# **SDG 6a - TARGETS 6.a (International Cooperation)**

# **TARGET 6.4 - “By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.”**

**INDICATOR 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time”**

**DEFINITION**: Changes over time in: (1) the spatial extent of water-related ecosystems (such as swamps, marshes and peat, mangroves, swamp forests and even rice paddies) and inland open waters (rivers, floodplains and estuaries, lakes and reservoirs), (2) the quantity of water in ecosystems (rivers, lakes and groundwater) and (3) the quality of water in ecosystems (linked to indicator 6.3.2). By assessing changes over time, the subcomponent values can be aggregated.

The point of reference for “change over time” is the natural condition, i.e. before large-scale impacts were expe­rienced by the ecosystem. If information about the natural condition is not available, an estimate can be made based on extrapolation of data from neighbouring pristine sites, historical data, models and expert judgement.

The indicator also recommends that countries incorporate a component on ecosystem health in their ecosystem monitoring programme, although this was not included in the computation of indicator 6.6.1 for the first reporting in 2017. Ecosystem health is commonly measured through biological indicators,

**1. Introduction**

The scope of this note is limited to indicator 6.a.1 and methodology for the means of implementation for **target 6.a**. **“By 2030, expand International Cooperation and Capacity-Building Support to Developing Countries in Water and Sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies”.**

With regard to delivering on sub target (6a), the International Cooperation and Capacity-Building (ICCB) Task Team identified developing countries of the south to be targeted for engagement; and drive cooperation across national boundaries, through consultation with technical experts and external stakeholders who have vital roles to play. The Action Plan for the ICCB focuses on closing the identified gaps on areas of cooperation but not limited to: water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies amongst others.

**2. FINAL Indicator for Target 6a**

The indicator was not domesticated the target was accepted as formulated by the United Nations: The Global indicator for which this Task Team is responsible is 6.a.1 **“Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan”.**

Below is an extract from the United Nations report of the final indicators for Goal 6 on Water:

**Goal and target (from the 2030 Agenda) Indicator**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water-and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies | 6.a.1 Amount of water-and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan |

**3. Method of Computation for Indicator 6.a.1:**

“International cooperation and capacity-building support” implies aid and the proportion of total water and sanitation-related official donor assistance (ODA) that is channelled through the National Treasury which will be reported on as follows:

**Amount of water & sanitation-related ODA channelled through Treasury**

**Total amount of water & sanitation-related ODA disbursements**

South Africa is the recipient of ODA funding for water programmes aligned to the mandate of the DWS from Belgium (2 million over 2 years, contributing to 6.4).

ODA channelled through National Treasury indicates a high level of cooperation and alignment between the donors and national government in which the donors channel funds through the national budget process.

The creation of a national enabling environment (foreign policy, strategic planning, legal framework and financing) required to ensure delivery includes:

1. Review of existing bilateral and multilateral engagements
* Stock taking analysis of the existing programmes
* Communicate with the Water Sector regarding progress of SDG6.
1. Forging Partnerships
* Supporting the region
* Assist Africa to achieve the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular,
* Provide recommendations to the region/sector in terms of how they can close the Gaps identified within the respective Task Teams
1. Monitoring areas of cooperation targeted to achieve SDG6 by 2030
* Harness the implementation of the SDG in particular Goal 6 through investment in Africa.
* Align processes required to monitor progress regarding achievement of the SDG6a sub target
* Report on progress annually

**3.1 Overview of data sources**

The amount of ODA received from the National Treasury amounted to 2 million from the Belgium government to be dispersed over 2 years and contributing to 6.4; this amount was allocated in 2016 as a portion of water and sanitation ODA to support to strengthen sector systems/ capacity.

Consultations also took place with National Treasury to reflect the amount of Official Donor Assistance (ODA) that were included in government budget however further consultation is needed to clarify the total amount of water and sanitation-related ODA disbursements to the water sector.

Furthermore an analysis was conducted on the existing bilateral cooperation including signed agreements the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has with countries that we have cooperation with across the scope of all the sub-goals and targets of Sustainable Goal 6. The existing programme for cooperation is divided between countries outside the borders of Africa and countries on the African continent for reporting purposes.

The aim of the analysis was twofold (i) to determine the amount of **in-kind and technical assistance** the DWS receives from donors committed to multi- year funding under a multi- year investment plan or strategy; (ii) to determine the gaps on water and sanitation-related activities and programmes.

The analysis reflects that contributions from Denmark, Netherlands and Japan were received. Although **not to be included** when measuring the indicator on donor funding (ODA) channelled through National Treasury, external donor funds received through concessional loans and in kind technical assistance amounts to the following:

Denmark R 11 949 225.34 (contributing to 6.4)

Netherlands R 458 590 364 (contributing to 6.1)

Japan R 55 million (contributing to 6.2)

***See Indicator Matrix for active water cooperation Annex to the document*.**

**4. Data for country report – where are we towards the indicator and what progress have we made? The data must inform each indicator as required.**

Finalising the data for the country report has not been done as building relationships with donors and signing agreements as per a country’s foreign policy involves an ever changing environment. However ODA disbursements for the water sector have been steadily rising but have remained relatively constant as a proportion of total ODA disbursements at approximately 5% since 2005.

More consultation with Treasury is needed as they have provided figures South Africa receives as a recipient of donor funding. South Africa is also classified as an upper middle income country by the OECD and thus not perceived as eligible for ODA. The current trend is for South Africa to use bilateral agreements to strengthen activities in the sector.

This might account for the low amount of disbursements the water sector has received. The data available from the National Treasury reflects official donor funding received from the government of Belgium.

An analysis of the existing international programme for cooperation showed that through bilateral cooperation and agreements signed with Denmark, Netherlands and Japan respectively, South Africa is receiving further financial support through implementation of the agreed to, areas of cooperation. Active water cooperation was covered through existing areas of cooperation across all the targets (6.1 to 6.b). Countries that are included on the existing programmes for cooperation are: Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Russia, South Korea, China, Iran, Japan, Cuba and the USA.

Within the Africa continent future cooperation should focus on 6.2 “ achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”. Countries that are included on the existing programmes and current cooperation are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, DRC, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia.