

Indicator 6.3.2

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

Target 6.3 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

Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

This indicator is defined by computing the achievement status of environmental standards for the protection of human health and the conservation of the living environment from the results of water quality surveys of public water bodies conducted by the national and local governments based on the Water Pollution Control Act.

○ Concepts

Public water bodies refer to rivers, lakes, harbors, coastal waters, and other water bodies used for public purposes, as well as public-use waterways connected thereto, including public ditches and irrigation canals.

Environmental standards for the protection of human health (hereinafter referred to as “health items”) are criteria that should be achieved and maintained for 27 items related to the protection of human health, such as levels of cadmium and total cyanide.

Environmental standards for the conservation of the living environment (hereinafter referred to as “living environment items”) refer to criteria established for 13 items that should be achieved and maintained in order to preserve the living environment, including biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)/chemical oxygen demand (COD) and hydrogen ion concentration, which are typical indicators of organic pollution.

The achievement status for health items is defined by the proportion of the survey points (rivers, lakes, sea areas) in all items (27 items) that meet the

environmental standards. For living environment items, it is defined by the proportion of designated water bodies (rivers, lakes, sea areas) that meet the environmental standards for BOD or COD, which are typical indicators of organic pollutants.

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

Health items and living environment items are environmental standards established as desirable for the protection of human health and the conservation of the living environment based on the Basic Environment Act, and are administrative policy goals. These are not set as minimums for maintaining human health, but goals that should be achieved and maintained more positively. For areas where pollution is not currently progressing, it is desirable to set and maintain these environmental standards and at the very least prevent deterioration. For the environmental standards, it is also necessary to constantly collect new chemical knowledge and make appropriate chemical judgments. Therefore, it is considered that the proportion of water bodies with good ambient water quality can be grasped from the achievement status of health items and living environment items.

Data Sources and Collection Method

Water quality surveys of public water bodies conducted by the national and local governments based on the Water Pollution Control Act

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

• Achievement status of health items = Number of points (rivers, lakes, sea areas) where health items (27 items) have been achieved / Number of survey points (rivers, lakes, sea areas) of health items (27 items)

• Achievement status of living environment items = (Number of river water bodies where BOD has been achieved + Number of lake and sea water bodies where COD has been achieved) / (Number of river water bodies designated for BOD testing + Number of lake and sea water bodies designated for COD testing)

○ Comments and limitations

The achievement status of health items indicates the status at observation points. The achievement status of living environment items indicates the status in designated water bodies, so the status in non-designated water bodies is not included.

Data Disaggregation

In terms of health items and living environment items, the data of rivers, lakes and sea areas is disaggregated by measurement item.

References

Quality measurement results of public water bodies are published on the website of the Ministry of the Environment.

(Ministry of the Environment website)

<https://www.env.go.jp/water/suiiki/index.html>

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of the Environment

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Ministry of the Environment

International Organizations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)