

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REGIONS

Indicators Covered

6.1 WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

Target 6.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to protect and restore water-related ecosystems by 2020. This target is unique as it had an earlier deadline compared to most SDG targets which aim for achievement by 2030. The sole indicator developed to track progress towards this goal is Indicator 6.6.1, which monitors changes over time in the extent of water-related ecosystems.

This indicator utilizes satellite images and earth observation data to assess changes in surface water bodies, including lakes, rivers, wetlands, and reservoirs. Changes in extent refer to the overall percentage of change, including both increases and decreases in the area covered by surface water. These changes often correlate with events such as flooding or droughts, which are frequently associated with climate change. Indicator 6.6.1 incorporates data from various water bodies and measures parameters such as surface area of lakes, rivers, and reservoirs (both permanent and seasonal), as well as water quality, river flow, and groundwater levels.

Understanding the reasons behind changes in the extent of water-related ecosystems is crucial for ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services. Protecting and restoring these ecosystems not only mitigates environmental degradation but also strengthens resilience to climate change.

