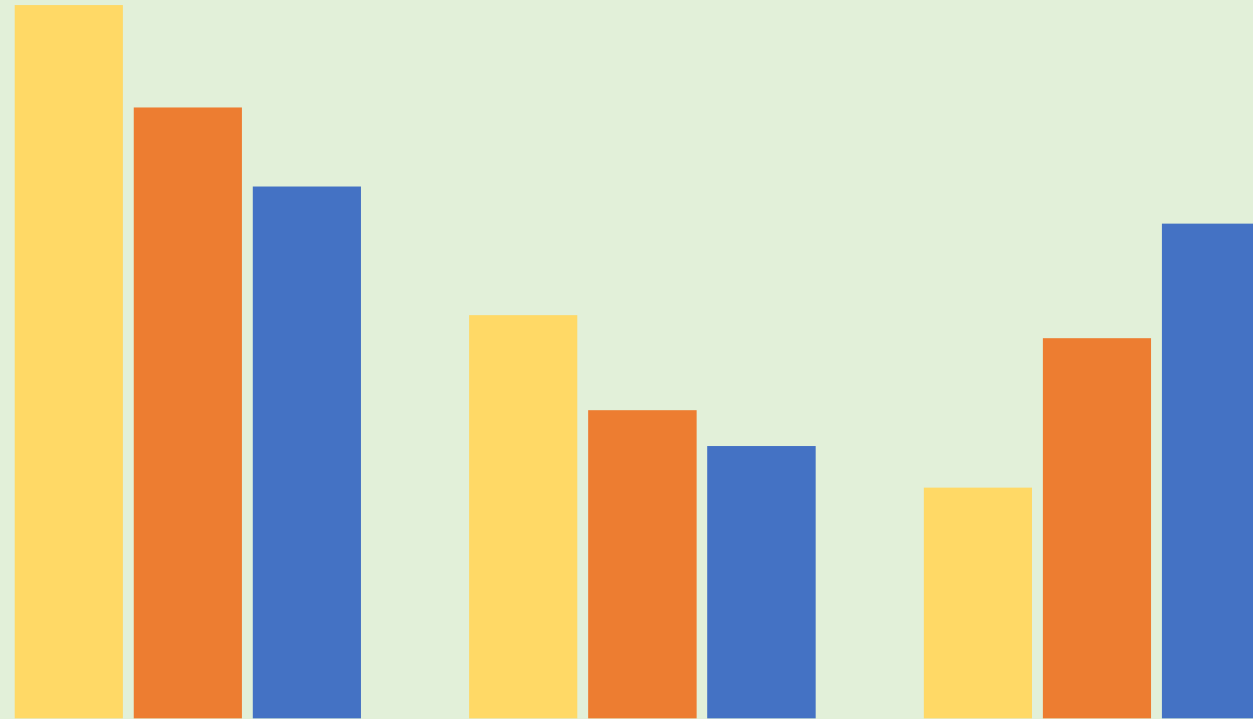


The 2019 Australian Aid Transparency Audit



Terence Wood & Luke Levitt Minihan

Today

Why transparency?

What we did?

What we found?

Why?

What can be done?

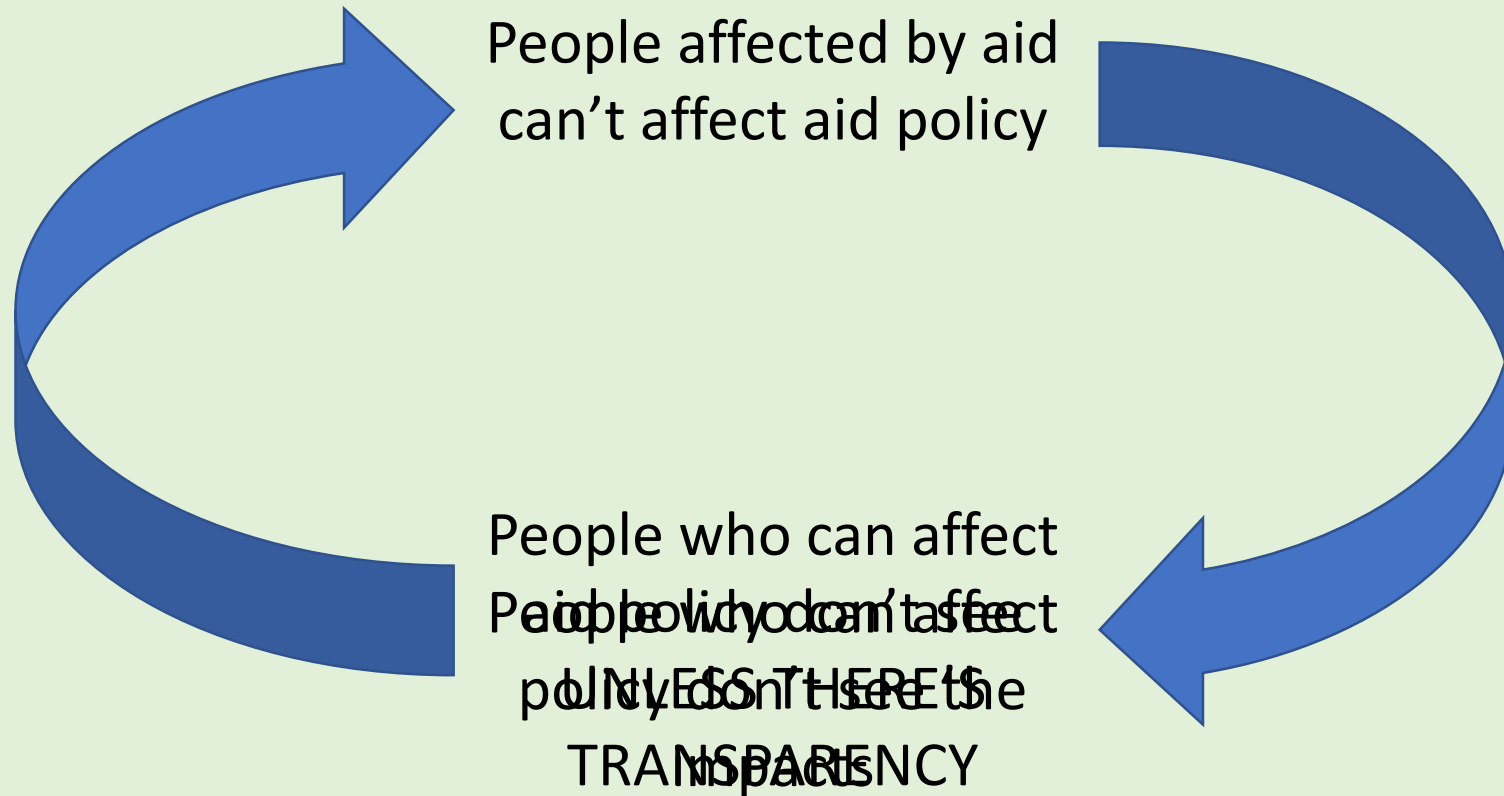
Covering quickly:

Report - <http://bit.ly/dptr2019>

Blog - <http://bit.ly/dptrb19>

Why do we care about transparency?

1. It's your money
2. Development effectiveness...



What we were looking for

Focus on the Australian Government Aid Program.

2013, 2016 and 2019 (comparable)

Focused on aid program's website (key window to the world)

A very specific type of transparency...

Audit online availability of key documentation for projects listed on the website.

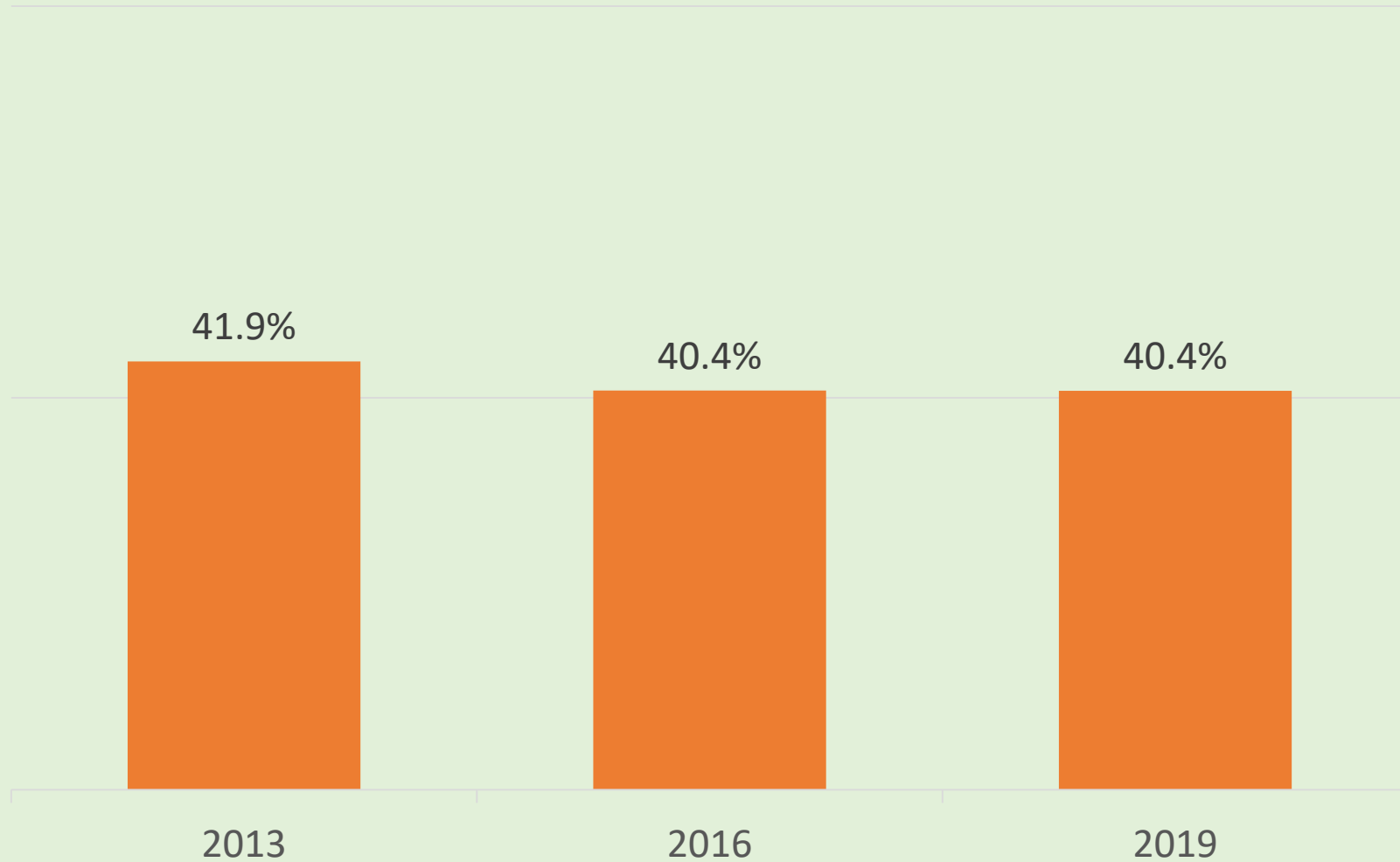
Documentation across aid project cycle – (planning, performance management, evaluations).

Sample of countries (all Pacific + Indonesia & random sample of other countries).

For sampled countries: audited each project on the website and calculated % which had documents in each type.

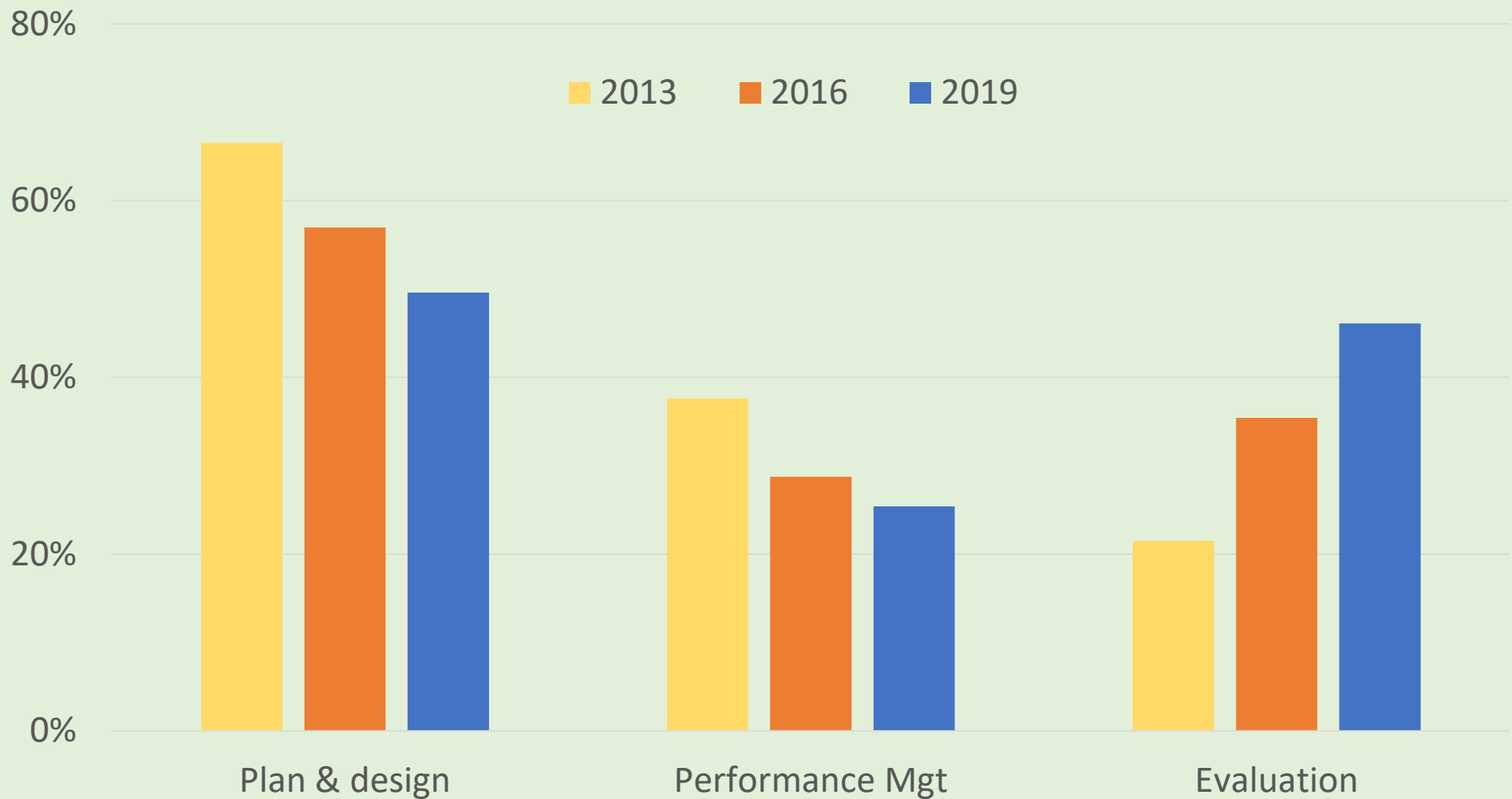
Document availability around the cycle

Average document availability (all types)



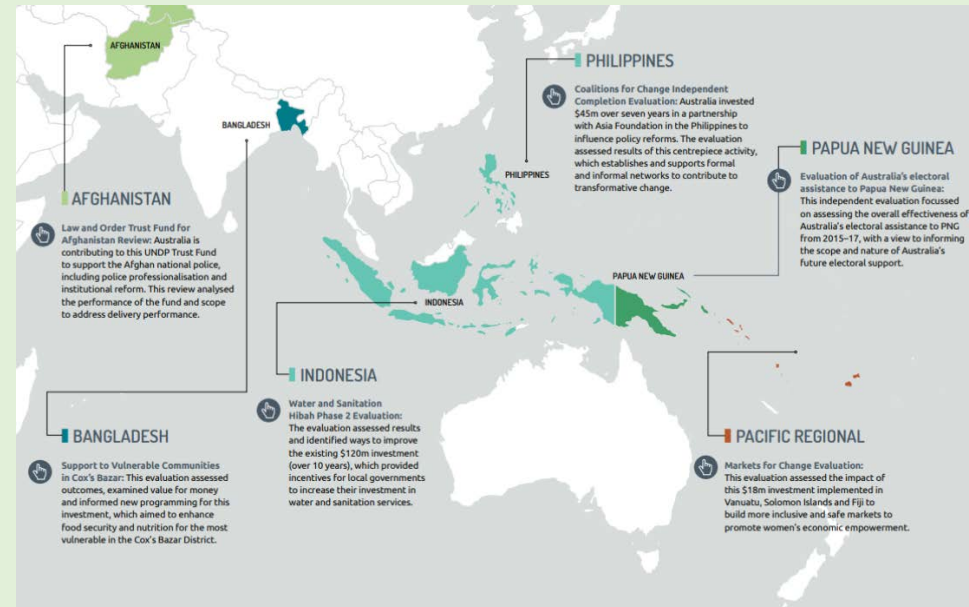
Detail around the cycle

Average document availability (all types)



Insights

1. Concerted effort from Office of Development Effectiveness increased availability of evaluations online (+IEC + new evaluations policy).
2. Often main impediment to publication of documents is busy staff, or non-specialist staff who don't know what they should be putting online.



Insights

We found:

1. No obvious evidence transparency less in more sensitive country programs.
2. Also, evaluations where frightening stuff is, but improved a lot.



Recommendations

Keep up the good stuff! (Even if we didn't study it) Orange & "Green" books.

Automatically list all projects over \$1M each year and put them online in CSV.

(Essentially done in IATI but IATI no use to average person.)

Transparency unit to advocate, educate (start early in project cycle), simplify.

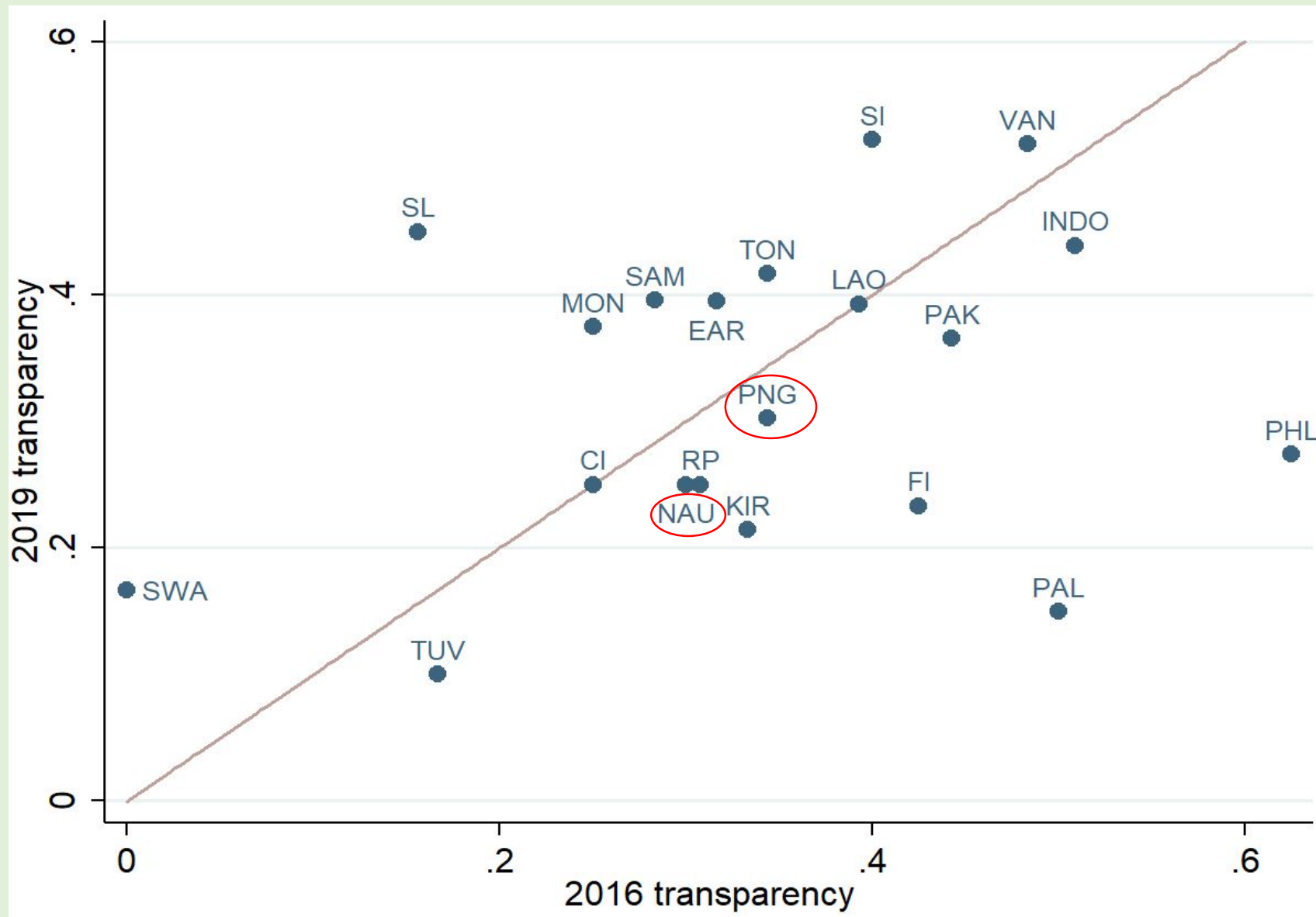
Thank you.

Read more, including the whole report...

Report - <http://bit.ly/dptr2019>

Blog - <http://bit.ly/dptrb19>

Enthusiasts' bonus – little evidence sensitive cttries worse



Enthusiasts' bonus – project size and transparency

