

## Progress on Ambient Water Quality (SDG target 6.3)

60%

of the world's monitored water bodies has good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2, 2020)

- Data provider: UNEP through the [Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater \(GEMS/Water\)](#)
- Available time series: 2017-2020
- Number of countries (and areas) reporting in the last five years: 96
- Proportion of world population covered by reporting in the last five years: 35%
- Proportion of world economy covered by reporting in the last five years: 53%
- Proportion of world land area covered by reporting in the last five years: 64%
- [Learn more about the indicator here](#)  
[Read the latest progress report here](#)

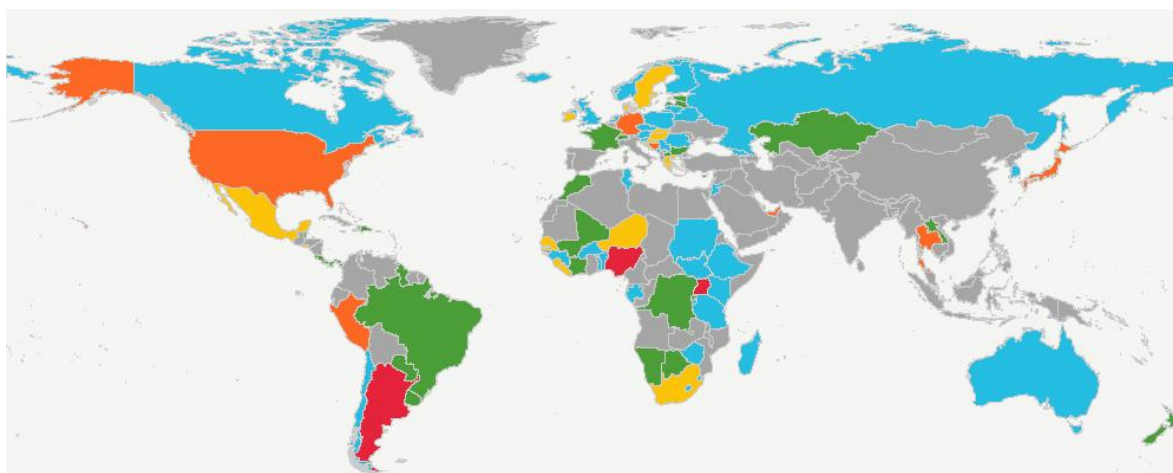


Investments in measures to protect, restore and monitor water quality have positive effects on both terrestrial and marine ecosystem health more broadly, and lower the costs for drinking water treatment.

SDG target 6.3 is: 'By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.'

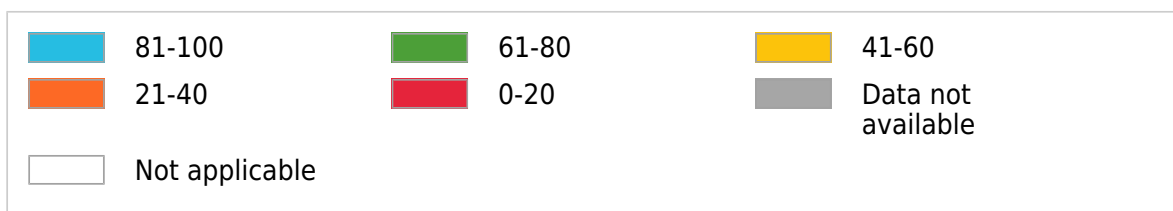
To track progress towards the target, SDG indicator 6.3.2 monitors the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, as per national and/or subnational water quality standards and based on measurements of five water quality parameters that inform on the most common pressures on water quality at the global level.

## Global status of indicator 6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (2020) <sup>[1]</sup>

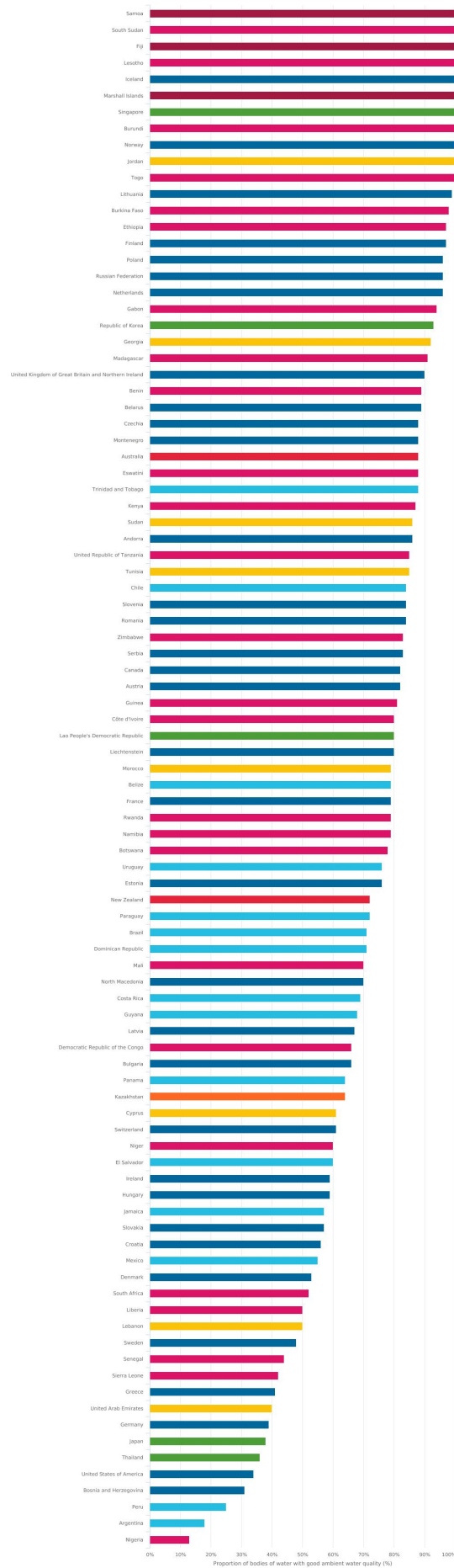


The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Greater Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

### Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)

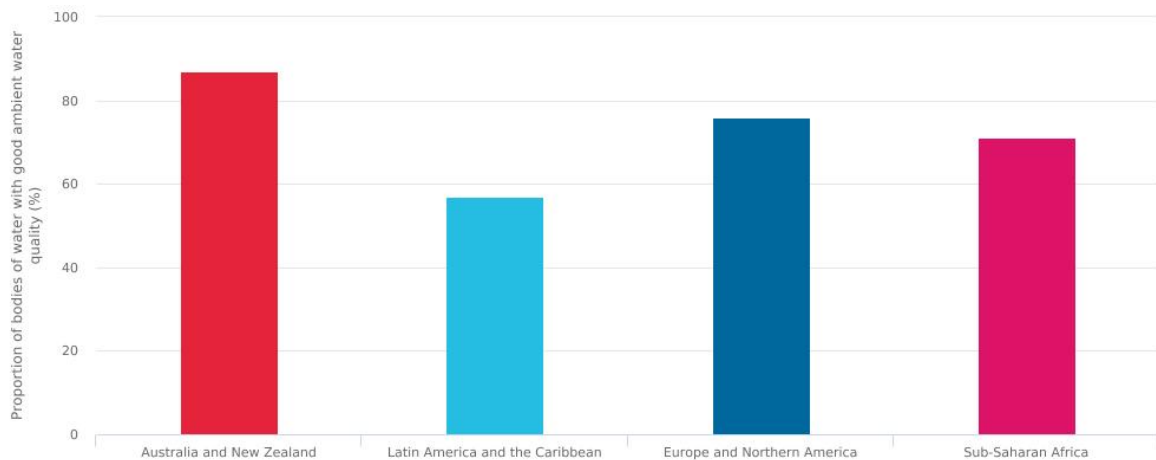


## Status in different countries (or areas) of indicator 6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (2020) <sup>[2]</sup>

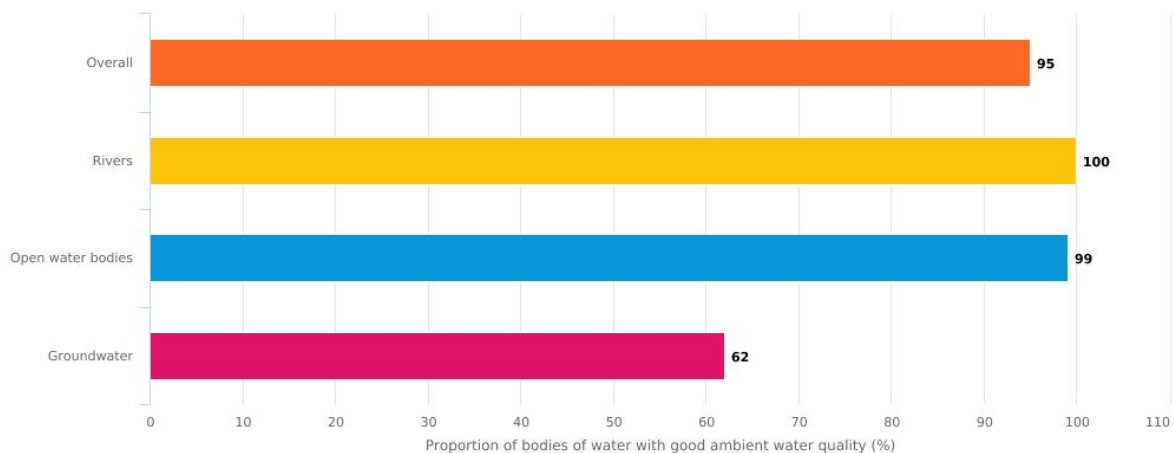


	Australia and New Zealand		Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia		Central Asia and Southern Asia
	Latin America and Caribbean		Northern America and Europe		Sub-Saharan Africa
	Oceania		Western Asia and Northern Africa		

## Status in different SDG regions of indicator 6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (2020) <sup>[3]</sup>



## Status of different components of indicator 6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (2020) <sup>[4]</sup>



## Source data of indicator 6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality<sup>[6]</sup>

Country (or area), regional and world data for the latest year of reporting: 2017 - 2020

Country (or area), SDG region, world	Year	6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality			
		Overall	Rivers	Open water bodies	Groundwater
Andorra	2017-2020	86	86		75
Antigua and Barbuda	2020	0		0	
Argentina	2020	18	0		21.9
Australia	2020	87.7		92	87
Austria	2020	81.8	81.4	95.6	96.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2020	30.6	28.4	100	94.7
Botswana	2017-2020	78	90	94.4	75
Brazil	2020	71	75.9	47	67.9
Belize	2020	79	60		100
Bulgaria	2020	65.6	99	100	25.6
Burundi	2020	100	100	100	100
Belarus	2020	88.9	91.3	93.1	62.8
Canada	2020	82.2	82.2		
Chile	2020	84	84		
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2020	66	66		
Costa Rica	2020	68.5	68.5		
Croatia	2020	55.9	55	71.4	91

Country (or area), SDG region, world	Year	6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality			
		Overall	Rivers	Open water bodies	Groundwater
Cyprus	2020	61.4	94.1	100	9.1
Czechia	2020	88.2	97.5	100	37.9
Benin	2020	89.4	100	100	88.9
Denmark	2020	53.4	54	38	75
Dominican Republic	2020	70.6	50	88.9	
El Salvador	2020	59.7	59.7		
Ethiopia	2020	96.8	96.4	100	
Estonia	2020	75.7	86.2	44.2	100
Fiji	2017-2020	100	100	100	100
Finland	2020	96.8	100	100	86.9
France	2020	78.9	92.5	100	39.4
Gabon	2020	93.6	91.3	100	100
Georgia	2020	92			92
Germany	2017	39	35.1	72.4	
Greece	2020	40.6	96.5	100	0
Guinea	2017	80.9			80.9
Guyana	2020	67.8	67.8		
Hungary	2020	59.3	60.7	34	78.4
Iceland	2020	100	100	100	100
Ireland	2020	59.4	53.2	50.5	92.2



Country (or area), SDG region, world	Year	6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality			
		Overall	Rivers	Open water bodies	Groundwater
Côte d'Ivoire	2020	80	66.7	100	
Jamaica	2020	57.2	94.3		33.4
Japan	2020	37.5	30	75	0
Kazakhstan	2020	63.9	72.5	38.7	
Jordan	2017-2020	100	66.7	100	100
Kenya	2020	86.5	90.4	33.3	90.3
Republic of Korea	2020	93.3	82.6	87.8	96
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2020	80	80	80	
Lebanon	2017	50	50	0	100
Lesotho	2017-2020	100	100	100	0
Latvia	2020	66.5	61.6	68.1	100
Liberia	2020	50	33.3	100	
Liechtenstein	2020	80	77.8		100
Lithuania	2020	98.7	97.7	100	
Madagascar	2020	90.7	94.1	94.6	81.6
Mali	2020	70	77.8	0	
Mexico	2020	54.9	53.1	58.3	
Montenegro	2020	88.1	86.7	90.9	100
Morocco	2017	79.2	76.1	85.9	76.3

Country (or area), SDG region, world	Year	6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality			
		Overall	Rivers	Open water bodies	Groundwater
Namibia	2017	78.6	85.7	60	100
Netherlands	2020	95.9	100	99	62.5
New Zealand	2020	72.2	80.1	40.4	0
Niger	2020	60	60		
Nigeria	2020	12.5	15.1	7.8	
Norway	2020	100	100	100	0
Marshall Islands	2017	100		100	100
Panama	2020	64.4	63.6	100	
Paraguay	2020	71.6	75.2	66.7	0
Peru	2020	25.4	25.6	23.6	
Poland	2020	96.1	98.4	98.8	58.8
Romania	2020	83.7	93.2	66.7	44.4
Russian Federation	2020	96	100	83.3	
Rwanda	2020	78.8	75	66.7	100
Senegal	2020	44.4	66.7		33.3
Serbia	2020	83.1	77.1	100	88.5
Sierra Leone	2020	41.7	41.7		
Singapore	2020	100		100	
Slovakia	2020	57.2	100	0	47.3
Slovenia	2020	83.9	89.5	27.3	78.6

Country (or area), SDG region, world	Year	6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality			
		Overall	Rivers	Open water bodies	Groundwater
South Africa	2020	52.1	52.3	43.5	74.2
Zimbabwe	2020	83.3	83.3		
South Sudan	2017	100	100	100	100
Sudan	2017	86.1	100	70	90
Eswatini	2020	87.5	87.5		
Sweden	2020	48.4	34.6	53	97.6
Switzerland	2020	61.1	100	36.4	
Thailand	2020	36	36		
Togo	2020	100	100	100	100
Trinidad and Tobago	2020	87.5			87.5
United Arab Emirates	2017	40		0	50
Tunisia	2020	84.9	83		86
Uganda	2020	0	0	0	
North Macedonia	2017-2020	70	70	0	0
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2020	89.9	96	100	57.8
United Republic of Tanzania	2020	85.3	87	80	

Country (or area), SDG region, world	Year	6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality			
		Overall	Rivers	Open water bodies	Groundwater
United States of America	2020	33.7	32.6	44.7	
Burkina Faso	2020	97.7	100	100	95.3
Uruguay	2020	75.9	76.9	73	
Samoa	2020	100	100	100	
Europe and Northern America	2020	75.8	77.8	71.5	
World	2020	60			
Australia and New Zealand	2020	87.1		90.3	84.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	2020	70.5	72.5		
Latin America and the Caribbean	2020	57	56.3	47.8	54.6

## Description of indicators

[1]

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Overall**

Percentage of monitored water bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. The overall national indicator score is based on water body type (river, lake or groundwater), and by reporting basin districts, which are based on either single large river basins or several smaller river basins.

[2]

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Overall**

Percentage of monitored water bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. The overall national indicator score is based on water body type (river, lake or groundwater), and by reporting basin districts, which are based on either single large river basins or several smaller river basins.

[3]

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[4]

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Percentage of monitored water bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. The overall national indicator score is based on water body type (river, lake or groundwater), and by reporting basin districts, which are based on either single large river basins or several smaller river basins.

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Rivers**

Percentage of monitored river water bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. A river is a section or tributary of a river, which serves as the natural drainage for a water basin.

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Open water bodies**

Percentage of monitored lakes and reservoirs (open water bodies) in a country with good ambient water quality. An open water body is a significant inland standing body of freshwater completely surrounded by land. This includes lakes and artificial reservoirs.

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Groundwater**

Percentage of monitored groundwater bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. A groundwater body is the combined quantity of significant volumes of water in confined and unconfined aquifers. In the case that a groundwater body straddles two or more reporting basin districts, then the groundwater body should be sub-divided per district.

[5]

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Overall**

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Percentage of monitored water bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. The overall national indicator score is based on water body type (river, lake or groundwater), and by reporting basin districts, which are based on either single large river basins or several smaller river basins.

### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Rivers**

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### **6.3.2 Level 1 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality > Groundwater**

Percentage of monitored groundwater bodies in a country with good ambient water quality. A groundwater body is the combined quantity of significant volumes of water in confined and unconfined aquifers. In the case that a groundwater body straddles two or more reporting basin districts, then the groundwater body should be sub-divided per district.

## About

Through the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, the United Nations seeks to support countries in monitoring water- and sanitation-related issues within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in compiling country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6. The Initiative brings together the United Nations agencies who are formally mandated to compile country data for the purpose of global reporting on SDG 6.

To learn more about water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, visit our website:

[www.sdg6monitoring.org](http://www.sdg6monitoring.org)

Monitoring SDG 6 involves a wide range of stakeholders across different sectors and levels of government. To enable a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the state of water resources and possible development paths, one of the monitoring effort's key objectives is to collate all the information, in support of an integrated management approach that helps reduce institutional fragmentation. For this reason, the Integrated Monitoring Initiative has developed the SDG 6 Data Portal, which brings together data on all the SDG 6 global indicators, as well as other key social, economic and environmental data.

To explore the data and assess progress towards SDG 6, and generate snapshots such as this one, visit our portal: [www.sdg6data.org](http://www.sdg6data.org).



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WMO

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Égalité  
Fraternité



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and Development



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Ministry of Infrastructure  
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