Research supporting SDG11 has grown since 2014, with a compound annual growth rate of 12% compared to nearly 2% for research in all fields.

China produces the most research supporting SDG11, followed by the US, the United Kingdom, Italy and India. 7 of the 10 most prolific countries are high-income countries (more than 57,000 publications); 3 are middle-income countries. No low-income countries featured in the top 50.

Ethiopia was the most prolific low-income country (189 publications), followed by Uganda (151 publications), Tanzania (153 publications) and Nepal (137 publications).

International collaboration was responsible for half of the research published by high-income countries and for nearly 70% of research published by low-income countries.

The field-weighted citation impact (FWCI) for SDG11 research was above average in each year over the period, with an FWCI of 1.17 over the five years.

What is FWCI?
Field-weighted citation impact is an indicator of scholarly impact based on the number of times the publication was cited in other research. An FWCI of above 1.0 indicates the impact is above the normalised average.

What is RAI?
Relative Activity Index is a measure of the proportion of the country’s research output in the subject relative to the proportion seen globally.

This analysis builds on Elsevier’s Sustainability Science in a Global Landscape report, which was released in 2015 to coincide with the launch of the SDGs. See a 2017 update on key findings on the RELX Sustainable Development Goals Resource Centre.