



Experts Workshop on Marine Pollution Indicators under Sustainable Development Goal Target 14.1.1

12-13 September 2018, UNESCO HQ, Room XV, Paris, France

Background: UN Environment, supported by IOC-UNESCO, are tasked with supporting countries to implement methodologies and procedures to report against 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*' under Sustainable Development Goal 14. There are currently numerous partners working on many facets of this topic and various levels and scales. There is recognition that there is considerable variability on how data is being collected, assimilated, packaged and made available for users. There is continuing need to facilitate the process to help designated entities in countries to understand what is available, and make determinations on how best to utilize assessment methods and information products to support reporting against the marine pollution target. Under the SDG process the vision is for harmonization of the methodology at the global level, with the assistance of the UN family agencies and various partnerships and support mechanisms available. More information on the SDG14.1.1 indicator development process/methodology can be found at on the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) website at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/tierIII-indicators/files/Tier3-14-01-01.pdf>.

Meeting purpose: The lead partner agencies, UN Environment and IOC-UNESCO intends to bring scientific experts, regional seas programmes and earth observation specialists working on the science of marine pollution indicators, data capture and dissemination together, to advance the global methodology on eutrophication and plastic debris assessment under SDG Target 14.1. Specifically, the meeting will seek to:

- Determine the state of science on the target indicators (index of coastal eutrophication potential, floating plastic debris and other relevant metrics);
- Explore the application of 'big data' through earth observation systems and how these can be applied in linking land use change with respect to freshwater and coastal pollution;
- Determine a systematic approach to facilitate country adoption of a 'harmonized approach';
- Determine the scale of reporting and how to apply across transboundary waters; coastal and open ocean;



- Determine roles among agencies in the development process; who can provide what and what is already being done and available;
- Examine the types of reporting that can be done globally versus nationally and how can these be integrated for seamless reporting;
- Determine how to bring it all together; outlining the methodology.

Participants, general format, agenda for the meeting:

Participants are experts drawn from the scientific community working on nutrient and plastics pollution in aquatic and marine ecosystems, the earth observation community, select countries and regional support agencies (Regional Seas Programmes) that are leading efforts in assessment of marine pollution and UN support agencies charged with assisting countries report on the 14.1 target on marine pollution.

This meeting is intended to be more of a 'brainstorm' the format dominated more by a mix of panel discussion-type presentations (rather than a series of PowerPoint presentations) followed by open discussions. Slides may be used by speakers but should be limited to key talking points that require illustration.

The proposed agenda represents a flow of discussion to achieve consensus on moving a harmonized methodological approach forward, whereby the key collaborating partners can link contributions across national, regional and global levels in a seamless effort, coordinated by the target indicator custodian agency (UN Environment, supported by IOC-UNESCO), that will be endorsed by countries and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission. It is anticipated that depending on the nature and direction of the discussions, the agenda may be modified.

Given that this is a process that will require in the medium-term, sustained engagement of experts and collaborators, we encourage that the participants (and those not available to attend the meeting) remain available as a contact group to maintain interaction via various means, through email, face-to-face consultation as opportunity arises, and through virtual means through teleconference or webinars.

Proposed Agenda

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Development Goal Target 14.1.1
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Time	Session description	Lead(s) /presenter(s)
DAY 1		
09:00-09:10	SESSION 1: Welcome, overview and introductions	Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC-UNESCO Lisa Svensson, UN Environment
09:10-09:15	The SDG indicator process and progress toward adoption; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of marine pollution indicator and outlook 	Julian Barbieri, IOC-UNESCO Jillian Campbell, UN Environment
09:15-10:00	SESSION 2: State of the art in estimating marine pollution. Moderated by Henrik Enevoldesen, IOC-UNESCO <i>Session format: panel discussion style; no individual PowerPoint presentations, although may be aided as needed by slides for illustration. Individual interventions should be no longer than 10 minutes</i>	
	Conventional In-situ to monitoring nutrient loading, plastic deposition in riverine and coastal environments; SDG6 water quality monitoring linked to coastal water quality	GEMS Water Emma Heslop, GOOS, IOC-UNESCO
	Remote sensing marine pollution assessment applications and validation (eg chlorophyll-a concentrations; floating debris) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the state of art What are the gaps? 	Emily Smail; GEO Blue Planet Ved Chirayath, NASA Paolo Corradi, ESA; Nikolai Maximenko, U of Hawaii
	Modelling approaches including the ICEP modelling; plastic circulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the state of art What are the gaps? 	John Harrison, Washington State U Lex Bouwman, PBL Netherlands Alexander Turra; GESAMP
	Question and answer	
10:00-11:00	SESSION 3: National and regional experiences in marine pollution assessments; Focus on key highlight(s), challenges and gaps Moderated by Christopher Cox, UN Environment <i>Session format: panel discussion style; no individual PowerPoint presentations, although may be aided as needed by slides for illustration. Individual interventions should be no longer than 5 minutes</i>	
	Mediterranean Sea region	Jelena Knezevic, MAP Secretariat
	Caribbean Sea region	Luisa Espinosa, INVEMAR Darryl Banjoo, IMA
	Baltic Sea region	Owen Rowe, HELCOM Secretariat
	North Pacific region	Genki Terauchi, NOWPAP Secretariat
	Pacific region	Marta Ferreira, U of South Pacific

Time	Session description		Lead(s) /presenter(s)
	India		Ramesh Ramachandran,
	Germany		Simon Felgendreher, Federal Statistical Office
	Brazil		Alexander Turra, U of São Paulo
	Question and answer		
11:00-11:15	BREAK		
11:15-11:30	SESSION 4: Approach for integration – SDG 6 and 14 country support pathway. Progress, challenges and gaps <i>Session format: PowerPoint presentation</i>		Jillian Campbell, UN Environment
11:30-12:30	Summary discussion on challenges, gaps and the integration of national and global data sources. What are realistic ambitions? <i>Session format: Open discussion</i>		Moderated by Heidi Savelli, UN Environment
12:30-13:30	LUNCH		
13:40-15:30	Parallel workgroup 1 – nutrient pollution monitoring and assessment	Parallel workgroup 2 – plastics pollution monitoring and assessment	Workgroup 1: Facilitated by John Harrision Workgroup 2: Facilitated by Alexander Turra
15:30-15:45	BREAK		
15:45-17:30	SESSION 5: Parallel work group discussion continue		
DAY 2			
	SESSION 5: Parallel work group discussion continue		
09:00-11:00	Parallel workgroup 1 – nutrient pollution monitoring and assessment	Parallel workgroup 2 – plastics pollution monitoring and assessment	Workgroup 1: Facilitated by John Harrision Workgroup 2: Facilitated by Alexander Turra
11:00-11:15	BREAK		
11:15-12:30	SESSION 6: Work group report-back; action plan		Working group rapporteurs
12:30-13:30	LUNCH		
13:30-15:30	Mapping out the key elements of the methodology (bring it all together)		Jillian Campbell, UN Environment
15:30-15:45	BREAK		
15:45-16:30	Wrap-up and closing remarks		Christopher Cox, UN Environment Henrik Enevoldsen, IOC-UNESCO

Guiding questions for parallel working groups - Session 5:

Day 1 (12 September): National monitoring outlook

Parallel Group 1: National monitoring of nutrient pollution

- What should be included in a core set of indicators for global monitoring?
- Do you agree with the idea to have some indicators based on global data products – satellite data and/or modelling? What might be limitations or constraints?
- How should national data be collected at the global level (from Regional Seas Programmes with data supplemented by countries)?
- Should we aim to only collect indicators which would be available in most regions or should we already aim to collect a non-core set of indicators which we are hoping should be available in the future?
- How frequently should UN Environment aim to collect data which could be used for global reporting?
- Should we also aim to provide guidance on what a country or Regional Sea Programme may wish to measure at the regional/national level?

Parallel Group 2: National monitoring of marine plastics

- What should be included in a core set of indicators for global monitoring?
- Do you agree with the idea to have some indicators based on global data products – satellite data and/or modelling?
- How should national data be collected at the global level (from Regional Seas Programmes with data supplemented by countries)?
- Should we aim to only collect indicators which would be available in most regions or should we already aim to collect a non-core set of indicators which we are hoping should be available in the future?
- How frequently should UN Environment aim to collect data which could be used for global reporting?
- Should we also aim to provide guidance on what a country or Regional Sea Programme may wish to measure at the regional/national level?

Day 2 (13 September): Global monitoring outlook

Parallel Group 1: Nutrient pollution

- What is the best way to support the development of a global product which UN Environment could use for Chlorophyll-A and TSS?
- How frequently can it be updated?
- What are the constraints/costs?
- Do we need partnerships with private companies to get the resolution/frequency needed?



- For global modelling of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP), what are the data sources which need to be improved? Who is in the best position to conduct the modelling exercise?
- What are functionalities of current coastal eutrophication platforms that may be relevant to consider for a global platform on SDG 14.1.1 – is a global platform needed?
- What are relevant entities with expertise in this area for potential involvement in future discussions and review process.
- How can information be better shared and disseminated in order to improve the use of data?

Parallel Group 2: Marine plastics

- What aspects of marine litter can be modelled using satellites/earth observation systems?
- What are the opportunities to model marine plastics using citizen science data?
- What are the constraints/costs?
- Do we need partnerships with private companies to get the resolution/frequency needed?
- What are existing relevant platforms relevant to marine litter monitoring?
- What are functionalities of other platforms that may be relevant to consider for a global platform on SDG 14.1.1 – is a global platform needed?
- What are relevant entities with expertise in this area for potential involvement in future discussions and review process.
- How can information be better shared and disseminated in order to improve the use of data?



Instructions to the SDG 14.1.1 Marine Pollution Community of Practice Portal

The Science Division of UN Environment has established a Community of Practice portal to facilitate the exchange of resources in advance of the meeting and in continued work.

Meeting participants are encouraged to upload any relevant content to the portal ahead of the meeting.

To access the Community of Practice, register on the Communities of Practice dashboard (<https://communities.unep.org/dashboard.action>) and send an email to Josephine Mule josephine.mule@un.org with a request to be added to the SDG 14.1.1 Marine Pollution Community of Practice.

Once added, you will be able to view and add content to the Community of Practice. For any assistance or queries on the Community of Practice, please send an email to Diana Ngina (diana.ngina@un.org).