



Marine  
litter (SDG  
14.1.1)

Healthy  
Oceans  
(SDG 14)

**UN**   
**environment**

United Nations  
Environment Programme

Future  
Steps

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# Sustainable Development Goal 14

The UN General Assembly adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. A dedicated goal on oceans reflects the increased realization that oceans are important for our planet and our well-being.

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Targets:** Marine litter and coastal eutrophication, management of marine areas, ocean acidification, over fishing, marine conservation, fisheries subsidies, management of marine resources, scientific knowledge, artisanal fisheries, law of the sea


Monitoring  
framework

# Marine litter

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Target 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

**Indicator 14.1.1:** Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density



Current  
practices

## Monitoring

A SDG monitoring framework was developed to promote national monitoring and to ensure that the SDG targets can be tracked across time. (UN Environment is responsible for 3 of these indicators, including marine litter.)

The approach is to bring together existing experiences in monitoring, including by Regional Seas Programmes (OSPAR in the North Atlantic) to measure these indicators.

**UN Environment is working on an approach to bring together**

- In situ measurements,
- Citizen science, and
- Remote sensing.



# Indicator overview

## - The indicator will include

- 1) **Plastic debris washed/deposited on beaches or shorelines** (beach litter): most of the 18 Regional Seas.
- 2) **Plastic debris in the water column**: 3 regional seas have a methodology, but little monitoring
- 3) **Plastic debris on the seafloor/seabed**: 3 regional seas plus EU have some data
- 4) **Plastic ingested by biota** (e.g. sea birds): 2 regional seas plus EU

**Monitoring is inconsistent, global modelling cannot be scaled down to the national level, little is known about the current volume of plastic or microplastic in oceans and even less is known about where plastic accumulates.**

**Very little use of remote sensing data or citizen science data in any regional or global monitoring effort.**

Future Steps

# National action plan

National Inventory

Legislation  
and  
advocacy

Statistics on  
plastic  
production,  
imports, use  
and lifecycles  
(links to SDG  
12.2.1 and  
12.2.2)

Waste  
management  
statistics (linked  
to SDG 11.6.1  
and 12.5.1)

Monitoring of  
freshwater and  
wastewater  
(possible links  
to SDG 6.3.1  
and 6.3.2)

Monitoring of  
coastal and  
marine waters  
(SDG 14.1.1)

Policy review

# National action plan

- How do we bring together information covering all stages of the plastics value chain?
- How to we integrate data from multiple sources?
- How do we utilize both nationally collected data and data from global models?
- How do we provide advice to countries looking to better understand the state of marine litter and actions that they could take to reduce litter?