Linking Voluntary Standards
to Sustainable Development Goals

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About the report

With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations has called on the private sector to contribute more to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This report helps decision makers in the public and private sectors to understand where voluntary sustainability standards are best placed to contribute. It maps the linkages between these standards and each SDG goal, including its specific targets.

Foreword

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide our pathway to progress towards 2030 and will be critical in allowing us to 'build back better' after the global pandemic. This will require smart partnerships between the public and private sector where the focus must be on supporting responsible social, environmental and economic practices in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive growth.

Voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) are currently at the centre of the approach of businesses to sustainability. Going beyond minimum legal standards established by governments, VSS focus on reducing adverse environmental and social effects and responding to the demands of various stakeholders, including consumers.

Using original data, the present report tracks the extent to which sustainable practices promoted by voluntary standards align with the SDGs. This innovative research provides a clear picture of how the private sector can work towards the SDG targets by adopting voluntary sustainability standards. It documents the overlap between existing VSS standards and the SDG targets and identifies further potential to better align VSS with additional sustainable development goals. The report demonstrates that policymakers can select from a large number of relevant voluntary sustainability standards – at country and sectoral levels – to contribute to the SDGs.

These insights are especially valuable for developing countries in their drive to for a future growth trajectory that is more sustainable and inclusive. Understanding the links between voluntary standards and the SDGs contributes to efforts to build a more resilient business ecosystem, create greener jobs, and build the business case for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt greener technologies.

At the United Nations, we have emphasized the alignment between competitiveness, sustainability and inclusiveness as a means to maximize economic and development impact. This report supports and builds on that approach. Increased understanding of how voluntary sustainability standards can connect with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda makes it possible to widen and advance the effort to meet the SDGs, especially given that we have just under ten years to reach our goal.

This project was the result of successful collaboration between ITC, UNCTAD, the European University Institute, the German Development Institute and the University of Amsterdam. We trust that the findings in the report will be a useful resource for standard-setting organizations, policymakers, suppliers and lead firms as they strive to bring together the public and private sectors and promote sustainable and responsible supply chains in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Acknowledgements

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Boxes, Tables, Figures

Acronyms

FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMD	Standards Map database
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFSS	United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VSS	Voluntary Sustainability Standards
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
FSC® - CoC	Forest Stewardship Council - Chain of Custody
4C	4C The Common Code for Coffee
EFI	Equitable Food Initiative
HL/SPO	Fairtrade International – Hired Labour/Small Producer Organizations
HIH	Hand in Hand – Rapunzel
EHPEA	Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association
ASMO	Fairmined Standard – Artisanal and small-scale mining organizations
ICCPCF	International Code of Conduct for the Production of Cut Flowers
RTTZ	Responsible Tourism Tanzania
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil – Principles and Criteria
SEDEX	Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit – SMETA Best Practice Guidance

Executive summary

Developed by business, civil society organizations and multi-stakeholder initiatives, voluntary sustainability standards (VSS)[1] are widely used to govern environmental, social and ethical issues in global supply chains. According to the Standards Map of the International Trade Centre (ITC), there are more than 270[2] VSS in 600 product groups, 15 industries and 180 countries.

Over the past decade, market coverage of these standards has grown considerably. For example, in the agriculture sector, commodities with a significant share of global production certified by a sustainability standard include cocoa (25%), coffee (23%), cotton (16%), tea (16%) and oil palm (12%).[3]

The use of such standards is also widespread in other industries, such as forestry, fisheries, electronics and textiles and garments. Private sustainability standards now apply to millions of farms, plantations, and factories worldwide.

Given their pervasiveness in the global economy, it is surprising that voluntary standards have received little attention in the effort to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations has called on the private sector to contribute more to achieving the SDGs. While the United Nations and its Member States have long promoted the involvement of business and civil society through partnerships for delivering the SDGs, voluntary standards have not yet played a prominent role in discussions on implementing the sustainable development agenda.

This report aims to help fill this gap by informing the policy debate on the potential and limits of voluntary sustainability standards landscape. To this end, it conducts a systematic mapping of 232 private VSS and examines how the content of these standards corresponds to the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets they contain. Based on a rigorous coding and mapping exercise, the report describes the 'area of interlinkage' between the voluntary standards and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report examines the following:

- Do VSS and the requirements they contain correspond to the SDGs and their targets, and if so to what degree?
- Are certain SDGs and their targets better covered by VSS than others, and if so, which ones?
- In which countries and sectors are relevant VSS available to help achieve sustainable development objectives?

In tackling these questions, the report helps decision makers in the public and private sectors to identify the areas in which VSS are best placed to contribute to the SDGs. Through the mapping, it is possible to identify clearly the pool of VSS that is relevant to each SDG and its targets. This is the first empirical study to examine connections between voluntary standards and the SDGs at such level of detail.

Nonetheless, if voluntary standards are to contribute to the SDGs, it will be necessary to take into consideration factors other than connection and overlap. Decision makers aiming to create synergies with VSS need to assess carefully the design of these programmes, including the robustness of verification procedures and level of stakeholder engagement, and consider the implementation context, such as the existence of a supportive public policy environment and access to finance. These elements have been shown to be essential for the effectiveness of voluntary standards.

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[1] In this report the vast array of sustainability standards, audit protocols, codes of conduct, initiatives, standards systems and schemes will be collectively referred to as "VSS", "voluntary sustainability standards", "voluntary standards", "sustainability standards" or "standards". The three terms are used interchangeably. The Standards Map database does not contain data on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards.

[2] The number of VSS in the Standards Map database is constantly increasing. See www.standardsmap.org for the most up-to-date information.

[3] For more information on market statistics of sustainably produced agricultural commodities please visit: https://www.sustainabilitymap.org/trends

The reports main findings are:

- **The three SDGs most widely covered** by voluntary sustainability standards are SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). There are more than 200 VSS linked with each of these goals. As a result, there is a large number of relevant voluntary standards available for policymakers aiming to create synergies in these areas.

- **The SDGs with few or no links** to voluntary sustainability standards are SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). This reflects the fact that they are formulated in a state-centric way that leaves little room for private governance action or that they cover issues for which fewer voluntary standards exist.

- **Connection with individual targets varies widely.** For example, while SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) is the goal with the highest number of VSS linked to it (222), it contains targets that are not covered by a single voluntary standard. This is mainly due to the nature of the targets. For example, strengthening the capacity of domestic financial institutions (target 8.10) is not within the scope of voluntary standards.

- **Coverage is greater** in some countries and regions. For SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) the number of linked voluntary standards is high in North America and Western Europe. Parts of South America and Asia also have a high density of standards that are relevant to SDG 8. In contrast, there are significantly fewer voluntary standards relevant to this goal operating in Africa and the Middle East.

- **Agriculture is the sector most** covered by voluntary standards, by a significant margin. This is followed by textiles and garments, consumer products and processed foods. Within these sectors, coverage of certain products is particularly strong, such as soy, coffee and cocoa in agriculture.

The often state-centric formulation of the SDGs and variation in the geographical and sectoral scope of voluntary standards serves as a constraint on private governance action for the goals. At the same time, this report shows that significant linkages exist between voluntary standards and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This opens the way for standards to contribute to a stronger governance ecosystem that can help deliver the SDGs.

Chapter 1
Linking business to the development agenda via standards

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015. At the heart of this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets, which specify the demands of the goals (Appendix III).

Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expired in 2015, the SDGs provide a universally agreed international development agenda. The goals set out an integrated policy framework encompassing a wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives. The SDGs are broader in scope than the MDGs and place a stronger emphasis on the contributions of business and civil society so that public and private actors can work in tandem to deliver an ambitious development agenda.[4]

To this end, SDG 17 explicitly calls for partnerships 'that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources' to promote the sustainable development objectives 'in all countries, in particular developing countries'. And while efforts to promote public-private partnerships have grown since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, under the 2030 Agenda there is an increased emphasis on the role of business in achieving sustainable development.

In the words of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: 'Business is a vital partner in achieving the SDGs. Companies contribute through their core activities, and we ask companies everywhere to assess their impact, set ambitious goals and communicate transparently about the results'.[5]

Indeed, in recent years, businesses around the world have been active in mobilizing and networking around the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Standards, supply chain audits and certification are widely used tools to assess and improve sustainability practices in global production networks. Collectively, these instruments are often known as voluntary sustainability standards (VSS).

Box 1   Defining voluntary sustainability standards

- According to the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), VSS are 'requirements that producers, traders, manufacturers, retailers or service providers may be asked to meet, relating to a wide range of sustainability metrics, including respect for basic human rights, worker health and safety, the environmental impacts of production, community relations, land use planning and others'.

Source: UNFSS (2013)

A variety of groups drive these voluntary standards, with many created by industry consortia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multi-stakeholder initiatives. Major VSS programs include Global G.A.P, Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade Labelling Organization and the Forest Stewardship Council.

The Standards Map of the International Trade Centre (ITC), one of the most comprehensive databases on standards-based sustainability initiatives, includes over 270 VSS covering more than 600 product groups and 15 industry sectors in more than 180 countries.[6] As these numbers show, voluntary standards are increasingly present in the global economy.

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[4] Kaine, N., & Biermann, F. (2017). Governing through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

[5] GRI, United Nations Global Compact, WBCSD (2015). The guide for business action on the SDGs. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD): Geneva, Switzerland.

[6] ITC (2020). ITC Standards Map, www.sustainabilitymap.org.

Although there is growing interest from policymakers, business leaders and academics in the potential of these supply chain instruments to help achieve sustainable development objectives, surprisingly little is known about how VSS and the SDGs are interlinked. Among the key questions are:

- Do the requirements of voluntary sustainability standards correspond to the SDGs and their targets, and if so to what degree?

- Are certain SDGs and their targets better covered by such voluntary standards than others, and if so which?

- In which countries and sectors are voluntary sustainability standards available to help achieve sustainable development objectives?

To answer these questions, this report examines the links between VSS and SDGs. It is the first study to provide a systematic and comprehensive analysis of these connections, showing how they vary across goals and targets, as well as countries and sectors.

To this end, the study draws on a systematic mapping of 232 private VSS (and the over 800 types of requirements they contain) and the 17 SDGs and their targets. Based on this, the report identifies existing overlaps and gaps between the VSS landscape and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The linkages examined in this study are only one element in the complex discussion regarding the role of voluntary sustainability standards in implementing the SDGs. The effectiveness of voluntary standards in governing conditions in supply chains depends on many factors, including their institutional design, accessibility, legitimacy, market coverage and the implementation context. Analysing these factors lies outside the scope of this report.

Nonetheless, a systematic survey of the links between VSS and the SDGs marks a first step in better understanding the potential for these instruments to contribute to sustainable development objectives.

Chapter 2
Bridging two worlds – standards and development goals

The landscape of voluntary sustainability standards

ITC's Standards Map, launched in 2011, provides the source data for this report. Its database is an inventory of voluntary standards on sustainable trade and production. The Standards Map encompasses more than 270 sustainability initiatives and provides a common framework for the public and private standards, private codes and international and national references included in the database.

This framework translates information on sustainability initiatives into more than 1,000 data fields. These are divided into two main categories: criteria on content and operating systems. Content involves requirements for performance in such areas as the environment, social standards, quality, economic development and business ethics. Operating system requirements cover support systems for implementing the standard. These include assurance, scheme governance, standard development process and claims and labelling policies.

ITC conducts data quality control in cooperation with standard organizations and independent experts. Each relevant organization updates its information annually. As of August 2020, the database included 270 VSS operating in more than 600 product groups across 15 sectors and in 180 countries. It is one of the most comprehensive resources on VSS, containing information on many aspects of the standards, including their geographic scope and organizational processes.

Connecting requirements in standards to SDG targets

Methodology

The analysis in this report is restricted to a sample of 232 private sustainability standards taken from the Standards Map. Private VSS are standards that are not created by a government agency or international organization. In addition, firm-level codes of conduct are not included in the analysis. Using the Standard Map database, the authors mapped more than 800 requirements contained in the voluntary standards against the 17 SDGs and their targets.[7]

To evaluate the degree of connection between voluntary standards and the SDGs, the authors analysed and coded each of the more than 800 requirements contained in the ITC Standards Map database according to its link with the SDG targets. A VSS requirement is considered linked to an SDG target when the requirement's specified criteria and actions are relevant for achieving the SDG target.[8] This coding exercise makes it possible to aggregate information at the SDG level.

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[7] The focus of the analysis is on the 126 core targets of the 17 SDGs.

[8] As referred in ITC Sustainability Map database: The entity that is in charge of developing the standard initiative, code of conduct or audit protocol is a private entity (e.g. an NGO, an industry association, a company).

The next step was to assess the quality of the connections between the VSS requirements and the SDG targets, by introducing two additional parameters: precision and correspondence (Box 3). To be included in the analysis, a linkage between a voluntary sustainability standard and SDG targets needs to meet two conditions:

- The content of the VSS requirement must be described with a certain level of precision (i.e. high or medium precision);
- The content of the VSS requirement must closely correspond to the key content of the SDG target (i.e. high correspondence).[9]

Based on this, the authors denoted the set of requirements with a medium or high precision and high correspondence linkage to a specific SDG or SDG target as the 'relevant' VSS requirements for that SDG or SDG target.

Box 2   Precision and correspondence

Precision relates to the formulation of a VSS requirement, as listed in ITC's Standards Map database. It contains two classification groups – high/medium and low. The classification reflects how precisely a VSS requirement describes its content.

For example, the requirement 'principles and practices related to securing a living wage based on sector or region specificities' receives a coding of highly precise because its objective is explicit and clearly communicated. For a VSS requirement to be coded as highly precise, it has to provide detailed information on what is required to fulfil it. The requirement 'criteria relating to conduct of security personnel towards communities' receives a coding of medium precise, because the criteria are not specified in detail. For the purpose of the analysis, high and medium precision form a joint cluster. In contrast, the requirement 'food products handling: general policy' formulates its goal loosely, receiving a coding of low precision. Such vague VSS requirements can be interpreted differently by producers, consumers and certifiers.

This report does not include VSS requirements coded as low precision when establishing the number of VSS with linkages.

Correspondence describes the nature of the connection between each VSS requirement, as listed in the Standards Map database, and the SDG target. It reflects the extent of overlap between the two. For high correspondence, the VSS requirement has to overlap fully with the key content of the SDG target. For medium correspondence, the VSS requirement has to overlap partially with the key content of the SDG target. In the case of low correspondence, the content of the VSS requirement partially overlaps with some of the content of the SDG target.

For example, the requirement 'principles and practices related to securing a living wage based on sector or region specificities', corresponds strongly (high correspondence) to the first target of SDG 1: 'By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day'. There is medium correspondence between the VSS requirement 'gender policies – family-friendly policies to increase the labour force participation of women' and the fourth target of SDG 5: 'Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate'. An example of a connection with low correspondence is the requirement 'organic natural inputs: general principles and practices.

This report does not include VSS requirements coded as low or medium correspondence when establishing the number of VSS with linkages.

Source: ITC, UNCTAD; EUI, UvA, DEI..

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[9] The aim of these two conditions is to ensure that only relevant linkages are taken into account in this report (see also Box 2). The first conditions rules out that very loosely defined requirements are considered. The second condition safeguards that linkages are only counted when the VSS requirement in question overlaps fully with the key content of the SDG target.

This report uses a 'linkage indicator' to quantify the coverage of requirements. This is based on the assumption that, everything else being equal, the linkage between a VSS system and an SDG target will be higher if the VSS has more requirements that are relevant for that SDG target. The VSS-SDG linkage will be the highest if the VSS covers all the requirements that are linked to the SDG target. The linkage indicator will be zero if the VSS does not have any requirements linked to the SDG target.[10]

To improve quality, two different teams carried out the coding simultaneously, and their results were then cross-checked.

Table A1 in Appendix I provides an example of the mapping, focusing on the connections between VSS requirements and SDG 5 Gender Equality targets and indicators.[11] Four SDG targets were selected, to which there is a linkage with 19 sustainability requirements from the Standards Map database. An inventory of business themes/indicators helped to translate the wording used in SDGs into terminology found in voluntary sustainability standards.

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[10] Linkage can then formally be defined as follows. For each VSS system s and for each SDG target t, we define the system s' linkage with target t as the share of those requirements relevant for target t which are covered by system s. Similarly, for each VSS system s and for each SDG y, we define the system s' linkage with SDG y as the share of those requirements relevant for SDG y which are covered by system s.

[11] SDG 5 was chosen as an example for illustrative purposes because gender equality is an overarching topic that is of potential relevance for all types of VSS across all sectors.

Chapter 3
Identifying connections between standards and goals

This section examines the connections between voluntary standards and the SDGs and their targets, including at country and sectoral levels. It is based on the mapping described earlier. The objective is to identify and describe the area of interlinkage between the landscape of VSS and the SDGs (Figure 1). The analysis is premised on the assumption that, everything else being equal, the potential of voluntary standards to contribute to the SDGs is greater when goals and their targets are covered by relevant requirements in the standards.

The report's systematic description of interlinkages helps decision makers in the public and private sectors to understand better the areas where voluntary standards can contribute to sustainable development. However, these interlinkages are one element in a wider, and more complex, picture regarding voluntary standards.

There has been considerable debate on the role of business in the 2030 Agenda. Critics of private governance initiatives argue that voluntary standards systems have a poor track record in improving social and environmental conditions.[12] Moreover, it is feared that relying too heavily on the private sector reduces the role of the state in pursuing sustainable development and regulating transnational business activity.[13]

Such views contrast with the partnership approach the United Nations has adopted over a number of years. Rooted in New Public Management theory, this approach sees an involvement of the private sector as essential to reaching sustainable development objectives. Since the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development has endorsed thousands of public-private partnerships.[14] The 2030 Agenda further increased the emphasis on the role of business.

Against this background, it is surprising that VSS have received little attention in discussions on implementing the SDGs. Proponents view VSS as among the tools that policymakers and business leaders can deploy to achieve sustainable development objectives through trade. From this perspective, voluntary standards have the potential to help build a stronger 'governance ecosystem' for the SDGs.[15]

Yet, all VSS are not necessarily fit for this purpose. The ISEAL Alliance, an umbrella organization of globally leading VSS, supports 'credible' standards systems and has developed a comprehensive set of Codes of Good Practice for VSS. To drive transformation to sustainability, VSS need to adhere to institutional design principles that include strong mechanisms for impact assessment and a commitment to continuous improvement, among others.[16] This aligns with research on the effectiveness of public-private partnerships showing that process design is a key condition for success.[17]

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[12] See Bennett, E. A. (2018). Voluntary Sustainability Standards: A Squandered Opportunity to Improve Workers' Wages. *Sustainable Development, 26*(1), 65-82

[13] See LeBaron, G., & Lister, J. (2018). Ethical Audits and the Supply Chains of Global Corporations, SPERI Global Political Economy Brief No. 1. from http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Global-Brief-1-Ethical-Audits-and the-Supply-Chains-of-Global-Corporations.pdf

[14] Bull, B., & McNeill, D. (2019). From Market Multilateralism to Governance by Goal Setting: SDGs and the Changing Role of Partnerships in a New Global Order. *Business and Politics, 21*(4), 464-486.

[15] Lambin, E. F., & Thorlakson, T. (2018). Sustainability Standards: Interactions Between Private Actors, Civil Society, and Governments. Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 43(1), 369-393.; Dahlmann, F., Stubbs, W., Raven, R., & Porto de Albuquerque, J. (2020). The 'Purpose Ecosystem': Emerging Private Sector Actors in Earth System Governance. Earth System Governance, 100053.

[16] WWF. (2017). SDGs Mean Business: How Credible Standards Can Help Companies Deliver the 2030 Agenda, WWF-ISEAL joint report. from http://www.standardsimpacts.org/sites/default/files/WWF_ISEAL_SDG_2017.pdf

[17] Pattberg, P., & Widerberg, O. (2016). Transnational Multistakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Conditions for Success. *Ambio, 45*(1), 42-51.

As VSS vary considerably in institutional design, only certain schemes are likely to be suitable instruments for achieving sustainable development.[18] Moreover, whereas the United Nations' partnerships for sustainable development have been created as mechanisms for implementing the SDGs, the landscape of VSS has developed more spontaneously and is largely independent of the United Nations sustainable development agenda.

Given the uncertainties about the degree to which voluntary standards can help deliver the sustainable development agenda, it is useful to look systematically at interlinkages between VSS requirements and the SDGs. Based on the mapping, Figure 1 illustrates the overlap between the VSS landscape the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The following sections examine this 'area of interlinkage' in more depth and detail.

Figure 1   Links between voluntary standards and SDGs
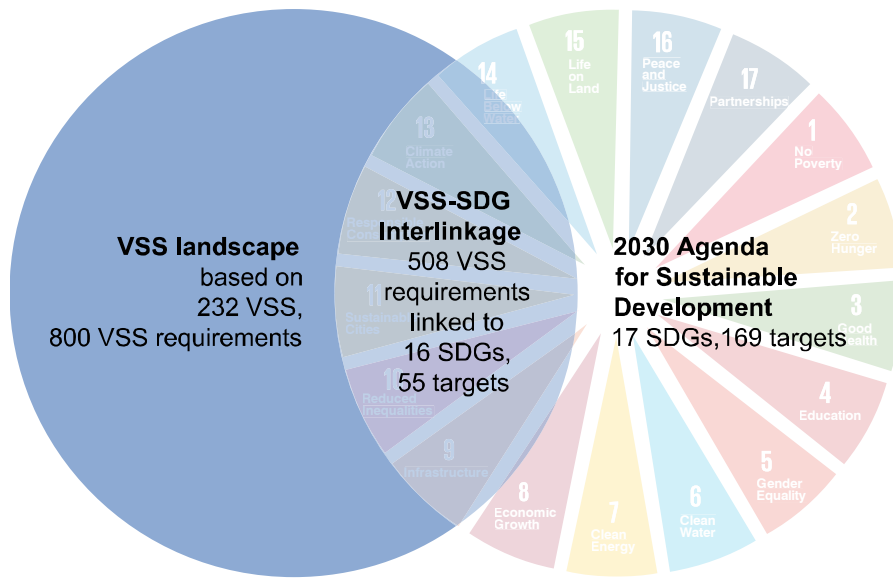
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE, based on ITC Standards Map data and Sustainable Development Goals and targets[19]

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[18] Fiorini, M., Hoekman, B., Jansen, M., Schleifer, P., Solleder, O., Taimasova, R., & Wozniak, J. (2019). Institutional Design of Voluntary Sustainability Standards Systems: Evidence from a New Database. *Development Policy Review, 37*(S2), O193-O212.; van der Ven, H. (2019). Beyond Greenwash: Explaining Credibility in Transnational Eco-Labeling. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[19] Note that the focus of the analysis in this report is on the 126 core SDG targets of the overall 169 targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Figure 2   The 17 SDGs in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Source: United Nations.

Links at SDG level

A first step is to look at linkages at the level of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Figure 3 illustrates the number of voluntary standards that include at least one requirement that overlaps with at least one target of each SDG, counting only linkages that satisfy the conditions set out in Box 2. It shows that there are multiple linkages and that there is substantial variation across the SDGs.

Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) has links with the most voluntary standards – 222, or almost all VSS in the sample. Linkages are also very frequent for SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 1 (No Poverty).

Figure 3   Voluntary standards linked to each SDG
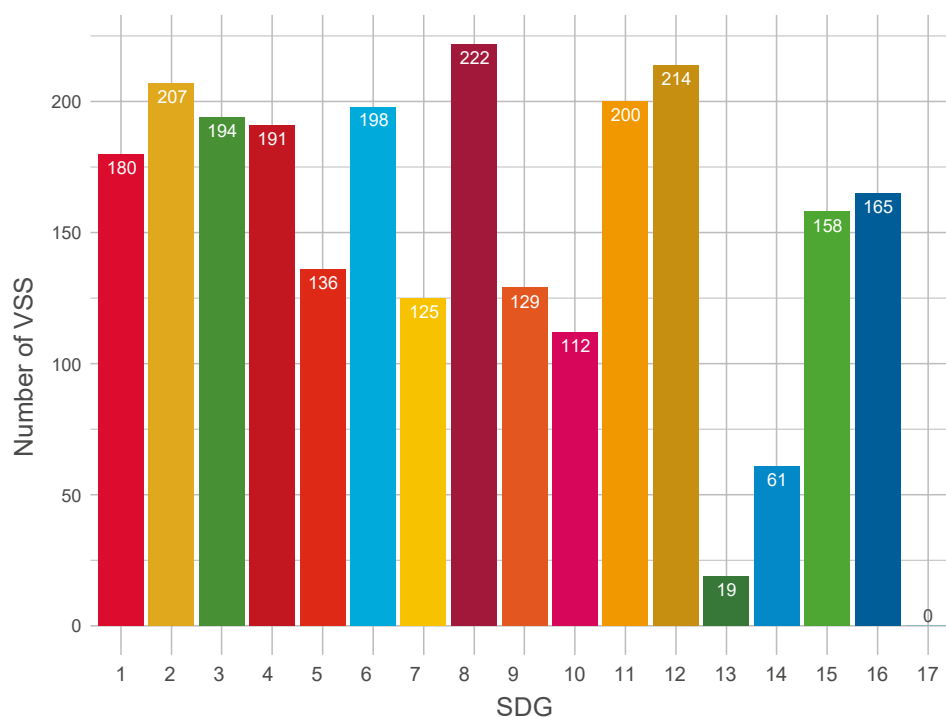
Number of VSS with linkages, counting high correspondence and high/medium precision VSS requirements-SDG targets linkages.[20]

Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

There is a set of SDGs for which the number of links is somewhat lower, but still significant (more than 100). These include SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

SDG 14 (Life Below Water) has a smaller number of links to VSS. This is because relatively few VSS and their requirements address fishing or other issues strongly linked to the targets in SDG 14. However, there are several voluntary standards in the fishery sector (e.g. Marine Stewardship Council) that are of high relevance for this SDG. There are also few VSS linked to SDG 13 (Climate Action). This is not surprising given that SDG 13 targets mainly address governments.

There are no VSS linked to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), reflecting the fact that the targets in this SDG are mainly addressed at governments. SDG 17 calls for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development through finance, technology, capacity building, trade and other systemic issues.[21]

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[20] For illustrative purposes, we have included the same graph for looser definition of VSS-SDG linkages in the Appendix. The Figure in Appendix I compares the definition of linkages used in this report with a definition of linkages that considers all levels of precision and correspondence.

[21] Target 17.17 includes a reference to public, public-private and civil society partnerships and while this target is thus something that is of relevance to VSS, this potential connection between VSS and the SDGs is beyond the linkages that can be found in the context of the VSS requirements that we analyse in this report. While this connection between VSS and the SDGs in the context of SDG 17 is thus important and merits further attention, a deeper analysis is beyond the scope of this report.

By looking specifically at a single goal – SDG 5 – it is possible to illustrate the nature of linkages with specific voluntary standards (Figure 4). In the case of SDG 5, four out of the six relevant targets are covered by VSS. Figure 4 shows the 15 VSS with the greatest number of links to SDG 5 (at least one requirement that overlaps with at least one of the goal's targets). The figure also shows the average linkage indicator across the 232 VSS included in the analysis of this report (grey line). The full sample of 232 VSS have an average linkage of 35% with SDG 5.

This means that the 232 VSS cover, on average, 35% of the requirements contained in SDG 5 targets and that the 15 VSS with the most links cover, on average, almost 55% of these targets. The VSS listed in the figure are not necessarily the top contributors to SDG 5, but they have the highest number of linkages, as established by the mapping carried out for this report. (See Appendix IV for additional information about the linkages of specific VSS with the 16 SDGs.)

Figure 4   15 voluntary standards most linked with SDG 5
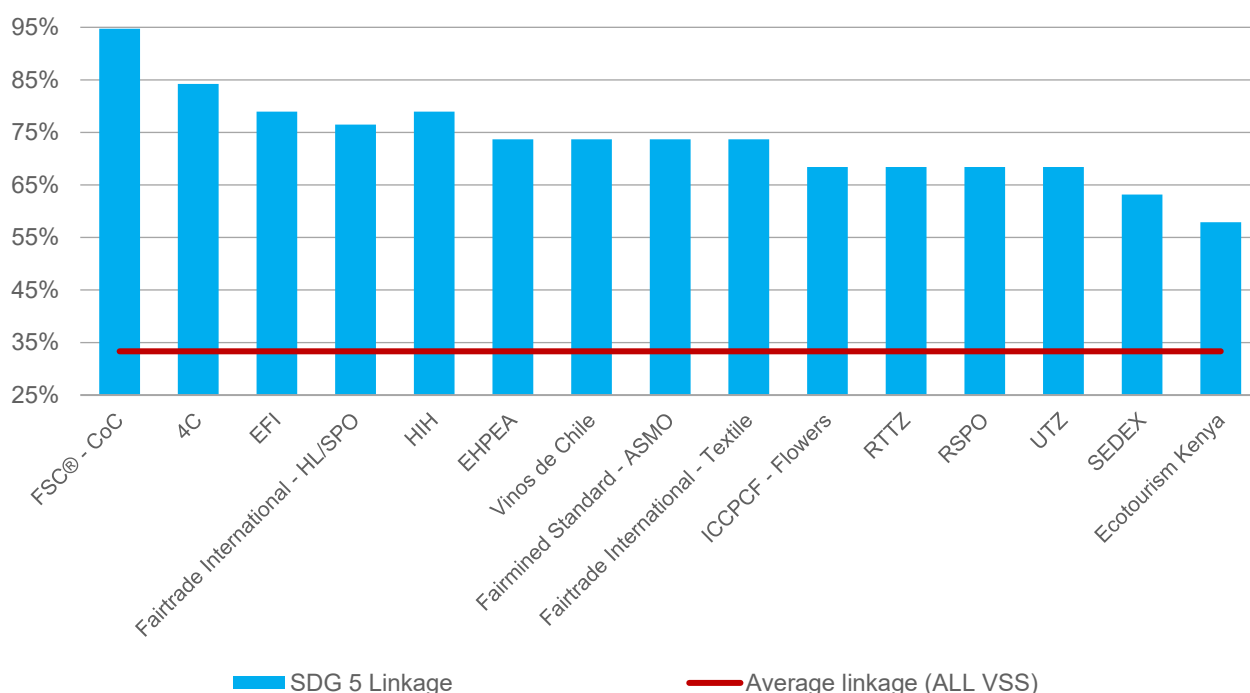
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE

Note: Analysis includes all VSS that have at least one requirement linked with the SDG goal.

Overall, the SDGs with the most VSS linkages are mainly concerned with the economic dimensions of sustainable development (e.g. SDG 8 and SDG 12). There are also substantial VSS linkages for SDGs focusing on social issues (e.g. SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 4) and the environment (e.g. SDG 15).

Links with SDG targets

To understand in greater depth the nature of links between voluntary standards and the SDGs, it is useful to look at the overlap with SDG targets. In the case of some SDGs, all targets are covered by VSS requirements, but in many cases, the number of VSS with linkages strongly varies across the targets. Several targets are not covered at all.

SDG 1: No Poverty

Coverage of all targets; multiple VSS with linkages for all dimensions of poverty included in SDG 1.

The objective of SDG 1 is to end poverty for all people everywhere. To this end, SDG 1 defines five targets that call for:

- Eradicating extreme poverty, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day (1.1);
- Reducing at least by half the number of people living in poverty according to national definitions (1.2);
- Implementing social protection systems (1.3);
- Providing equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance (1.4);
- Building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5).

Each of the five targets of SDG 1 are covered by more than 100 VSS (Figure 5). This indicates that private governance can contribute to fighting all dimensions of poverty as defined in SDG 1.

Figure 5   SDG 1 targets – related voluntary standards
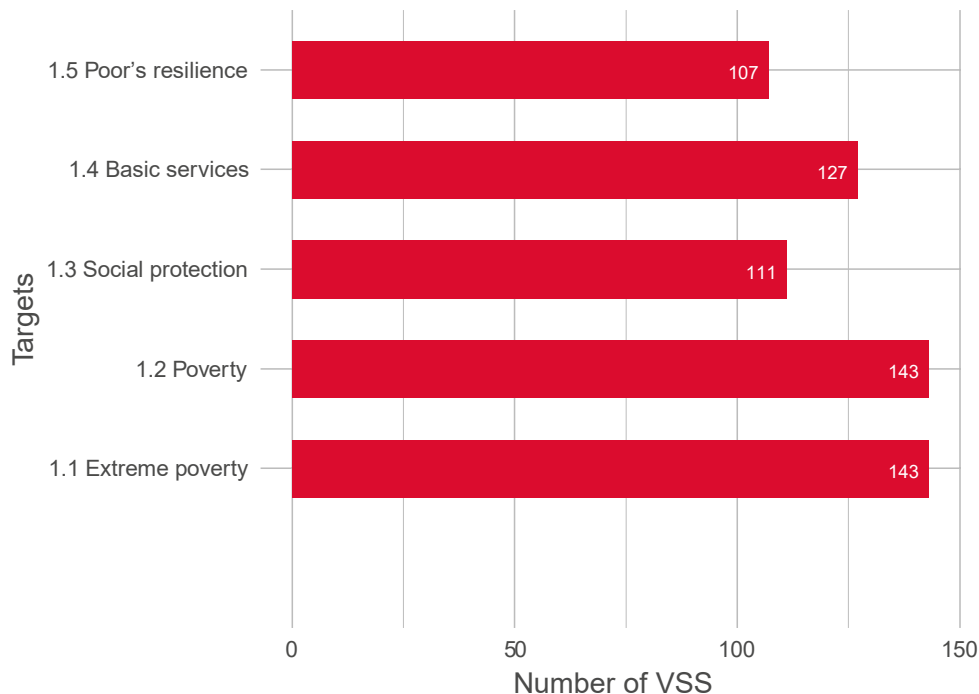
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Variation across targets; many VSS with linkages for agricultural productivity and sustainable food production.

SDG 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Its five targets focus on:

- Ending hunger (2.1);
- Ending malnutrition (2.2);
- Doubling the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (2.3);
- Promoting sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices (2.4);
- Maintaining genetic diversity (2.5).

A very high number of VSS are linked to SDG 2, reflecting the fact that the majority of VSS in the ITC database cover the agricultural sector. While there are no VSS that address malnutrition (2.2), all the other targets of SDG 2 are covered by VSS (Figure 6).

Most prominently, there are 191 VSS linked to target 2.3 on improving the productivity and livelihoods of small-scale food producers and 174 linked to target 2.4 on sustainability and resilience in food production and agriculture. There are 53 VSS with links to target 2.5, which seeks to maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals, and 49 VSS linked to target 2.1 on ending hunger and ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

Figure 6   SDG 2 targets – related voluntary standards
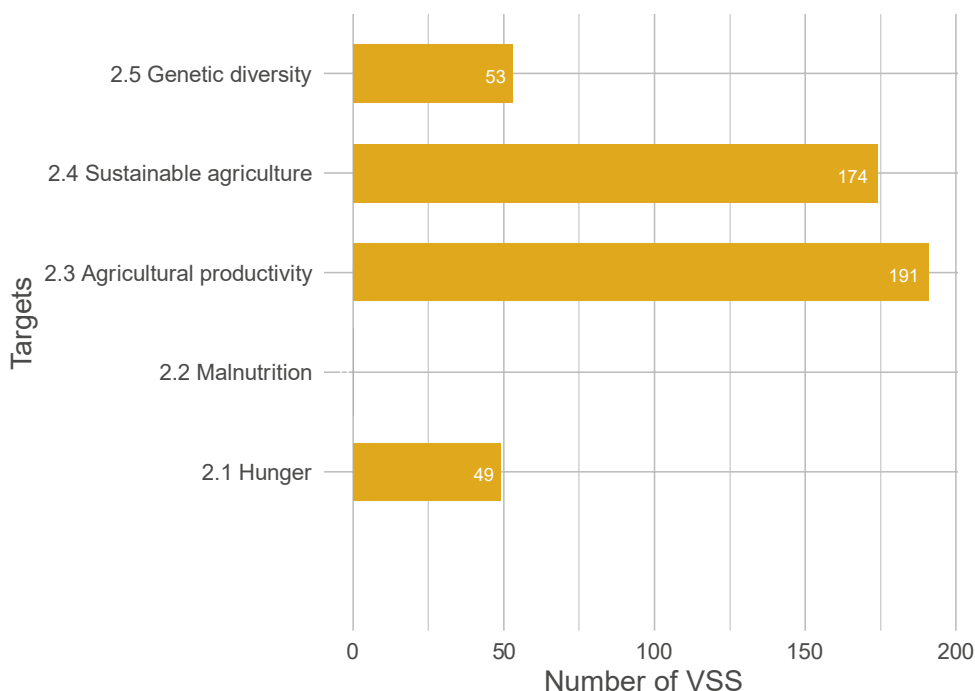
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Focus on a few targets; many VSS with linkages on pollution and hazardous chemicals as well as health coverage.

SDG 3 includes nine targets on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. The targets call for:

- Reducing maternal mortality (3.1);
- Improving child health (3.2);
- Ending epidemics of major communicable diseases (3.3);
- Reducing mortality from non-communicable diseases (3.4);
- Strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse (3.5);
- Reducing deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents (3.6);
- Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (3.7);
- Providing universal health coverage (3.8);
- Reducing deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination (3.9).

Targets 3.8 and 3.9 are covered by VSS (Figure 7). There are 179 VSS that address target 3.9 by tackling pollution and hazardous chemicals. Moreover, 135 VSS can contribute to reaching target 3.8 by promoting health coverage. While the other targets of SDG 3 are beyond the direct scope of private standard initiatives, these may be able to make additional contributions to good health and well-being indirectly, for example by improving workplace hygiene.

Figure 7   SDG 3 targets – related voluntary standards
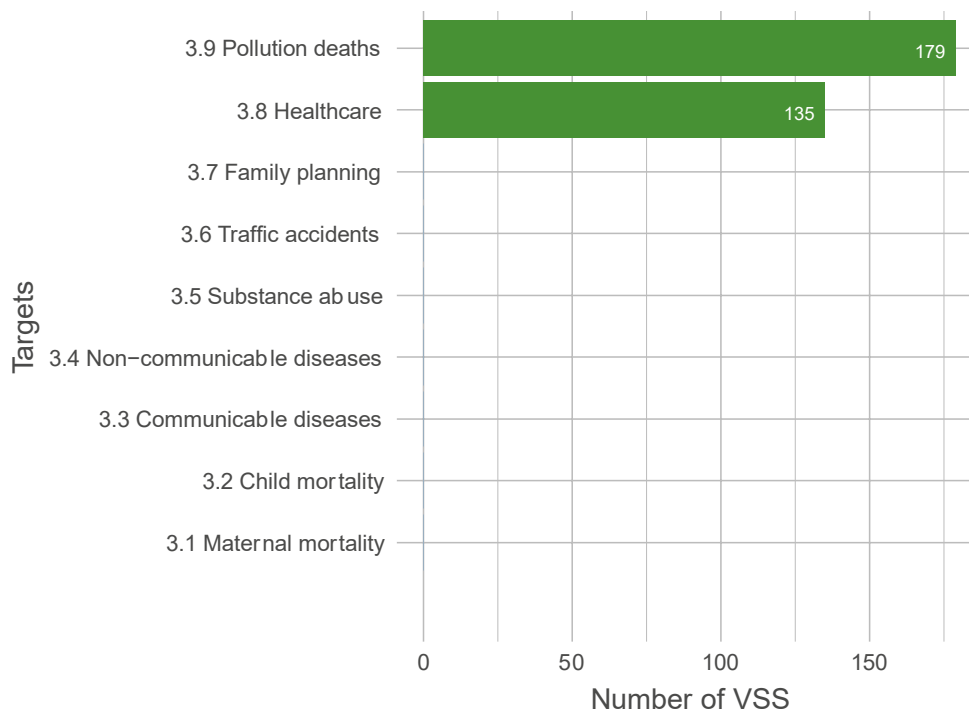
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE

SDG 4: Quality Education

Focus on a few targets; many VSS with linkages for skills employment.

SDG 4 seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It sets seven targets that focus on:

- Primary and secondary education (4.1);
- Early childhood development and pre-primary education (4.2);
- Technical, vocational and tertiary education (4.3);
- Skills for employment (4.4);
- Eliminating gender disparities in education (4.5);
- Literacy and numeracy (4.6);
- Knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (4.7).

Two out of these seven targets are covered by VSS (Figure 8). There are 191 VSS linked with target 4.4, which seeks to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Sixty VSS are linked to target 4.3, which calls for equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education. Targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5 and 4.6 are not covered by any VSS given that pre-primary, primary and secondary education, gender disparities in education and literacy and numeracy are beyond the scope of VSS requirements. Nonetheless, outcomes from some VSS could spill over to have positive effects on education.

Figure 8   SDG 4 targets – related voluntary standards
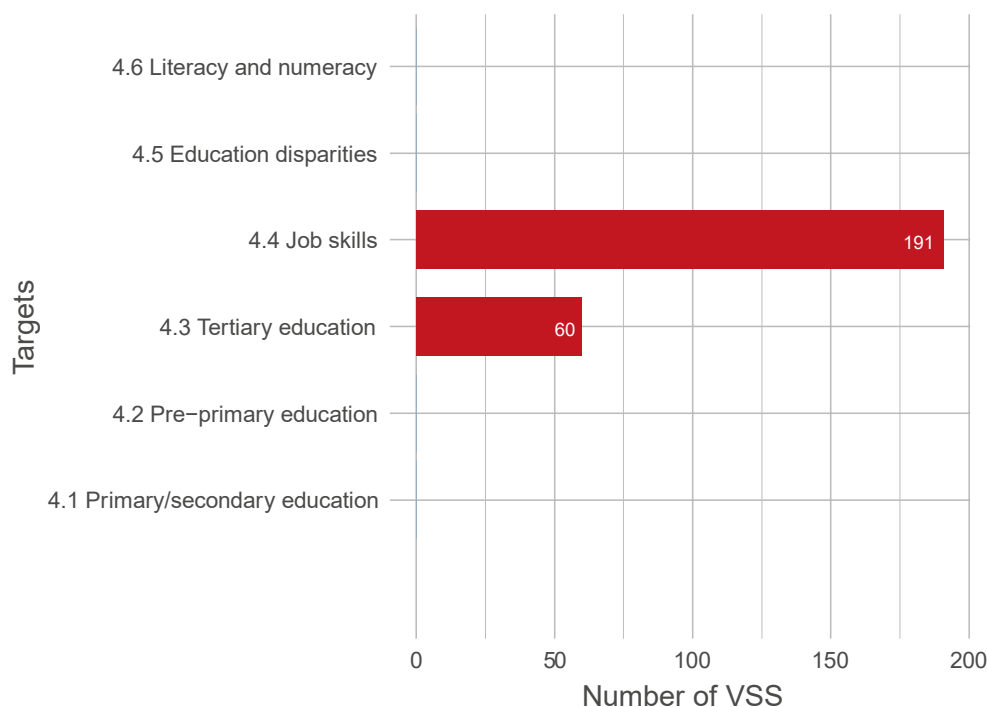
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Variation across targets; multiple VSS with linkages across various dimensions of gender equality, including elimination of violence and equal opportunities for leadership.

SDG 5 mainly focuses on gender equality and empowering women and girls. It comprises six targets that call for:

- Ending discrimination against women and girls (5.1);
- Eliminating violence against women and girls (5.2);
- Ending harmful practices (5.3);
- Recognizing and valuing domestic work and unpaid care (5.4);
- Ensuring that women have opportunities for leadership (5.5);
- Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health (5.6).

Of these, four targets are covered by VSS (Figure 9). There are 122 VSS that address target 5.2, which seeks to eliminate violence against all women and girls. In addition, 105 VSS cover target 5.5, which calls for women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Moreover, 94 VSS cover target 5.1 on ending all forms of discrimination. Only 18 VSS focus on issues raised by target 5.4 regarding the value of unpaid care and domestic work. VSS do not cover targets 5.3, which calls for ending practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and 5.6 on sexual and reproductive health. These targets are largely beyond the scope of the type of private governance embodied by VSS.

Figure 9   SDG 5 targets – related voluntary standards
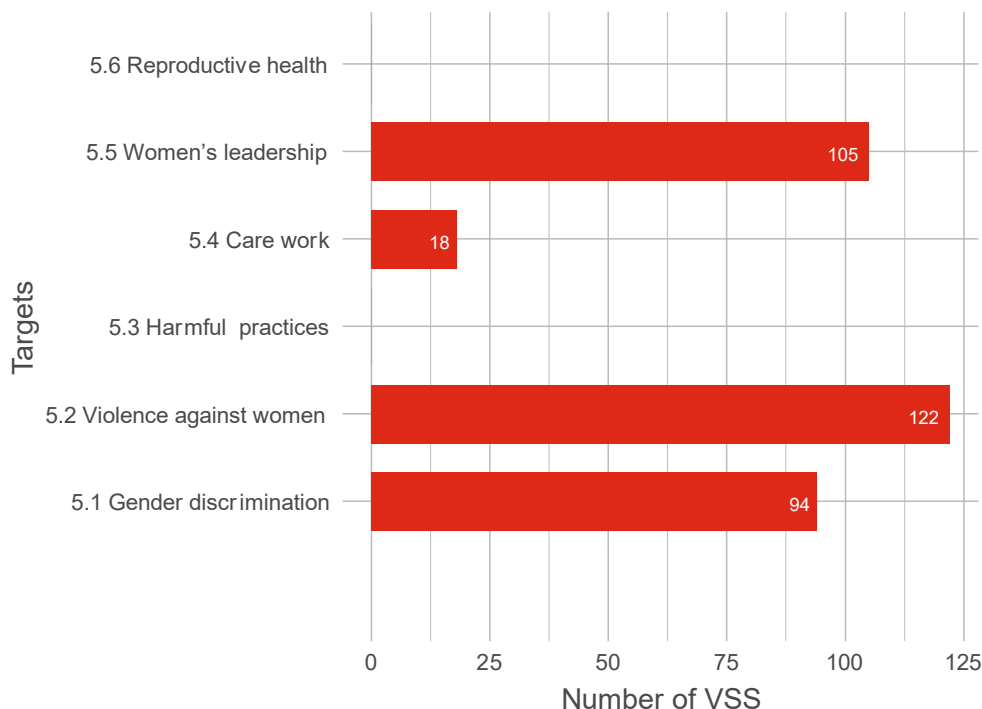
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Variation across targets; multiple VSS with linkages for all dimensions of water and sanitation included in SDG 6.

As water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development, SDG 6 seeks to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The six targets of SDG 6 focus on:

- Access to drinking water (6.1);
- Access to sanitation and hygiene (6.2);
- Improved water quality (6.3)
- Better water-use efficiency (6.4);
- Integrated water resources management (6.5);
- Protection of water-related ecosystems (6.6).

All SDG 6 targets are covered by VSS (Figure 10). There are 176 VSS that link with target 6.3, which calls for improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Moreover, there are 166 linked to target 6.4, which focuses on increased water-use efficiency. In addition, there are 159 VSS with links to target 6.5, which calls for integrated water resources management. There are 129 VSS linked with target 6.2, which focuses on access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all. Also, 115 VSS cover issues that are relevant for 6.1, which calls for access to safe and affordable drinking water. And 15 VSS link with 6.6, which seeks to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Figure 10   SDG 6 targets – related voluntary standards
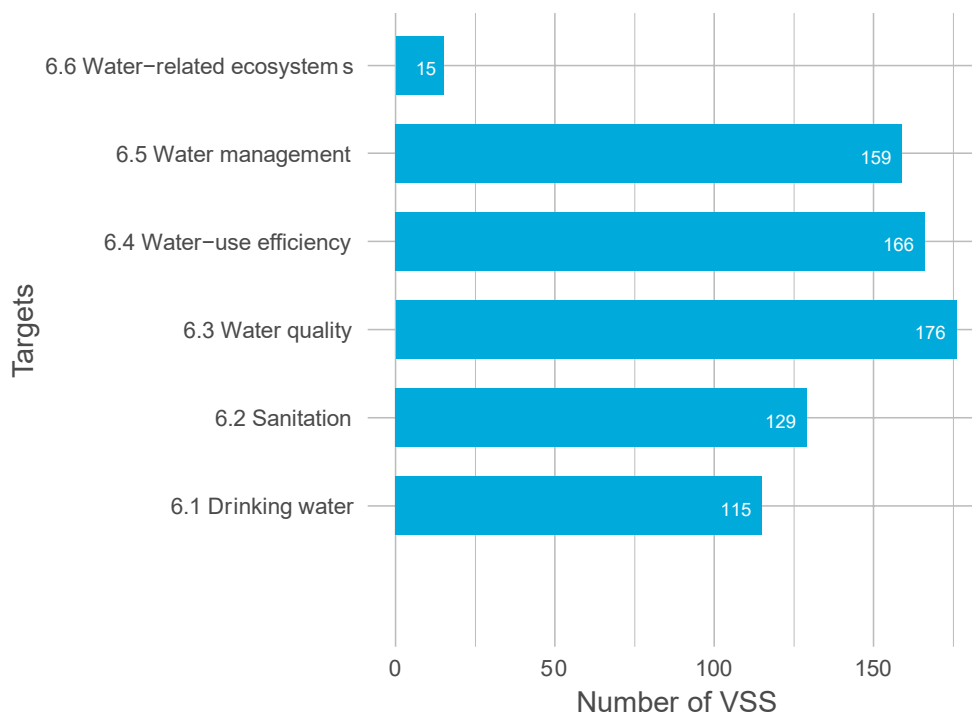
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Focus on two targets; multiple VSS with linkages for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

SDG 7 seeks to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Its three targets call for:

- Access to energy (7.1)
- Access to renewable energy (7.2);
- Doubling of energy efficiency (7.3).

While VSS do not cover target 7.1, which calls for universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, there are standards linked to the other two targets (Figure 11). There are 108 VSS with links to target 7.3, which calls for improved energy efficiency. Seventy VSS are linked to target 7.2, which calls for substantial increases in the share of renewable energy (e.g., solar energy, hydropower, biofuels) in the global energy mix.

Figure 11   SDG 7 targets – related voluntary standards
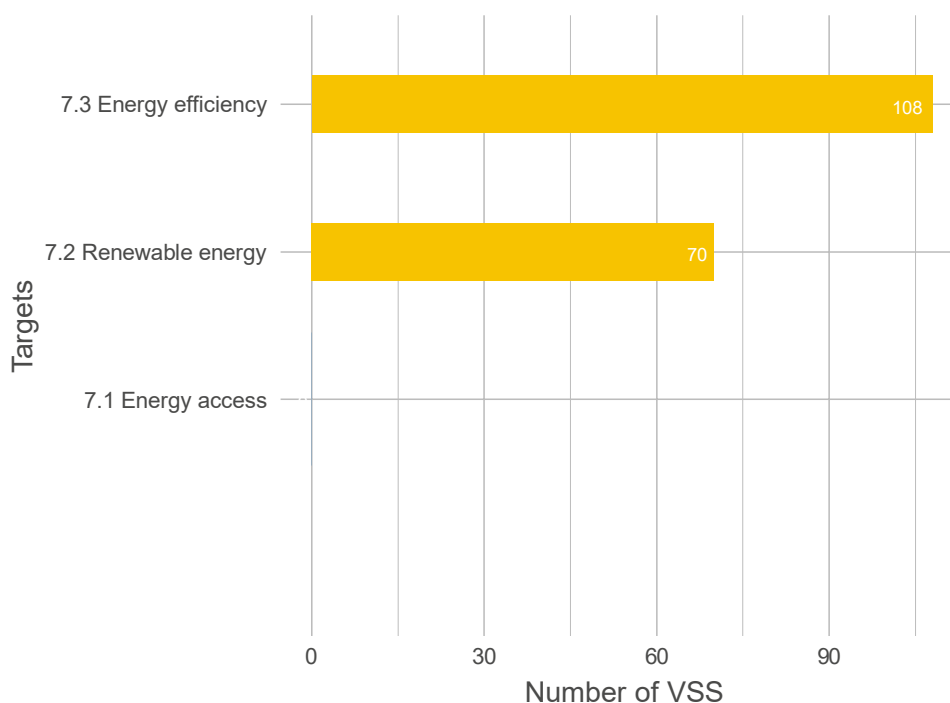
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Variation across targets; many VSS with linkages for resource efficiency and labour rights.

SDG 8 sets ten targets to promote decent work and enhance economic performance. These call for:

- Sustained economic growth (8.1);

- Increased levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (8.2);

- Development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation (8.3);

- Resource efficiency in consumption and production (8.4);

- Full and productive employment and decent work for all (8.5);

- Reducing the proportion of youth not in employment, education and training (8.6);

- Eradicating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking and worst forms of child labour (8.7);

- Labour rights and safe and secure working environments (8.8);

- Sustainable tourism (8.9);

- Stronger capacity of domestic financial institutions to expand access to banking (8.10).

Figure 12 shows that while overall there is much overlap between VSS and SDG 8, not all targets are covered. The high number of links mainly reflects targets 8.4 on resource efficiency in consumption and production and 8.8 on labour rights and safe working environments. For example, there are 210 VSS that seek to promote resource efficiency by demanding environmental management instruments. Moreover, there are 199 VSS related to labour rights and working conditions, often referencing standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO).[22]

There is also a relatively high number of VSS that link to SDG 8 targets 8.1 on economic growth, 8.7 on forced labour, human trafficking and child labour and 8.6 on youth employment. For instance, VSS requirements regarding support for economic development of local communities can help spur growth and contribute to achieving target 8.1. VSS requirements regarding forced labour and child labour can contribute to attaining target 8.7 and VSS criteria for hiring and employing young workers can help promote target 8.6.

VSS do not cover the other SDG 8 targets – 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.9.and 8.10. This is mainly due to the nature of those targets. For example, strengthening the capacity of domestic financial institutions (8.10) is beyond the scope of VSS. There are a number of tourism-related VSS in the ITC Standards Map database with requirements that overlap with targets 8.1,8.4, 8.7, 8.9. However, there are no VSS requirements in the analysed sample that relate specifically to target 8.9 because it refers to the development of policies that promote sustainable tourism. Given that VSS can only contribute very indirectly to technological innovation (8.2), economic development (8.3) and full employment (8.5), there was no significant link found.

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[22] Marx, A., Brando, N., & Lein, B. (2017). Strengthening Labour Rights Provisions in Bilateral Trade Agreements: Making the Case for Voluntary Sustainability Standards. *Global Policy, 8*(S3), 78-88.

Figure 12   SDG 8 targets – related voluntary standards
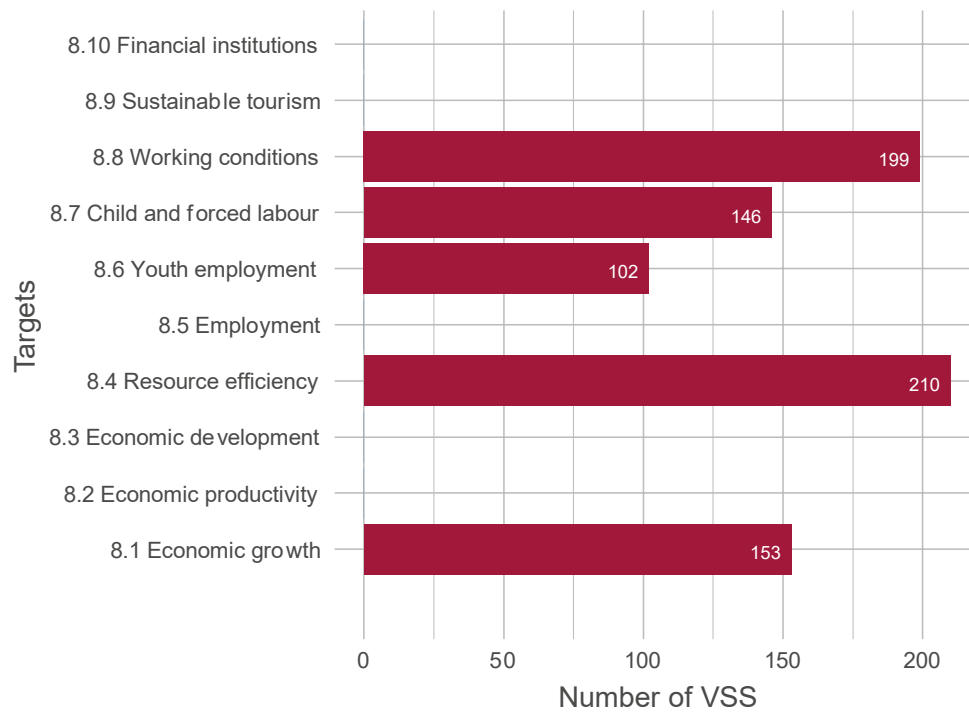
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Focus on a few targets; multiple VSS with linkages for upgrading and retrofitting industries to make them sustainable and some for infrastructure.

SDG 9 focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. It contains five targets on:

- Developing sustainable infrastructure (9.1);

- Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrialization and raising the industry's share of employment and gross domestic product (9.2);

- Increasing access to finance for small enterprises (9.3);

- Upgrading and retrofitting industries to make them sustainable (9.4);

- Enhancing scientific research and innovation and upgrading technological capabilities (9.5).

There are 108 VSS with requirements that correspond to 9.4 (Figure 13). For example, VSS requirements to minimize air pollution from textiles production can contribute to achieving target 9.4 by retrofitting the industry to make it more sustainable. There are also 51 VSS that entail requirements related to infrastructure, for example transport, that can contribute to attaining target 9.1.

Figure 13   SDG 9 targets – related voluntary standards
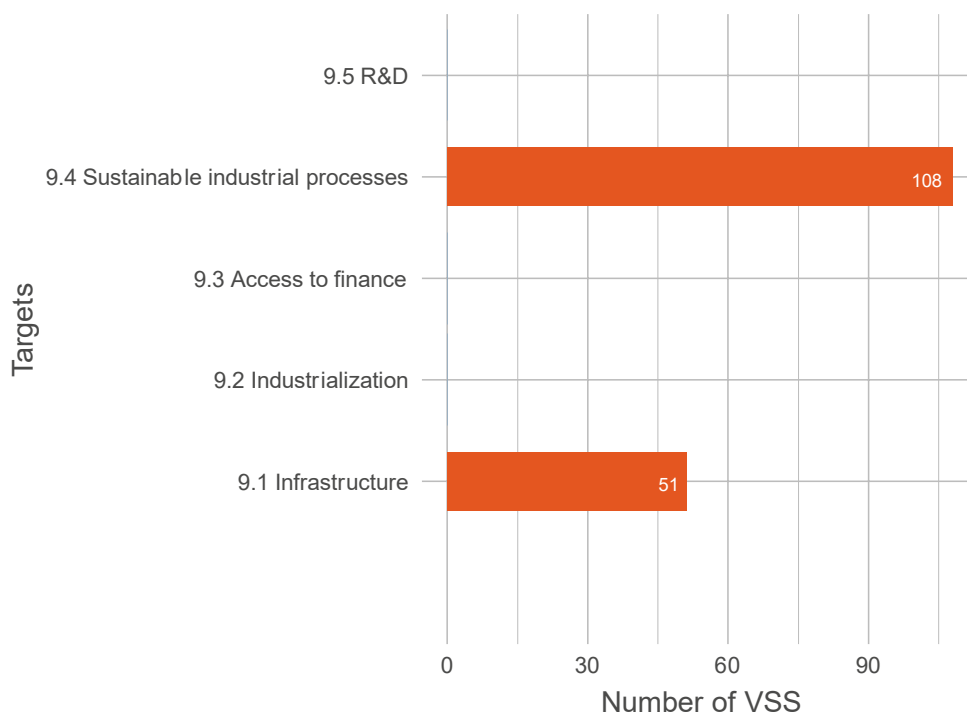
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Focus on one target; multiple VSS with linkages for social, economic, and political inclusion but also several disconnects regarding SDG 10.

The objective of SDG 10 is to reduce inequality within and among states. To this end, the SDG's seven main targets focus on:

- Achieving and sustaining income growth for the bottom 40% (10.1);

- Empowering and promoting social, economic and political inclusion (10.2);

- Ensuring equal opportunities and equality of outcomes (10.3);

- Adopting policies for greater equality (10.4);

- improving regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions (10.5);

- Enhancing representation for developing countries in global economic and financial institutions (10.6);

- Facilitating safe and responsible migration and mobility of people (10.7).

There are comparatively few linkages between VSS and SDG 10 targets (Figure 14). Only one target (10.2) is covered by VSS schemes, although this involves a fairly large number of standards (112) having one or more requirements that address issues of social, economic and political inclusion.

There are two main reasons for this disconnect. Firstly, although some voluntary standards systems have started to tackle economic inequalities (such as by calling for a living wage for workers),[23] VSS have long been criticized for not paying sufficient attention to such questions, which are central to SDG 10.[24] Many VSS focus on regulatory issues and 'tick-the-box auditing', rather than structural and redistributive issues.

Secondly, SDG 10 and its targets mainly address governments and the design of public policies and institutions. As private initiatives, VSS cannot cover such issues. For example, although questions of inclusiveness and fair representation for developing country actors arise in setting up and monitoring voluntary standards,[25] reform of global economic and financial institutions cannot be achieved through these instruments (target 6 of SDG 10). Likewise, VSS are not relevant in regulating global financial markets or designing policies on migration, fiscal issues, wages and social protection, addressed in targets 10.5 and 10.7.

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[23] One example is the Global Living Wage Coalition of leading VSS systems, https://www.globallivingwage.org/.
[24] Bennett 2018. Voluntary Sustainability Standards: A Squandered Opportunity to Improve Workers' Wages. *Sustainable Development, 26*(1), 65-82.
[25] Schleifer, P., Fiorini, M., & Fransen, L. (2019). Missing the bigger picture: a population-level analysis of transnational private governance organizations active in the global South. *Ecological Economics*, *164*, 106362.

Figure 14   SDG 10 targets – related voluntary standards
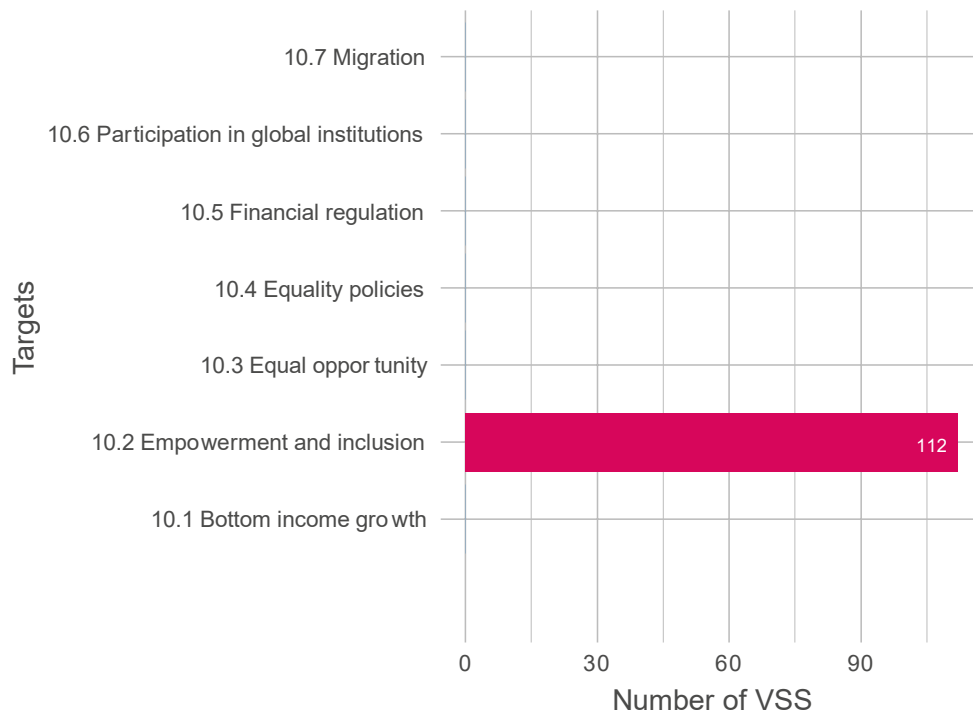
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Variation across the targets; multiple VSS with linkages for better air quality.

SDG 11 recognizes the importance of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It sets seven targets that call for:

- Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing (11.1);

- Access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems (11.2);

- Inclusive and sustainable urbanization (11.3);

- Protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage (11.4);

- Reduced impacts caused by disasters (11.5);

- Reduced environmental impacts of cities (11.6);

- Improved access to green and public spaces (11.7).

There are no VSS in the ITC Standards Map that address transport systems (11.2), the impacts of disasters (11.5) and access to green and public spaces (11.7) in relevant ways (Figure 15). However, there are 181 VSS with links to target 11.6, which seeks to reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including improved air quality and municipal and other waste management. There are also 107 VSS covering target 11.1, which calls for access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services. Moreover, there are 90 VSS that link with target 11.4. on protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage. Finally, there are 68 VSS covering target 11.3, which seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

Figure 15   SDG 11 targets – related voluntary standards
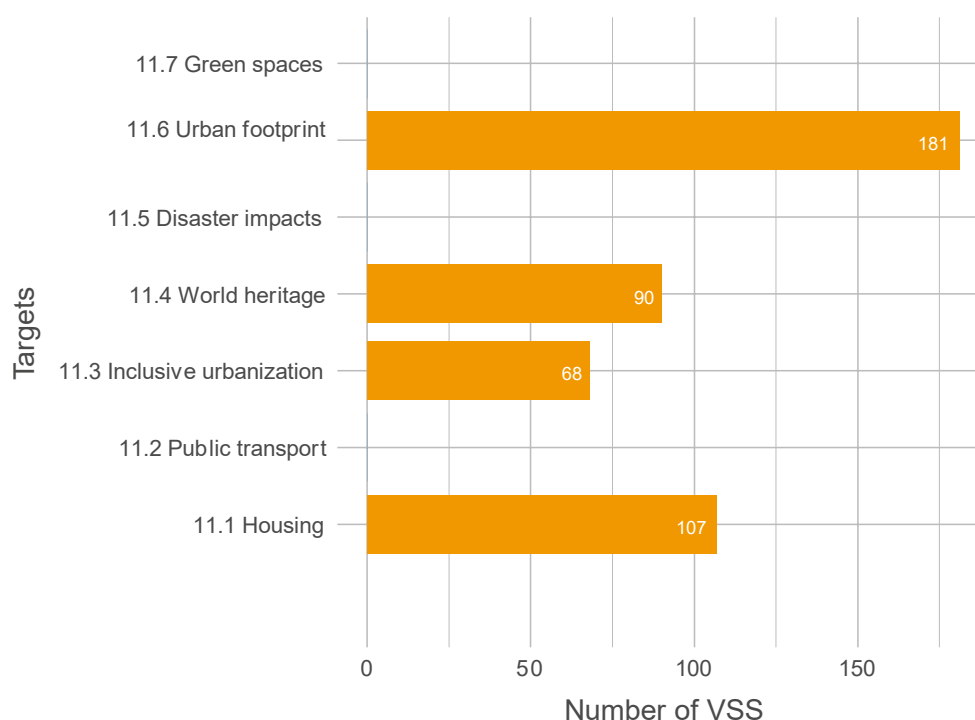
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 12: Responsible Production and Consumption

Variation across the targets; many VSS with linkages for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes and other dimensions of sustainable production and consumption.

SDG 12 defines eight targets that call for:

- Implementing the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (12.1);

- Achieving efficient use of natural resources (12.2);

- Reducing food waste (12.3);

- Achieving environmentally sound waste management (12.4);

- Reducing waste generation (12.5);

- Encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle (12.6);

- Promoting sustainable public procurement practices (12.7);

- Ensuring awareness of sustainable lifestyles (12.8).

Six of these eight targets are covered by VSS (Figure 16). The number of VSS with linkages is highest for targets 12.4, 12.2 and 12.5. There are 204 VSS that link to target 12.4, which focuses on environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes. Moreover, there are 181 VSS covering target 12.2 on sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. In addition, there are 173 VSS that have links to target 12.5, which calls for reduced waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. There are 110 VSS with requirements that can contribute to achieving target 12.8, which calls for promoting awareness of sustainable lifestyles among citizens.

The ITC Standards Map also includes 67 VSS with requirements that are relevant for target 12.6, for example through criteria on sustainability reporting by companies. There are 13 VSS with requirements that can help attain target 12.3, which seeks to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

There are no VSS directly relevant to achieving targets 12.1 (national programmes on sustainable consumption and production) and 12.7 (sustainable public procurement). VSS can contribute to implementing green procurement policies (such as the EU public procurement directive) and are relevant for national programmes on sustainable consumption and production. However, their requirements do not promote specific public procurement practices or address such national programmes and thus do not entail SDG linkages as defined in this report.

Figure 16   SDG 12 targets – related voluntary standards
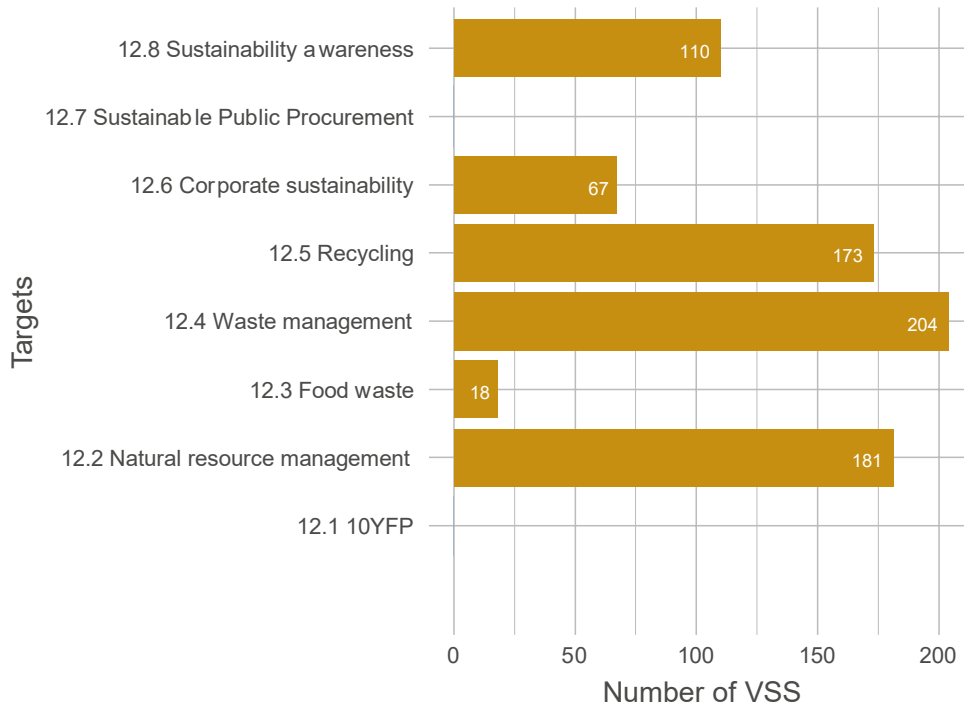
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Focus on one target; some VSS with linkages for climate adaptation but several disconnects concerning SDG 13.

SDG 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It seeks to implement the commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and deliver on the Green Climate Fund. SDG 13 sets three targets that focus on:

- Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (13.1);

- Integrating climate change measures into national policies (13.2);

- Improving education and awareness-raising on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (13.3).

Many VSS are of relevance – at least indirectly – to fighting climate change or adapting to its impacts. However, as SDG 13 targets (particularly 13.2) mainly address governments, close links with voluntary standards are not significant in number (Figure 17). There are 19 VSS that link to target 13.1 by calling for climate adaptation activities.

Several VSS requirements loosely connect to targets 13.2 and 13.3. But as the analysis used for this report does not define the correspondence between such requirements and SDGs as high, these do not qualify as linkages. For instance, requirements for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions could be viewed as relevant to target 13.3. However, these overlaps do not qualify as high correspondence because quantifying greenhouse gas emissions does not necessarily entail more transparency for consumers, let alone the reduction of these emissions.

Figure 17   SDG 13 targets – related voluntary standards
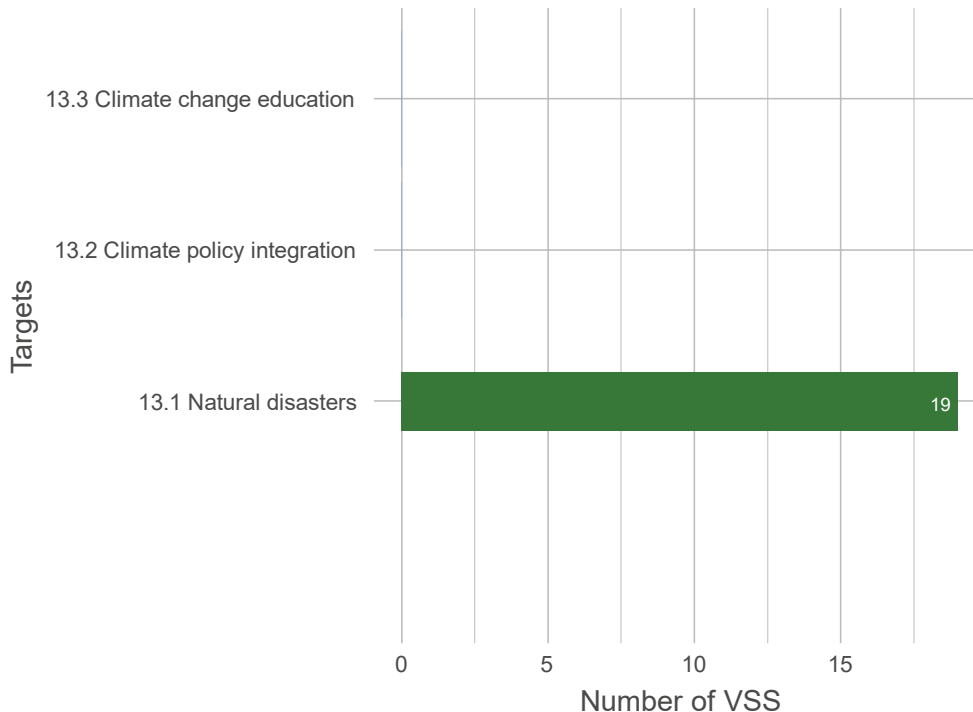
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

Focus on a few targets; some VSS with linkages for ocean acidification and fishing.

SDG 14 seeks to conserve and sustainably use the world's oceans for sustainable development. It contains seven targets that call for:

- Reducing marine pollution (14.1);

- Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2);

- Minimizing ocean acidification (14.3);

- Regulating harvesting and eliminating overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (14.4);

- Conserving coastal and marine areas (14.5);

- Prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies (14.6);

- Increasing the economic benefits from marine resources for small island developing States (14.7).

The mapping conducted for this report identifies relatively few links between VSS and SDG 14. However, it is necessary to qualify this finding. The lack of linkages with targets 14.1, 14.5 and 14.7 is mostly due to the fact that their policy objectives are outside the scope of private governance systems. They mainly address public policies, such as the prohibiting of subsidies or the improving of economic benefits for small island developing States.

There are overlaps regarding 14.4 (overfishing), such as requirements on wild catch fisheries. While the number of such links is small compared with other SDGs, there are only a limited number of fishery-focused VSS in the ITC database. However, there are several important fishery-focused VSS, that could contribute in the drive to attain SDG 14. Examples include the Marine Stewardship Council and Friends of the Sea. As a result, policymakers and businesses have the opportunity to use VSS to create synergies in this area.

There are also VSS included in the ITC Standards Map that focus on aquaculture production (e.g. Aquaculture Stewardship Council, Global Aquaculture Alliance). While these schemes and their standards do not address problems of overfishing directly, promoting sustainable practices in aquaculture can reduce demand for fish caught in the wild and hence pressures on global fish stocks.

There are multiple VSS-SDG linkages for target 14.3 (ocean acidification), involving requirements to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to ocean acidification, even though these standards may not mention oceans specifically. Therefore, the scope for voluntary initiatives to contribute to achieving SDG 14 is greater than suggested by the number of linkages identified in this report.

Figure 18   SDG 14 targets – related voluntary standards
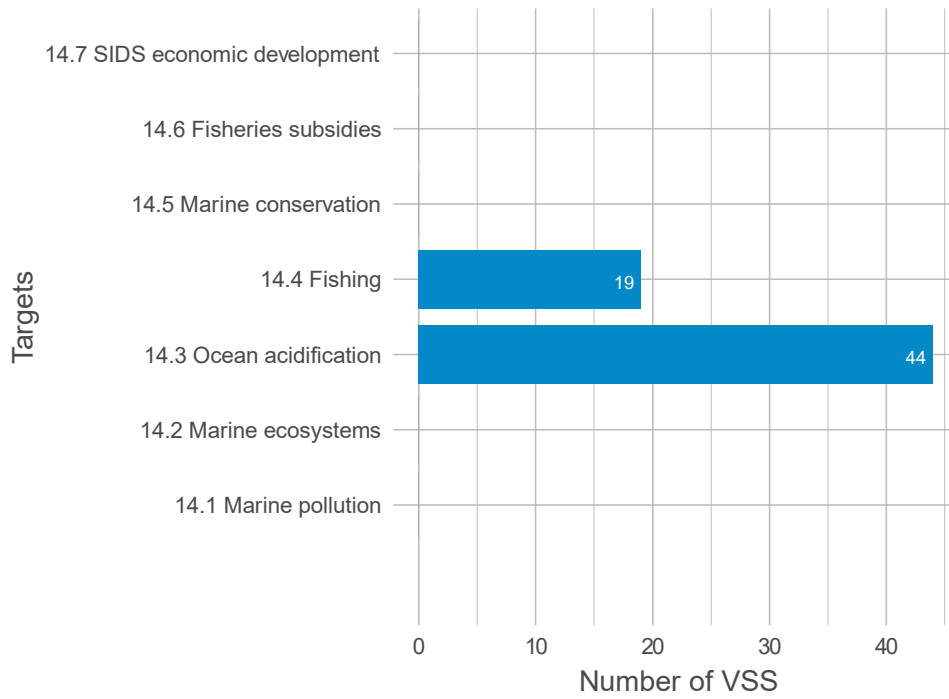
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 15: Life on Land

Variation across targets; multiple VSS with linkages for terrestrial ecosystems, restoring degraded land and conserving biodiversity.

SGD 15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. It consists of nine targets on:

- Conserving, restoring and using sustainably terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems (15.1);

- Promoting sustainable forest management (15.2);

- Combatting desertification and restoring degraded land and soil (15.3);

- Conserving mountain ecosystems (15.4);

- Reducing natural habitats' degradation including protection of biodiversity and threatened species (15.5);

- Promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of genetic resources and access to such resources (15.6);

- Ending poaching and trafficking of protected species (15.7);

- Preventing the introduction and reducing the impact of invasive alien species (15.8);

- Integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning (15.9).

There are links between VSS requirements and six of the nine SDG 15 targets (Figure 19), namely 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.8 and 15.9. Examples of relevant requirements are criteria for monitoring and protecting high conservation value areas (linked to 15.1 and 15.5).

Targets 15.1 (terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems), 15.3 (desertification and soil degradation) and 15.5 (biodiversity) have the highest number of VSS with at least one relevant requirement (125, 122 and 114 respectively). Requirements linked to other targets (invasive alien species, forests and ecosystem and biodiversity values) are covered by fewer schemes.

While there are relatively few VSS linked directly to target 15.2 (forest protection and management), there are a number of forest-focused voluntary standards, such as the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, that are relevant to this target.[26] Therefore, the private and the public sector have several VSS they can use to work together in protecting and maintaining forests, helping to achieve SDG 15.

The mapping for this report found no linkages with a specific focus on mountain ecosystems (15.4). Similarly, VSS requirements in the Standards Map database do not explicitly address access to, and equitable exploitation of, genetic resources (15.6) or poaching and trafficking of protected species or illegal wildlife products (15.7).

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[26] For example, see Pattberg, P. (2005). What role for private rule-making in global environmental governance? Analysing the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, *5* (2), 175-189.

Figure 19   SDG 15 targets – related voluntary standards
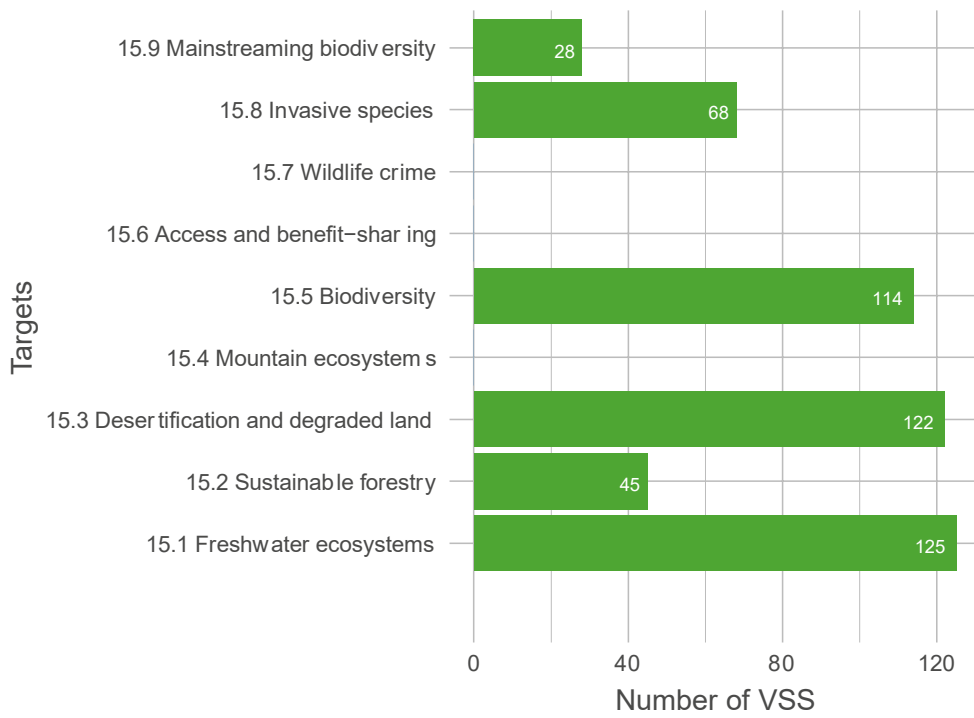
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Focus on a few targets; multiple VSS with linkages for reducing violence.

The focus of SDG 16 is on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice and building strong institutions. With its 10 targets, SDG 16 covers:

- Violence and related deaths (16.1);

- Violence against children (16.2);

- Weak rule of law and low access to justice (16.3);

- Organized crime (16.4);

- Corruption and bribery (16.5);

- Lack of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (16.6);

- Bad governance in the form of unresponsive, non-inclusive, non-participatory and non-representative decision-making (16.7);

- Low participation of developing countries to global governance (16.8);

- Missing legal identities (16.9);

- Low access to information and violation of fundamental freedoms (16.10).

The links between VSS requirements and SDG 16 involve only a few of these targets (Figure 20). This is to be expected given that most of the issues addressed by SDG 16 relate to public governance at national or international levels.

Nonetheless, VSS can play a role in reaching some SDG 16 targets. Requirements regarding record-keeping practices (e.g. concerning fraud, grievances and historical fines), policies and procedures to address workers' grievances or anti-bribery requirements can complement public policies that promote justice and fight corruption. This report's mapping reveals links between VSS and targets 16.1 (violence), 16.3 (rule of law and access to justice) and 16.5 (corruption and bribery).[27] Figure 20 shows that 147 VSS cover at least one requirement relevant for target 16.1; 99 VSS connect with target 16.3 and 64 with target 16.5.

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[27] Concerning target 16.2 on violence against and abuse and exploitation of children, it should be noted that we recorded these linkages in the context of SGD 8, target 8.7 on child labour, as this seems to be the most suitable target to account for these issues against the background of VSS.

Figure 20   SDG 16 targets – related voluntary standards
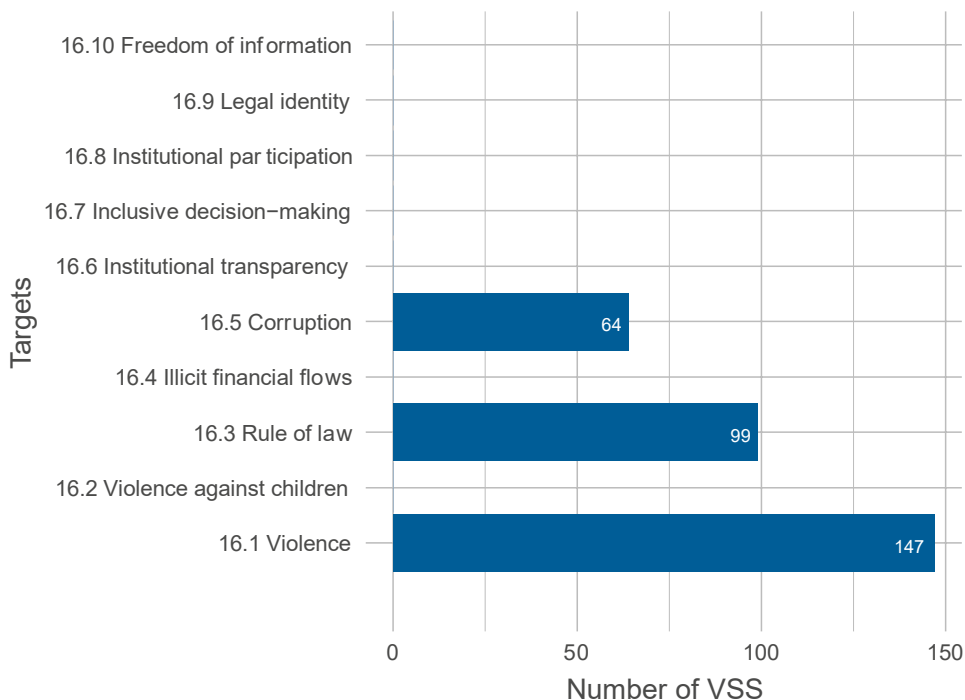
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

A varied picture

As the data presented above shows, there are multiple linkages but the number of VSS that link to SDGs and their targets varies considerably. With 55 SDG targets covered by VSS, there remains considerable potential for stronger alignment. These results, however, are based on a strict definition of linkage. If a broader definition were used, the number of VSS covering the SDGs and their targets would be substantially higher.

While in some cases a different design of VSS requirements could help create more synergies with SDGs, the key reason for lack of overlap is the focus of many SDG targets on action by governments or other public bodies. The fact that voluntary standards mainly concern the private sector limits their ability to contribute to those aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Despite this caveat, here are multiple SDG targets that are covered by more than 100, if not 200, VSS. This suggests that VSS as a private mode of governance have considerable potential to contribute to achieving these SDG targets by complementing the role of government actions and public policies.

Links at country and sector levels

In addition to analysing linkages with the 17 goals and their targets, it is useful to take a closer look at the geographical and sectoral distribution of VSS. This helps to shed light on where relevant VSS are available to help achieve sustainable development objectives. To illustrate, this section focuses on SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), which this report has identified as the SDG with the highest number of linkages (Figure 3). Appendix V contains tables with information about the geographical spread of VSS for the other SDGs.

Figure 21 shows the number of VSS with linkages to SDG 8 by country. The map only includes VSS that have an active presence in a given country. For certification schemes, this means that the standards system has at least one economic operator certified in that country. For SDG 8, North America and Europe are the areas with the most relevant voluntary sustainability standards, with South America and Asia also recording very high availability. In contrast, there are relatively fewer VSS linked to SDG 8 in parts of Africa and the Middle East. Yet even in the countries with lower coverage, there are many active VSS.

As can be seen from Table A3 (Appendix V), this is the case for most other SDGs. VSS relevant to the SDGs are widely available throughout the world. Notable exceptions are SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which due to the formulation of their targets have few VSS linkages.

Figure 21   VSS with links to SDG 8, by country
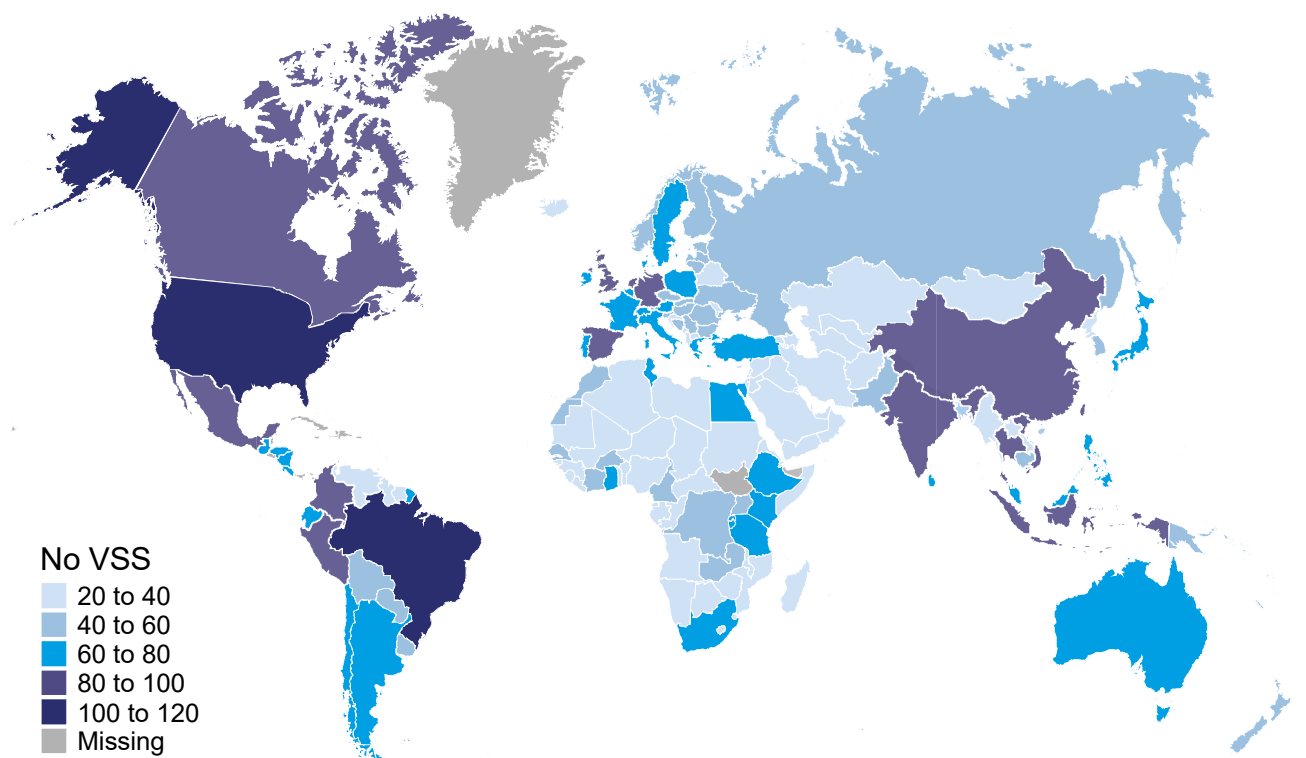
The five countries with the highest number of VSS relevant to SDG 8 are the United States, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Mexico. For example, in Indonesia, South-East Asia's largest emerging economy, there are 73 VSS linked to target 1 (economic growth), 89 VSS linked to target 4 (resource efficiency), 59 VSS linked to target 6 (youth employment, education and training), 70 VSS linked to target 7 (forced labour), and 90 VSS linked target 8 (labour rights and safe working environments).[28] In Brazil, South America's largest emerging economy, the availability of VSS linked to SDG 8 is very similar: target 1 (76 VSS), target 4 (96 VSS), target 6 (61 VSS), target 7 (75 VSS) and target 8 (95 VSS).

In other countries, the availability of VSS relevant to SDG 8 is somewhat lower. For example, in Angola, one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest emerging economies, there are 25 VSS linked to target 1 (economic growth), 27 VSS linked to target 4 (resource efficiency), 19 VSS linked to target 6 (youth employment, education and training), 21 VSS linked to target 7 (forced labour) and 28 VSS linked target 8 (labour rights and safe working environments). This does not necessarily mean that the potential of VSS to contribute to achieving SDG 8 is lower in Angola, given that the degree to which VSS serve as implementation mechanisms depends on a variety of factors. However, in Angola, everything else being equal, decision makers in the public and private sector wanting to use VSS have a smaller pool of programmes to choose from than their counterparts in other countries.

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[28] As described in the previous section, SDG8's targets 2, 3, 5 are not covered by any VSS.

Box 3 describes how Costa Rica has coordinated efforts to work with the public and private sector to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As part of its National Country Brand strategy, Essential Costa Rica, this country has developed a business evaluation protocol based on 18 competitiveness and sustainability standards, including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Neutral Carbon, SA8000, INTE380101 and others. The scheme described below is an example of how a government committed to progress in achieving the sustainable development goals can include the private sector. It provides companies, including small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), with a roadmap for using tools such as sustainability standards to implement sustainable practices, while recognizing their efforts and translating them into contributions to the national development agenda.

Box 3   Costa Rica's integrated efforts on the SDG agenda

After a robust consultation process involving more than 1500 public, private and academic stakeholders, Costa Rica in 2016 became the first country to sign a national agreement on achieving the SDGs.

Costa Rica's commitment to sustainable development started more than 60 years ago. Today, because of public policies that transcend government interests, Costa Rica has made sustainability the nation's trademark. Its territory is home to 6% of the world's biodiversity, and approximately 99% of the country's electricity is generated from renewable sources. With the abolition of the army in 1948, Costa Rica 'exchanged weapons for books', promoting well-being within it population.

In 2013, Costa Rica launched its national brand strategy Essential Costa Rica, which aligns with the country's values and mission to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Essential Costa Rica has developed a business evaluation protocol based on 18 competitiveness and sustainability standards, including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Neutral Carbon, SA8000, INTE380101, and others. Nearly 560 companies have committed to pursuing the Essential Costa Rica licence, most of which are small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The Essential Costa Rica licensing programme sets a roadmap for commercial businesses and the tourism sector to commit to the country brand values, including sustainability. Its sustainability business protocol is recognized in the ITC Standards Map platform, where:

- 90 of 270 Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) in this database are actively operating in Costa Rica.

- 80 VSS operating in Costa Rica are linked to at least one of the SDGs.

Sustainability criteria included in the Essential Costa Rica business protocol are strongly linked to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). (The assessment is based on analysis for this report.)

The Essential Costa Rica licensing programme is in line with the country's aim to build an integrated country brand committed to the sustainable development agenda, with companies (including SMEs) joining the effort to address sustainability issues.

For Costa Rica, collaborative and coordinated country-wide sustainability efforts – following the Essential Costa Rica protocol – include company actions for sustainability. Private actors and the government all need to act hand in hand to complement each other and generate changes towards a more accomplished sustainable agenda. This vision is making Costa Rica become a world benchmark for sustainability.

Source: Essential Costa Rica.

In addition to geographical variation, the availability of VSS linked to SDG 8 VSS differs by industry sectors and product fields. The number of VSS is highest in the agriculture sector by a significant margin (Figure 22). This is followed by textiles and garments, consumer products and processed foods. Taken together, the fishery and aquaculture sectors also are covered by a large number of VSS that link to SDG 8. Within these sectors, certain products and commodities stand out. For example, in the agriculture sector, there are 64 SDG 8-linked VSS active in the soy sector, 62 in coffee and 60 in cocoa. As is the case at country level, in these sectors and product fields policymakers and business leaders have a large number of VSS to choose from. See Table A4 (Appendix V) for the sectoral availability of VSS for other SDGs.

Figure 22   Voluntary standards related to SDG 8, by sector
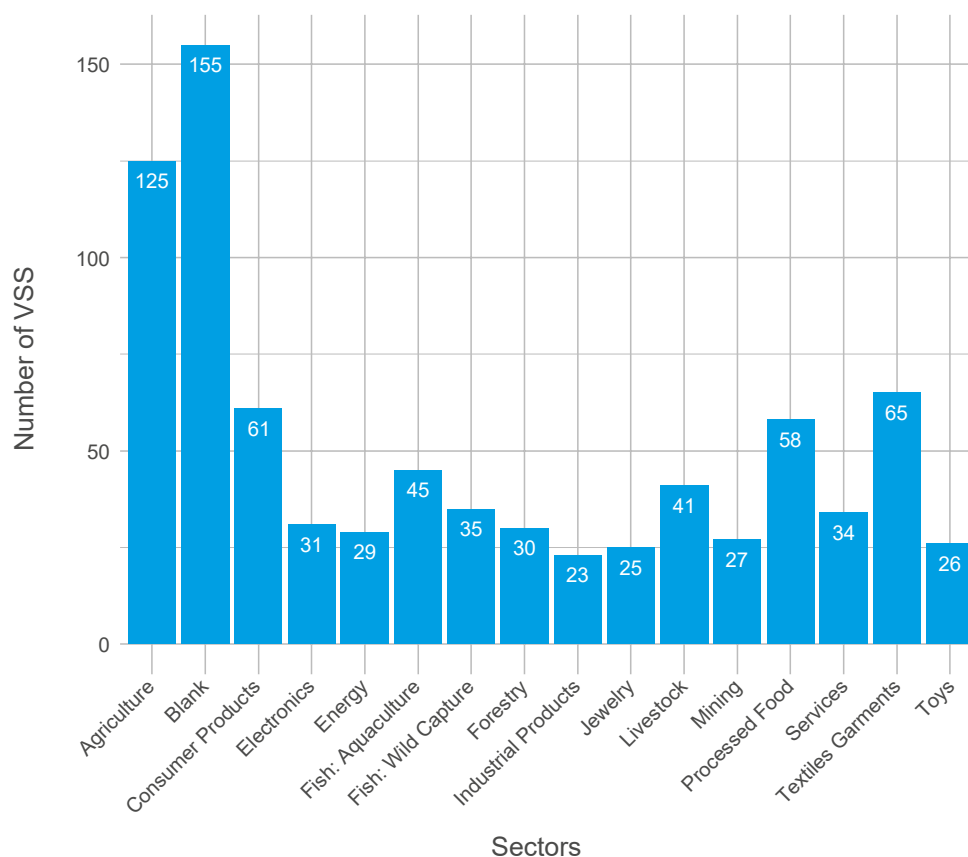
Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

Chapter 4
Charting the way forward

Today, companies use voluntary standards to govern risks in global supply chains. A growing proportion of global production in agriculture, forestry, electronics and other industries comply with some sustainability standards.

Voluntary standards cover varying environmental, social and governance-related requirements, which the VSS holder – most often a private company – is obliged to fulfill. Through these standards, the private sector can contribute to more sustainable business practices and more broadly to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

The extent to which VSS align with individual SDGs, however, has not been systematically studied until now. For the first time, this publication has systematically analysed interlinkages between 232 VSS and the 17 SDGs and their targets.

Given the widespread use of VSS by private sector actors, and as the United Nations has identified the private sector as a vital partner for achieving the SDGs, an informed discussion about the VSS-SDG alignment is long overdue.

The results show that the 'worlds' of private sustainability standards and the SDGs overlap to a significant degree. Voluntary standards relevant to SDGs are widely available among countries and economic sectors.

Two 200 or more voluntary standars are linked to:

- SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

- SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

- SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

- SDG 12 - Responsible Production and Consumption

The standards are also relevant for other SDGs.

Surprisingly, the mapping carried out for this report found few linkages for SDG 13 (Climate Action). This is mainly due to the fact that SDG 13 targets focus on the role of governments. However, this does not mean that users of VSS cannot – and should not – contribute to climate action.

The analysis in this report suggests that voluntary standards can assist in achieving the SDGs. By adopting voluntary standards, the private sector can complement governments and international organizations in the pursuit of sustainable development. There are many overlaps between the landscape of VSS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

However, there are caveats.

First, the alignment of voluntary standards and development goals is but one element in a complex debate on the effectiveness of VSS. To understand the full picture, it is necessary to consider how private sector designs and implements its actions 'on the ground'.

Second, higher numbers of VSS-SDG linkages do not necessarily translate into greater impact. Other research has suggested that the proliferation of VSS in some sectors and countries can lead to adverse competition between programmes, and transaction costs and trade barriers for producers.[29]

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[29] See Schleifer, P., Fiorini, M., & Fransen, L. (2019). Missing the bigger picture: a population-level analysis of transnational private governance organizations active in the global South. *Ecological Economics*, *164*, 106362.

Third, VSS can have unintended consequences. For example, the need to comply with VSS can put marginalized actors to a disadvantage – most notably smallholders, who often lack the necessary organizational capacity and knowledge.[30]

At the same time, VSS schemes can play a role for the 2030 Agenda in ways that go beyond their requirements. For example, standard bodies can contribute to achieving the SDGs by providing training and education programs, by raising consumer awareness or demanding political change.

To address and prevent potential adverse effects, organizations like ITC and UNFSS advocate bringing together governments, standard organizations and businesses to maximize private sector contribution to sustainability goals.

While their contribution to SDGs might be intrinsically worthy and result in an improved reputation, there is a direct business case for private sector actors to engage in voluntary standards schemes. Companies can realize cost efficiencies by applying resource-efficient and circular practices, increasing business resilience by meeting buyer (and at times investor) requirements, while anticipating stricter regulations.

To create more of these win-win situations –a business case for sustainable practices that contribute to the SDGs – this report offers a series of recommendations.

For governments

- **Build an ecosystem for businesses to produce and trade sustainably.** To operate sustainably and further contribute to the SDGs, companies need an environment that offers suitable and accessible policies, incentives, services and solutions.

- **Develop a sustainability policy and regulatory framework by integrating sustainability issues into national/sectoral production and trade strategies.** When trying to advance towards specific SDGs, use this report to identify the VSS active in the country, and the sectors they cover and identify the ones most connected to the SDGs and their targets.

- **Engage with national business support organizations and the private sector, to understand better the challenges they face when trying to produce and trade sustainably**. Then, use the VSS that are most connected with the SDGs and the institutional network to promote collaborative and pre-competitive efforts of private sector actors to move towards more sustainable trade.

For business support organizations

- **Understand country-specific priorities** to align with the national strategy on advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **Identify the most relevant voluntary standards** for international markets targeted by clients.

- **Assist clients to understand the links** between the sustainable practices they implement through voluntary standards and the SDGs. Using this report can help provide clients with the basis for identifying how they can contribute to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

- **Develop services focused on fostering sustainability** to make the overall trade ecosystem more supportive of companies adopting sustainability practices. At the core should be advancing efforts of the private sector to attain the SDGs.

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[30] For example, see Hutabarat, S., Slingerland, M., & Dries, L. (2019). Explaining the "Certification Gap" for Different Types of Oil Palm Smallholders in Riau Province, Indonesia. *The Journal of Environment & Development*, *28*(3), 253-281. See also Brandi, C., Cabani, T., Hosang, C., Schirmbeck, S., Westermann, L., & Wiese, H. (2015). Sustainability standards for palm oil: challenges for smallholder certification under the RSPO. *The Journal of Environment & Development*, *24*(3), 292-314.

For companies

- **Use this report to understand the links** between the sustainable practices implemented through VSS and the SDGs. This can set the basis for measuring the potential contribution at company level to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **Communicate to partners and potential clients** the findings on links between VSS implemented by the company and SDGs. Commit to exploring how to increase alignment in the future.

For standards bodies

- **Use this report to better align VSS with the SDGs** and contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda. While there are multiple linkages, with 55 SDG targets being covered by VSS, there remains considerable untapped potential for stronger alignment. A different design of VSS requirements could help create more synergies with SDGs. In addition, complementary measures that promote sustainable development can help to achieve the SDGs.

- **Improve factors that contribute to the effectiveness of VSS**, including market update and robust verification.

Appendices

Appendix I   Connections between SDG 5 and VSS requirements

Table A1   Connections between SDG 5 and VSS requirements

SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Sustainability Requirement	Precision	Correspondence
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	Criteria related specifically to non-discrimination based on gender	high	high
		Gender issues: general principle	low	medium
		Criteria relating to gender policies and best practices	medium	high
		Criteria relating to factoring gender considerations in impacts and risk assessments of production	medium	medium
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Criteria relating to sexual exploitation / harassment	high	high
		Policies that prohibit the use of physical violence, intimidation, etc.	medium	high
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Specific criteria for maternity/paternity leave days	medium	medium
		Gender policies – development assistance policies which promote the economic role of women	high	high
		Gender policies – family-friendly policies to increase the labour force participation of women	medium	medium
		Specific criteria for special leave (sickness, marriage, paternity, family leave)	medium	medium

SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Sustainability Requirement	Precision	Correspondence
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	Criteria for ensuring participation of women/minorities in management /leadership positions	high	high
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Gender policies – increased access to finance and support services for women entrepreneurs	high	high
		Criteria relating to women's rights at work	medium	high
		Gender policies – development assistance policies which promote the economic role of women	high	high
		Gender policies – upgrading the status of and wages for traditional areas of women's work	high	high
		Gender policies – incentives to women to develop their careers (e.g. specific training)	high	high
		Gender policies – family-friendly policies to increase the labour force participation of women	high	high
		Gender policies at work – general principles	low	medium
		Criteria relating to factoring gender equity considerations in stakeholder engagement process	medium	high

Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

Appendix II   Additional figures on VSS and SDGs

Figure A1 shows the number of VSS with linkages across the SDGs and compares the definition of linkages used in this report, counting only high correspondence and high/medium precision VSS requirements-SDG targets linkages (see b) with a definition of linkages that considers all levels of precision and correspondence (a). As Figure A1 (a) depicts, if such a looser definition of linkage is used, there are VSS with linkages for each of the 17 SDGs (rather than merely for 16 SDGs as in the case of b).

Figure A1   Number of VSS with linkages, by SDGs
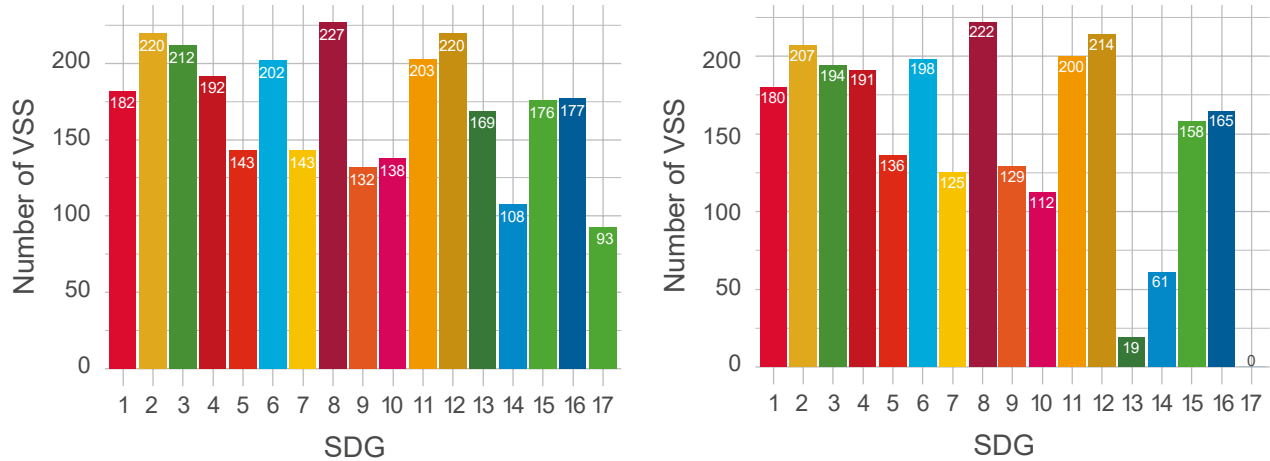
(a) Counting all VSS requirements-SDG targets linkages.

(b) Number of VSS with linkages, counting high correspondence and high/medium precision VSS requirements-SDG targets linkages.

Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

Appendix III   The SDGs and their targets

Goal 1.   End poverty in all its forms everywhere
1.1	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day
1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Goal 2.   End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
2.1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2.2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
2.3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
2.5	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

Goal 3.   Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
3.3	By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
3.4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

Goal 4.	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
4.1	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
4.2	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
4.3	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
4.4	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
4.5	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
4.6	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
4.7	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Goal 5.	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.6	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Goal 6.	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.2	By 2030, 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
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
6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Goal 7.	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Goal 8.	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Goal 9.	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
9.3	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
9.5	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage and local/municipal, type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	
12.1	Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
12.6	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
12.7	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts2	
13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
13.3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
14.1	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
14.3	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
14.4	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
14.5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
14.6	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
14.7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Goal 17. **Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**	
Finance	
17.1	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
17.2	Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
17.3	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.4	Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
17.5	Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries
Technology	
17.6	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
17.7	Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
17.8	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology
Capacity-building	
17.9	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
Trade	
17.10	Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
17.11	Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
17.12	Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access
Systemic issues	
Policy and institutional coherence	
17.13	Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
17.15	Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development
17.16	Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.19	By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Appendix IV Linkages at the level of individual VSS

The table below presents the list of private VSS included in the ITC Standards Map database and the proportion (%) of their sustainability requirements linked to each of the 17 SDG Goals. The linkage percentage was calculated based on the number of the sustainability requirement of the VSS being matched to each SDG Goal, divided by the total number of criteria (from the ITC Standards Map database) that have linkages to the correspondent SDG Goal.

Table A2   Linkages at the level of individual VSS

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
4C The Common Code for the Coffee Community	60%	62%	62%	63%	84%	71%	46%	68%	42%	77%	54%	57%	5%	9%	65%	92%
Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT) Ecolabel	8%	2%	14%	0%	0%	26%	13%	10%	14%	0%	17%	23%	5%	4%	0%	0%
ABVTEX Audits Program	56%	1%	18%	23%	36%	20%	0%	38%	14%	11%	25%	16%	5%	0%	0%	28%
Accredited Fish Farm Scheme	0%	11%	18%	3%	0%	26%	0%	5%	0%	0%	8%	9%	0%	31%	6%	0%
ADM Responsible Soybean Standard	32%	32%	37%	26%	26%	48%	13%	43%	14%	66%	31%	33%	33%	18%	61%	20%
Agricultura Sustentable Certificada	68%	20%	51%	33%	31%	46%	13%	47%	0%	55%	25%	32%	44%	4%	47%	16%
Alliance for Water Stewardship	12%	1%	18%	0%	0%	51%	0%	2%	0%	33%	14%	11%	5%	0%	1%	0%
Amaggi Responsible Soy Standard	64%	18%	25%	13%	26%	37%	20%	39%	0%	55%	22%	23%	5%	4%	47%	16%
amfori Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI) - Level 1 (Basic)	12%	8%	29%	13%	0%	37%	13%	9%	57%	0%	37%	34%	27%	9%	20%	4%
amfori Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI) - Level 2 (Advance)	8%	22%	25%	0%	0%	42%	20%	13%	42%	0%	34%	33%	22%	4%	39%	8%
amfori Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI) - Level 3 (Leading)	4%	5%	18%	10%	0%	42%	26%	6%	28%	11%	22%	22%	38%	4%	9%	8%
amfori BSCI	64%	0%	11%	33%	42%	11%	0%	44%	0%	22%	20%	9%	5%	0%	0%	48%
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Pangasius	52%	16%	29%	6%	26%	73%	20%	40%	14%	44%	31%	34%	11%	59%	34%	16%
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Salmon	36%	16%	25%	23%	26%	53%	6%	37%	0%	66%	25%	23%	22%	54%	39%	20%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Shrimps	44%	21%	33%	26%	52%	62%	6%	42%	28%	77%	51%	32%	11%	59%	44%	16%
Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Tilapia	28%	5%	22%	13%	15%	46%	6%	28%	0%	55%	20%	15%	11%	68%	33%	16%
Baseline Code - Global Coffee Platform (GCP)	20%	35%	18%	50%	36%	40%	20%	41%	14%	55%	31%	33%	5%	0%	36%	28%
Belgian Feed Association (BFA), formerly BEMEFA	28%	17%	33%	6%	21%	26%	6%	29%	0%	33%	17%	19%	5%	0%	28%	16%
Sustainability criteria for biomass for energy purpose (NTA 8080)	28%	17%	25%	26%	42%	51%	13%	33%	14%	44%	31%	21%	38%	13%	36%	28%
Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)	16%	15%	29%	13%	21%	35%	0%	28%	0%	11%	14%	18%	5%	0%	23%	4%
Bio Suisse Standards for Imports	36%	30%	29%	10%	31%	53%	13%	37%	0%	11%	14%	23%	5%	72%	41%	8%
bioRe	40%	33%	44%	43%	36%	35%	13%	39%	28%	44%	25%	19%	11%	72%	36%	12%
Biosphere Destination Community	28%	4%	40%	30%	31%	48%	13%	26%	14%	66%	57%	23%	27%	9%	26%	4%
Biosphere Responsible Tourism	8%	6%	22%	13%	0%	35%	13%	12%	14%	22%	40%	17%	11%	4%	17%	0%
bluesign® system	12%	2%	22%	6%	0%	22%	6%	17%	42%	33%	37%	29%	11%	0%	0%	8%
Bonsucro	40%	13%	18%	16%	10%	48%	13%	34%	14%	33%	28%	18%	27%	13%	41%	12%
BOPP Standard - Grower Standard	8%	22%	33%	30%	0%	66%	6%	25%	28%	0%	34%	39%	16%	0%	17%	8%
BOPP Standard - Packhouse Standard	8%	4%	18%	26%	0%	42%	6%	20%	28%	0%	34%	32%	16%	0%	0%	8%
BRC Global Standard for Food Safety	8%	40%	7%	33%	0%	31%	6%	10%	14%	0%	5%	19%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Bunge Pro-S Assuring Sustainable Sourcing	28%	18%	33%	13%	26%	28%	6%	30%	0%	55%	25%	23%	5%	0%	34%	16%
Carbon Trust Product Footprint Certification	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%	27%	4%	0%	0%
Cargill Triple S Soya Products	48%	11%	22%	13%	36%	44%	6%	30%	0%	44%	20%	22%	27%	4%	31%	16%
Cefetra Certified Responsible Soya Standard	28%	17%	29%	6%	26%	31%	6%	29%	0%	44%	17%	19%	5%	0%	25%	16%
Certified Sea Turtle Friendly™ Tourism	4%	1%	7%	0%	5%	6%	6%	4%	0%	22%	20%	11%	5%	4%	33%	0%
Certified Wildlife Frendly	0%	5%	3%	0%	0%	4%	0%	5%	0%	22%	0%	2%	0%	4%	42%	0%
Clean Clothes Campaign - Code of Labour Practices	28%	0%	11%	13%	10%	2%	0%	17%	0%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCB Standards)	12%	4%	11%	10%	42%	0%	0%	8%	0%	66%	20%	5%	61%	9%	25%	12%
Code of Practice for Sustainable Flower Production (EHPEA)	64%	20%	40%	30%	73%	33%	6%	46%	14%	22%	31%	33%	5%	0%	9%	12%
Código Nacional de Sustentibilidad de la Industria Vitivinícola	48%	22%	40%	50%	73%	44%	13%	35%	0%	33%	25%	34%	16%	4%	30%	52%
Coporate Sustainability Compact for Textile and Apparel Industry	16%	0%	7%	10%	26%	8%	6%	16%	28%	33%	17%	9%	11%	0%	0%	12%
Cotton made in Africa	44%	8%	14%	33%	42%	4%	6%	23%	0%	0%	8%	15%	5%	4%	22%	16%
CSQA Sustainable Cereal and Oilseed Standard (DTP 112)	28%	13%	29%	20%	26%	33%	13%	30%	0%	22%	8%	19%	27%	4%	22%	16%
Disha Common Code of Conduct (CCC)	48%	1%	33%	33%	36%	13%	0%	29%	14%	11%	11%	4%	0%	0%	0%	12%
Donau Soja	40%	16%	29%	3%	21%	15%	0%	28%	0%	44%	8%	5%	5%	0%	17%	8%
Echar PA'LANTE - Colcocoa	4%	12%	22%	26%	36%	17%	0%	20%	0%	33%	25%	27%	5%	0%	22%	8%
Eco Awards Namibia - Accommodation establishments	32%	4%	18%	33%	10%	37%	33%	28%	14%	44%	65%	34%	16%	0%	22%	12%
Ecotourism Kenya Eco-Rating	60%	10%	48%	36%	57%	37%	13%	41%	42%	88%	68%	34%	38%	9%	28%	24%
EcoVadis	56%	17%	51%	36%	68%	62%	73%	46%	85%	66%	48%	60%	61%	13%	39%	60%
EO100TM Standard for Responsible Energy Development	72%	12%	44%	26%	31%	55%	0%	41%	14%	55%	40%	19%	44%	4%	28%	32%
Equitable Food Initiative (EFI)	52%	54%	44%	40%	78%	48%	0%	52%	14%	11%	17%	24%	5%	0%	23%	20%
Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)	36%	0%	7%	6%	21%	6%	0%	28%	0%	11%	5%	1%	5%	0%	0%	8%
Europe Soya	40%	20%	29%	6%	21%	15%	6%	30%	14%	44%	25%	21%	5%	9%	42%	24%
European Feed ingredients Safety Certification (EFISC)	0%	9%	11%	3%	0%	20%	0%	7%	0%	0%	17%	9%	5%	0%	1%	4%
Fair for Life	64%	18%	22%	23%	42%	24%	33%	44%	14%	44%	25%	21%	11%	4%	28%	20%
Fair Labor Association	68%	1%	14%	23%	47%	11%	0%	46%	14%	11%	22%	10%	5%	0%	0%	16%
Fair Stone	56%	4%	18%	23%	26%	20%	6%	41%	0%	0%	22%	14%	5%	0%	15%	20%
Fair Trade Tourism Product Certification Standard (FTT)	60%	6%	40%	36%	57%	42%	13%	41%	14%	66%	57%	25%	38%	9%	26%	24%
Fair Trade USA - Large Farms and Facilities	80%	26%	66%	50%	52%	62%	6%	66%	14%	22%	37%	38%	5%	4%	47%	36%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Fair Trade USA - Small Farms and Facilities	80%	27%	66%	50%	57%	62%	6%	66%	14%	22%	37%	38%	5%	4%	47%	36%
Fair Wage Network	48%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	14%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Fair Wear Foundation	28%	0%	18%	16%	52%	6%	0%	37%	0%	11%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%
Fairmined Standard - Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Organizations	80%	9%	55%	43%	73%	22%	0%	48%	14%	44%	22%	20%	5%	0%	20%	20%
Fairtrade International - Small Producers Organizations	64%	28%	44%	46%	73%	53%	20%	50%	14%	55%	31%	36%	44%	9%	50%	20%
Fairtrade International - Gold Standard	72%	4%	22%	36%	63%	24%	0%	39%	0%	77%	22%	14%	5%	0%	6%	36%
Fairtrade International - Hired Labour	68%	29%	51%	53%	78%	60%	13%	51%	28%	77%	54%	40%	44%	13%	57%	24%
Fairtrade International Textile Standard	72%	3%	44%	36%	73%	28%	13%	52%	28%	33%	42%	31%	5%	0%	0%	28%
Fairtrade International Trader	16%	5%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%	11%	0%	8%	16%	0%	0%	4%
FairWild	68%	4%	25%	26%	36%	6%	0%	36%	0%	33%	20%	6%	5%	4%	19%	16%
FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines	28%	11%	25%	10%	26%	24%	6%	26%	0%	44%	20%	19%	5%	0%	25%	16%
FEMAS Responsible Sourcing of Agricultural & Natural Products	24%	11%	22%	13%	21%	44%	6%	28%	0%	22%	25%	23%	5%	0%	25%	16%
FlorEcuador	44%	5%	22%	6%	5%	53%	0%	26%	0%	44%	22%	26%	5%	0%	1%	8%
Florimark GTP	48%	2%	11%	16%	5%	6%	0%	23%	14%	0%	11%	6%	5%	0%	1%	4%
Florverde® Sustainable Flowers	76%	37%	81%	70%	42%	80%	46%	70%	71%	33%	68%	58%	50%	18%	87%	40%
KFC - Flowers and Ornamentals Sustainability Standard (Silver Level)	76%	29%	59%	60%	89%	60%	20%	64%	57%	77%	65%	47%	38%	18%	55%	96%
Food Alliance	28%	11%	14%	6%	0%	24%	0%	19%	0%	11%	5%	7%	0%	0%	15%	4%
Food Safety System Certification 22000	0%	52%	7%	26%	0%	20%	0%	10%	28%	0%	11%	14%	0%	13%	0%	8%
Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) - Chain of Custody	64%	29%	51%	40%	94%	46%	6%	60%	42%	77%	62%	43%	33%	9%	90%	68%
Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) - Forest Management	64%	23%	51%	40%	84%	42%	0%	53%	28%	66%	45%	33%	33%	9%	77%	76%
Friend of the Sea (FOS) - Wild - Generic Sustainable fishing Requirements	40%	3%	14%	16%	21%	6%	6%	20%	0%	22%	20%	9%	16%	0%	22%	12%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Friend of the Sea (FOS) - Marine Aquaculture	52%	7%	18%	23%	10%	17%	6%	24%	0%	44%	17%	10%	11%	0%	15%	8%
Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) – Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI)	44%	24%	48%	30%	10%	33%	6%	25%	28%	0%	22%	24%	11%	0%	22%	16%
Global Aquaculture Alliance - Best Aquaculture Practices	40%	65%	37%	36%	5%	55%	0%	39%	14%	22%	37%	33%	5%	45%	33%	16%
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	32%	21%	59%	30%	15%	46%	6%	42%	42%	11%	20%	37%	0%	0%	7%	20%
Global Red Meat Standard (GRMS)	8%	44%	7%	30%	0%	17%	0%	8%	14%	0%	11%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)	52%	9%	29%	43%	47%	51%	33%	38%	0%	55%	25%	35%	44%	9%	28%	60%
Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP) - Environment Level 2	68%	16%	44%	26%	42%	42%	13%	47%	42%	33%	54%	41%	27%	13%	47%	12%
Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP) - Environment Level 3	68%	17%	44%	26%	42%	42%	13%	47%	42%	33%	54%	41%	33%	13%	50%	12%
Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC) - Destinations	12%	1%	25%	13%	5%	44%	20%	8%	28%	66%	42%	21%	38%	9%	25%	4%
Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC) - Hotel and Tour Operators	36%	8%	25%	30%	26%	33%	13%	20%	14%	77%	60%	23%	22%	0%	28%	4%
GLOBALG.A.P. - Aquaculture	24%	33%	40%	40%	15%	55%	13%	43%	14%	22%	37%	33%	5%	59%	46%	12%
GLOBALG.A.P. - Crops	8%	59%	40%	36%	0%	60%	26%	25%	28%	0%	34%	43%	0%	9%	34%	4%
GLOBALG.A.P. - Floriculture	12%	24%	33%	26%	0%	62%	20%	19%	28%	0%	31%	36%	0%	9%	30%	8%
GlobalG.A.P. - Livestock	40%	28%	14%	33%	10%	22%	6%	43%	14%	0%	28%	23%	5%	9%	25%	12%
GLOBALG.A.P. - Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP)	32%	0%	11%	26%	15%	2%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
GMP+	0%	28%	0%	6%	0%	2%	0%	4%	0%	0%	5%	8%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) - Floor Coverings	12%	2%	11%	0%	15%	2%	0%	10%	14%	0%	17%	28%	5%	4%	15%	4%
Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) - Furniture, fittings	12%	3%	18%	0%	21%	17%	0%	17%	14%	11%	8%	29%	5%	4%	19%	4%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) - Panel Boards	12%	3%	18%	0%	15%	17%	0%	10%	14%	0%	8%	23%	5%	4%	12%	4%
GoodWeave International	52%	3%	11%	23%	42%	8%	6%	35%	14%	11%	17%	8%	16%	0%	1%	16%
Green Food	0%	11%	22%	0%	0%	8%	0%	3%	14%	0%	17%	9%	0%	4%	6%	8%
Green Mark Taiwan	0%	2%	7%	0%	0%	6%	6%	2%	0%	0%	14%	12%	0%	0%	7%	0%
Green Seal	4%	3%	14%	16%	26%	15%	6%	17%	0%	44%	17%	13%	16%	4%	7%	12%
GreenCo	12%	3%	25%	13%	5%	57%	40%	14%	28%	0%	37%	46%	55%	4%	4%	4%
Green-e	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	38%	0%	0%	0%
GreenLine Responsible Tourism	12%	1%	29%	30%	5%	28%	20%	15%	0%	44%	45%	23%	16%	4%	25%	4%
HAND IN HAND (HIH) - Fair Trade Rapunzel	72%	19%	44%	33%	78%	24%	6%	43%	14%	44%	22%	15%	11%	0%	15%	16%
Heritage Certification - Hotels and Tourist Accommodation	16%	4%	29%	30%	42%	26%	13%	17%	14%	44%	45%	19%	38%	9%	20%	8%
Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)	0%	5%	25%	0%	0%	20%	6%	3%	14%	0%	22%	17%	16%	4%	7%	8%
ICTI Ethical Toy Program	56%	0%	25%	20%	36%	11%	6%	42%	42%	22%	34%	23%	0%	0%	0%	24%
IFC Performance Standards on Environmental & Social Sustainability	52%	10%	44%	36%	52%	28%	20%	43%	28%	77%	57%	30%	38%	18%	46%	28%
IFFO Global Standard for Responsible Supply (IFFO RS)	4%	4%	3%	0%	5%	0%	0%	4%	0%	11%	5%	4%	0%	0%	11%	16%
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM Standard)	36%	36%	40%	30%	5%	55%	26%	33%	14%	22%	28%	31%	0%	72%	44%	4%
International Food Standard (IFS Food)	0%	37%	7%	26%	0%	26%	0%	10%	0%	0%	11%	13%	0%	0%	1%	4%
Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability (ICS) - Environmental Criteria	8%	4%	29%	3%	0%	48%	26%	7%	42%	0%	28%	37%	44%	4%	3%	0%
Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability (ICS) - Social Criteria	60%	0%	14%	40%	57%	4%	0%	54%	14%	22%	17%	8%	5%	0%	0%	52%
International Code of Conduct for the Production of Cut Flowers	60%	11%	51%	36%	68%	44%	13%	40%	42%	0%	45%	34%	5%	4%	23%	16%
International Council on Mining and Metals	0%	4%	11%	16%	5%	2%	6%	8%	0%	33%	5%	4%	11%	0%	11%	8%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
International Sustainability & Carbon Certification EU (ISCC EU)	76%	38%	66%	50%	57%	73%	46%	59%	57%	55%	65%	55%	33%	18%	69%	24%
International Sustainability & Carbon Certification PLUS (ISCC PLUS)	76%	38%	66%	50%	57%	73%	46%	59%	57%	55%	65%	55%	33%	18%	69%	24%
International Sustainability & Carbon Certification PLUS (ISCC PLUS) - Voluntary Add-ons	76%	38%	66%	50%	57%	73%	46%	59%	57%	55%	65%	55%	33%	18%	69%	24%
KRAV (Organic Standard)	0%	8%	11%	6%	0%	6%	13%	11%	0%	11%	11%	18%	5%	0%	4%	4%
LBCS Comercio Justo – PERU	60%	25%	25%	43%	42%	42%	0%	38%	14%	22%	22%	31%	11%	0%	39%	8%
LBCS Medio Ambiente, Calidad y Social - PERU	56%	35%	51%	50%	47%	37%	6%	45%	42%	22%	34%	36%	22%	4%	58%	20%
LBCS Orgánico - PERU	0%	26%	29%	0%	0%	17%	6%	7%	14%	0%	11%	16%	0%	0%	25%	0%
Linking Environmental and Farming (LEAF Marque)	8%	30%	29%	16%	0%	60%	6%	12%	28%	11%	28%	37%	16%	4%	44%	0%
LIFE Certification	16%	3%	11%	6%	0%	20%	6%	7%	0%	22%	17%	14%	27%	4%	17%	4%
Lineamientos Básicos para un Cacao Sostenible (LBCS) - Organizaciones	28%	15%	22%	20%	10%	15%	6%	12%	0%	0%	11%	9%	0%	0%	6%	8%
Lineamientos Básicos para un Cacao Sostenible (LBCS) - Productores	28%	14%	22%	16%	10%	15%	6%	11%	0%	0%	11%	9%	0%	0%	6%	8%
Made in Green by OEKO-TEX®	60%	4%	37%	13%	42%	44%	13%	38%	42%	33%	37%	29%	5%	0%	0%	24%
McDonalds Supplier Workplace Accountability	56%	4%	22%	26%	26%	28%	20%	45%	28%	33%	25%	20%	27%	0%	4%	52%
MPS-ABC	0%	6%	11%	0%	0%	28%	40%	3%	0%	0%	14%	22%	0%	0%	0%	0%
MPS-GAP	12%	20%	22%	20%	0%	55%	13%	17%	28%	0%	22%	28%	5%	4%	19%	8%
MPS-Socially Qualified (SQ)	60%	8%	40%	40%	57%	26%	6%	37%	28%	0%	25%	16%	5%	0%	9%	12%
Best Management Practices (myBMP)	32%	24%	33%	13%	57%	42%	33%	42%	0%	11%	20%	30%	0%	9%	39%	8%
Naturland Fair	68%	26%	55%	20%	52%	62%	20%	56%	28%	55%	31%	27%	5%	59%	33%	24%
Naturland Organic Aquaculture	44%	26%	40%	16%	10%	64%	20%	32%	28%	44%	20%	33%	5%	68%	38%	4%
Naturland Standards on Production	56%	24%	55%	20%	52%	62%	20%	51%	28%	55%	28%	26%	5%	59%	33%	24%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Naturland Sustainable Capture Fishery	56%	10%	25%	16%	10%	15%	26%	29%	0%	44%	8%	19%	5%	18%	22%	4%
OEKO-TEX® Standard 100	4%	4%	22%	0%	10%	0%	0%	7%	0%	11%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%
On The Way To Planet Proof for Plant Products in Central Europe	12%	43%	59%	13%	0%	66%	60%	26%	57%	0%	42%	66%	61%	22%	50%	28%
Origin Green Sustainable Dairy Assurance Standard	28%	36%	33%	10%	0%	33%	13%	21%	0%	22%	17%	27%	11%	9%	25%	8%
Pacific Organic Standard - Crops	20%	20%	29%	20%	21%	33%	13%	23%	14%	11%	11%	12%	11%	0%	15%	4%
Pacific Organic Standard - Livestock	20%	20%	29%	20%	21%	35%	13%	25%	14%	11%	11%	14%	11%	13%	14%	4%
Pacific Organic Standard - Aquaculture	20%	19%	29%	20%	21%	35%	13%	24%	14%	11%	11%	12%	11%	22%	17%	4%
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC International)	28%	25%	48%	43%	42%	48%	13%	42%	42%	55%	60%	36%	27%	9%	82%	16%
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC International) - Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products	48%	24%	48%	33%	52%	42%	6%	53%	42%	77%	60%	38%	33%	9%	79%	56%
Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Initiative	64%	9%	37%	36%	36%	57%	13%	46%	71%	11%	57%	43%	27%	4%	14%	64%
Predator Friendly Standards	0%	4%	3%	0%	0%	4%	0%	5%	0%	11%	0%	2%	0%	4%	38%	0%
PrimusGFS	4%	36%	18%	23%	0%	24%	0%	10%	0%	0%	14%	15%	5%	0%	9%	4%
Protected Harvest Certification Standards - Stonefruit	4%	9%	3%	6%	0%	15%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	13%	11%	0%	9%	0%
Protected Harvest Standards - Lodi Winegrapes	24%	0%	3%	16%	0%	8%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	1%	4%
Protected Harvest Standards - Oranges and Mandarines	0%	12%	7%	6%	0%	11%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	9%	5%	0%	9%	0%
ProTerra Foundation	60%	30%	59%	30%	31%	51%	33%	47%	28%	22%	42%	40%	27%	9%	61%	20%
Rainforest Alliance RA 2017	56%	36%	62%	63%	42%	42%	20%	57%	14%	66%	45%	42%	27%	9%	69%	32%
Red Tractor - Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Standards	16%	20%	11%	10%	0%	28%	0%	5%	0%	0%	8%	19%	5%	0%	15%	0%
Red Tractor - Fresh Produce Standards	16%	32%	29%	23%	0%	48%	6%	16%	28%	0%	14%	23%	5%	0%	15%	4%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
REDcert²	8%	27%	25%	13%	0%	31%	20%	25%	14%	0%	20%	28%	22%	9%	49%	4%
REDcert-EU	8%	24%	25%	13%	0%	26%	20%	25%	14%	0%	17%	29%	50%	13%	49%	4%
Responsible Business Alliance (RBA)	68%	0%	33%	33%	31%	37%	6%	50%	14%	11%	37%	29%	33%	4%	1%	68%
Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)	60%	4%	29%	36%	31%	20%	13%	39%	14%	44%	37%	20%	5%	0%	25%	40%
Responsible Recycling Standard for Electronics Recyclers	8%	0%	7%	3%	0%	0%	0%	6%	14%	0%	8%	9%	5%	0%	0%	8%
Responsible Tourism Tanzania (RTTZ)	60%	8%	40%	43%	68%	46%	26%	44%	14%	100%	71%	37%	38%	9%	31%	24%
Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS)	60%	24%	25%	23%	31%	48%	20%	44%	14%	66%	42%	36%	27%	4%	61%	12%
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) - Principles and Criteria	60%	24%	40%	53%	68%	48%	13%	56%	42%	66%	37%	38%	38%	13%	63%	72%
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB)	32%	29%	48%	40%	47%	71%	20%	38%	57%	55%	48%	42%	33%	18%	53%	36%
RSG Requirements (based on RTRS)	68%	19%	29%	20%	36%	51%	20%	41%	14%	55%	37%	33%	22%	9%	57%	20%
Safe Quality Food Program	12%	53%	22%	26%	15%	60%	6%	22%	28%	0%	20%	33%	5%	13%	9%	12%
Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) - SAI Platform	56%	33%	62%	50%	42%	48%	13%	51%	28%	55%	54%	34%	33%	9%	46%	20%
Sedex Global (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange)	68%	12%	40%	23%	63%	42%	13%	53%	28%	33%	37%	33%	33%	0%	12%	56%
Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) - Best Practice Guidance	72%	5%	51%	60%	78%	46%	6%	60%	28%	55%	48%	34%	33%	4%	15%	96%
SGE 21	8%	11%	22%	56%	26%	8%	13%	25%	28%	33%	25%	16%	22%	0%	7%	44%
Small Producers Symbol	8%	9%	11%	16%	21%	8%	0%	14%	0%	33%	5%	5%	5%	0%	11%	0%
Social Accountability International (SA8000)	56%	0%	18%	23%	42%	6%	0%	42%	0%	33%	17%	3%	5%	0%	0%	28%
SOCIALCARBON® Standard	4%	0%	11%	20%	0%	4%	0%	2%	0%	0%	5%	0%	27%	0%	3%	0%
Soil Association organic standards - Farming and growing	4%	30%	22%	6%	0%	40%	26%	17%	0%	22%	17%	28%	5%	9%	46%	0%
STeP by OEKO-TEX®	68%	7%	55%	46%	52%	73%	26%	58%	71%	55%	60%	54%	27%	4%	1%	52%
Sustainability Initiative of South Africa (SIZA)	60%	25%	29%	26%	36%	44%	20%	51%	14%	22%	40%	36%	38%	4%	39%	16%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
Sustainable Agriculture Network - Rainforest Alliance 2010	60%	29%	48%	60%	31%	46%	20%	55%	0%	77%	45%	41%	22%	13%	66%	36%
Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme	24%	16%	22%	10%	21%	24%	6%	27%	0%	33%	28%	21%	5%	0%	26%	16%
Sustainable Feed Standard	28%	12%	25%	10%	26%	24%	6%	26%	0%	44%	20%	19%	5%	0%	25%	16%
Sustainable Food Group Sustainability Standard Certification	60%	22%	37%	23%	26%	42%	53%	34%	28%	11%	22%	35%	44%	13%	36%	12%
Sustainable Tourism Standard for Hotels and Lodging Services	48%	7%	22%	36%	21%	35%	13%	24%	14%	33%	40%	18%	11%	4%	14%	12%
Sustainably Grown	72%	41%	70%	63%	47%	77%	53%	70%	42%	88%	80%	56%	61%	22%	58%	28%
TerraChoice -EcoLogo Program (UL Ecologo Certification)	16%	6%	14%	0%	0%	31%	33%	13%	0%	11%	17%	12%	5%	4%	17%	4%
Textile Exchange Global Recycled Standard	40%	0%	14%	16%	10%	24%	6%	24%	14%	0%	28%	18%	5%	0%	0%	4%
Thai Green Label	8%	1%	25%	6%	0%	20%	6%	11%	0%	0%	11%	23%	11%	4%	4%	4%
The Gold Standard	16%	2%	3%	16%	15%	13%	0%	12%	0%	22%	8%	4%	11%	0%	1%	12%
The Social & Labour Convergence Program (SLCP)	68%	4%	33%	53%	57%	8%	0%	57%	42%	33%	37%	19%	0%	0%	0%	48%
The Sustainable Beef & Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS)	24%	18%	22%	13%	5%	22%	13%	29%	28%	11%	25%	23%	16%	0%	17%	16%
The Sustainable Egg Assurance Scheme (SEAS)	60%	18%	44%	20%	15%	44%	13%	46%	42%	0%	40%	36%	22%	4%	19%	28%
The Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme (SHAS)	28%	30%	37%	20%	0%	62%	46%	34%	57%	0%	40%	45%	5%	4%	34%	24%
Together for Sustainability AISBL (TfS)	60%	3%	29%	26%	26%	40%	13%	48%	42%	11%	37%	28%	27%	9%	20%	48%
TourCert	20%	0%	11%	23%	21%	2%	13%	14%	14%	22%	8%	9%	16%	0%	3%	16%
Travelife Award of Excellence	48%	8%	44%	36%	5%	37%	13%	23%	0%	55%	45%	29%	27%	4%	22%	16%
Travelife Gold Award for large hotels/groups	28%	1%	29%	16%	5%	26%	6%	16%	0%	44%	31%	21%	0%	0%	6%	8%
Travelife Gold Award for small/medium-sized hotels	28%	1%	29%	16%	5%	26%	6%	15%	0%	22%	31%	21%	0%	0%	6%	8%
Triple Sello	28%	0%	11%	23%	21%	6%	0%	23%	0%	0%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TüV Rheinland - Green Product Mark - Furniture	12%	1%	14%	6%	21%	0%	0%	10%	0%	0%	5%	8%	11%	4%	4%	12%

VSS name	SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 3	SDG 4	SDG 5	SDG 6	SDG 7	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 10	SDG 11	SDG 12	SDG 13	SDG 14	SDG 15	SDG 16
U.S. Soybean Sustainability Assurance Protocol	24%	16%	37%	13%	26%	33%	13%	27%	14%	66%	20%	25%	11%	4%	39%	16%
Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code	32%	33%	51%	46%	31%	60%	20%	41%	28%	33%	42%	42%	27%	13%	55%	20%
Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT)	32%	7%	14%	16%	0%	11%	0%	17%	14%	33%	20%	8%	0%	0%	12%	8%
UTZ (expires July 2021)	64%	52%	62%	56%	68%	57%	26%	54%	57%	55%	37%	41%	16%	4%	55%	12%
Vegaplan Standard for Primary Crop Prod. - Veg. for processing.	0%	33%	22%	0%	0%	15%	6%	11%	28%	0%	20%	19%	5%	0%	11%	0%
Vegaplan Standard for Primary Crop Production - Grains.	0%	31%	11%	0%	0%	13%	6%	7%	14%	0%	8%	14%	11%	0%	7%	0%
Vegaplan Standard for Primary Crop Production - Potatoes.	0%	25%	14%	0%	0%	11%	0%	6%	42%	0%	20%	16%	5%	0%	11%	0%
Vegaplan Standard for Primary Crop Production - Sugar beet.	0%	26%	11%	3%	0%	4%	0%	5%	14%	0%	11%	14%	5%	0%	9%	0%
Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)	4%	12%	3%	0%	0%	17%	6%	6%	0%	0%	0%	5%	72%	13%	31%	4%
Veriflora	52%	26%	33%	40%	42%	40%	6%	38%	14%	11%	31%	21%	22%	13%	25%	12%
World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) - Guarantee System	48%	8%	29%	20%	57%	11%	6%	43%	14%	22%	14%	10%	11%	0%	4%	20%
Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trading Association (WIETA)	68%	2%	33%	33%	47%	28%	0%	46%	0%	44%	25%	18%	0%	0%	0%	48%
Workplace Condition Assessment (WCA)	72%	2%	33%	40%	52%	15%	0%	50%	14%	33%	28%	21%	5%	0%	0%	68%
Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)	52%	2%	29%	26%	42%	20%	6%	45%	28%	11%	34%	22%	11%	0%	0%	36%
XertifiX	68%	0%	14%	16%	47%	26%	13%	39%	14%	0%	31%	14%	5%	0%	7%	24%
Zerya	8%	8%	7%	20%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	17%	0%

Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

Appendix V Additional tables on VSS-SDG linkage by countries and sectors

Table A3   Geographic distribution of VSS with positive linkage across SDGs. Focus on top 5 exporters per region

Region	Country	SDG																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Africa	South Africa	68	73	69	66	51	67	49	77	50	47	69	74	8	28	52	63	0
	Nigeria	36	39	37	36	29	36	26	39	25	24	37	38	4	15	23	35	0
	Algeria	28	29	28	29	23	28	20	31	21	19	29	29	1	15	19	28	0
	Angola	26	28	26	27	21	26	18	29	19	17	27	27	1	14	18	26	0
	Egypt, Arab Rep.	54	58	56	54	40	56	41	60	41	35	56	58	4	24	39	52	0
Asia	China	80	84	84	80	60	84	57	94	63	52	87	90	11	30	59	76	0
	Japan	51	55	55	54	38	54	38	61	42	35	58	60	5	19	34	50	0
	Korea, Rep.	40	42	43	42	30	44	30	45	34	27	43	45	2	19	26	39	0
	Hong Kong SAR, China	40	45	48	43	32	45	33	49	35	27	48	49	2	20	27	42	0
	Singapore	40	43	42	42	29	43	31	47	30	27	44	46	0	17	26	37	0
Australia and Oceania	Australia	59	64	64	57	45	61	43	69	49	37	65	69	6	28	48	59	0
	New Zealand	48	51	49	47	33	48	38	52	40	28	50	53	3	25	36	45	0
	Papua New Guinea	40	42	39	40	37	38	28	43	30	32	40	42	10	16	32	40	0
	New Caledonia	18	19	20	20	17	19	13	20	15	12	20	20	1	12	12	20	0
	Fiji	28	29	28	28	23	26	17	30	23	20	28	30	3	17	18	27	0
Central America and Caribbean	Panama	45	45	45	46	38	44	31	47	35	34	46	46	13	16	34	45	0
	Guatemala	61	64	62	61	50	60	42	65	49	43	62	64	10	22	46	59	0
	Costa Rica	69	73	71	70	58	67	50	74	51	49	72	73	12	25	55	67	0
	Dominican Republic	56	58	56	56	45	55	41	59	43	40	56	58	10	19	44	53	0
	Trinidad and Tobago	29	30	29	30	22	29	20	31	23	19	30	30	2	16	20	29	0
Europe	Germany	77	80	80	78	51	80	58	86	62	47	82	86	7	29	57	69	0
	Netherlands	71	77	76	71	41	76	52	83	65	39	79	83	4	27	55	64	0
	France	63	71	70	63	39	70	46	78	57	40	73	77	5	26	50	55	0
	Italy	67	71	71	69	46	72	50	77	52	43	73	75	5	28	51	62	0
	United Kingdom	70	73	72	71	43	71	56	80	55	42	75	80	6	30	53	62	0
North America	United States	84	93	89	89	61	90	64	101	62	55	91	99	6	33	67	79	0
	Canada	68	75	74	70	49	73	52	80	56	49	76	80	6	31	55	66	0
	Mexico	84	88	85	85	65	83	60	95	63	62	88	94	14	27	63	78	0
South America	Brazil	89	93	93	92	72	91	64	101	66	65	95	98	15	27	68	82	0
	Chile	64	69	66	66	47	64	45	71	45	42	68	71	10	28	48	59	0
	Argentina	68	71	71	73	54	71	48	75	52	50	72	75	10	22	50	64	0
	Peru	81	86	81	82	64	80	55	89	62	58	84	88	14	28	63	73	0
	Colombia	78	84	81	82	66	79	52	87	60	56	82	85	16	29	60	76	0

Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

Table A4   Sectoral distribution of VSS with positive linkage across SDGs.

Sector	SDG																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Agriculture	99	117	105	109	71	113	68	125	68	62	109	120	14	29	94	90	0
Consumer Products	46	54	53	43	34	54	29	61	33	29	55	59	4	17	33	38	0
Electronics	24	27	26	22	17	27	19	31	15	15	29	31	0	11	11	20	0
Energy	25	25	26	21	16	27	17	29	14	16	27	28	1	10	17	18	0
Fish Aquaculture	37	40	39	38	23	41	20	45	21	21	41	44	0	22	26	32	0
Fish Wild Capture	28	31	30	28	19	32	16	35	16	17	32	35	0	15	19	25	0
Forestry	26	25	27	24	19	28	14	30	14	19	28	29	5	11	18	20	0
Industrial Products	17	20	18	16	12	19	11	23	7	10	19	23	0	8	8	14	0
Jewelry	22	22	19	18	15	19	10	25	11	15	21	24	0	7	8	15	0
Livestock	31	38	34	36	19	39	19	41	21	18	37	42	1	18	20	29	0
Mining	24	23	21	20	18	21	12	27	11	16	23	26	0	7	9	18	0
Processed Food	45	51	47	53	31	54	26	58	29	28	51	57	3	18	30	42	0
Services	31	30	31	28	22	32	23	34	18	24	32	34	1	14	20	23	0
Textiles Garments	54	60	58	49	44	56	34	65	39	35	58	62	1	21	36	45	0
Toys	23	21	22	20	17	24	13	26	13	16	24	26	1	9	10	17	0

Source: ITC, UNCTAD, EUI, UvA, DIE.

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