	1.5.2. Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (11.5.2)	* United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and CSO National Accounts http://www.emdat.be/country_profile/index.htm ! and CSO National Accounts **The UNISDR has data for Ireland on the cost of damage caused. The CSO has GDP data. It would be a useful starting point but a lot of data collection and evaluation would be necessary to

MSPs and SDG Governance

Hybrid Parliamentary Committees: United Nations' High-Level Political Forum-like structures for nation-state SDG governance?

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Introduction

In 2015, the adoption of resolution A/RES/70/1 2030 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030 in short), as an historic and wide-ranging inter-governmental policy agreement was an important statement of future intent for UN Member States. The Agenda touches not only the entire geography of the globe but potentially all aspects of how society, economy, the environment and the polity is organized. It is a fresh approach that aims to address the unsustainable nature of existing development and build a livable future for generations yet to come via 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets

Thank You!

Project Website: www.environmentalsdgs.ie

Environmental SDGs

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Our Objective

The overall objective of the project is to integrate a top-down data analysis approach with bottom-up multi-stakeholder processes through the concept of "priority area". The aim is to provide practical recommendations to policy makers and relevant stakeholders on how to incorporate inclusive institutions for environmental SDG policy formulation and implementation into existing government policy structures at national and regional levels in identified SDG "priority areas".