

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

A FUTUREPLUS GUIDE

+ SDG14: “CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.”

(By 2030)

Target 14.1 – Reduce marine pollution

Target 14.2 – Protect and restore ecosystems

Target 14.3 – Reduce ocean acidification

Target 14.4 – Sustainable fishing

Target 14.5 – Conserve coastal and marine areas

Target 14.6 – End subsidies contributing to overfishing

Target 14.7 – Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources

Target 14.8 – Increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health

Target 14.9 – Support small scale fishers

Target 14.A – Implement and enforce international sea law

+ PROGRESS & INFO

Healthy oceans and seas are essential to our existence. They cover **70% of our planet** and we rely on them for food, energy and water. Yet we have managed to do tremendous damage through plastic and marine pollution, ocean warming, eutrophication, acidification and overfishing.

These threats place further pressure on environmental systems, like biodiversity and natural infrastructure, while creating global socio-economic problems, including health, safety and financial risks.

Over **three billion people** depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, today we are seeing **30%** of the world’s fish stocks overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields.

+ BUSINESS ACTIONS

- Think about carbon emissions. The warming climate (the direct result of human activity) is also warming our seas and having a catastrophic effect on ocean life and marine ecosystems.
- Source sustainably. From fish, shellfish and seaweed, to ocean minerals, gravel or sand, if you are producing, procuring or selling ocean resources, make sure your organisation is not complicit in causing damage to the seabed or marine environments.
- Consider noise pollution. If you operate on (or in) the water, for example in the tourism sector, consider the impact of your operations on local ocean life.
- Assess the life cycle of products and materials you use and/or produce to understand how they are disposed of and which are likely to pollute marine environments.
- Utilise a value-chain approach to create connections between the design, packaging, marketing and recycling of materials with the goal of reducing their environmental impact at the end of their lifecycle.
- Consider the chemical and material usage within products, packaging, and processing systems.
- Replace, limit or prohibit the use of certain chemicals, additives, or materials that have a potential negatively affect on marine ecosystems, including chemicals used for cleaning purposes and in swimming pools.
- Prevent waste mismanagement or littering that could pollute marine environments.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of single-use plastics, and particularly micro-plastics and man-made fibres, that are not required for medical reasons, food hygiene or reasons of inclusion.
- Consider the environmental impact of your advertising and marketing campaigns. Print advertising can impact the environment through factors such as the sourcing and production of paper, petroleum-based inks, or plastic wraps and adhesives.

+ ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

- **Raise consumer awareness** on effective ways to properly dispose of their waste to discourage littering and promote responsible behaviour.
- Consider running an educational workshop for employees on the environmental footprint of the business and how to minimise it - we can help with this!
- Look for partnerships and invest in companies which advance the conservation of the world's oceans.
- Install water refill stations and eliminate single-use plastic bottles from the office.
- Contribute to the development of waste management technologies that minimise the use of clean water.
- Support a marine conservation charity.
- Organise a river/ocean/beach cleanup project. Although cleanups may seem short-lasting, it is a great way to raise awareness and appreciate the problem first-hand.

+ NEED MORE HELP?

We also offer consultancy services if you would like more comprehensive support with achieving your sustainability goals.

Please let us know if you would like more information – we would be happy to provide you with a quote: team@future-plus.co.uk