Research supporting SDG16 has grown since 2015, with a compound annual growth rate of 2.7% compared to nearly 3.5% for research in all fields.

The US produces the most research supporting SDG16, followed by China, the United Kingdom, Germany and Australia. Eight of the 10 most prolific locations are high income locations (accounting for more than 111,300 publications); one is an upper-middle income location (China) and one is a lower-middle income location (India). Six low income locations feature in the top 50: Uganda (284 publications), Ethiopia (194 publications), Tanzania (183 publications), Nepal (128 publications), Rwanda (103 publications) and Malawi (58 publications).

The top five locations for which research on SDG16 represents the largest share of their research portfolio are Rwanda, Uganda, Palestine, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

International collaboration yielded 14% of research on SDG16. High income locations collaborated with low income locations on 37% of their total SDG16 research, while nearly 73% of the related output from low income locations came from collaboration with high income locations.

As a measure of academic impact measured by citation, the field weighted citation impact (FWCI) for SDG16 research was above average every year, with an average of 1.04 over the period.

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 SDG Resource Centre.