CHOOSING INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS
Indicators frameworks

Key points

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• 6 types of conceptual frameworks
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• In depth: The Green Growth Knowledge Platform framework
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• 6 types of conceptual frameworks
• In depth: The Green Growth Knowledge Platform framework

5 issues-based themes for classifying IGG indicators:
  • Natural assets, efficiency, resilience, policy, inclusiveness
Why have a framework?

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• To give stakeholders common ground for discussion
• To provide context
6 types of frameworks

- Domain-based
- Goal-based
- Sectoral
- Issue-based
- Causal
- Hybrid
1. Domain-based frameworks

...categorize indicators under the 3 domains of sustainability – environment, economy, society – and sometimes others

**Advantage:** Easily understood

**Disadvantage:** Sometimes ignore the interdependence of the 3 pillars
1. Domain-based frameworks

...categorize indicators under the 3 domains of sustainability – environment, economy, society – and sometimes others

**Examples:**
- Circles of Sustainability
- diagnostic indicator set developed by the Global Green Growth Institute
- UNEP framework
- Tetrahedral Model of Sustainability
2. Goal-based frameworks

...are normative. They rely on concrete statements about what society must address.

**Advantages:**
- Limit candidate indicators to those reflecting sustainability goals
- reveal progress or back-sliding

**Disadvantage:**
- often oversimplify interlinkages
- may limit debate
2. Goal-based frameworks

...are normative. They rely on concrete statements about what society must address.

**Examples:**
- Sustainable Development Goals →
- UNESCAP framework
3. Sectoral frameworks

...group indicators along the lines that government administration is structured is.

Advantage:
• Convenient for administrative uses

Disadvantage:
• Otherwise not widely used

GREECO headline regional GE performance indicators

Table 2 presents the headline indicators for the bottom-up derived regional performance indicator set, i.e. the economic sectors analysed in GREECO. The headline indicators were proposed by the authors of the sector studies after finalisation of the reports and are meant to represent the sector in a single indicator with the additional requirement of being ideally available at regional level.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Sector</th>
<th>Headline indicator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Table 2: Headline Indicators for regional green economic performance of economic sectors
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**Example:**

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4. Issue-based frameworks

...reflect a set of key issues, stakes or criteria

Advantages:
• Easy to construct and understand

Disadvantages:
• May be “scattershot”
4. Issue-based frameworks

...reflect a set of key issues, stakes or criteria

**Example:**
- Green Growth Knowledge Platform framework
5. Causal frameworks

…indicate the cause-and-effect relationships among variables

**Advantage:**
- Show the links among categories or indicators

**Disadvantage:**
- May oversimplify

Source: OECD (2017: 14)
5. Causal frameworks

…indicate the cause-and-effect relationships among variables

**Examples:**

- OECD green growth measurement framework
- European Environment Agency DPSIR model

Source: OECD (2017: 14)
6. Hybrid frameworks

... combine several framework types, creating a multi-dimensional prism

Advantage:
• Suits the plural information of most GE indicators

Disadvantage:
• Time-consuming to prepare
• Complex, so may be hard to communicate

Source: Merino-Saum et al. (2018: 99)
6. Hybrid frameworks

... combine several framework types, creating a multi-dimensional prism

**Examples:**
- GEP Measurement Framework
- Green Cube
- MONET indicator system

Source: Merino-Saum et al. (2018: 99)
In depth: GGKP issue-based indicators framework

5 THEMES

• Natural assets
• Resource efficiency and decoupling
• Risks and resilience
• Economic opportunities/efforts
• Inclusiveness
Natural asset indicators...

...reflect the natural resources that generate economic growth and ecosystem services that support economic activities.
What do natural asset indicators measure?

Examples:

- value of timber stocks
- areas of water scarcity
- number of threatened species
- sustainable seafood production
- cost of air pollution
Indicators of resource efficiency and decoupling...

...compare economic outcomes with environmental inputs or pollution associated with production or consumption

**Decoupling**: Producing the same quantity of a product with less degradation of natural assets
What do resource efficiency indicators measure?

Examples of production-based indicators:
• greenhouse gas emissions
• productivity of land

Examples of demand-based indicators:
• atmospheric CO₂ concentration
• area of forested land as % of original forest cover
Risks and resilience indicators...

...measure how quickly economic growth recovers from ecological shocks

**Resilience:** the “ability of a system, community or society...to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner”

— World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015
What do risk and resilience indicators measure?

Examples:

- fatalities, injuries, homelessness after natural disaster
- population exposed to harmful levels of air pollution
- implementation of climate-resilient building standards
- government capacity to manage disaster risks
Economic opportunities and efforts...

...reflect adoption and implementation of policies enabling transformation towards IGE and also tracks that transformation
What do indicators of economic efforts measure?

**Examples:**

- green investments (e.g., in renewable energy, waste treatment facilities)
- green trade
- green patents
- green jobs
- fossil fuel subsidies
Inclusiveness indicators...

…measure how the costs and benefits of environmental policies are distributed among different groups

GLOBAL USE OF WATER
ACROSS INCOME GROUPS
What do indicators of inclusiveness measure?

Examples:

- access to sanitation services (by socioeconomic group)
- representation in environmental policymaking (e.g., by minority, location, gender)
- distribution of costs/benefits of energy subsidies
- jobs of various types and locations created/lost by the move toward IGE