

United Nations Environment Programme

NOWPAP



**Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

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**Follow-up and review of SDG 14.1 using NOWPAP
mechanism**

(proposal is based on the UNEP document submitted as Information Document to the 22nd
NOWPAP IGM - UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/INF/5)

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I. Rationale

A) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Follow-up and review process

1. On 25 September 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve.
2. Resolution 70/1 recommended to use a set of global indicators to monitor the progress towards the Goals and targets. The Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Framework has been developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), agreed upon at the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017, and has been further adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in June 2017 and by the UN General Assembly in July 2017. It includes 232 individual indicators, of which nine are repeated for different targets, for a total number of 244 indicators.
3. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) has a central role in the SDGs follow-up and review process, and particularly in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working closely with the UN General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums. The HLPF meet every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (next in 2019) and every year under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Follow-up and review at the HLPF will be informed by an annual progress report on Sustainable Development Goals to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations System, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level, and by the Global Sustainable Development Report, reviewed by the ECOSOC and aimed at strengthening the science-policy interface.
4. At its 5th Meeting in March 2017, the IAEG-SDGs presented the Guidelines on data flows and global data reporting. The National Statistical Systems are the central compilers of data and indicators (from other relevant and new sources of data too, such as academia, the private sector and the civil society). As different countries have different data flows scenarios, they can report either to international agencies or to regional mechanisms that will then report to international agencies. Regional Mechanisms can facilitate the data transmission process from the national to the global level. When estimated and modelled data are reused, agencies need to consult and get agreement by national statistical authorities. International agencies will report to the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), which is the custodian of the Global SDG Indicators Database.

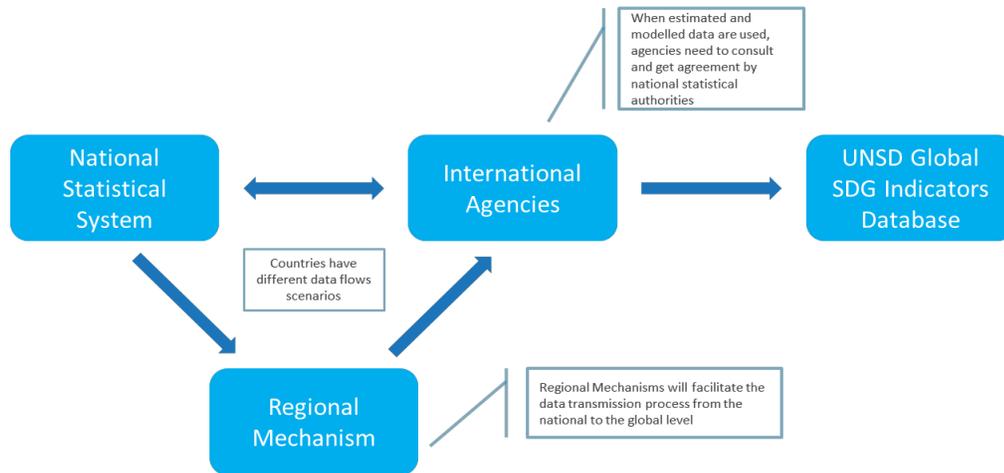
5. Furthermore, at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, UN Member States recognized the need for enhanced engagement of regional bodies, among others, to achieve SDG 14 (A/RES/71/312).

B) The Regional Seas programmes

6. In response to the 2030 Agenda, the Regional Seas programmes demonstrated their will to support their participating countries in achieving the ocean-related SDGs through the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) (UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8). At the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, the Regional Seas programmes decided to prepare the “SDG implementation Outlook documents”, which propose how they will support their participating countries in implementing and reporting on the Agenda 2030. The Regional Seas programmes agreed to work through the Regional Seas Indicators Working Group to prepare their outlook documents.
7. The Regional Seas Indicators Working Group was established based on the recommendation from the Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for the State of Regional Seas held in 2014. The First Working Group meeting adopted 22 indicators as the Regional Seas Core Indicators Set. The indicator set is a tool box for the Regional Seas programmes that are currently in the process of establishing monitoring programmes on the state of the marine environment based on indicators. Several Regional Seas programmes have already established indicator-based monitoring and reporting mechanisms for their Conventions, Action Plans and Protocols (Annex II). These Regional Seas programmes will continue using their indicator sets while they may consider incorporating some of the Regional Seas Core Indicators as appropriate.
8. As an activity of the Working Group, the Regional Seas programmes conducted analyses of their existing regional targets and indicators in comparison with the SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7. The Working Group also compiled the current monitoring practices of the 22 Regional Seas Core Indicators set conducted by the Regional Seas programmes and reviewed indicators related to SDG Indicators 14.1.1 (Regional Seas Indicator 1 and 3), and 14.2.1 (Regional Seas Indicator 22). The Working Group agreed that they would start using the Regional Seas Core Indicators set while incorporating the SDG indicators as the methodologies get further developed.
9. Currently, UNEP is preparing a scientific background study on the 22 indicators to facilitate the use of the indicators by the Regional Seas programmes for their monitoring on the status of the regional marine environment. The background study on the Regional Seas Indicators will be accompanied by guidelines on how to implement monitoring and reporting mechanisms at the regional level, including the relationship between national and regional reporting, the setting of targets and sub-targets and the identification of relevant indicators at national, regional and global level, which are currently being developed by UNEP.

B) UNEP proposed approach to the reporting on SDG 14 indicators

10. On the SDGs follow-up and review process, UNEP Assembly resolution 2/5 (UNEP/EA.2/5):
 - a. Emphasizes that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, has an important role in the follow-up to and review of progress in implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including the provision of policy-relevant information through assessment processes such as the Global Environment Outlook, as a contribution to the Global Sustainable Development Report and to the annual Sustainable Development Goals progress report, all of which should support the over all follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
 - b. Encourages the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, in a manner that avoids duplication, on indicators to support monitoring the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - c. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by: (a) Using data, disaggregated where applicable, and information from a wide range of sources across all relevant areas and strengthening cooperation with partners beyond the environment community, building on existing national and international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks;
 - d. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that UNEP Live, which already covers the internationally agreed environmental goals, provides credible, up-to-date information to support the follow-up to and review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, at all levels, by establishing along-term plan for the maintenance of the programme and the relevance of its content and ensuring good traceability of the data and information made accessible through it.
11. The Assembly through its resolution 2/10 further invited “Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and forums, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets”.
12. Responding to these resolutions, UNEP proposed to NOWPAP and other Regional Seas to use the existing Regional Seas mechanisms for the follow-up and review process of the ocean-related SDG indicators, particularly 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1. Fig.1 provides a schematic view of the proposed interaction between countries and regional mechanisms, and between the states and UNEP for the transmission of country-level information for the SDG14 follow up and review process.



Source: Guidelines on data flows and global data reporting, 5th Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, 30-31 March 2017, Ottawa

13. Indicator 14.1.1 (Index of Coastal Eutrophication [ICEP] and Floating Plastic Debris Density) is an indicator for which there are no established methodology and standards, or methodology/standards are being developed/tested. UNEP proposes a two-step approach for the reporting of data to inform both sub-indicators of 14.1.1. The first step allows the use of proxy indicators for nutrients pollution and eutrophication, as the methodology for ICEP is still under development. Chlorophyll-a concentration has been identified as proxy indicator for nutrient pollution, and it is currently measured by countries and incorporated with in some of the Regional Seas programmes. Based on this, and depending on Countries' capacities and priorities, it is proposed that additional indicators on nutrients pollution and eutrophication be progressively added to a "dashboard of indicators", which will include information on, but not limited to nitrates, nitrites, ammonium, phosphates and dissolved oxygen. The ICEP will be included in the dash board of indicators when the related methodology will be made available, tentatively in 2020. It is proposed that reporting on these indicators related to nutrients pollution to UNEP be carried out by the Regional Seas programmes, starting with reporting of already available information and further expanding this activity following guidance from UNEP. The existing national reporting mechanisms under the Regional Seas programmes will facilitate the reporting of data and information from the respective countries to the SDG Data and Information Unit, Science Division of UNEP, which is responsible for the reporting of this data and information to UNSD.
14. A similar approach will be used for Floating Plastic Debris Density. As a first step, it is proposed that the participating countries of the Regional Seas programmes start reporting on beach litter as a proxy indicator for marine litter. UNEP has initiated the work with the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Production (GESAMP) to develop harmonized monitoring methodologies on marine litter and microplastics. Once the methodology for the monitoring is fully developed, it is expected the reporting on the actual SDG indicator (Floating Plastic Debris Density) will be carried

out by the Regional Seas programmes by adding information on macro- and micro-plastics to a “dashboard of indicators on marine litter”.

15. On indicator 14.2.1 (Proportion of national Exclusive Economic Zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches), the first step in the reporting of data will allow the use of the Regional Seas Core Indicator 22: Integrated Coastal Zones Management (ICZM) protocols as a proxy indicator for coastal zones management. The participating countries to the Regional Seas Programmes that are already compiling national reporting on this indicator are invited to transmit the information through the corresponding Regional Seas Secretariats to UNEP, SDG Data and Information Unit. As a second step, additional information on Marine Spatial Planning and other forms of EEZs management will be provided to inform the “dashboard of indicators on coastal zones management”, based on the guidance documents provided by UNEP.
16. Of the three SDG 14 indicators for which UNEP is custodian agency, only indicator 14.5.1 (Coverage of protected area in relation to marine areas) is an indicator conceptually clear, for which an established methodology and standards are available and data are regularly produced by Countries. The reporting is currently carried out using the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) as data source, a joint project between UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), managed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.
17. In the proposed approach, the SDG Data and Information Unit of UNEP’s Science Division, will be mandated to verify and inter-calibrate the methodologies. It will provide support for capacity-building initiatives on monitoring and reporting in countries, to be implemented under the relevant Regional Seas Programmes. UNEP proposed that the Secretariats of the Regional Seas programmes be responsible for compiling national reporting on the relevant indicators and for the timely transmission of data to the SDG Data and Information Unit, which will transmit the information to the UN Statistics Division.
18. UNEP recognizes the need for an analysis of the capacity currently held by each of the Regional Seas programmes, to assess their needs for technical and financial support. It affirms that the Science Division will provide the Regional Seas programmes with the Information System necessary to the reporting of data, in the form of a data collection template and the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) for the Regional Seas programmes that still do not have a reporting mechanism in place. The list of the Regional Seas with a mandated reporting mechanism relevant to SDG indicators already in place is provided in Annex II. UNEP recommends that a focal point be assigned to the data collection process in each of the Secretariat.

II. Recommendations to the Regional Seas programmes

Taking into consideration Resolution 70/1, which through its paragraph 74 states the guiding principles of the SDGs Follow-up and review processes, guiding principle: f) They will build on existing platforms and process, avoiding duplication and minimizing the reporting burden on national administrations:

- 1) Focal Points are invited to express their views on the feasibility of using forthcoming NOWPAP State of the Marine and Coastal Environment in the NOWPAP region report (SOMER-3) for [monitoring] and reporting on indicators related to Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14).
- 2) Focal Points are invited to express their views on the feasibility of NOWPAP RACs Secretariats in accordance with their mandates and activities to collect and store monitoring data from participating countries on the following SDG 14 related indicators (chlorophyll-a and macro-litter on the beaches) as well as additional indicators when applicable (floating marine litter and potential eutrophic sites).
- 3) Focal points are invited to express their opinion whether NOWPAP RCU could share data and information relevant to SDG indicators, particularly 14.1.1 and 14.2.1 with UNEP, Science Division, SDG Data and Information Unit in view of a comprehensive monitoring and reporting on SDG 14 for the SDGs follow-up and review process.
- 4) Focal Points are invited to consider using these existing reporting mechanisms to the RCU to collect any additional data on marine pollution, coastal management, and Marine Protected Areas on a voluntary basis (indicators listed in Annex I above), with the aim of improving the collection of ocean-related data and indicators within the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to better address the following targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14:

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution;

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans;

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

Annex I. List of SDG indicators for which UNEP is custodian agency.

Indicator	SDG
1. 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	6
2. 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	6
3. 6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	6
4. 6.a.1 Amount of water-and sanitation related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	6
5. 6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and Sanitation management	6
6. 8.4.1 Material footprint (MF) and MF per capita, per GDP	8
7. 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption (DMC) and DMC per capita, per GDP	8
8. 12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or target into national policies	12
9. 12.2.1 Material footprint (MF) and MF per capita, per GDP	12
10. 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption (DMC)and DMC per capita, per GDP	12
11. 12.3.1 Global food loss index	12
12. 12.4.1 Number of Parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement	12
13. 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita, proportion of hazardous waste treated and by type of treatment	12
14. 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	12
15. 12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports	12
16. 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans	12
17. 12.a.1 Amount of support to developing countries on R&D for sustainable Consumption and production (SCP) and environmental sound technologies	12
18. 12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption)and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels	12
19. 14.1.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication (ICEP) and Floating Plastic Debris Density	14
20. 14.2.1 Proportion of national Exclusive Economic Zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	14
21. 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	14
22. 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	15
23. 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity	15
24. 15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	15
25. 17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	16
26. 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	17

Annex II. Indicative list of Regional Seas programmes with monitoring programme.

14.1.1 Relevant indicator- Chlorophyll-a

Regional Seas	Method	Dataflow	Database
Baltic Sea	In-situ sampling	National competent authorities conduct monitoring and report the data to HELCOM.	HELCOMCOMBINE database (in-situ monitoring data: http://ocean.ices.dk/helcom/Helcom.aspx?Mode=1)
Mediterranean Sea	In-situ sampling	All 21 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention submit data to the MEDPOL database on a yearly basis. Chlorophyll a is not mandatory as been reported by the majority of countries	MEDPOL database
Northwest Pacific	Remote sensing In situ sampling	Remotely sensed Chl-a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center NASA Insitu Chl-a: Local governments and government-designated organizations monitor the indicator. NOWPAP CEARAC developed a common procedure to assess eutrophication status.	NOWPAP CEARAC Database (http://ocean.nowpa.p3.go.jp/?page_id=862). Draft regional map of potential eutrophic zones in the NOWPAP region is available and being revised.
ROPME Sea Area	In-situ sampling through oceanographic cruise	Periodic regional cruise organized by the ROPME Secretariat	ROPME database

14.1.1 Relevant indicators- marine litter

Regional Seas	Method	Dataflow	Database
Baltic Sea	Macro-litter characteristics and abundance/volume	National competent authorities conduct monitoring and report the data to HELCOM.	Common monitoring guidelines for beach litter will be Developed among the
Mediterranean Sea	COP 19 adopted two indicators	Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention submit	MEDPOL database

	<p>related to marine litter.</p> <p>Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);</p> <p>At least 2 surveys per year in spring and autumn(Ideally 4 surveys per year in spring, summer, Autumn and winter)</p> <p>Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including micro plastics and on the sea floor (EO10);</p> <p>For floating litter visual ship-based monitoring of floatinglitter2.5cm to50cmas items/km2</p> <p>For litter on the seafloor shallow coastal waters(0-20m): minimum annual, maximum quarterly underwater visual surveys with SCUBA/snorkelling based online transect surveys in use fore valuation of benthic fauna</p> <p>Forseafloor20-800mcollectionof litter data through on-going and continuous bottom</p>	<p>data to the MEDPOL database</p>	
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	Trawl fish stock survey programmes		
Northwest Pacific	Monitoring follows the Guidelines for Monitoring Marine Litter on the Beaches and Shorelines of the Northwest Pacific Region All participating countries also use the	National authorities monitor marine litter; data on marine litter in the region is also collected by the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC). The latter are compiled by DINRAC.	NOWPAP DINRAC Website: http://dinrac.nowpap.org/our-work/marine-litter/monitoring-datasheets/ and on the NW Pacific Regional Node for Marine Litter website (http://www.npec.or.jp/NWPacific_node/index.html) - data are available for beaches only before 2014)

14.2.1 Relevant indicator – National ICZM guidelines and enabling legislation are adopted

Regional Seas	Method	Dataflow	Database
Baltic Sea	No HELCOM Indicator on national ICZM guidelines and enabling legislation Related information has been compiled as a part of regular HELCOM work on maritime spatial planning(MSP)	Updating of the factsheets on MSP is coordinated by the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group.	MSP country fact sheets/fiches
Mediterranean Sea	National ICZM guidelines and enabling legislation	Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol report in the frame work of the Reporting form at related to compliance with the legal obligations under the ICZM Protocol	