



## Draft Implementation Framework for the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs in the Arab Region

Consultative Meeting on the Implementation Framework for the Environmental  
Dimension of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab Region

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## Overview of presentation

1. Introduction and background
2. Components of the framework
3. Structure of the framework and annexes
4. Instructions and guidelines for interpreting the framework
5. Conclusions & additional recommendations for implementation

# 1. Introduction and background

Recall that – the initial stages in SDG implementation recommended by experts are:

- **Prioritise** SDG targets and indicators using the available evidence
- **Adapt** targets and indicators to regional/national circumstances
- **Align and mainstream** SDG targets with existing strategies
- Ensure **coordination and review** mechanisms



DRAFT Implementation Framework for the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

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# 1. Introduction and background

The draft implementation framework builds upon the outcomes and recommendations from the assessment:

- Integrates the **results from the various stages of the assessment**
- Provides **guidance for prioritising, interpreting and adapting environmental SDG targets**
- Provides guidance for **mainstreaming** and follow-up

## 2. Components of the draft implementation framework



The draft implementation framework has several components:

1. **A broad set of 43 priority environmental SDG targets and 56 indicators** for the Arab region, including a shortlist of 14 'higher priority' targets. Includes categorisation of targets in terms of their type and scale (e.g. at regional or national levels).
2. **Baseline values at the regional level** for all environmental targets/indicators for the most recent year available (baseline values at the sub-regional and national levels are also available in the Assessment Report).
3. **Potential guideline target values at regional and national scales** (as applicable and where available) for each priority environmental target and indicator, for further consideration by the region.
4. **Recommendations for mainstreaming** of these targets, indicators and target values at the Arab regional level.
5. **Additional recommendations for follow-up actions** to support implementation of the environmental SDGs in the Arab region.

## 3. Structure of the framework



1. Background
2. Framework of Environmental SDG Targets and Indicators for the Arab Region
  - Annex 1: instructions and guidance for interpreting the framework
  - **Annex 2: framework of environmental SDG targets and indicators (main component)**
3. Additional recommendations to support implementation
  - Discussion on regional priorities for implementation
  - Discussion on national priorities for implementation

## Annex 2: implementation framework

Divided into five main sections/columns:

1. Priority (results from MCA and systems analysis)
2. SDG Targets and indicators
3. Regional baselines (results from baseline assessment)
4. Target type and potential target values (regional/national)
5. Gaps and recommendations for mainstreaming and follow-up (results from the target mapping assessment)

- The rows in the table list all 43 environmental SDG targets and corresponding indicators
- Aims to be very concise to contain all information in a single table – therefore had to exclude other useful information collected from the assessment (e.g. sub-regional and national baselines)
- As such, the framework can be considered alongside the broader analysis from the assessment report, statistical annex, and appendices (over 130 pages)

## 4. Annex 1: Instructions for interpreting the framework

### Column 1: PRIORITY

- **1.1 High priority** – identifies targets assessed as having ‘higher priority’ (H) from the MCA in the assessment report – 14 targets
- **1.2 Systemic Impact** – identifies targets assessed as having strong (M) and moderate (M) systemic impact or multiplier effect

1. PRIORITY	2. SDG TARGETS & INDICATORS		3. REGION BASELINES		4. TARGET TYPE & POTENTIAL TARGET VALUES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL				5. GAPS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING			
			3.1 UNITS	3.2 PROGRESS/TREND	4.1 TYPE OF TARGET	4.2 SCALE OF TARGET	4.3 POTENTIAL REGIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.4 POTENTIAL NATIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.5 DOMINATION TARGET VALUES	5.1 REGIONAL STRATEGIC FOR PLAN	5.2 COVERAGE IN REGIONAL PLAN	5.3 COVERAGE IN NATIONAL PLAN
1.1 High priority	2.3.1 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS	2.3.2 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS	Number	-	Relative to starting point	National	Significantly reduce by 4% (need baseline data)	Target 11.3.1	AGDI, AMFAC, AFD, AFD, AFD	•	H Data gap: collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.3.1 uses the same indicator, and specifies a ‘significant reduction’.	
1.2 Systemic Impact	1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people (1.5.1.1 & 1.5.1.2) (1.5.1.ALT Number of persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people)	1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) (1.5.2.ALT Direct economic loss attributed to disasters)	USD	1.9m	Relative to starting point	National	Substantially decrease by 4% (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	AGDI, AMFAC, AFD, AFD, AFD	•	H Data gap: collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 specifies a ‘significant reduction’ in disaster losses.	
1.2 Systemic Impact	1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (1.5.3.1 & 1.5.3.2)	1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (1.5.3.1 & 1.5.3.2)	Number or Percent	50%	Absolute (in future) (goals)	Regional and National	100% of countries (need baseline data)	1 (strategy adopted)	N/A	AGDI, AMFAC, AFD, AFD, AFD	•	H Data gap: collect baseline data. Consider setting regional target or risk reduction strategies (e.g. in AGDI).
1.2 Systemic Impact	2.1 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental stressors and disasters	2.1.1 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Percent	28.4	Absolute (in future)	Regional & National	0% (and moderate or severe food insecurity)	High: 0% Low: <=2%	Target 2.1.1 SDG index	AGDI, AMFAC, AFD, AFD, AFD	•	H Consider setting regional target of specific moderate and severe food insecurity (or FIES of 2%). Note: alternative target value is from SDG index.
1.2 Systemic Impact	4.8 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agriculture practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to	4.8.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (4.8.1.ALT Average carbon content in the topsoil to a 10 cm depth)	Percent	N/A	Relative to starting point	National	Increase by 4% (need baseline)	Target 4.8.1	AGDI, AMFAC, AFD, AFD, AFD	•	H Data gap: develop indicator and collect baseline data. Note: Target 4.8.1 relates to land degradation neutrality.	

# 4. Instructions for interpreting the framework

## Column 2: SDG Targets & Indicators

- 2.1 SDG Environmental Targets – from 2030 Agenda
- 2.2 SDG Environmental Indicators (including alternative & additional indicators)
- 2.3 Units for each indicator

1. PRIORITY	2. SDG TARGETS & INDICATORS				3. REGION BASELINES		4. TARGET TYPE & POTENTIAL TARGET VALUES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL				5. GAPS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING					
	1.1 HIGH PRIORITY	1.2 STRONG SYSTEMIC IMPACT	2.1 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS	2.2 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS (including alternative & additional indicators)	2.3 UNITS	3.1 REGIONAL VALUE (BASELINE)	3.2 PROGRESS/TREND	4.1 TYPE OF TARGET	4.2 SCALE OF TARGET	4.3 POTENTIAL REGIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.4 NATIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.5 DOMESTIC TARGET VALUES	5.1 REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PLAN	5.2 COVERAGE IN REGIONAL PLAN	5.3 COVERAGE IN NATIONAL PLAN	5.4 RECOMMENDED MAINSTREAMING LEVEL
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere																
			1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people (1.5.1.1, 1.5.1.2) (1.5.1.ALT Number of persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people)	Number	p.100,000	3099	-	Relative to starting point	National	Significantly reduce by % (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	ADP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP				Data gap - collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 uses the same indicator, and specify a 'significant reduction'
			1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) (1.5.2.ALT Direct economic loss attributed to disasters)	USD	9m	-	Relative to starting point	National	Substantially decrease by % (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	ADP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP					Data gap - collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 specify a 'significant reduction' in disaster losses
			1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (1.5.3.1, 1.5.3.2)	Number or Percent	0%		Absolute in future (goal)	Regional and National	100% of countries (need baseline data)	1 (strategy adopted)	N/A	ADP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP				Data gap - collect baseline data. Consider setting regional target of 100% of countries adopting strategies (e.g. in ADP)
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture																
			2.1.1 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Percent	28.4		Absolute in future	Regional & National	0% (end moderate or severe food insecurity)	High: 0% Low: <7.5%	Target 2.1.1 SDG index	ADP, AFAP, AFAP				Consider setting regional target of ending moderate and severe food insecurity (or FIES of 0%) Note: alternative target value is from SDG index
			2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural areas under productive and sustainable agriculture (2.4.1.ALT Average carbon content in the topsoil as a % in wet weight)	Percent	0.59	-	Relative to starting point	National	Increase by % (need baseline)	Minimum or increase by %	Target 15.3	ADP, AFAP				Data gap - develop indicator and collect baseline data. Note: Target 15.3 relates to land degradation neutrality

# 4. Instructions for interpreting the framework

## Column 3: Regional baselines

- 3.1 Baseline value – regional weighted averages from the baseline assessment
- 3.2 Progress/Trend – combined assessment of progress & trend from the
  - Worse than global benchmark and unfavourable trend.
  - Worse than global benchmark or unfavourable trend.
  - Better than global benchmark and favourable trend.

1. PRIORITY	2. SDG TARGETS & INDICATORS				3. REGION BASELINES		4. TARGET TYPE & POTENTIAL TARGET VALUES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL				5. GAPS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING					
	1.1 HIGH PRIORITY	1.2 STRONG SYSTEMIC IMPACT	2.1 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS	2.2 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS (including alternative & additional indicators)	2.3 UNITS	3.1 REGIONAL VALUE (BASELINE)	3.2 PROGRESS/TREND	4.1 TYPE OF TARGET	4.2 SCALE OF TARGET	4.3 POTENTIAL REGIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.4 NATIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.5 DOMESTIC TARGET VALUES	5.1 REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PLAN	5.2 COVERAGE IN REGIONAL PLAN	5.3 COVERAGE IN NATIONAL PLAN	5.4 RECOMMENDED MAINSTREAMING LEVEL
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere																
			1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people (1.5.1.1, 1.5.1.2) (1.5.1.ALT Number of persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people)	Number	p.100,000	3099	-	Relative to starting point	National	Significantly reduce by % (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	ADP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP				Data gap - collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 uses the same indicator, and specify a 'significant reduction'
			1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) (1.5.2.ALT Direct economic loss attributed to disasters)	USD	1.9m	-	Relative to starting point	National	Substantially decrease by % (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	ADP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP					Data gap - collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 specify a 'significant reduction' in disaster losses
			1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (1.5.3.1, 1.5.3.2)	Number or Percent	50%		Absolute in future (goal)	Regional and National	100% of countries (need baseline data)	1 (strategy adopted)	N/A	ADP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP, AFAP				Data gap - collect baseline data. Consider setting regional target of 100% of countries adopting strategies (e.g. in ADP)
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture																
			2.1.1 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Percent	28.4		Absolute in future	Regional & National	0% (end moderate or severe food insecurity)	High: 0% Low: <7.5%	Target 2.1.1 SDG index	ADP, AFAP, AFAP				Consider setting regional target of ending moderate and severe food insecurity (or FIES of 0%) Note: alternative target value is from SDG index
			2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural areas under productive and sustainable agriculture (2.4.1.ALT Average carbon content in the topsoil as a % in wet weight)	Percent	0.59	-	Relative to starting point	National	Increase by % (need baseline)	Minimum or increase by %	Target 15.3	ADP, AFAP				Data gap - develop indicator and collect baseline data. Note: Target 15.3 relates to land degradation neutrality

# 4. Instructions for interpreting the framework

Column 4: Target type and potential target values

- 4.1 Type of target
- 4.2 Scale of target – national and/or regional
- 4.3 Potential regional target values
- 4.4 Potential national target values
- 4.5 Source of target values

1. PRIORITY	2. SDG TARGETS & INDICATORS			3. REGION BASELINE	4. TARGET TYPE & POTENTIAL TARGET VALUES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL					5. GAPS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING				
	1.1 HIGH PRIORITY	2.1 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS	2.2 SDG ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS		2.3 UNITS	4.1 TYPE OF TARGET	4.2 SCALE OF TARGET	4.3 POTENTIAL REGIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.4 POTENTIAL NATIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.5 SOURCE FOR TARGET VALUES	5.1 STRATEGY FOR PLAN	5.2 COVERAGE IN REGIONAL PLAN	5.3 COVERAGE IN NATIONAL PLAN	5.4 RECOMMENDED MAINSTREAMING LEVEL
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere														
1.1	1.1	1.1.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people (1.1.1.A, 1.1.1.B, 1.1.1.C)	Number	5099	Relative to starting point	National		Significantly reduce by % (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	SDG, NPIC, PRC, RPL, NPL, SWI	●	●	Data gap – collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 uses the same indicator, and specify a significant reduction.
		1.1.2	Direct disaster economic loss in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) (1.1.2.A) Direct economic loss attributed to disasters	USD	1.9m	Relative to starting point	National		Substantially decrease by % (need baseline data)	Target 11.5.1	SDG, NPIC, PRC, RPL, NPL, SWI	●	●	Data gap: collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.1 specify a significant reduction in disaster losses.
		1.1.3	Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (1.1.3.1, 1.1.3.2)	Number or Percent	50%	Absolute in future (global)	Regional and National	100% of countries (need baseline data)	1 (strategy adopted)	N/A	SDG, NPIC, PRC, RPL, NPL, SWI	●	●	Data gap: collect baseline data. Consider setting regional target of 100% of countries adopting strategies (e.g. in ACDM).
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture														
	2.1	2.1.1	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Percent	22.4	Absolute in future	Regional and National	0% (end moderate or severe food insecurity)	High: 0% Low: <7.5% (SDG index)	Target 2.1	SDG, NPIC, PRC, RPL, NPL, SWI	●	●	Consider setting regional target of ending moderate and severe food insecurity (or FIES of 0%). Note: alternative target value is from SDG Index.
	2.4	2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural areas under productive and sustainable agriculture (2.4.1.A) Average carbon content in the topsoil as a % in wet weight	Percent	N/A	Relative to starting point	National		Increase by % (need baseline)	N/A	SDG, NPIC, PRC, RPL, NPL, SWI	●	●	Data gap: develop indicator and collect baseline data. Note: Target 2.4.1 relates to land degradation neutrality.

## Column 4.1 Type of Target - explanation

Four categories used:

- **Relative to starting point:** requires an increase or decrease in a baseline value; e.g. formulated as a % improvement on a baseline value by 2030
- **Absolute in future:** sets an absolute value to be achieved by 2030 – e.g. end hunger (0% target value) or universal access (100% target value)
- **Absolute in future (global):** sets a global target value – e.g. number of countries with a DRR strategy. Could be set a regional level.
- **Relative or absolute:** target value could be either relative or absolute – e.g.
  - **Relative:** reduce by 50% the amount of untreated wastewater compared with baseline value
  - **Absolute:** >50% of wastewater treated.

4. TARGET TYPE & POTENTIAL TARGET VALUES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL				
4.1 TYPE OF TARGET	4.2 SCALE OF TARGET	4.3 POTENTIAL REGIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.4 POTENTIAL NATIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.5 SOURCE FOR TARGET VALUES

## Column 4.2 Scale of target

- **National scale targets** – to be considered by countries for adapting and mainstreaming into **national visions/strategies**, as relevant and in line with national priorities
  - Targets would need to be reviewed further at the national level
  - 'Higher priority' targets could be considered first for inclusion in national strategies
- **Global/Regional scale targets** – to be considered by regional stakeholders for adapting and mainstreaming into **regional strategies/plans**, as relevant and in line with regional priorities
  - Recall: assessment report highlighted that most regional strategies tended to **lack specific target values** and corresponding indicators
  - Opportunity now for the region to **review its strategies & align with the SDGs**, as relevant
  - This could focus on **targets and indicators that set a global level of achievement** e.g. 6.3, 7.2, 7.3, 8.4, 11.5, 11.b, 12.3, 15.2, 15.3
  - Again, 'higher priority' targets could be reviewed first.

## Columns 4.3 & 4.4 Potential regional and national target values

- A key component of implementing the SDG targets is **adapting target values** to regional and national circumstances
- When mainstreaming targets, it is important that **clear numerical target values** are set
- Note that **target values would be set at the indicator level**, as such targets & indicators must be considered together
- At present, **most environmental SDG targets lack specified target values** and use general language (e.g. 'substantially reduce', or 'significantly increase')
- Appropriate numerical values developed in accordance with **priorities, capacities, level of ambition** etc.
- A critical first step is to **collate data on baseline values** for each target/indicator for 2015 or a recent year – assists with formulating appropriate target values and subsequent monitoring
- Can also **benchmark potential target values** from other countries, global assessments, international agreements and expert literature can also be useful to guide target setting...

## Columns 4.3 & 4.4 Potential regional and national target values

Guideline or indicative target values proposed in the framework were sourced from:

- Target values set in the **SDG targets** (where available; but limited)
- Target values taken from existing **international agreements** (e.g. Aichi targets) or international **guidelines** (e.g. WHO standards)
- Benchmark values taken from global or regional averages (e.g. OECD average) or recent global SDG assessments (e.g. **SDG Index**)
- Actual target values already **adopted by Arab countries** in their national strategies
- In all cases, the **source of the target value** is provided (Column 4.5)

However, it was not always possible to identify a guideline target value – i.e. no values readily available in the literature...

- In such cases, a generic formulation of the target value was used (e.g. 'decrease by x%'), and further discussion and consultation would be needed to determine an appropriate value.

## 4. Instructions for interpreting the framework

### Column 5: Gaps and Recommendations for Mainstreaming/Follow-up

- 5.1 Regional strategy or Plan** – identifies relevant regional strategies that relate to the target
- 5.2 & 5.3 Coverage in regional and national strategies** – provide an assessment of coverage of each target as per the assessment report:
  - - good coverage of target and indicator, with a clear target value
  - - partial coverage of target and indicator, and no target value
  - - very limited or no coverage of target and indicator
- 5.4 Recommended actions** – general comments and recommendations relating to specific targets – e.g.:
  - For mainstreaming regional-scale targets into regional strategies
  - For data collection and methodology development where gaps are evident
  - Actions are also scaled in terms of priority – **H** (high) or **M** (medium)
  - Additional notes regarding target values are also included, where relevant

2. UNITS	3. REGION BASELINES		4. TARGET TYPE & POTENTIAL TARGET VALUES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL					5. GAPS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINSTREAMING				
	3.1 BASELINE VALUE (ABSOLUTE)	3.2 PROBABILITIES (%)	4.1 TYPE OF TARGET	4.2 SCALE OF TARGET	4.3 POTENTIAL REGIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.4 POTENTIAL NATIONAL TARGET VALUES	4.5 SOURCE OF TARGET VALUES	5.1 REGIONAL STRATEGY OR PLAN	5.2 COVERAGE IN REGIONAL PLAN	5.3 COVERAGE IN NATIONAL STRATEGY	5.4 RECOMMENDED ACTIONING LEVEL	
Number p.100,000	3889	-	Relative to starting point	Regional			Significantly reduce by x% (need baseline data)	Target 11.5	ASDR, AFAPCC, AFD, AGRIUS, ARAE	●	●	H Data gap: collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.3 uses the same indicator, and specifies a 'significant reduction'
USD	1.9m	-	Relative to starting point	Regional			Substantially decrease by x% (need baseline data)	Target 11.5	ASDR, AFAPCC, AFD, AGRIUS, ARAE	●	●	H Data gap: collect baseline data; further develop indicator. Note: Target 11.5.3 specifies a 'significant reduction' in disaster losses
Number or Percent	30%	●	Absolute in future (goal)	Regional and national	100% of countries (need baseline data)	1 (strategy adopted)		N/A	ASDR, AFAPCC, AFD, AGRIUS, ARAE	●	●	H Data gap: collect baseline data. Consider setting regional target for each of countries adopting strategies (e.g. in ASDRR)
Percent	22.4	●	Absolute in future	Regional & national	0% (and moderate or severe food insecurity)	High: 0% Low: <7.5%	Target	SDG ind.	ASDR, AFAPCC	●	●	H Consider setting regional target of ending moderate and severe food insecurity for 95% of 0%. Note: alternative target visual is from SDG Index
Percent	N/A	-	Relative to starting point	National		Increase by x% (baseline)		N/A	ASDR, AFAPCC	●	●	H Data gap: develop indicator and collect baseline data. Note: Target 12.8 relates to land degradation neutrality
Percent	0.59	-	Relative to starting point	National		Minimum or increase by 0%	Target 12.8		ASDR, AFAPCC	●	●	H Data gap: collect baseline data. Consider setting regional target of 100% of countries adopting strategies (e.g. in ASDRR)



## 5. Conclusions and additional recommendations for implementation – regional scale

- The framework provides a guide for **interpreting, prioritising, adapting, aligning and mainstreaming** environmental SDG targets and indicators in the Arab region
- The region could consider mainstreaming regional-scale targets into existing or revised regional environmental strategies
  - Indicative guideline target values and gaps in existing strategies are provided to assist this process
  - Targets that are identified as 'higher priority' could be considered first in terms of prioritising data collection or mainstreaming
  - In addition, recommend that **a regional database of actual national SDG target values** could be compiled over time and shared among countries to support implementation

## 5. Conclusions and additional recommendations for implementation – regional scale

- The Assessment report compiled a **regional database of baseline data** from official databases of the UN, however it is recommended to update this with official national government data
  - A summary of baseline values (e.g. 2015 or 2016) could be annexed to a regional strategy (e.g. the Arab Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development)
  - This would assist with regional monitoring, reporting and follow-up on SDGs
- **Gaps in existing data** are highlighted
  - Around 18 SDG environmental indicators that lacked any data at present – considerable amount of work and resources needed to compile this data
  - Gaps and priorities for the region could be reviewed and programmed by the Arab WG for SDIs
  - Again, targets/indicators identified as 'high priority' could be considered first for data collection or development of methodologies

## 5. Conclusions and additional recommendations for implementation – **national scale**

### Recommended additional actions at the national scale:

- The Assessment Report reviewed national strategies and plans for four Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Somalia and UAE)
- This enabled a rapid review of the alignment of existing national strategies with the environmental SDGs
- Could expand the similar assessment to a larger group of Arab countries, or incorporated as part of existing processes (e.g. the Environmental Performance Reviews undertaken by UNEP)
- Such national assessments could use the framework of 43 environmental targets and 56 indicators – or could reduce this to the 14 high priority targets
- It would also be possible to combine the environmental indicators into an index, to compare performance across the region – e.g. an SDG environmental performance index.

## Final words...

- The assessment report and implementation framework focus on the initial stages of implementation – prioritising, adapting, aligning, mainstreaming targets and indicators
- To do so, it applied a combination of evidence- and science-based approaches to the analysis
- Moving forward, there are a range of other more advanced quantitative modelling approaches available to support subsequent stages of national implementation (e.g. policy design and evaluation)
- Emerging field of applied research and a range of tools available through the new *SDG Acceleration Toolkit* platform: <https://undg.org/2030-agenda/sdg-acceleration-toolkit/guidance/>



