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Insight into water quality monitoring capacity through the lens of the SDGs... and a novel way to fill data gaps



Stuart Warner

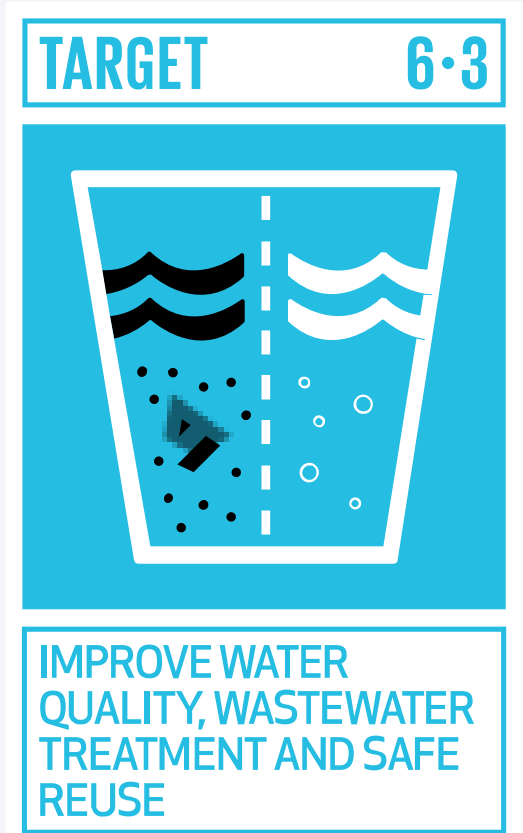
SDG indicator 6.3.2 on Ambient Water Quality

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

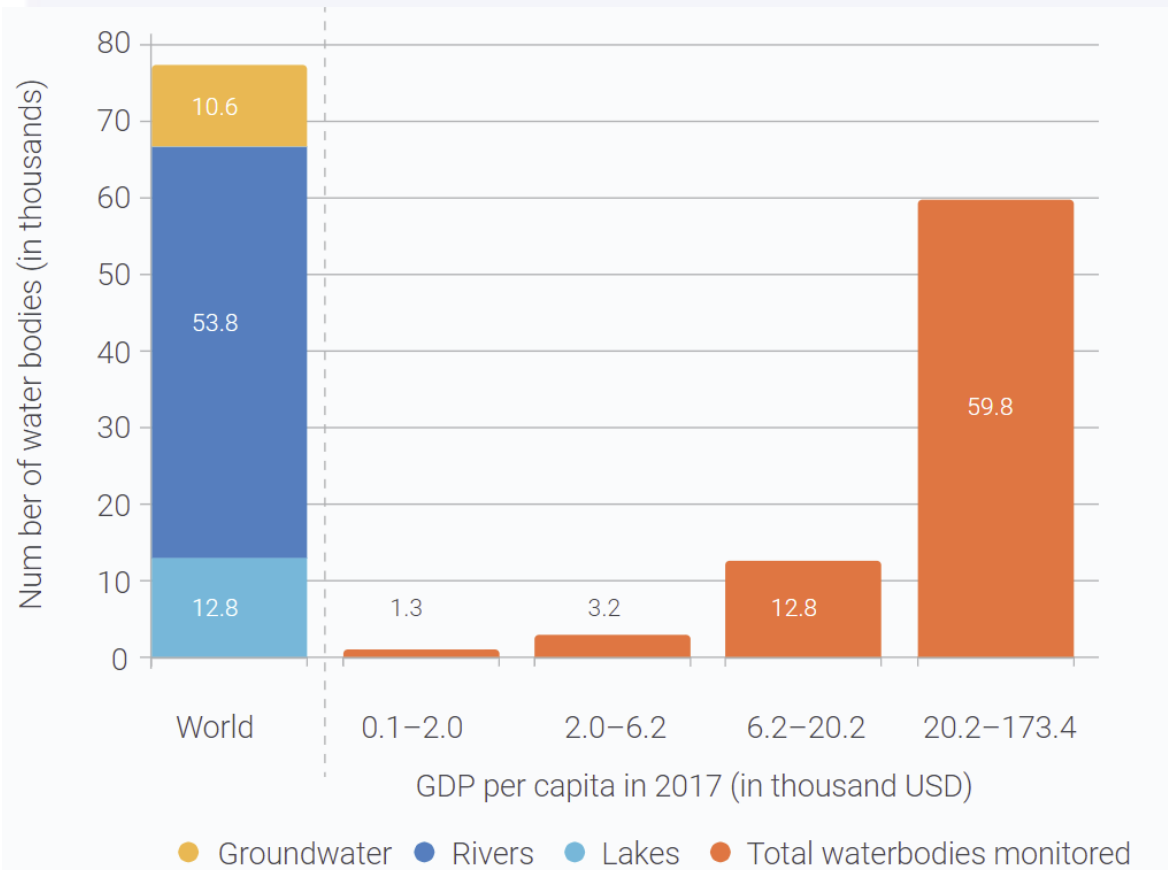
In addition to the indicator score, countries report the:

- Type of water bodies monitored (rivers, lakes or groundwaters)
- Number of water bodies assessed
- Number of monitoring stations
- Number of monitoring values
- Target threshold values used in the assessment

This is like a giant scoping study!

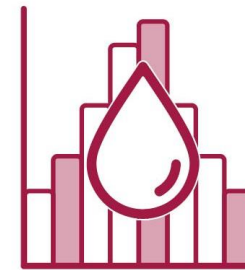


Capacity gaps globally linked to GDP per capita



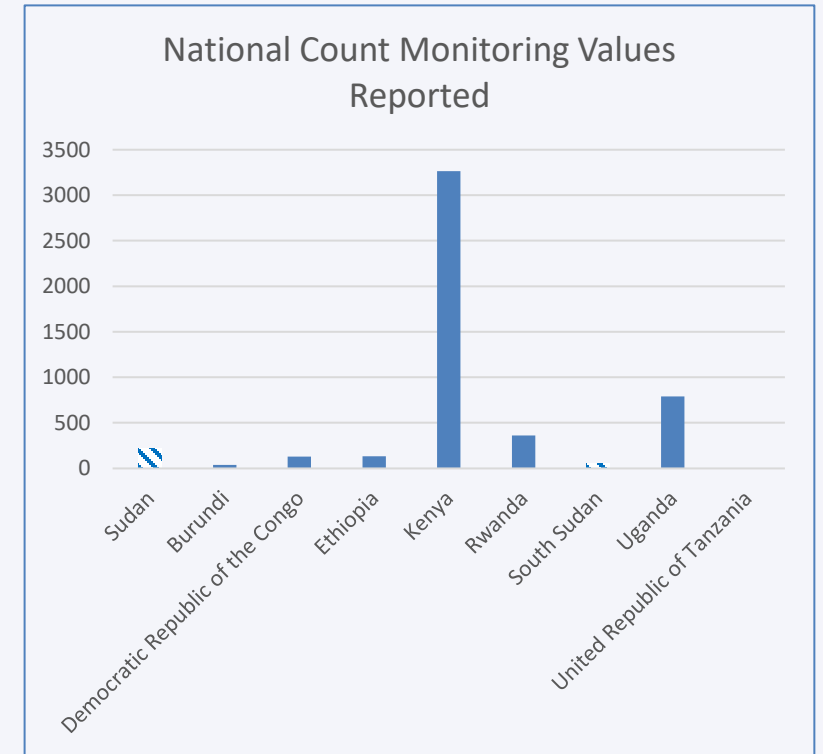
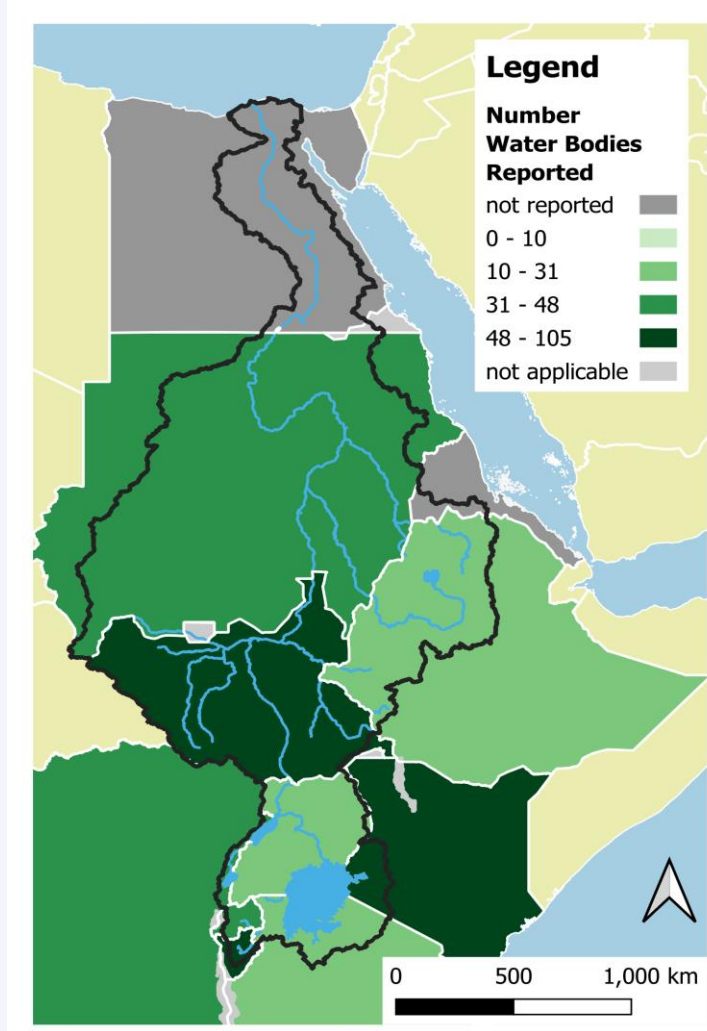
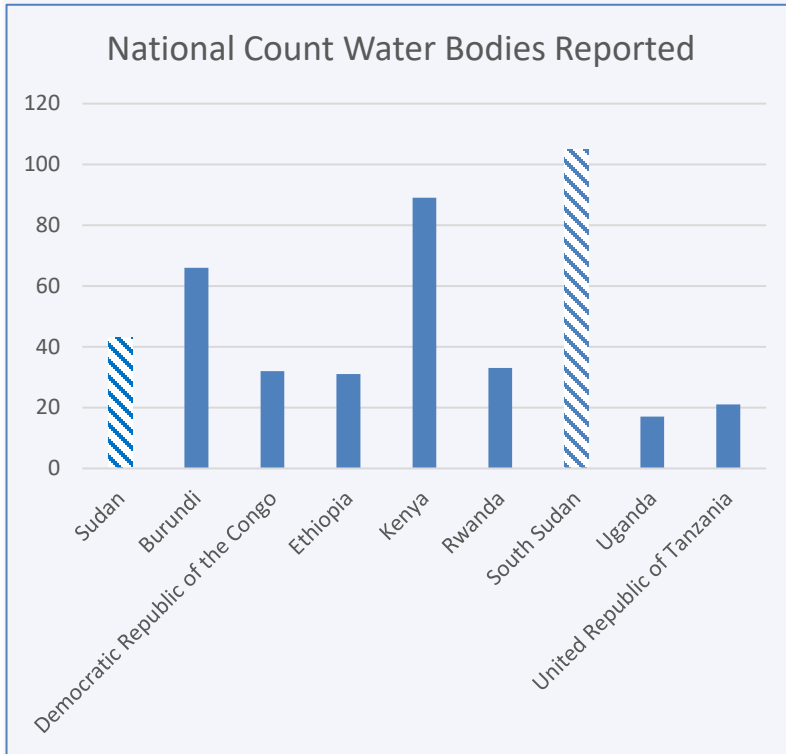
Only 1% of water bodies


where we have information are in the 20 lowest GDP countries



In low-GDP countries, there is an **urgent need** for **better data** on the **health** of rivers, lakes and groundwater

Analysis of number of water bodies reported on



 No submission since 2017

Citizen Science



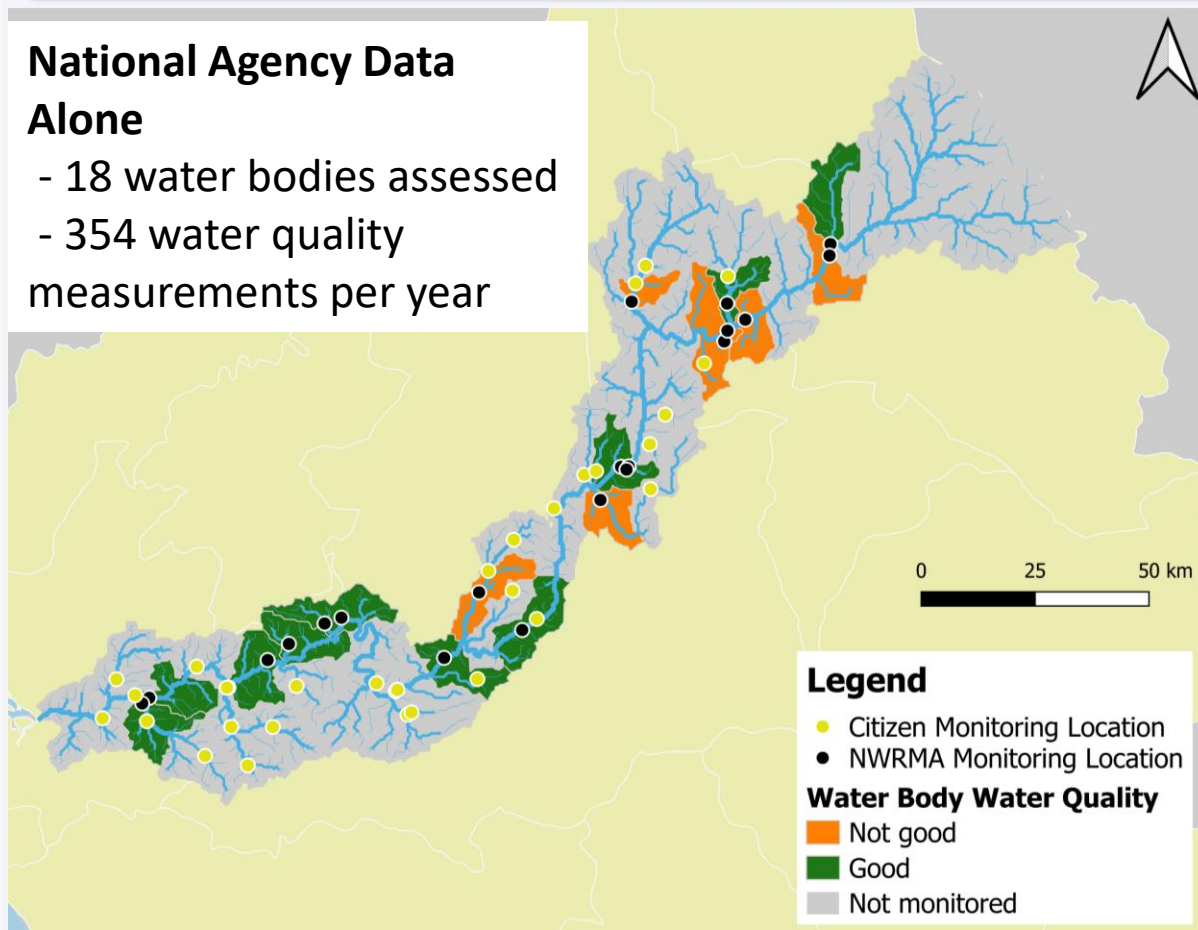
Key messages

- Citizen science data can be valuable source of reliable in-situ data
- Provides a pathway for community-level engagement
- Six projects in Africa including **Mara Transboundary project**
- Sierra Leone project most advanced
- Led by the **National Water Resource Management Agency** of Sierra Leone
 - Supported by Earthwatch and UNEP GEMS/Water
- Objective - test how best to integrate citizen-derived data into the national monitoring and assessment programmes

Citizen Science

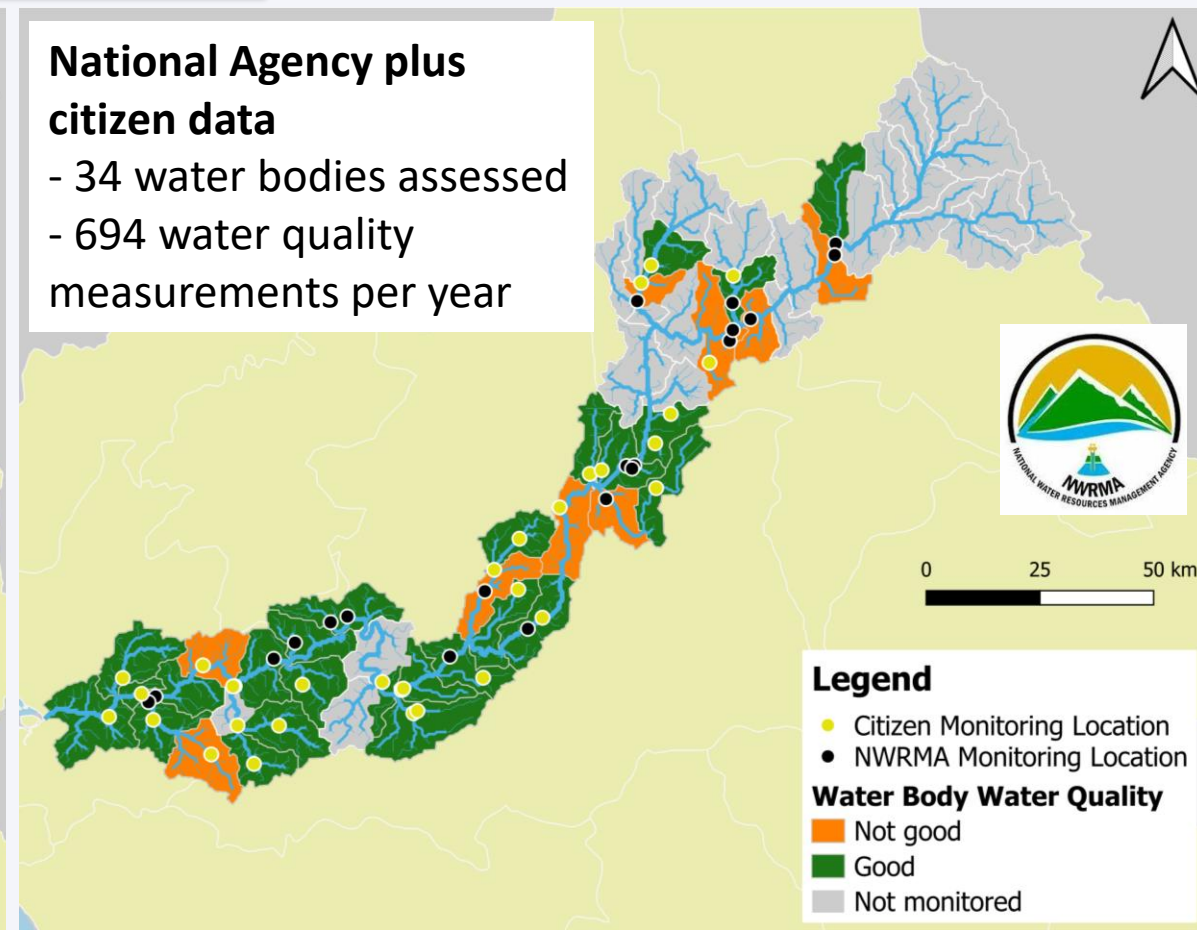
National Agency Data Alone

- 18 water bodies assessed
- 354 water quality measurements per year



National Agency plus citizen data

- 34 water bodies assessed
- 694 water quality measurements per year



Summary

- Quality of water in our rivers, lakes and groundwaters is under pressure
- Monitoring and assessment capacity is limited
- Data gaps > information gaps > inadequate management
- Reporting on SDG indicator 6.3.2 can be used to track monitoring capacity...as well as water quality trends
- Opportunities to help fill data gaps exist, especially around citizen science



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THANK YOU!

