

Module 8

Sustainable Development

Goal No 14



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List of abbreviations



MDGs – Millennium Development Goals

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

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1.1: Introduction to the SDGs

By the year 2015, the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had committed countries to halt poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and women's discrimination (World Health Organization, 2018; United Nations, 2015a). The MDGs era enabled significant results, producing the most successful anti-poverty movement in history (United Nations, 2015b). Succeeding this landmark commitment, in 2015, a new bold and transformative global action plan was agreed to by the UN member's world leaders: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For 15 years, an inspiring framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (as shown in Figure 1) calls on countries to spare no effort to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all (United Nations, 2021a).

Figure 1 - Sustainable Development Goals



Source: United Nations, Communication Material (n.d.).

The UN Millennium Declaration broadly presented 4 targets to ensure environmental sustainability (MDG 7), focused on halting depletion of natural resources, halving biodiversity loss, access to clean and safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and improvement in lives of slum dwellers (United Nations, 2015b). On the other hand, the 2030 Agenda brings a specific goal to tackle the challenge of marine conservation. SDG 14 is related to environmental and biosphere aspects (Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2021), aimed at boosting oceans, seas and marine resources' conservation and sustainable use, which are essential and integrate the Earth's natural resources (United Nations, 2021b). Marine ecosystems are critical to sustainable development achievement, as they cover more than two thirds of the planet's surface and contain 97% of the Earth's water, being the primary regulator of the global climate and host for biodiversity reservoirs, as well as provider of opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and decent work (Soares, 2021).

Oceans, seas and marine resources have been increasingly threatened by humans' activities, for instance, through CO₂ emissions, climate change, marine pollution, resources extraction, and habitats destruction (Soares, 2021). The constant increase in carbon dioxide gas emissions causes ocean acidification and threatens the marine environments and ecosystem services. This phenomenon has increased by about 25% from preindustrial times to the early 21st century (EPA, 2019). A 100-150% rise in ocean acidity was projected by 2100, affecting half of all marine life (United Nations, 2021b). Based on the Agenda 2030's timespan of 15 years, in 2020, the Decade of Action was supposed to start and accelerate sustainable solutions to the global challenges. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the whole global scenario. In this sense, some targets may not be achieved by 2030 and others can be catalysed for the drastic reduction in human activity. SDG 14 is one of the key global goals for a post COVID-19 sustainable retrieval, a possible opportunity for ocean and marine ecosystems to recuperate (United Nations, 2021b).

This module describes the many features of SDG 14 as part of a global effort to foster sustainable development and to bring about the UN 2030 Agenda.

1.2: Defining SDG14

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 calls for action to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" (United Nations, n.d.a). It has seven suggested global outcome targets and three additional targets referred as means of implementation, each one accompanied by an indicator to

monitor progress over time, as presented in Table 1. The targets cover topics such as **marine pollution**, **ocean acidification**, and **sustainable fishing**, supporting all spheres of sustainable development: economic development, social inclusion, and environmental protection (Rees et al., 2018). The current rates of pollution and degradation, the impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, and the importance of oceans and marine resources call for urgent action around SDG 14 (United Nations, 2020a).

Table 1 - Targets and indicators of SDG 14

Targets	Indicators
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;	14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density
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;	14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches
14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels;	14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics;	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
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;	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation;	14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

Targets	Indicators
sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism;	
14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries;	4.a.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology
14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets;	14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries
14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.	14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

1.2.1: Significance of SDG14

Conservation and sustainable use are among the main keywords related to SDG 14. **Sustainable use** applies the same concept as sustainable development, aiming at meeting the needs of present and future generations. According to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), it refers to “the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity” (p. 4). According to the definition presented in the Global Biodiversity Strategy (ebd), **conservation** is “the management of human use of the biosphere” and it should embrace “preservation maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment” (WRI IUCN and UNEP, 1992, p. 228), also following the sustainability concept of benefiting current and future generations.

According to the United Nations (n.d.a), the a.m. aspects were considered along the topic of oceans and marine resources given its importance and role in making the planet habitable, providing the conditions related to temperature, weather, water availability, circulation, food, ecosystems, and transportation. As indicated by Pörtner et al. (2019), all people depend directly or indirectly on the ocean, as its functions include uptake and

redistribution of carbon dioxide and heat, regulation of the hydrological cycle, and services related to energy, food and freshwater, health and wellbeing, in addition to social and environmental conditions and economic growth.

The approach of SDG 14 can be presented through three main thematic areas, as shown in Figure 2: i) marine pollution, ii) ocean and climate, and iii) sustainable use of oceans and marine resources (Sturesson et al., 2018).

Figure 2 - Main thematic areas covered by SDG14

Marine Pollution	Ocean and Climate	Sustainable Use
<p>Marine pollution is one of the biggest environmental problems of the modern world. Everyday a huge amount of waste finds its way into the oceans</p> <p>Marine litter represents a threat to biodiversity and marine services</p> <p>Particularly serious is the pollution caused by plastic waste and microplastics, especially due to its impact on marine species and human health</p>	<p>Oceans are climate regulators for capturing heat and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere</p> <p>The carbon dioxide combines with water and generates carbon acid; this intensified process has been causing ocean acidification and impacting biodiversity and marine services</p> <p>Impacts of climate change lead to sea temperature rise, another serious impact on marine species.</p>	<p>SDG 14 reinforces the importance of sustainable use and aims at implementing efforts to end illegal fishing, overfishing and other unsustainable practices</p> <p>SDG 14 also fosters the Blue Economy, which represents the sustainable use and management of marine resources with principles of ecosystem health, economic growth and improved livelihoods.</p>

Source: Authors based on work by Sturesson et al. (2018) – License: CC BY-SA 4.0

In terms of marine pollution, data indicate that marine debris harm more than 800 species, and over 40% of marine mammals and seabird species are affected by debris ingestion (United Nations, 2017). The serious problem of plastic waste is supported by numbers: oceans receive more than 8 million tons of plastic yearly, and projections indicate that by 2050 there will be more plastics than fish in the ocean (United Nations, 2017). The problems related to marine pollution cause several financial losses and represent a huge biodiversity threat.

Regarding the relation with climate, the oceans absorb over 20% of annual carbon dioxide emissions caused by human activities and the excess heat in the climate system (United Nations, 2020a). The climate-regulation function is threatened by acidification and sea temperature rise, which in consequence also affect ecosystems and economic activities.





As for sustainable use and the economics of marine resources, fisheries promote around 57 million jobs worldwide and also represent “the primary source of protein to over 50% of the population in least developed countries” (United Nations, 2020a, p.2). The term Blue Economy, which is used to refer to the sustainable use of ocean resources aiming at economic growth, improved livelihoods, and health of the marine ecosystems (World Bank,

2017, p. 6), supports these issues, although further efforts are needed to ensure a common definition, clearly defined goals and collaboration between all stakeholders involved (Ertör and Hadjimichael, 2020; Lee et al., 2020).

1.2.2: Interdependencies of SDG14

As presented in the previous sections, SDG 14 directly or indirectly impacts a series of other goals, in addition to having strong synergies among its own targets. Some studies investigated in detail the connection of each target of this goal with other SDGs (Le Blanc et al., 2017; Sing et al., 2018) and main conclusions indicate the connection of the marine goal with all others, and the fact that most relations are synergetic, potentially making SDG 14 one of the goals with the fewest tradeoffs. The main connections are presented in the summary below:

Table 2 – Relation between SDG 14 and other goals

	<p>By sustainably managing marine ecosystems, disadvantaged communities can benefit from improved resilience and alternative livelihood. At the same time, by fighting poverty, less pressure might be made in those ecosystems given their unsustainable use. A possible negative connection among SDG 1 and SDG 14 refers to resource access in protected areas and increase in inequalities.</p>
	<p>Marine pollution and ocean acidification negatively impact food security. Proper management of ecosystems and fisheries can also improve production, food quality and contribute to reduce hunger. Activities related to food production, as agriculture, should also be well managed to prevent impacts on water ecosystems.</p>
	<p>SDG 3 has a specific target on reducing the number of deaths and illnesses caused by air, water and soil pollution and contamination. The main connection is related to protection of marine resources and reduced pollution which impact positively on health conditions.</p>
	<p>Economic activities, especially in coastal areas, can cause ocean pollution and need to be regulated to have this impact minimised. On the other hand, promotion of better management of marine ecosystems and biodiversity can boost sustainable economic growth and job creation (especially in coastal/ touristic regions).</p>



Industrial activities can also cause ocean pollution and endanger marine biodiversity; therefore, proper **infrastructure** planning and improvements due to **innovation** in this area can support marine protection.



By making **cities more sustainable**, it is expected to have pollution from urban activities and the impact of urbanization under control, reducing the pressure on coastal regions and contamination of marine resources.



As with the health goal, SDG 12 also has a target related to reduce the release of chemicals and waste into the environment, including water resources, and consequently reducing the impact of **production and consumption** practices on marine ecosystems.



The two main relations between **climate action** and marine resources refer to the role of oceans in capturing carbon dioxide and its climate control function, and the negative impact that climate change can have on marine resources, as ocean acidification, increased sea temperature and consequent effects on biodiversity.



The sustainable management of each goal (SDG 14 and SDG 15) contribute positively to the other. By protecting coastal areas, **terrestrial ecosystems** also benefit. Equally, the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems can reduce ocean pollution.

More potential relations exist within these goals, and also with other SDGs depending on different contexts, priorities and point of views (Ntona and Morgera, 2018; von Schuckmann et al., 2020).

1.2.3: Advantages of SDG14

By addressing the targets of the goal and contributing to several others as well, SDG 14 contributes to sustainable development in various ways. A way of presenting these outcomes is summarised in Figure 3.

Through conservation and protection of marine ecosystems, SDG 14 contributes to improved conditions for development of species and their communities (e.g. facilitating reproduction and improving adaptability and habitats' quality and quantity). Several species (e.g. non-calcifying phytoplankton, and marine calcifying organisms, such as corals and

crustaceans) suffer from ocean acidification, sea temperature rise and predatory economic activities, for example. Efforts related to this goal also promote better conditions for ecosystems' processes and productivity, in addition to supporting services as well (e.g. transportation, energy generation, sociocultural relations).

The previous section presented the connection of marine protection to several SDGs, including the ones related to social aspects of poverty, hunger and health. Although not always perceived as fundamentally important for human well-being, oceans have a crucial role in these social relations, especially in relation to being a resource for livelihoods and economic growth, food security, and health conditions.

Figure 3 - Main advantages of SDG14



Source: Authors – based on work by Brooks et al. (2020) – License: CC BY-SA 4.0

Another important advantage of SDG 14 – shared by all goals – is the impact on knowledge and behaviour. As the goal is implemented, more information needs to be shared to promote awareness on the role of marine resources and importance of its protection, stimulating more good practices and involvement of stakeholders.

Governance is also presented as a specific positive outcome taking into consideration the public participation, partnerships and empowerment generated through sustainability initiatives linked to SDG 14 (Brooks et al., 2020). Aspects of marine and coastal areas tend to be governed in a sectoral and isolated way – with decisions fragmented by area (e.g. production, trade and transportation, environmental efforts and biodiversity); however, the

cumulative impacts of these processes demand joint efforts (Vierros, 2017). Through sustainable development and specifically with the actions of SDG 14, a more holistic governance for protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystems can be pursued.

1.2.4: Challenges in the Implementation

Sturesson et al. (2018) presented three key research challenges related to the implementation of SDG 14. Firstly, the fact that the oceans can be seen as “everyone's problem, but no one's responsibility” (p.13), a fact that hinders coordinated practical initiatives. Secondly, the prioritisation among targets and social, economic and environmental aspects; and thirdly, the lack of a standardised monitoring approach, which can delay planning and hamper the selection of appropriate solutions. Similarly, Virto (2018) suggested that the development of innovative approaches for data collection and monitoring, and opportunities for interdisciplinary research on oceans and marine biodiversity represent challenges related to implementation of SDG 14.

According to the report on the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2020b), although some important advancements have been observed for SDG 14, challenges related to environmental problems and marine conservation should guide future efforts, especially after the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The main challenges highlighted by the report are as follows:

- **Solving the problem of ocean acidification**

The process of absorbing carbon dioxide is a natural process of oceans, but the increased amount of emissions led to the serious ocean acidification – oceans are currently 26% more acid in comparison to the pre-industrial period (United Nations, 2020b). Projections also indicate 100-150% rise in acidity by the end of the century, calling for urgent action. The acidification not only endangers biodiversity and ecosystem services, but also reduces the ocean capacity to keep absorbing carbon emissions and support climate regulation.

- **Protect key biodiversity areas**

The coverage of protected areas in water under national jurisdiction has observed a great increase in the last decade, but this protection network must increase to cover more key biodiversity areas, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States. These key areas represent “sites of importance for the global persistence of

biodiversity” (IUCN, 2016, pg. 8) and increase the capacity of marine environments to achieve conservation targets (Handley et al., 2020). Among other facts, protecting these areas demand a structured plan, proper management, and availability of resources – a series of factors that challenge the achievement of SDG 14.

- **Increase efforts to curb illegal fishing and promote sustainable production**

According to the United Nations (2020), the first binding international agreement that addresses illegal fishing (the Agreement on Port State Measures) has been receiving increased number of parties, which is positive to overcome the challenge of implementing international instruments on this topic. However, given the seriousness of illegal fishing, the decrease in levels of sustainable production, and the impacts on biodiversity and marine systems, more concerted global action is needed. Another challenge related to this topic is the support to small-scale producers – especially to ensure the implementation of sustainable production.

- **The impact caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Several SDGs had their progress endangered due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Although Sachs et al. (2020) indicated that short-term impacts of COVID-19 on SDG 14 are still not clear, positive and negative aspects can be considered. Regarding the positive ones: the extreme reduction in human activities (including trade, transportation, economic and industrial activities) reduced the impact on oceans not only directly (e.g. transportation, in-situ pollution), but also indirectly – through reduced carbon emissions, representing an opportunity for oceans to recuperate (United Nations, 2020b). This recuperation also includes the possibility to re-assess priorities and action plans, as well as the priority given to the goal. Ormaza-González and Castro-Rodas (2020) show how the reduced economic and touristic activities improved the quality of coastal areas and reduced several types of pollution, e.g. reduced demand for fishery markets, and reduced noise and environmental pollution, and thus positively contributing to several species, i.e. allowing marine species to return.

On the other hand, the negative aspects refer to long-term impacts of the pandemic. Even though the water quality might be better now, the pollution from plastic waste (and consequently microplastic), for example, increased drastically, which might end up affecting nature systems - oceans included as well (Mosley and McMahon, 2020; Tedesco, 2020).

Some targets of SDG 14 had a 2020 timeline, and good progress has been observed only for conservation of coastal and marine areas (14.5), which had good results worldwide – although increased efforts are still needed in regions of Africa and Asia. The target on

prohibiting subsidies that contribute to overfishing and illegal activities (14.6) has made progress but, according to the last available report, not enough to meet the target (United Nations, 2020). More efforts are necessary to support targets that have not shown the expected progress in the first years of the 2030 Agenda, specifically on protection of marine ecosystems and restoration of fish stocks to sustainable levels.

1.3: Good Practices

Even though the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a universal and global effort, the local legal, and economic specificities of each country or region give rise to different actions to be taken all over the world. Good practices, success examples and lessons learned were selected to inspire the SDG 14 implementation by different stakeholders. The United Nations make available the SDGs Knowledge Platform, where 513 good practices related to different Global Goals can be found. Notwithstanding, SDG 14 presents the lowest number of reported good practices (DSDG, 2021). Table 1 presents the selected best practices for this module.

Table 3 – Best practices related to SDG 14

Name and Geographical coverage	Objective	Summary	Related SDGs	Source
#EUBeachCleanUP - Europe	To raise awareness of the marine litter	The Smurfs are the official partners of the campaign. They are a universal symbol of living in harmony with nature. Different partners have teamed up to organize various lake, beach and river clean-up events and challenges.	SDG 13	European Commission, 2020
WATC - Scotland	To connect marine mammals to the 'Internet of Things'	Mobile technology is helping identify where the seals from Scotland's Orkney Islands are feeding and whether their food source or lack of it is the problem. A mobile phone with a GPS tracker is harmlessly glued to the fur on the back of the seal's neck. This may provide insights into seal's feeding habits, vital information, location, dive behaviour, and oceanic environment, enhancing conservation and promoting the	SDGs 9 and 13	SDGs Action, 2017

Name and Geographical coverage	Objective	Summary	Related SDGs	Source
		sustainable use of ocean-based resources.		
Malaysia - Ericsson's Connected Mangroves	To reduce mangroves' degradation and restore livelihoods	It combines mobile, IoT (Internet of Things) and cloud technologies in the world's first project where mangroves are being monitored in real-time, enabling better management of new sapling growth. This project is benefiting Malaysian people, businesses and society.	SDGs 9 and 13	Ericsson, 2019
Global - #Stopsucking for a Strawless Ocean	To reduce marine litter	This campaign encourages people to challenge their favorite restaurant, celebrity or friend to stop the use of single-use plastic straws.	SDGs 12 and 13	Strawless Ocean, 2021
Global - The Friends of Ocean Action	To foster initiatives to meet the ocean goal.	This is a three-year and public-private initiative, combining innovation, resources, motivation and solutions from different sectors. The idea is to use combined networks to scale and accelerate existing partnerships and initiatives to trigger new actions to support SDG 14.	SDG 9	World Economic Forum, 2018

1.4: Exercises and Assessment

Based on SDG 14 targets and concept, this section proposes a set of exercises that teachers, professors, and lecturers can use with their students in order to foster ideas, solutions and new initiatives for sustainable development.

1.4.1: Exercises

Clean-up challenge: this is a practical exercise where students can, for instance, team up to promote one-day events for cleaning-up rivers, lakes or beaches.

Plastic waste self-monitoring: individually, students are invited to list and measure the plastic waste they generate during a period (a semester, a month, or a week). They need to

develop a report and discuss in class. For example: How could I reduce my plastic consumption? How many years does the plastic need to decompose? Where is the main waste disposal in your city? Are there water resources near it?

Triple Layered Business Model Canvas: groups of students are invited to discuss challenges regarding SDG 14 and its targets and propose a solution for it using the Business Model Canvas. This model is a strategic management tool to develop an idea or project. A specific template is used to develop the exercise. It is possible to download the model's template for free from www.visual-paradigm.com or prepare it online at www.xtensio.com, where an explanation on how to exercise this model is available (Visual Paradigm, 2020; Xtensio, 2020). Joyce and Paquin (2016) proposed the Triple Layered Business Model Canvas to design more sustainable business models. This exercise should be performed in at least three classes. In the first class, students should identify the main challenges and propose some solutions. In the second class, they should develop the business using the Model Canvas. In the last class, they are invited to present the solution in a pitch format and some external invited people can choose the best alternative.

Seaside Fun: there are all kinds of recreational activities to do at the beach/lake. How many can you think of? Which ones have you already tried and which would you still like to try? Conduct a survey in your area to find out which activities people have done at the beach/lake. Alternatively, go to your local beach/lake and count how many people are taking part in the different activities. What is the most popular activity? Make charts to show your findings. Make sure you record the date of your visit. That way, if you or another member of your group visits the same beach on another day, you can compare your findings. Have the numbers changed? Why do you think that might be?

Fishing gear: organize a debate about the sustainability of fishing and the use of different fishing gear and practices. Each person in the group has to research the pros and cons of a different type of fishing gear. You may also want to find out about differences between artisanal and industrial fishing. Each person should make a short presentation about why their form of fishing is best. Once you have finished your presentations, invite the audience to ask questions. When all the questions have been discussed, ask the audience to vote on which form of fishing they think is most sustainable.

Smaller Footprints: discuss the impacts of climate change on the ocean and how these might affect people. Make a list of all the ways that human activities impact climate change and therefore ocean life. What can be done to reduce these impacts? How can you, your

family, friends and community support this? Create a list of everyday activities that you can easily change to help reduce your greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. get ideas from www.epa.gov/climatestudents/solutions/actions/index.html). Choose three ways to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and commit to making these changes. Revisit this challenge after two weeks to see how you are getting on. Renew your pledge and commit to keep going!

Ocean Campaign: discuss any problems at your local beach or in your local coastal area that you would like to change with your group; or whether there is an issue, nationally or internationally, that you think people in your area should be aware of (e.g. overfishing, pollution, coastal development or climate change). Start an awareness-raising campaign. Think about things like: Who is your audience? How will you reach it? How long should your campaign last? What outcomes would you like to achieve? There are many ways that you can reach your audience. You could start by writing a letter to people in your community to persuade them to change their behavior. You could make posters informing people of the problem and put them in conspicuous places around your community. You could hold an event, giving presentations and handing out leaflets explaining the issue. You could try to get the local media involved. You could make your own film or radio program (ask some professionals for help). What other ways can you think of?

Ecolabels and fisheries: the main aim of this exercise is to learn about the meaning of ecolabels on fisheries and the importance about products' sustainability status. First of all, make a list of the main ecolabels on fisheries (international ones, national ones, regional ones, and local ones). Do some research on the sustainability labels/symbols. Go to the fish market, supermarket or shop to identify which items are labelled as sustainable. Compare if there are differences in prices between labelled fishes and non-labelled ones. Make a list of the requirements of each ecolabel found. After that, ask questions such as: Would you pay more for a labelled fish? Do you believe the requirements are enough to evaluate the sustainability of the fisheries? Do you usually choose ecolabel products?

1.4.2: Assessment

In this section, the module rolls out a set of different questions related to the SDG 14 to help assess students' understanding of the topic and the interlinkages and challenges. They can be used to discuss the topic further.

Questions:

1. How could our current life patterns affect SDG 14 targets?
2. Does ocean degradation only pledge coastal population?
3. How can marine ecosystems' degradation affect human life?
4. How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting SDG 14 targets? Are these impacts positive or negative?
5. How can SDG 14 actions help on post-COVID-19 recovery?
6. List some good practices that target the implementation of SDG 14.
7. What could be your own contribution to SDG 14?
8. How is SDG 14 interconnected with the other SDGs?
9. What are the main challenges in realizing the protection of marine ecosystems?
10. What are the difficulties in implementing SDG 14 in your country? Which are the main barriers? And how can they be overcome?

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Additional links:

- <https://nereusprogram.org/reports/report-oceans-and-sustainable-development-goals-co-benefits-climate-change-and-social-equity/>
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