

Country story: Chile and the implementation of the 6.3.2 methodology

Background

Chile is long and narrow with rivers draining from the Andes in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. This **unique geography** creates an interesting hydrological environment with many short, high-gradient river basins that cover a huge latitudinal range (17° – 55° S).

The *Dirección General de Aguas* (the Chilean water agency – DGA) operates and maintains an extensive water quality monitoring network that stretches the length of the country, with over **one million** water quality records in their database. All **data are publicly available** through its *Banco Nacional de Aguas* (National Water Bank – BNA).

Method

DGA undertook in-depth analysis of the indicator methodology with the support of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CEDEUS) which is available on the Support Platform¹.

This comprehensive process involved **data cleaning and validation** to ensure only reliable data were used; definition of **reporting basins** and river **water body** units; selection of **monitoring stations** based on activity and data coverage; and target setting.

A **site-specific** target approach was developed using a hierarchical process:

1. available ambient water quality standards
2. historical data availability (2000–2014)
3. standards defined for specific water uses.

The report went on to calculate annual indicator scores and make suggestions for future work and improvements.

For the 2020 data drive, this method was slightly revised by designating the monitoring station as the “water body” rather than using the larger river basin hydrological units. This approach provided information at a finer resolution to help support management action. This same method was applied retrospectively to the 2017 data period.

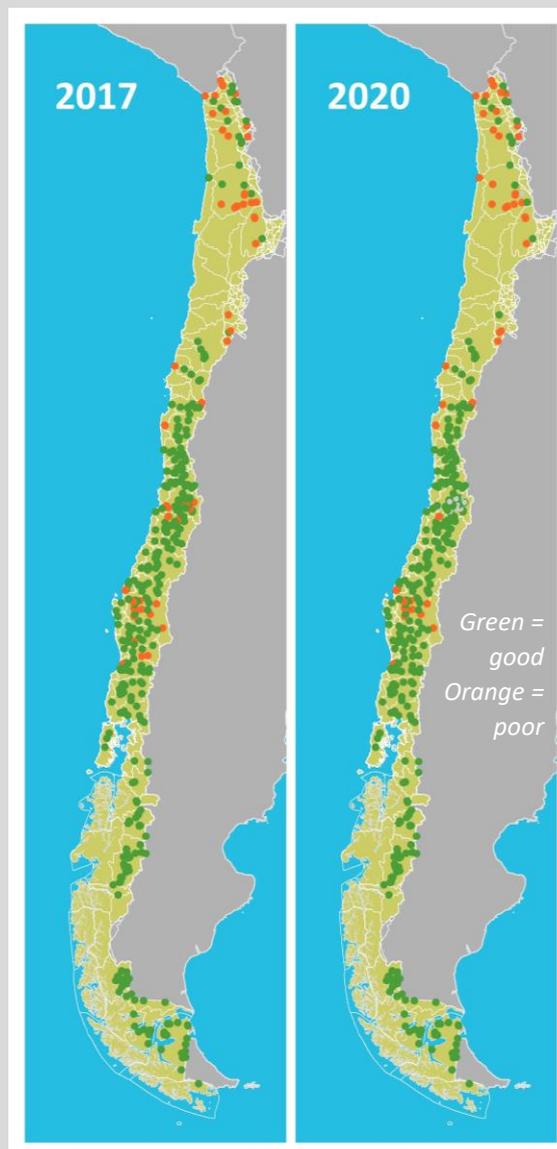
¹ *Centro de Desarrollo Urbano Sustentable and Dirección General de Aguas, (2020). Implementation of SDG Indicator 6.3.2 in Chile: Proportion of Bodies of Water with Good Ambient Water Quality. Santiago, Chile. Available at <https://communities.unep.org/display/sdg632/Documents+and+Materials?preview=/32407814/38306675/CEDEUS-DGA-Implementation%20of%20SDG%20Indicator%206.3.2%20in%20Chile-v2020.pdf>.*

Outcomes

The 2017 and 2020 submissions are summarized below.

Year	Number of river basins	Number of water bodies	Number of monitoring values	Indicator 6.3.2 score
2017	50	404	7,996	85.6
2020	50	413	7,169	84.0

Using the core parameters of indicator 6.3.2, the water quality of Chile is generally good, with **84** per cent of water bodies classified as good. This is a slight reduction compared with the 2017 score of **85.6**. Further site-level investigation and analysis will be necessary to identify the cause of this trend.



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