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National Consultative Roundtable Dialogue on Reporting and Monitoring of SDG 12 in India

March 2, 2021

National Consultative Roundtable Dialogue on Reporting and Monitoring of SDG 12 in India

Date	2 March 2021 (Tuesday)
Time	2 PM to 5 PM IST
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To share the findings of the draft report on “Supporting India on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting – An analysis of SDG NIF & Recommendations for its Monitoring and Reporting”To explore ways forward to strengthen SDG 12 reporting in India
Venue (physical)	The Energy and Resources Institute, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 <i>(Only for Delhi NCR participants; COVID-19 safety norms will be followed)</i>
Venue (virtual)	Webex



Project, Team and Acknowledgement

Project

The project is a part of European Union SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The project aims to promote research, policy dialogue and capacity building in India on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Research team

The team from TERI for this research project includes Ms. Shailly Kedia, Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya, Ms. Mani Juneja and Ms. Monica Dutta. Ms. Archana Dutta from UNEP coordinated the activities of the project on behalf of UNEP.

Documentation

The proceedings were prepared by Ms. Shailly Kedia and Ms. Mani Juneja with copy-editing support from Ms. Jebah David. The minutes have been slightly rearranged and edited to ensure a logical flow.

Acknowledgment

The team expresses gratitude to Mr. Atul Bagai (Country Head, UNEP India), Mr. R.R. Rashmi (Distinguished Fellow, TERI), Dr. Nitya Nanda (Former Associate Director, TERI) for their leadership and guidance. We would like to thank Mr. Mushtaq Memon, Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak and Dr. Divya Datt from UNEP for their continuous engagement. Finally, we thank Mr. M.K. Bineesan and Mr. John Andrus from TERI for their administrative assistance.

Suggested citation

TERI-UNEP (The Energy and Resources Institute and United Nations Environment Programme) (2021), Proceedings of the National Consultative Roundtable Dialogue on Reporting and Monitoring of SDG 12 in India (Supported under EU-SWITCH Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component), New Delhi: TERI and UNEP.

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About the Dialogue

Sustainable consumption and production has been on the global agenda since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg in 2002; it is now one of the seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs). SDG 12 is on ensuring responsible consumption and production; it promotes reduction of wasteful consumption and production patterns by encouraging governments, businesses and consumers to adopt sustainable practices. India's National Environmental Policy (NEP) of 2006 highlighted the fact that unsustainable consumption patterns, particularly in industrialized countries have serious adverse impacts on the environment, both local and global. Along with the principle of the polluter pays, NEP underscored that efficiency of resource use may also be accomplished by the use of policy instruments that create incentives to minimize wasteful use and consumption of natural resources. The inclusion of responsible consumption and production as a distinct goal under the SDGs provides further impetus to policy action along with monitoring and reporting.

The national activity to support India on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting was initiated by EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component in 2019 after discussions with the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC) and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). To carry out this project, UNEP has entered in a small-scale funding agreement with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to jointly provide technical support to the government. The project aims to build capacities and support the key actors in their roles and responsibilities for strengthening the National Indicator Framework on India. One of the activities under the project is a national policy dialogue based on country knowledge product on SDG 12 implementation and reporting.

UNEP in partnership with TERI organized a consultative dialogue on monitoring and reporting of SDG 12. The objective of the dialogue was to present the draft study report on 'SDG 12 - An analysis of the SDG 12 National Indicator Framework and Recommendations for its Monitoring and Reporting' and solicit inputs for strengthening the national reporting process on Goal 12. The workshop brought together experts and stakeholders to deliberate on issues covered under various targets under SDG 12 including Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policy, fiscal instruments, waste management, resource use, public procurement, sustainability reporting, education, international cooperation and sustainable tourism. The deliberations from the workshop will help in further strengthening the knowledge product on SDG 12 as well as provide inputs to policy in India on SCP.



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Acronyms

10 YFP: Ten-year Framework of Programme
BRSR: Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting
CPCB: Central Pollution Control Board
CSO: Central Statistics Office
EU: European Union
GIF: Global Indicator Framework
MIS: Multiple Indicator Survey
MOEFCC: Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change
MOSPI: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
MSME: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NDC: Nationally Determined Contributions
NGRBC: National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct
NIF: National Indicator Framework
NITI: National Institution for Transforming India
NSS: National Sample Survey
NSSO: National Sample Survey Office
RPAC: Regional Policy Advocacy Component
SCP: Sustainable consumption and production
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
SPP: Sustainable Public Procurement
TERI: The Energy and Resources Institute
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
UNRC: United Nations Resident Coordinator
VNR: Voluntary National Review

Discussions at the Event

Ms. Shailly Kedia welcomed the participants and presented the background of the consultative event, which was part of the United Nations Environment Programme implemented by the European Union SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC). She described the purpose and structure of the consultative workshop.

2:00 PM to 2:15 PM

Welcome Remarks

Atul Bagai (Country Director, United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important in the context of COVID-19 as achieving SDGs will put us on a firm path for dealing with global health risks and socio-economic upheavals. Countries with SDG frameworks in place would be more resilient to economic shocks. SDG 12, on responsible consumption and production and formulation of indicators for SDGs, is under the purview of NITI, MOEFCC and MOSPI. This national activity aimed to strengthen national reporting of SDG 12 by harmonising better with the global indicator framework (GIF). The objective of the workshop is to share findings and obtain feedback from the stakeholders gathered there for inputs to strengthen the report.

RR Rashmi (Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, The Energy and Resources Institute - TERI)

The study aims to recommend a set of indicators the object of which is to inform national level reporting; it also informs the global community as to what India is doing at different levels of the government and stakeholders on SCP. SDG 12 or SCP is unlike other goals and cannot be characterized by environmental indicators. Other goals are focused whereas SDG 12 spans across a large number of issues and activities. The report is an attempt to finding the ways forward. The team is thankful to MOEFCC, NITI and MOSPI, UN agencies and experts present at the consultative workshop. There is a need to improve data availability for reporting but we should also not be stalled by data unavailability. India's National Indicator Framework (NIF) is meant to guide the central government and also the sub-national level of governance and communities. Thus, it is important to consider various units at different levels of the government and communities when developing a reporting framework in India. Simply having a policy is not enough; there is a need for regulatory structures, institutional arrangements, implementation and monitoring frameworks.

Cecilia Costa (Team Leader Operations – India and Bhutan, EU Delegation in India)

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is a standalone goal of SDG; it is a cross-cutting element of many goals for achieving resource efficiency and a low carbon path, which is also a challenge. SCP of goods and services is vital to reduce the negative impact on climate and environment and people's health. Low carbon, carbon neutral, resource efficient and circular economy all go hand in hand. EU has been a strong partner for SCP and has worked in Asia with MSMEs, CSOs and national governments. In India, there are 6–8 projects on SCP. In EU, besides the European Green Deal policy, there are ongoing negotiations on climate law, which will be the legal basis for EU attaining climate neutrality by 2050 and reduction of emissions by 55 per cent in ten years' time, by 2030.

2:15 PM to 2:35 PM

Policy Approach in India on SDG 12 Reporting

Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency UNEP Asia Pacific Office, SWITCH-Asia RPAC Project Manager

After welcoming the participants, Mr. Memon introduced the SWITCH-Asia programme, which has been supporting SCP in Asia since 2007. He acknowledged EU's support for grants in Asia including India where apart from RPAC, the SCP facility works with national governments and is presently working with the Indian Railways on sustainable public procurement. India has about 17 per cent of the world population and SDG 12 with its various components of waste management, public procurement, lifestyles, and resource efficiency along with interventions at the household, city, and country levels, is important. Small changes can add up to a significant level globally. SDG 12 has linkages to other goals like zero hunger and climate and includes downstream measures like reduction in single use plastics, upstream measures such as resource efficiency along with green recovery measures such as renewable and clean energy. It is not only about monitoring and reporting but also about coordination between line ministries and various agencies. SWITCH-Asia RPAC will further explore opportunities with UNEP country office to strengthen SDG 12 related activities in India.

Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs), NITI Aayog

After thanking the organizers and complementing the report, Ms. Samaddar highlighted the fact that SDG 12 has been both over-looked and under-looked. NITI had sent detailed comments and reports have come out in a lucid form. SDG 12 brings out the complexity of SCP, which cuts across all goals and sectors including industry and agriculture. NITI is the nodal agency for SDGs not only for monitoring progress at the national level but also for the states. It has been bringing out the SDG India Index since 2018 and the Third Edition will be released soon. For India, aspects like per capita fossil fuel consumption are like a double-edged sword and these aspects have been incorporated in the SDG Index. Hazardous waste generated, recycled and treated has also been incorporated in the latest version.



National declarations by the Honourable Prime Minister for phasing out single-use plastic by 2022 are of great significance; plastic waste is a very important component for SDG 12 and needs to be incorporated. In the context of the pandemic, biomedical waste is also important and can be considered with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) being the data source. SCP should also take into account patterns for energy use. India has a target of 450 gigawatts from renewable energy by 2030 and has a nationally determined contributions (NDCs) target of achieving 40 per cent of the total electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030. MOEFCC has also circulated a Draft Resource Efficiency policy that should also be taken into account for SDG 12/ SCP.

The nodal ministry for SDG 12 is MOEFCC but SCP is not only about forests, climate and resource use; it also has targets that touch upon food, agriculture and urban development and includes various ministries such as the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ministry Of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Power and consultations with these ministries is key. Indicators can be prepared and cabinet resolutions may be passed but methodology which has buy-in from stakeholders is key. Apart from ministries, data sources should not be limited to national level but should incorporate sources at the state levels. Finally, fixing and quantifying of targets is important. SDG India Index has about 115 indicators and NITI has set targets against these indicators. There is a need to further explore targets at the country and global levels.

Ashutosh Ojha, DDG (SSD/ SDGs), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Mr. Ashutosh Ojha spoke about the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and SDGs related initiatives by MOSPI. MOSPI accords importance to evidence based monitoring of SDGs. It has developed the NIF with 302 national indicators using data source and periodicity, which has been developed with the help of stakeholders and various ministries. On 29 June 2020, MOSPI released the SDG India Progress Report; the next progress report is being finalized. India has made progress in data reporting but gaps remain especially when it comes to SDG 12. At the time of preparing the NIF, many indicators in the GIF were under Tier 3 where there is no consensus on methodology. This highlights the challenges faced in monitoring Goal 12. Even now after a comprehensive review, only four indicators at the global level for SDG 12 are under Tier 1, which means data is only available for those indicators. NIF has 15 indicators for SDG 12 but data is available for only 4 indicators.

Data flow for SDG 12 cuts across various line ministries; global indicators need to be examined for possible adoption in the national context. However, global methodologies are not always suitable for the Indian context. MOSPI has constituted sectoral committees on SDGs for examining the possibility of adoption of global SDGs in the Indian context and to identify the data gaps. SDG 12 is linked to other goals. MOSPI organizes a number of inter-ministerial workshops, seminars and meetings to deliberate on SDGs; in fact, the ministry has received a number of suggestions from line ministries. NIF is evolving in nature and MOSPI is open to suggestions and proposals for monitoring SDG 12. There needs to be concerted efforts from line ministries along with greater interlinkages between national and sub-national level governments. In order to cater to the requirement of SDG data, MOSPI launched a new Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS) in January 2020, as part of 78th Round of National Sample Survey (NSS). Recently, a tripartite MOU was signed between NITI, MOSPI and UNRC for support for data on SDGs under which data for the development forum has been constituted to facilitate partnerships between the stakeholders.

Mr. Ojha congratulated the report team for the well drafted report. He mentioned that target setting is also an important area for future work. Meta-data can be elaborated to include relevance to policy, global indicators and limitations if not in this report, in future work. The report will be helpful in strengthening reporting at the national level.

Bhawna Singh, Scientist E, MOEFCC

With the adoption of UN SDGs in 2015, a new era of sustainable development agenda has been ushered in. Clearly and indisputably, robust monitoring is essential not only to oversee progress but also to inform policy. The GIF serves as a guiding framework for countries based on which countries can design their own national framework. NITI has been the nodal agency for all SDGs and has assigned various goals to line ministries. MOSPI leads the NIF efforts, whereas MOEFCC is the nodal ministry for SDG 12. For the data reporting part of NIF exercise, MOEFCC is responsible for providing data for voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and NIF.

SCP has interlinkages with all SDG directly or indirectly as all SDGs rely on sustainable use of earth's resources. Our consumption and production patterns not only define our economic growth patterns but also have a definitive impact on our environment and natural resource base. Considering India, with 2.5 per cent of the world's land, the country supports 17 per cent of the human population. It has been estimated that we have increased our material resource use from about 1.4 billion tonnes in 1970 to about 7.4 billion tonnes in 2017. India has emerged as the world's second largest consumer of material resources. India has growing economic growth rates, growing aspirations of the population and increasing urbanization as a result of which demand for natural resources is set to grow further.

A robust indicator framework has to also be supported by data availability. The GIF has 13 indicators and the NIF is coordinated to a varying degree with the GIF. Designing NIF is challenging due to definitions, methodology, data disaggregation and periodicity issues along with limited capacity and resources available at the state level. UNEP EU-Switch Asia RPAC report prepared by TERI has been drafted in consultation with stakeholders including MOEFCC. Draft Resource efficiency policy was designed according to variations in per capita use of resources. Data would need to be compiled at various levels to derive the indicator. This report attempted that exercise with water as a resource.

For SDG 12, further refinement is under way by the government including by MOEFCC and MOSPI; the report will be useful in strengthening the existing reporting frameworks. Today's deliberation will provide inputs for further strengthening the monitoring and reporting for SDG 12.

2:35 PM to 5:15 PM

Team Presentation and Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Rashmi chaired the session on the team presentation. He highlighted that after hearing from policymakers about the approaches to SDG monitoring and reporting, it is essential to determine what can be done practically to attain the goals.

Ms. Archana Dutta laid out the background, objectives and activities of the project. She highlighted that the approach for the study was based on consultations with line ministries. The study team also participated in meetings organized by the MOSPI sectoral committee on environment and climate change.

Ms. Shailly Kedia presented the findings of the study on behalf of the study team, which included herself, Souvik Bhattacharjya, Mani Juneja and Monica Dutta. She began the presentation highlighting the key considerations taken into account for the study. These considerations include policy life cycle approach, match between targets and indicators, differentiation between GIF and NIF; practical considerations especially data availability; and the consultative process. She then proceeded with the presentation with target-wise recommendations for SDG 12 monitoring reporting. The presentation can be found on https://www.teriin.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/SDG12-study_ppt-final.pdf.

The presentations were followed by a discussion on the findings from the report on “Supporting India on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting – An analysis of SDG NIF & Recommendations for its Monitoring and Reporting” and the way forward to strengthen SDG 12 reporting in India. Mr. Rashmi, who was the chair of the session proposed two questions for the round-table discussants: Comment on whether the existing global indicator and national indicator measure progress on the selected target; Are recommendations by the study team feasible for reporting on measuring progress for the specified target? Discussants provided brief interventions on specific targets according to their areas of expertise. Ahead of the meeting, a questionnaire was circulated to participants along with the draft report of the study. Target wise discussion is documented as follows.

Target 12.1 (10 YFP)

Ms. Zeenat Niazi (Vice President, Development Alternatives) highlighted the importance of reporting on policy progress and also reporting on industry level and sector level progress. Action plans need to clearly consider sectoral aspects. Simply having policies is not sufficient and action is key.

Ms. Sofie Terp Clausen (Monitoring and Reporting, One Planet Network (10YFP) Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme) underscored the importance to consider cross-sectoral aspects. She also highlighted the SDG 12 hub and the upcoming tool on SDG 12 reporting and coordination for custodian agencies.

Ms. Jillian Campbell (formerly with UNEP and now with Convention on Biological Diversity) highlighted the linkages between Goal 12 and biodiversity loss.

Mr. Ashutosh Ojha (Deputy Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) highlighted the important role of line ministries regarding this aspect. Inclusion and exclusion of new indicators is decided by the High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) on SDGs, which is chaired by the Secretary, MOSPI and members of line ministries. The committee periodically reviews and refines indicators. The technical advisory committee provides recommendations to the High-Level Steering Committee.

Ms. Anshu Singh (DDG, Statistics, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) emphasized the importance of determining the coordination mechanism for natural resources including mines, forest, water, and energy resources.

Action points for team:

- Just like target 12.2, there is a need to factor other ministries including Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Table 2.3 and the narrative in the report should reflect this.
- The team can clearly highlight how the SCP action plan would reflect sectoral aspects and roadmaps.

Target 12.2 (Natural Resources)

Prof. Haripriya Gundimeda (Professor, IIT Bombay) wanted to understand the feasibility of considering groundwater as a resource at the national level. Groundwater is a point source; hence, the viability of setting up a monitoring system at the national level may be problematic.

Prof. Rita Pandey (Senior Fellow, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy) questioned whether forests and biodiversity would be included in the SCP action plan. The team explained that forests and biodiversity is already covered by SDG 15 (Life on Land). SDG 12 considers consumption aspects, and it may be difficult to report on biodiversity consumption due to lack of data availability. The team also explained that biomass should be reported but at present there is no reliable statistics on biomass.



Ms. Anshu Singh (DDG, Statistics, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) wanted to understand the concept of 'undesired outputs' which was mentioned as part of the value chain approach in the report. The team explained that 'undesired outputs' referred to pollution and externalities emanating from economic activities in the value chain. Ms. Singh also wanted to understand the basis for selecting the six resources and if the selection was only due to data constraints. The team responded that the six categories of resources were selected as these resources involved processes such as extraction, processing, and use (including import and export). Considering the premise of the life cycle concept, a resource specific approach was considered for the study.

Ms. Zeenat Niazi (Vice President, Development Alternatives) suggested that land and land-use have resource implications and should be factored in better. Land, water and biomass as meta-resources can be flagged for reporting.

Prof. Nitya Nanda (Director, Council for Social Development) highlighted the fact that land as a resource is complex and there is a need to explore how land factors can be better factored in. For example, can forests in terms of quality and quantity be considered as a measure of SCP?

Action points for team:

- The team needs to bring out more clearly why biomass, land, forestry, biodiversity and aspects of water were not identified as one the six resources. Some aspects of forestry, biomass and land degradation are better reflected in other SDGs.
- The team can also more clearly bring out what can be reported in the future considering the meta-data of land, water and biomass.

Target 12.3 (Food Waste)

Dr. Mamata Pradhan (Research Collaborator, International Food Policy Research Institute) highlighted that NSSO 2011 data on consumption is old and not frequent. Moreover, NSSO also does not capture processed items very well, which is a significant part of consumption; hence, this aspect can lead to mismeasurement of consumption and mismeasurement of waste. The aspect of eating out is also not well captured in NSSO data; hence, NSSO data needs to be supplemented with other data sources possibly with CMIE data which is of a higher frequency and has expenditure data on processed food and eating out. In terms of existing definitions, another source of measurement error is that in the present approach, informal trade is not captured. This aspect can be flagged in the report. The other aspect is changes in the stock; moreover, the present changes in the policy space including in the essential commodity act and changes in marketing laws will have implications for food stocks in aspects such as composition, level and private ownership of stocks. Here for wheat and rice, the emphasis only on public stock may be inadequate and insufficient in terms of measurement. Prospectively, and having a progressive outlook, say 10 years ahead, there should be a system for collecting high frequency data on food waste through an annual survey of the retail (including the food) sector. Just like the annual survey of industries, there is a need to collect retail data on an annual basis. Post-harvest loss is greater for perishable food items. Some possible data sources can be from 'Operation Greens' for perishable food produce; for informal trade, there are some estimates by ICIER.

Prof. Nitya Nanda (Director, Council for Social Development) cautioned that with regard to India, available food also includes animal consumption; however, per capita food loss only includes food for human consumption due to which an overestimation of food loss is possible.

Mr. Rijit Sengupta (Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Responsible Business) suggested that data on storage capacity and related infrastructure can be explored as a possible indicator; it can be reported at the national and state level. Another aspect that can be considered is target setting on food loss and waste by companies in India where public sector units (PSUs) can take a lead in setting targets and formulating action plans. There is a need for having frequent surveys of food loss and waste; there are few surveys by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research but the frequency has to increase say once every five years.

Mr. R R Rashmi (Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute) added that target setting needs to be accompanied by a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for PSUs and the corporate sector to see if they are achieving their targets.

Action by the team:

- Reconsider whether the food loss index is suitable for India and add another indicator such as storage infrastructure; food waste related to corporate sector actions in Target 12.6 need to be highlighted.
- The drawback of existing data needs to be highlighted and future needs for strengthening existing statistical systems need to be recommended.

Target 12.4 (Hazardous Waste and Chemicals)

Dr. Lakshmi Raghupathy (Advisor & Consultant and Former Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests) highlighted issues with data on secondary waste as most waste is linked with the informal sector. Environmentally sound management has been a buzzword since Rio 1992 but there is a lack of understanding regarding the term among people. There are several data gaps as the reporting for industry was made voluntary and small industries were not well covered. Considering the transboundary movement of waste is important; however, reporting remains a challenge. Hazardous waste has several regulations: e-waste, biomedical waste and battery as covered under the

Basel Convention. Treatment has to consider segregation, disposal and use. Alternative fuels and raw material (AFR) sources in cement plants can be considered. An integrated waste management system can be highlighted in the report. Secondary resource is a part of international agreements.

Ms. Anshu Singh (DDG, Statistics, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) requested the team to illustrate how the country score can be calculated for one of the hazardous waste conventions.

Action by the team:

- Illustrate how the country score is calculated for one of the hazardous waste conventions.
- Highlight some of the other aspects like use of hazardous waste and any use of integrated waste management system.
- Highlight the link between the secondary resource policy and reporting on conventions.

Target 12.5 (Solid Waste Management)

Dr. Lakshmi Raghupathy (Advisor & Consultant and Former Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests) highlighted that municipal solid waste has higher recycling rates but that data still remains a concern. Banning single-use plastic is an important indicator. As there has been high-level commitment and messaging to phase out single-use plastic, an indicator for single-use plastic should be there in Target 12.5. Involving Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and also reporting on household data is key for the future. Segregation and treatment should consider location specific aspects along with technology disaggregation. More than the number of recycling plants, the measurement of quantity of waste recycled is needed. The order of segregation and treatment could be interchanged. Sectoral targets will be important in the future. MSW should only be referred to as Solid Waste in the NITI index.

Mr. George Cheriyan (Director, CUTS International) highlighted that targets and having a baseline data is crucial. The existing national indicator covering the number of plants is not adequate. The quantity of waste recycled is more important. A list of e-waste recyclers/dismantlers and producer responsibility organisation is available but the informal sector still plays a role. There can be reporting on EPR performance for e-waste and plastic use.

Mr. Rijit Sengupta (Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Responsible Business) highlighted the need to consider sectors where material use is high and considered the possibility of developing sector specific roadmaps. He also highlighted that the six areas for One Planet Network can be emulated for India.

Prof. Kurian Joseph (Professor of Environmental Engineering, Anna University) underscored that the national reporting should align with the global reporting to the extent possible. The reporting should serve the purpose of assessing performance for achieving these different goals and from that point of view, it is important to quantify targets under different SDGs. SDG 12 can be seen from six dimensions: resource use, decoupling, environmental impact, technological improvement, financing and investment, and policy support. Presently, SDG 12 targets specifically focus on resource use, financing and policy support because other aspects such as decoupling, technology and environmental impact are covered in the other SDGs. Therefore, during this course, it can be recommended that the focus should be on linking these with other SDGs such as biodiversity and land. For the purpose of reporting, focus should be on reporting on indicators and aligning them with the global reporting frameworks. But with due course, at a more analytical level, all SDGs should be assessed and linked to other relevant indicators of other SDGs.

Action by the team:

- Single use plastic should be brought back for reporting in the national indicator framework.
- The team felt that Target 12.1 already captures the six programmes of One Planet Network and more as the framework suggested by the team captures all elements of SDG 12. The One Planet Network does not adequately capture waste management.
- It needs to be mentioned in the report that the order of segregation and treatment can be interchanged if the government agencies desire the same.
- Future reporting can better cover aspects related to sectoral targets for recycling (as is the case of e-waste). Moreover, reporting on EPR performance for e-waste and plastic is required. Reporting on household data is key for the future.

Target 12.6 (Sustainable Practices by Businesses)

Ms. Elisa Tonda (Head, Consumption and Production Unit, United Nations Environment Programme) highlighted that the target must have the element of sustainability reporting and also include the aspect of 'adopting sustainable practices'. At the global level, the use of machine learning is being explored to go in-depth into sustainability reports to analyse the quality of reporting. The proposed framework and approach suggested in the report is in sync with the global indicator framework. Another aspect is smaller size companies including MSMEs connected with global value chains; there will be increasing pressure on them to make sustainability information available. There is also a need to provide direction to smaller companies.

Prof. Rita Pandey (Senior Fellow, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy) underscored that data reporting and actions by companies should be comprehensive; it should also cover all national missions and international conventions.



Mr. Rijit Sengupta (Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Responsible Business) informed that the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) guidelines issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has two formats, one for large companies and the other format is a light version, which is meant for MSMEs or rather SMEs as defined under India's SME Act of India. BRSR also has a comprehensive coverage of international frameworks; it also has essential elements for reporting and leadership elements, which are aspirational, meant to identify champions. The National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) defines business sustainability with nine principles and this can be elaborated in the report.

Action by the team:

- In the recommendations, aspects linked to quality of reporting should be highlighted and it should be checked whether these cover adoption of sustainable practices.
- Support to MSMEs for sustainability reporting should be mentioned as in BRSR. The inclusion of indicators for MSMEs/ SMEs in the future is recommended.

Target 12.7 (Sustainable Public Procurement)

Mr. George Cheriyan (Director, CUTS International) highlighted that in our country there is no policy in place or law to deal with public procurement at an international level. Hence, based on this, it was suggested that firstly one is to look at the value of the awarded contracts for the purchase of products and services by different government departments. Secondly, information about sustainability standards and recognised ecolabels linked with the sustainable procurement in the country should be recognised. Thirdly, it is important to look at the emphasis given for local, seasonal and ecolabel products.

Prof. Nitya Nanda (Director, Council for Social Development) suggested reconsidering the inclusion of PSUs in the reporting of 12.7 knowing that although managing data and information would be a complex job, it is also imperative.

Mr. Kanwalpreet (Director, Public Procurement Division, Ministry of Finance) stated that the Ministry of Finance is working with UNEP on achieving the target 12.7 and as far as sustainable procurement is concerned, the Ministries have certain policies inbuilt in public procurement system that do reflect sustainability concerns.

Mr. Vikram Rajvanshi (Consultant, SPP, United Nations Environment Programme) suggested that in the national indicator, the green public policy has been highlighted which should be changed to sustainable public procurement policy. Sustainability is more inclusive compared to green economy when it comes to social and economic aspects. Moreover, it was highlighted that the 12.7.3 can be changed from Degree of SPP at PSU level to City/Municipal level because the central PSUs can be very well covered under the national level and the state PSUs under the state level.

Mr. Bholenath Vishwakarma (Sustainability Consultant - Government e-Marketplace, Ministry of Commerce and Industry) also highlighted that implementation of various plans have been going on for achieving the target 12.7. He informed that recently, under its SPP initiative, GeM started a service category of "Lease Hiring of Electric Vehicles" for senior officers at its portal. A list of top products and top services categories for consideration for SPP has been generated with the help of the IT department for the past three financial years. The products being purchased at GeM in large volumes can be targeted first, provided they have ready third-party certifications for easy identification, selection and verification. In the absence of such certification, other products on the GeM portal can also be selected if these products have certification/ labels and also have high social and environmental impact.

Mr. Tanmay Tathagat (Executive Director, Environmental Design Solutions Pvt. Ltd.) highlighted that the report already mentions the two aspects of SPP, products and services. Hence, it is important to emphasis both first. Secondly, at the national level, it is important to look at matter from the perspective of implementation rather than going to state levels and PSUs. The apex bodies at the government levels are responsible for the procurements; hence, it might make sense to do the next level as individual ministries because the Ministry of Finance has already formulated the general framework for SPP and each ministry in turn has to internalise and operationalise it. Hence, it was suggested that the reporting should be divided among the ministries rather than city/state/municipal levels for the tracking of SPP indicators. Moreover, besides all the formula given for determining SPP, it is important to remember the UNEP framework, which was also mentioned in the report for the four factors, the socio-economic, environmental, digitisation and information. It is also important to consider the entire supply chain to track SPP targets.

Action by the team:

- Reconsider the inclusion of PSUs for the reporting of Target 12.7. Consider city/ municipal level as a unit.
- At the national level, consider that reporting can be undertaken and ministry-wise data can be obtained and analysed.

Target 12.8 (Information and Awareness)

Mr. George Cheriyan (Director, CUTS International) suggested that as there is no national indicator for target 12.8, the national and sub-national educational policies and curricula can be looked at and the sustainability aspect can be covered by them including issues like climate change or waste management. Moreover, sustainability information should be imparted through media with specific programmes addressing sustainability issues mainly through the print and local and national media channels. Lastly, it is important to look at the values related to setting up of environmental clubs and related activities in schools; training should also be provided to government officials as well.

Dr. Livleen Kahlon (Senior Fellow and Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute) emphasised the importance of determining the national indicators because the global indicators especially with respect to GCED will not be very easy to be measured at the national level. Another point that was highlighted was that the ecosystem of schools in India is quite huge and designing uniform indicator reporting will be quite difficult especially as the NEP is not very focused on education for sustainability development. Mainstreaming of the GCED and the ESD should be introduced as the National Education Policy misses this aspect. Moreover, it is important to highlight the difference between knowledge assessment related to responsible consumption and the attitudes and values. Hence, coordination between schools and colleges needs to be created so that they will align with all the targets. Thus, alignment of both the target groups has to be very consciously done and an assessment is required of the knowledge that will be relevant for the school ecosystem and the attitudes and values that will be relevant for the college systems.

Dr. Priya Bhalla (Ecotourism Expert, Asian Ecotourism Network) highlighted that when education and citizenship are considered, national indicators can be built through interpretation centres for visitors that can also be a source of education. The MOEFCC holds Green Skill Development programmes; hence, such programmes can also be added as a national indicator. Therefore, it was summarized that a questionnaire-based indicator perhaps a matrix may not be that effective; hence, there is a need for a curriculum based or target based assessment and indicator framework. A fast-track awareness component would also be quite helpful and this can run through the various ministries.

Action by the team:

- The role of IEC activities, green skill development, and media can be highlighted in the report.
- Inclusion of a coordinated mechanism between schools and colleges for the measurement as well as reporting of the targets of SDG12.
- Given the complexity of school ecosystems, highlight how curriculum based indicators can be measured.

Target 12.a (International Cooperation)

Prof. Nitya Nanda (Director, Council for Social Development) claimed that this target can be viewed from an entirely different perspective as it is mainly applicable for developed countries. The developed countries should help the developing countries in building science and technology by collaboration. The assessment of the quantity and quality of collaboration of India with other developing countries and also the assistance that India is getting from developed countries should be measured. All the ITEC programmes cannot be considered for measurement of the target; however, ITEC programmes that have a reference to SCP should only be considered here. Similarly, R&D expenditure can be economic or sometimes against sustainability; therefore, SCP focused R&D expenditures need to be considered specifically.

Dr. Debapriya Dutta (Advisor and Scientist 'G', Ministry of Science and Technology) highlighted that in Table 2.1 of the study, the policy mentioned is the Science and Technology Innovation Policy 2013 but that was before SDG came into form in 2015. Hence, it is important to refer to the Draft STI Policy 2020 and the Draft NEP. Moreover, in the context of national indicators, relevant sectors can be looked upon for the budget allocated for SCP policies.

Mr. Pramod Anand (Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries) said that there is a flaw in the global indicator itself, as the per capita energy should be captured instead of the overall installed renewable energy generating capacity. The target does consider the transfer of technology and support to the developing countries; hence, the quantum of international cooperation is imperative for this indicator.

Action by the team:

- For future reporting, the importance of both quantity and quality of collaboration of India with other developing countries in case of capacity building and R&D of SDG12 must be mentioned.
- The indicators should only consider SCP related aspects; for example ITEC courses with a reference to SCP to be considered in the indicator. Similarly, SCP focused R&D expenditures need to be considered in the report.
- The flaw in the global indicator framework needs to be highlighted.

Target 12.b (Sustainable Tourism)

Dr. Priya Bhalla (Ecotourism Expert, Asian Ecotourism Network) highlighted that in the Indian context, sustainable tourism data is lacking; a monitoring and reporting policy index would be suitable. However, not all states currently have a sustainable tourism policy or an eco-tourism policy. Another point to note is that every state also has different types of tourism policy or no policy. Therefore, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council can be referred to which makes criteria and indicators for sustainable tourism that are in the context of SDG12. They also have nine criterions in their destination standards that totally relate to the SDG12; indicators have also been mentioned that can be referred to as being at the global level presently. However, at the national level, only a few organisations are working on eco-tourism standards. From the Ministry point of view, it is important to consider the updated versions of sustainable/eco-tourism policies wherein they have closely related the SDG12 goals and targets for specific indicators. The definitions of sustainable and eco-tourism are also not well defined yet and it is required to differentiate the definitions of both and even of different types of tourism. These definitions can be taken from the Global Ecotourism Network and added into the glossary for reference.

Action by the team:

- Explicitly bring out Global Sustainable Tourism Council specified criteria and indicators in the discussion.
- Consider using updated definitions of sustainable tourism and eco-tourism from the Global Ecotourism Network.

Target 12.c (Rationalize Fossil Fuel Subsidies)

Dr. Rita Pandey, NIPFP suggested that the indicators listed for the target are important but not necessarily sufficient. Additional indicators may be required that can reflect both the process and mechanism on all policies and institutions that need to be put in place to help achieve the targets. The indicator should lay out a plan like action points for the next few years that would help cover the risk when achieving the target. Some examples could be medium term policies for rationalizing subsidies or more broad based or medium term or green fiscal policies or sustainable fiscal policies. Annual statements can be called sustainable fiscal policy or monetary policies or annual green fiscal policies or sustainable budget statements. There is a need for working towards a sustainable/green fiscal policy even when the urgency might not be felt immediately unless these are listed as indicators.

Dr. Nitya Nanda, firstly commented on the method of semantics wherein movement has been from fossil fuel subsidy to tax. Indian fossil fuel is among the highest taxed in the world. Secondly, in case of oil and gas, import price parity is accepted; however, in case of coal, this regime does not exist. The fiscal measure of subsidy is still used in the context of coal which is lower than when seen from international pricing perspective. The problem then would be that coal prices are not standardised. Hence, the issue lies in measuring the coal subsidy. Another comment was that the annual fossil fuel subsidy on oil and natural gas and coal can be added; the net tax or net subsidy can also be considered for measurement.

Action by the team:

- The team can flag conceptual aspects linked to aspects such as fiscal subsidies, import subsidies, total subsidy, net tax and net subsidy.
- To improve future national indicators, a suggestion can be made for listing subsidies and fiscal policy actions plans at the national and sub-national level. This action plan can reflect measures that promote internalization of externalities (such as subsidies for renewable energy or water savings) along with other green fiscal measures.

5:15 PM to 5:20 PM

Summary

Ms. Tunnie Srisakulchairak (Programme Officer for the SWITCH-Asia RPAC) thanked all the participants for sharing their opinions and recommendations. She summarized the event and highlighted the fact that the inclusion of sectoral targets and the role of sub-national units to measure the progress of the actions had come up as suggestions during the consultation. For target 12.2, in the future, capturing losses during the process of exploitation of the extraction of natural resources can be explored. It has been recommended to link target 12.4 with global reporting and involve MSME. For target 12.7, it was suggested that for future, it would be important to look at the entire supply chain; for all targets, it is important to have a baseline data and quantified targets.

5:20 PM to 5:25 PM

Next Steps

Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya (Associate Director, TERI) indicated that the discussion gave very critical insights not only from the perspective of the National Indicator Framework; it also provided many policy considerations and identified various indicators. Once the indicators are identified, they can play a key role in the identification and forming of various policies at the national as well as state level. To the extent possible and considering their relevance from the perspective of this project, it was claimed that the recommendations will definitely be included. However, there are certain things that are futuristic in nature and a section would be added on what would be the new and additional activities that need to be undertaken in order to have synergies established wherein the indicators are there and identified. Moreover, the fact that additional activities needed to be identified concerning data collection was highlighted by many speakers during the consultation. At the same time, the compliance mechanism required by many of the indicators should cover international protocols and agreements.

5:25 PM to 5:30 PM

Vote of Thanks

Ms. Mani Juneja (Research Associate, TERI) proposed the vote of thanks and acknowledged UNEP for their continuous support under the EU SWITCH-Asia project. She thanked MOEFCC, MOSPI and NITI along with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office for continuous engagement. Last but not the least, all the participants were thanked for their valuable inputs and suggestions on the knowledge product for which the suggestions would be incorporated in the final project report to the extent possible.

Annexure 1: Event Agenda

Event	National Consultative Roundtable Dialogue on Reporting and Monitoring of SDG 12 in India
Date	2 March 2021 (Tuesday)
Time	2 PM to 5 PM IST
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share the findings of the draft report on “Supporting India on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting – An analysis of SDG NIF & Recommendations for its Monitoring and Reporting” To explore ways forward to strengthen SDG 12 reporting in India
Venue (physical)	The Energy and Resources Institute, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 (Only for Delhi NCR participants; COVID-19 safety norms will be followed)
Venue (virtual)	Webex

Moderated by Shailly Kedia (Fellow, TERI)

2:00 PM to 2:15 PM	Welcome Remarks
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- Atul Bagai (Country Director, United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP)
- RR Rashmi (Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, The Energy and Resources Institute - TERI)
- Cecilia Costa (Team Leader Operations – India and Bhutan, EU Delegation in India)

2:15 PM to 2:35 PM	Policy Approach in India on SDG 12 Reporting
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Chair: Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency UNEP Asia Pacific Office, SWITCH-Asia RPAC Project Manager

- Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs), NITI Aayog
- Ashutosh Ojha, DDG (SSD/ SDGs), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- Bhawna Singh, Scientist E, MOEFCC

2:35 PM to 4:45 PM	Team Presentation and Roundtable Discussion
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Discussion on findings from the report on “Supporting India on SDG 12 Monitoring and Reporting – An analysis of SDG NIF & Recommendations for its Monitoring and Reporting” and way forward to strengthen SDG 12 reporting in India. Discussants can provide brief interventions on specific targets according to their areas of expertise. A questionnaire has been circulated to participants along with the draft report of the study.

Chair: RR Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, TERI

Background & Approach

- Archana Datta (India SWITCH-Asia RPAC Coordinator, UNEP)

Study findings presentation

- Shailly Kedia (Fellow, TERI), Souvik Bhattacharjya (Associate Director, TERI) and Mani Juneja (Research Associate, TERI), Monica Dutta (Research Associate, TERI)

Roundtable Discussion

- All participants present

4:45 PM to 4:55 PM	Summary and Next Steps
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- Tunnie Srisakulchairak (Programme Officer for the SWITCH-Asia RPAC)
- Souvik Bhattacharjya (Associate Director, TERI)

4:55 PM to 5:00 PM	Vote of Thanks
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- Mani Juneja (Research Associate, TERI)

5:00 PM onwards	Refreshments (for in-person participants)
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Annexure 2: Event Attendance Roster

#	Name	Designation	Organisation
1.	Aastha Dwivedi	Deputy Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
2.	Aastha Manocha	Senior Content Writer	The Energy and Resources Institute
3.	Amar Deep Singh	Senior Programme Officer	CUTS International
4.	Amit Babu	Program Associate	CUTS International
5.	Anshu Singh	DDG (Stats)	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
6.	Archana Dutta	National Coordinator for India- Switch Asia RPAC	United Nations Development Programme
7.	Ashutosh Ojha	Deputy Director General	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
8.	Ashwani Kanaujia	Deputy Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
9.	Atul Bagai	India Country Head	United Nations Development Programme
10.	Balasubramanian Viswanathan	Associate	International Institute for Sustainable Development
11.	Bhawna Singh	Joint Director (IC Division)	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
12.	Bholenath Vishwakarma	Sustainability Consultant (Government e-Marketplace)	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
13.	Cecilia Costa	Team Leader - Cooperation Section	European Union Delegation to India and Bhutan
14.	Chandra Bhushan	President & CEO	International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST)
15.	Debapriya Dutta	Advisor and Scientist 'G'	Ministry of Science and Technology, SEED and State S&T Programme(SSTP)
16.	Debanjana Dey	Researcher	Research and Information System for Developing Countries
17.	Deepika Verma	Deputy Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
18.	Devraj Tiwari	Sr Manager	TATA Steel
19.	Devyani Hari	Director (Programmes)	Centre for Responsible Business
20.	Dilip Menon	Technical Consultant	United Nations Environment Programme
21.	Dilip Singh	Expert (Natural Resource Management)	United Nations Development Programme
22.	Divya Datt	Programme Manager	United Nations Development Programme
23.	Elisa Tonda	Head, Consumption and Production Unit	United Nations Environment Programme
24.	George Cheriyan	Director	CUTS International
25.	Haripriya Gundimeda	Professor	IIT Bombay
26.	Himanshu Sharma	Manager, Green Fiscal Policy Network	United Nations Environment Programme
27.	Jillian Campbell	Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
28.	Jitendra Sharma	Associate Programme Management Officer	United Nations Environment Programme
29.	Kanwalpreet	Director (Public Procurement Division)	Ministry of Finance, Dept. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
30.	Krishna Kumar Tiwari	Deputy Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
31.	Kurian Joseph	Professor of Environmental Engineering	Anna University
32.	Kuwar Alok Singh Yadav	Deputy Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
33.	Lakshmi Raghupathy	Advisor & Consultant	Former Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests
34.	Livleen Kahlon	Senior Fellow and Associate Director	The Energy and Resources Institute
35.	Lixia Zheng	Project Coordinator for China - SWITCH-Asia	United Nations Environment Programme
36.	Lourdes Sanchez	Senior Policy Advisor	International Institute for Sustainable Development
37.	Mamata Pradhan	Research Collaborator	International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi

#	Name	Designation	Organisation
38.	Mani Juneja	Research Associate	The Energy and Resources Institute
39.	Manish Anand	Fellow	The Energy and Resources Institute
40.	Mushtaq Memon	Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency and Project Manager	United Nations Environment Programme
41.	Nitin Bajpai	Project Associate	The Energy and Resources Institute
42.	Nitya Nanda	Director	Council for Social Development
43.	P. Bhanumati	Deputy Director General (SSD)	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
44.	Peter Wooders	Senior Director, Energy	International Institute for Sustainable Development
45.	Pramod Anand	Visiting Fellow	Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
46.	Priya Bhalla	Ecotourism Expert	Asian Ecotourism Network
47.	R R Rashmi	Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director	The Energy and Resources Institute
48.	Rakesh Kumar Maurya	Dy. Director General	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
49.	Rijit Sengupta	Chief Executive Officer	Centre for Responsible Business
50.	Rita Pandey	Senior Fellow	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
51.	Rohan Mahajan	Project Associate	The Energy and Resources Institute
52.	Ruchi Mishra	Assistant Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
53.	Sanjay Kumar	Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
54.	Sanskriti Menon	Programme Director	Centre for Environment Education
55.	Sanyukta Samaddar	Adviser (SDGs)	NITI Aayog
56.	Saon Ray	Senior Fellow	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
57.	Shailly Kedia	Fellow	The Energy and Resources Institute
58.	Siddharth Goel	Senior Consultant	International Institute for Sustainable Development
59.	Simi TB	Asst Policy Analyst & Researcher	CUTS International
60.	Simran Sinha	Intern	United Nations Environment Programme
61.	Sofie Terp Clausen	Monitoring and Reporting, One Planet Network (10YFP) Secretariat	United Nations Environment Programme
62.	Sonia Henam	Marine Pollution Expert	United Nations Environment Programme
63.	Soumya Bhowmick	Junior Fellow	Observer Research Foundation
64.	Souvik Bhattacharjya	Associate Director	The Energy and Resources Institute
65.	Sudeepta Ghosh	Joint Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
66.	Sunil K. Agarwal	Scientist 'E'	Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science & Technology
67.	Surya Dasgupta	Assistant Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
68.	Swati Singh Sambhyal	Waste Management Specialist	UN Habitat
69.	Tanmay Tathagat	Executive Director	Environmental Design Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
70.	Tunnie Srisakulchairak	Programme Officer	United Nations Development Programme
71.	Vikram Rajvanshi	Consultant, SPP	United Nations Environment Programme
72.	Zeenat Niazi	Vice President	Development Alternatives
73.	Ziaul Haque	Joint Director	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation