



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



Sustainable
Development
Goals

WESTPAC in Action for Sustainable Development Goals



IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

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For citation purposes, this brochure may be cited as:

WESTPAC in Action for Sustainable Development Goals: IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). Bangkok. 2017. 9 pp. [English] WESTPAC Brochure 2017-3

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A PDF version is available online at <http://iocwestpac.org>. This document is produced by the UNESCO/IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC Office). Editor-in-Chief: Wenxi Zhu, Design and Layout: Warren Field.

"On behalf of the people we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030"

Resolution 70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Transforming the World

The world's leaders and the international community from 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, September 2015 in order to transform the world for the people, the planet and the prosperity. The 2030 Agenda is composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 specific targets to be accomplished by 2030 with economic, social and environmental balances for sustainable development.





The Sustainable Development Goal for the Ocean: Life Below Water

As the lifeblood of human and the planet, the ocean is a crucial element to end poverty, protect the planet, ensure prosperity and foster peace for all.

The critical roles of the ocean for sustainable development is well recognized by the international community and embodied in the 2030 Agenda as a stand-alone Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) is comprised of a comprehensive set of 10 targets aiming to sustainably manage and protect the ocean ecosystems and their resources; and addressing challenges the ocean is facing.

Target 14.1

Reduce marine pollution

Target 14.2

Protect marine and coastal ecosystems

Target 14.3

Address the impacts of ocean acidification

Target 14.4

End overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Target 14.5

Conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas

Target 14.6

Eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing

Target 14.7

Increase the economic benefits to SIDs and LDCs

Target 14.a

Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology

Target 14.b

Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

Target 14.c

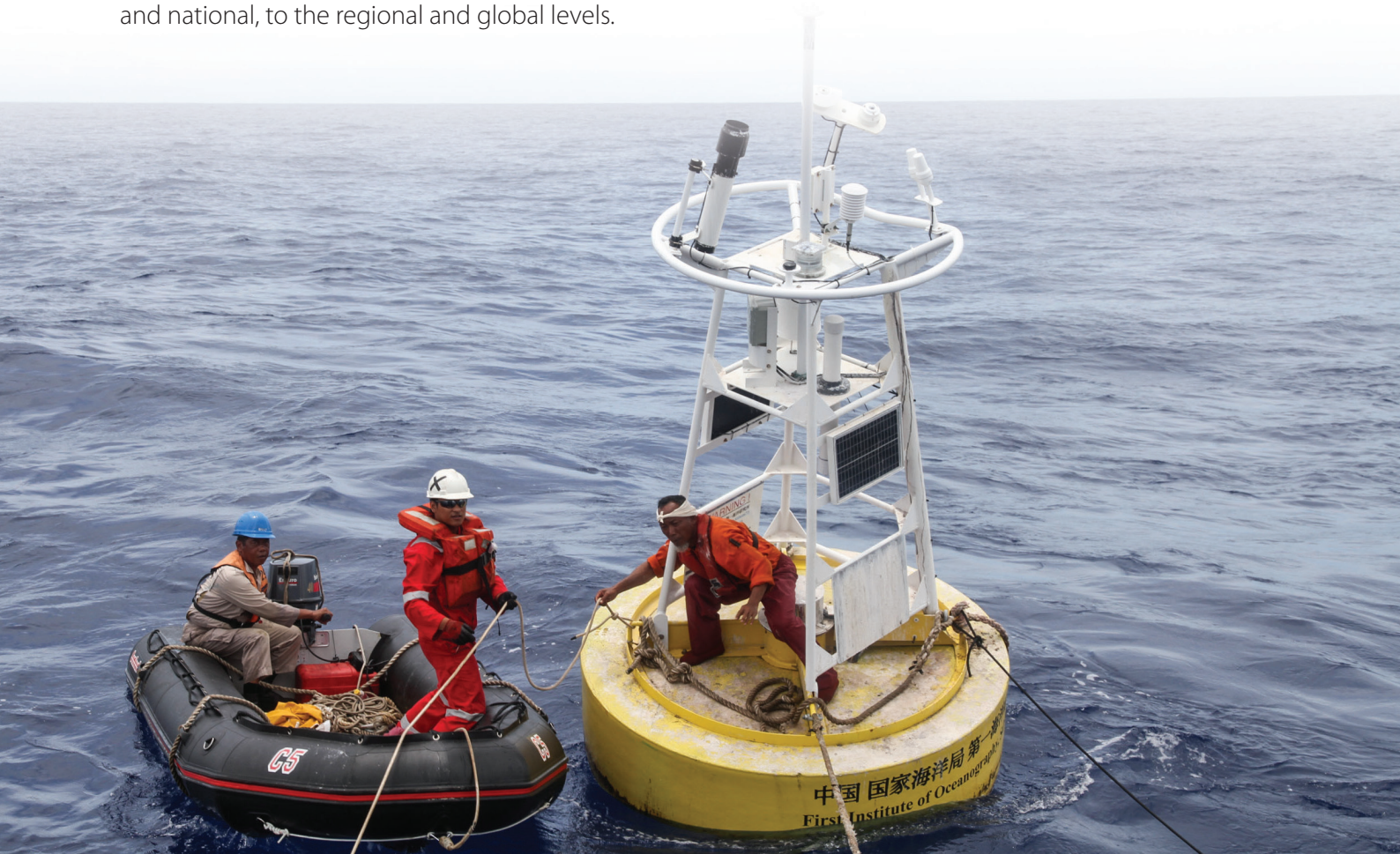
Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law



WESTPAC actions toward the attainment of SDG 14

The ambitious SDGs' targets of the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 14 can only be attained via strong ownerships, substantive commitments and effective partnerships at all levels from the local and national, to the regional and global levels.

WESTPAC endeavors to support its Member States in their great efforts toward the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the SDG 14.



"To successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14, functional, proactive and transformative partnership among all sectors at all levels is a critical requirement"



A consensus from the regional roundtable SDG 14 at the 4th Asia-Pacific Forum for the Sustainable Development (APFSD), 29-31 March 2017



Identification of national implementation status on SDG 14

In order to best serve the needs of the countries in the Western Pacific and its adjacent regions, WESTPAC conducted a survey in order to share national implementation status of SDG 14 among Member States. A number of WESTPAC's Member States have been demonstrating strong political will to fulfil their commitments by taking immediate actions toward the attainment of SDG 14 which involve:

Establishment of inter-ministerial coordination mechanism;

Conduct of multi-sectoral consultations;

Alignment of national development plan with SDG 14;

Formulation of national SDG 14 implementation plan;

Development of SDG 14 implementation indicators; and

Launching advocacy and public campaigns

Building regional partnerships

WESTPAC proactively engages in the collective efforts on SDG 14 implementation, via co-leading a roundtable for in-depth reviews of the regional implementation progress of Goal 14 at the 4th Asia-Pacific Forum for the Sustainable Development (APFSD), 29-31 March 2017, in close cooperation with UNESCAP, UNEP and UNDP. The 4th APFSD received over 500 participants from 40 countries. The Goal 14 Roundtable which identified human capacities, ocean knowledge and transfer of marine technology as key systematic challenges for achieving SDG 14.

Recommendations from the Goal 14 Roundtable regarding regional cooperation to address transboundary dimension include:

Strengthening the existing regional ocean governance and scientific development mechanisms;

Establishing regional ocean partnerships among UN agencies, sub-regional and regional ocean and fishery related organizations, NGOs, civil societies, public and private sectors, including local communities;

Supporting ecosystem-based approach, such as Large Marine Ecosystems, Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Protected Areas; and

Supporting the UN proposal for an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Efforts in specific targets of SDG 14

Through its on-going collaborative programmes and projects, WESTPAC directly contributes towards the attainment of Target 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, and 14.a.

Targets 14.1

Reduce marine pollution

WESTPAC strives to address marine pollution in the Western Pacific with a focus on marine debris and eutrophication.

Building on a network of institutions and expertise, the newly established WESTPAC microplastics programme will lead the regional efforts to research this topic, ranging from sampling and analysis methodologies; analyzing the distribution, source, fate and of marine microplastics and to assessing their effects on marine ecosystems.

Target 14.2

Protect marine and coastal ecosystems

In order to inform resource managers and policymakers about marine and coastal ecosystems, WESTPAC has been fostering collaborative research networks, disseminating scientific knowledge via its various programmes such as

- i. Coral reef restoration;
- ii. Coral reef resilience to climate change and human impacts;
- iii. DNA taxonomy and recruitment monitoring of the coral reef marine organisms; and
- iv. Ocean remote sensing for coastal habitat mapping

Target 14.3

Address the impacts of ocean acidification

Given limited understanding about ecosystem responses to ocean acidification, against a critical need of Member States to develop meaningful projections on the future impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, especially on coral reefs, WESTPAC initiated its efforts to monitor the ecological impacts of ocean acidification on coral reef ecosystems in the Western Pacific and its adjacent regions.

Key efforts included: the establishment of a regional research and monitoring network on ocean acidification, conduct of a series of regional trainings & workshops, selection of pilot areas, development of a set of Standard Operating Procedures for ocean acidification monitoring, and transfer of knowledge and technology among experts, institutions within and outside the region.

With great technical assistance of US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the regional network will be contributive to the global efforts, together with solid action plans and suitable SOPs to actually monitor and tackle ocean acidification issues in the Member States.



Plastic, plastic, everywhere: The world's oceans are full of discarded trash.

14.1

Image credit: WATERFRAME/ALAMY



14.2

Photograph taken to record the biological components on the reefs.

Image credit: Aileen Tan Shau Hwai



14.3

Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS) processes for monitoring the change and ecological impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs



14.a

Classroom session on crustacean taxonomy in Pari Island Research Station, IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

Target 14.a

Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology

WESTPAC employs inclusive, adaptive and self-driven approaches to capacity development with guiding principles to focus on user needs at the regional and national level, to foster North-South and South-South collaboration, and to link trainings to the attainment of research goals addressing critical development challenges in the region.

The Sub-Commission intensifies its efforts in:

- i. development of "IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers on Marine Science";
- ii. inclusion of capacity development into WESTPAC research programmes;

- iii. conduct of tailored national and regional trainings or training workshops in Member States on a rotation basis;
- iv. "Training Through Research" through the engagement of early career scientists into WESTPAC research programmes; and
- v. establishment of "WESTPAC Best Young Scientist Award" and "WESTPAC Young Scientist Travel Grant"

These WESTPAC's Capacity Development approaches and tools are also contributing greatly to global efforts such as the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2016-2021) and marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), ensuring the essential role of marine technology transfer and capacity development in achieving relevant targets and goals.



WESTPAC will continue its roles in facilitating ocean science development via regional collaboration on the following areas:

regional collaborative research

scientific knowledge dissemination, information sharing and science-policy interface

provision of technical assistance

marine technology transfer and capacity development

ocean and SDG 14 advocacy

forging if necessary, a regional platform

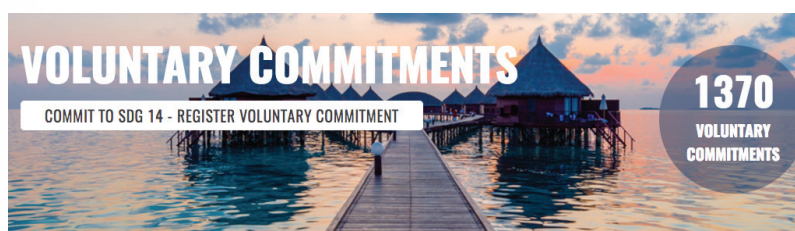
for countries to share their progresses, lessons learned, technology innovation and best practices in SDG 14 implementation.

WESTPAC Voluntary Commitments

In response to the “Global Call for Action” to support Goal 14, WESTPAC made two commitments geared at driving the implementation of SDG 14, namely:

Develop research capacity and transfer of marine technology through the UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science in the Western Pacific and adjacent regions in support of the SDG 14.a; and

Development and strengthening of the regional research and monitoring network, as part of global efforts, on the ecological impacts of ocean acidification on coral reef ecosystems in the Western Pacific and its adjacent regions in support of the implementation of SDG 14.3.



Develop research capacity and transfer of marine technology through the UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science in the Western Pacific and adjacent regions in support of the SDG 14.a

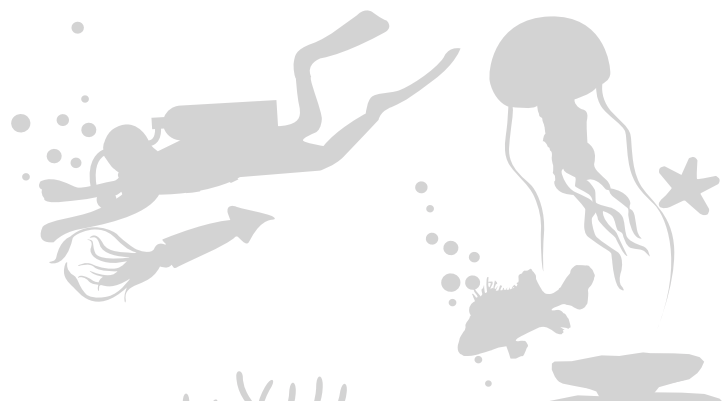
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by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, via its Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) (United Nations entity)

Development and strengthening of the regional research and monitoring network, as part of global efforts, on the ecological impacts of ocean acidification on coral reef ecosystems in the Western Pacific and its adjacent regions in support of the SDG 14.3

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