

2020-05-05

## **Sammanställning och analys av frivilliga åtagande som Sverige presenterade vid FN:s havskonferens i New York 2017**

Detta är en sammanställning och analys av de frivilliga åtagande som gjordes av svenska aktörer, enskilt eller i samarbete med andra, i samband med FN:s havskonferens i New York i juni 2017. Sammanställningen är en del av Havs- och vattenmyndighetens regeringsuppdrag om att stödja Regeringskansliet avseende omvärldsanalys och planering inför FN:s havskonferens 2020 i Lissabon.

Sammanställningen har utgått från vårt regeringsuppdrag från april 2018 då vi uppdaterade status på de svenska frivilliga åtagande från havskonferensen 2017. Informationen om ansvarig organisation, partners och syfte med åtagandet har vi hämtat från FN:s hemsida ([www.oceanconference.un.org/commitments](http://www.oceanconference.un.org/commitments)).

Totalt deltar svenska aktörer i 51 åtaganden. Regeringen är ansvarig för eller ingår som partner i 25 av dessa. Resterande 26 åtagande är gjorda av andra svenska aktörer såsom kommuner, regioner universitetet, branschorganisationer och den privata sektorn.

Underlag har vi i första hand inhämtat av experter på involverade myndigheter. Dessutom har kontakter tagits med handläggare på ansvariga departement. För åtaganden från andra svenska aktörer har vi bitt om underlag i första hand från de kontaktpersoner som uppges på konferensens hemsida. Vi har också uppmanat dem att uppdatera sina åtaganden på FN:s hemsida.

Av de 51 åtagande är 25 avslutade enligt plan, 24 fortsätter enligt plan och två åtagande har vi inte hittat information om aktivitet sen 2017. Vi har valt att fokusera analysen på de 25 åtagande som regeringen ansvarar för, se nedan. I bilaga till sammanställningen finns information om respektive åtagande inklusive status för åtagandet.

Sammanfattningsvis ser vi att de svenska frivilliga åtagandena har väldigt olika syften, nivå på genomförare och deltagande partners och geografisk spännvidd. Detta innebär en styrka för effekten och slutresultatet men samtidigt gör det svårt att göra en djupare analys av resultat och effekt.

### **Frivilliga åtagande från regeringen**

Av de 51 svenska åtaganden är 25 gjorda av regeringen. Av dessa står regeringen som ansvarig för 19 åtagande. Resterande sex åtagande deltar regeringen som partner. För mer detaljerad information om status på respektive åtagande se bilaga.

Hälften av åtaganden är avslutade enligt plan (13 st). Resterande 12 pågår arbete, allt enligt ursprunglig tidplan. Av dessa avslutas sex stycken i december 2020. Majoriteten av de avslutade åtagande har varit att anordna konferenser, ge ekonomiskt bidrag till fonder eller organisationer samt ta fram strategier eller planer. Av de som rör finansiella åtagande, ofta årliga beslut om bidrag, skulle några kunna tänkas fortsätta. Förslagsvis de om IOC-Unesco arbete med Ocean Literacy och bidrag till IUCN:s arbete om hav och klimat.

Insatserna är jämt fördelade på global (9 st), regional (8 st) och nationell (8 st) nivå. De regionala åtagande är främst inom Östersjön men det finns även exempel från Arktis och Indiska oceanen. Åtagande spänner över många sakområden och täcker de flesta delmålen inom Agenda 2030 mål 14. Det rör sig om marint skräp och mikroplaster (4 st), marint skyddade område och bevarande av ekosystem (5 st), fiskförvaltning och fiskeredskap (3 st) eller havsplanering (3 st). Dessutom finns åtagande om havsförsurning, ocean literacy, utsläpp från sjöfarten samt fyra stycken som har mer övergripande syfte.

Ungefär en tredjedel av åtaganden har som huvudsyfte att ta fram eller implementera nationella strategier eller att utveckla riktlinjer och vägledningar. Några av dessa berör flera av mål 14:s delmål, exempel ”En svensk maritim strategi” eller ”Strategi för Sveriges globala utvecklingssamarbete inom hållbar miljö, hållbart klimat och hav, samt hållbart nyttjande av naturresurser 2018-2022”. Andra är inom mer specifika delmål såsom ”Utveckla ekosystembaserad fiskförvaltning” eller ”Handlingsplan för marint områdesskydd”.

Drygt en tredjedel är åtagande där Sverige bidragit ekonomiskt, exempel till Blue Action Fund, Konventionen om Biologisk mångfalds Special Voluntary Trust Fund eller till IOC-Unesco arbete med Ocean Literacy. Några åtagande har varit att arrangera konferenser eller arbetsmöten, exempelvis CBD:s regionala arbetsgrupp för att underlätta beskrivningen av ekologisk och biologiskt signifikanta områden (EBSA) i Östersjön. Det finns även exempel på att utveckla ny teknik (exempel inom fiskeredskap) eller åtagandet om ett nytt svenskt forskningsfartyg.

Det är svårt att göra en djupare analys av effekt av åtaganden då de har väldigt olika syften, nivå på genomförande och geografisk spännvidd. Dock ser vi att detta är en av styrkorna där bredden av sakfrågor och även deltagandet gynnar tvärssektoriellt samarbete som krävs inom havsmiljöarbetet. Flera av åtagande har gett Sverige möjlighet att delta i regionala och globala processer och kunnat påverka arbetet i en positiv riktning. Som exempel kan nämnas Blue Action Fund där Sverige har fått en styrelseplats och på så sätt kan påverka inriktningen på fondens insatser.

## Frivilliga åtagande från en svensk organisation

Av de 51 svenska åtagande är det 15 där en svensk organisation står som ansvarig. Av dessa är drygt en tredjedel från näringslivet och resterande från kommun, region eller NGO. Vi varit i kontakt med ansvariga och fått underlag för status på

åtagandet samt uppmanat dem att uppdatera statusen på åtagandet på FN:s hemsida.

Två tredjedelar (10 st) är avslutade enligt plan. Resterande fem pågår fortfarande, allt enligt rapporterad tidplan. För mer detaljerad information om status på respektive åtagande se bilaga.

En tredjedel av åtagandena syftar till att skapa nätverk och utbyta erfarenhet av bland annat Håll Sverige Rent, Unesco:s Biosfärsprogram och Naturskyddsföreningen. En tredjedel rör utveckling av ny teknik kopplat till minskade utsläpp från sjöfarten och industrin. Här har till exempel SSAB och Höganäs engagerat sig kring minskning av koldioxidutsläpp kopplat till industrin och sjöfarten. Några åtagande har varit kunskapshöjande insatser såsom att arrangera en konferens eller workshops. Ett exempel är Malmö stad som anordnade en konferens kring implementeringen av Agenda 2030 mål 14 på lokal nivå.

Inför den kommande havskonferensen i Lissabon 2020 ser vi vikten av att fortsatt engagera näringslivet för att få en bredd i deltagande och sakfrågor. Detta då fokus på konferensen kommer att vara kring innovation, tekniska lösningar samt samarbeten med företag.

### Frivilliga åtagande där svensk organisation är partner

Av de 51 svenska åtagande är det 11 där en svensk organisation på något sätt deltar som partner. För några av dessa åtagande har vi haft svårigheter att nå kontaktpersonerna angivna på FN:s hemsida. Det är inte heller alltid klart vilket engagemang den svenska partnern har i åtagandet. Uppdateringarna har i många fall gjorts utifrån information inhämtad från hemsidor och statusen inte alltid bekräftade av ansvarig organisation,. För två åtagande har vi varken hittat kontaktpersoner eller information och har då angett "No updates available" som status.

Två av åtagande är avslutade enligt plan. Sju pågår enligt plan. Majoriteten av åtaganden handlar om att bygga nätverk och samverkansstrukturer eller utbyta erfarenheter. För mer detaljerad information om status på respektive åtagande se bilaga.

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## Frivilliga åtagande från en svensk organisation

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## Frivilliga åtagande där svensk organisation är partner

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Securing social-, economic- and environmental sustainability in the Swedish Maritime Strategy --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20194

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** The Government of Sweden in continuous collaboration with multi-stakeholder advisory groups including a wide range authorities, industry representative, science institutions and non-governmental organizations.

**Description:** The Swedish Maritime Strategy was established in 2015, signed by 4 ministers covering environment, fisheries, rural affairs, enterprise, innovation and infrastructure. The strategy is a policy document with the aim and vision to promote a: Competitive, innovative and sustainable maritime sector that can contribute to increased employment, reduced environmental impact and an attractive living environment. The goal was to create an integrated and sustainable management of marine resources and maritime activities.

In order fulfil the commitment and to secure the three legs of sustainability - social, economic and environmental - no later than 2030, several projects and activities have been launched during 2016 or 2017 or are planned according to a list of actions.

- Create an eco-system based maritime spatial plan covering national waters and EEZ. The last draft plan will be presented in February 2018 and a final plan in 2019 02/2018
- Create integrated indicators to measure the three legs of sustainability - social, economic and environmental.
- Refine statistics on maritime industries to give a more correct base of information in regards to the Blue Economy, the stakeholders and their economic effect on society and GDP ongoing
- Strive to improve rules, regulations and responsibilities in regards to a more socio-economic profitable maritime industry and a higher environmental performance, and to improve sharing and collection of data and knowledge relevant for the maritime industry and a sustainable management of the marine resources

**Timeframe:** September 2015 – 2030

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20194>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.6 14.7 14a 14c

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### **Progress report: According to plan**

In 2018 a system for a yearly follow-up of the maritime strategy's vision that captures the development in three perspectives, was developed in a cooperation between a number of government agencies. The Swedish Agency for was assigned by the Government to lead the work.

That system is now being further in a similar manner. Also a second in-depth follow-up is being carried out. The work will result in a report that will be presented to the Swedish Government in the autumn this year (2020)

The follow-up system is indicator based and involves indicators representing the three perspectives of the strategy; a balanced marine environment, competitive maritime industries and attractive coastal areas. In addition there are indicators linked to the actions of the strategy.

The starting point has been to use already available data within the three perspectives. Most of the indicators for the yearly follow-up deals with whether the state of the coastal areas are moving towards the desired state or not.

Furthermore, in the development of the follow-up system, the Sustainable Development Goals have been taken into account, where 19 of the suggested indicators are contributing to the eight Agenda 2030 goals, clean water and sanitation (goal 6), affordable and clean energy (goal 7), decent work and economic growth (goal 8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (goal 9), responsible consumption and production (goal 12), life below water (goal 14), and partnership for the goals (goal 17).

In addition to the 2018 indicators, and indicator on climate and one on public health is being developed. Also the indicators on innovation and marine or maritime tourism is being improved.

Marine spatial planning constitutes one the strategy's six areas of action. On 17 December 2019 the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management submitted plan proposals to the Government. Also related environment impact assessment, sustainability appraisal, summary of the public consultations and other documentation were submitted to the Government. All documents are available on SwAM website [www.havochvatten.se](http://www.havochvatten.se). As part of the publication, the national MSP web tool on the web site of SwAM was updated. Parts of the documents will be translated to English and published by June 2020. A monitoring and evaluation system is being developed for the marine spatial plans and planning. That system will in certain parts, link to the follow-up system of the maritime strategy. The Government is currently scrutinizing the marine spatial proposals as preparation for their adoption.



Industry and research driven development and introduction of selective and low impact fishing gears --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction19509

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Aquatic Resources

**Description:** A four-year government assignment was adopted between 2014 and 2017 to facilitate the technical development and use of more selective gears in the Swedish fishing industry. A secretariat and a model to facilitate the interactions between the industry and the science were established, to manage ideas from the industry and refine these ideas to industry driven projects. Suggested projects have been selected for funding dependent of how well it fits with the needs implied by the landing obligation. The reason for using this model has been to minimise the economic risks for the participating fishers during both the development phase and scientific evaluation of the project. Since the start in 2014, over 30 projects have been allocated funds from the secretariat, 19 have been finished, 13 are ongoing and 2 more will start during 2017. The different projects have covered most commercial species caught in Swedish fishery, both with active gears (trawls) and passive gears (trap and pots). Several new selective gears have then been developed and adopted by management and are used by Swedish fishers today. The aim of the project is to further develop selective and low impact gears and writing a handbook on selectivity in gears, including:

- To summarize current knowledge, both national and international;
- To gather knowledge gaps about fisheries who still needs further development of selective gears;
- To enhance projects with the industry where we find knowledge gaps;
- To spread the information

**Timeframe:** September 2015 – December 2021

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19509>

**Ocean basin:** Global, North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.4 14.7 14b

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**Progress report: According to plan**

During 2014-2017, projects a total amount of 38 million SEK have been selected for funding. From 2018, funds for the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the secreteriate (run by the Swedish Board of Agriculture and

SLU Aqua) has been renewed yearly for the continued development of selective fishing gear.

The focus for selecting fishing gears in 2019 was to help develop and increase the use of selective gear to facilitate conversion to the EU landing obligation. The 2019 focus also includes the development of selectivity to improve stock status, as well as more selective fishing in terms of habitat impact. In previous years, investments have been made, among other things, in demersal fishing in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. Some projects have also included pelagic fishing. Several projects have involved the development of shrimp and crayfish trawls.

Meeting Sweden's MPA target --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction13892

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Sweden

**Description:** Sweden will meet the target for SDG 14.5 and the marine part of the CBD Aichi target 11 within the Swedish territory. Meeting the targets for marine protected areas has been slow and has proved to be challenging. With a decision in December 2016 to designate four new MPAs and expand two existing to suit conservation needs to protect the harbor porpoise Sweden doubled the area of MPAs from 6.7 percent. By the 30th May 13.6 percent of Swedish territorial water and EEZ is protected as MPAs. In June 2016 The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management presented the National Action plan for marine protected areas in Sweden. The Action plan states that even if the network reaches above 10 percent, there is still work to be done in order to establish an ecologically representative, well connected and effectively managed network of MPAs in Swedish waters. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management will continue to implement the MPA Action plan. Follow up mechanisms such as monitoring and reporting are provided for in the EU Habitats Directive. As parts of a European regional MPA-network, these sites will help restore and strengthen ecosystem resilience. Increased resilience will help protect ecosystem services and may mitigate adverse effects from global warming and other stressors on the marine environment. The MPA network also contributes to the Helcom MPA network in the Baltic Sea and the Ospar MPA network in the North East Atlantic. This commitment will have multiple commitments, without end dates, as the MPAs needs monitoring, data collection, reporting and other continuous management measures.

**Timeframe:** December 2016 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=13892>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.5

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**Progress report: According to plan**

Status 2020: According to plan

After the Governments designation of new Natura 2000 sites in December 2016 Sweden has achieved the part of the national milestone target for protected areas, as well as the Aichi target 11, concerning the 10 % protection of marine protected areas (MPA).

Since June 2017 the work with the national action plan for MPAs has continued in order to ensure that the quality aspects of the targets concerning ecological representativity, functionality and connectivity will be developed.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has employed regional coordinators to enforce and coordinate the County Administrative Boards' work with MPAs. Through this approach it is anticipated that the framework for MPAs that is described in the national action plan for MPAs will be implemented, together with the County Administrative Boards. This work aims at setting objectives for ecological representativity, functionality and connectivity. Since 2017 the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has arranged two workshops each year together with the County Administrative Boards, and by summer 2020 it is anticipated that regional plans for marine protection will be drafted.

With the increased financial resources that the Government has distributed for work with MPAs for the period 2018 to 2020, there is a good opportunity to contribute to fulfil not only the 10 % objective but also the objectives concerning the quality aspects of the national milestone target as well as the Aichi target 11 for MPAs. The financial resources has been and is currently allocated to the County Administrative Boards for work concerning designation of MPAs, but also with work on monitoring of effects of fisheries conservation measures in MPAs, control and enforcement of fisheries conservation measures in MPAs, process support and training in adaptive management as well as connectivity studies.

Next step: When the framework for marine protected areas is implemented, it is anticipated that focus will also increase concerning management of marine protected areas. The framework is building on adaptive management therefore monitoring of indicators and objectives will be important to ensure. Also, in a post 2020 process where the target for marine protected areas are discussed, voices are now raised to increase the level of protection to 30 % by 2030. If this new target will be agreed on, the adaptive management system that is now under implementation in Sweden, will need to adjust to the new target.

Support development of a Source to Sea Approach to land based pollution including marine litter --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction19789

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** UN Environment Programme, The Clean Seas Campaign on marine litter, Secretariat of the Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management , Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

**Description:** The Swedish Government is supporting a Source to Sea approach on a global and regional scale for land based pollution and in particular marine litter. The Swedish Government increases its financial support to: The Clean Seas Campaign on marine litter. The campaign aims to secure commitments from Governments, as well as private sector enterprises and members of the general public. (For more information reference is made to #OceanAction 13900). UN Environment Programme to re-inforce the Source to Sea approach in its work on land based pollution and marine litter, in particular in the preparations within the Global Programme of Actions for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA) for the fourth Intergovernmental Review IGR-4 and strengthen the collaboration with the Source to Sea Platform. The regional cooperation is essential to address the land based pollution, including marine litter but also integrated management and regional Ocean governance. This needs to be addressed through the UN Environment Regional Seas Programme but also other regional integrated cooperation .The support will also finance participation from developing countries at the IGR-4 and meetings regarding regional Ocean governance hosted by UN environment in cooperation with other UN organizations. The secretariat of the Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management to strengthen its work on knowledge exchange, methodological development, and support to partners in applying a source-to-sea approach to planning and management processes. The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that works to support coordinated and innovative approaches to governance and management from source to sea. (For more information reference is made to #OceanAction 15031).

**Timeframe:** February 2017 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19789>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14.2

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**Progress report: According to plan**

Implementing the source-to-sea approach: A guide for practitioners published in 2019. The source-to-sea approach directly addresses the linkages between land, water, delta, estuary, coast, nearshore and ocean ecosystems in support of holistic natural resources management and economic development. This guide supports professionals to apply the source-to-sea approach during project design, implementation and evaluation. Building upon the conceptual framework first developed by the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the guide presents a step-wise approach that can be used at all levels and adapted to local contexts. For each step, it provides relevant background materials, case studies and guiding questions to identify the changes needed to address the impacts of alterations in key source-to-sea flows.

The Swedish Government intends to implement appropriate and relevant conservation measures regarding fisheries in order to reach conservation objectives in all marine protected areas by 2020 --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction19794

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

**Description:** The Swedish government commits to reaching the target of an ecologically representative, coherent and well-managed network of MPAs by 2020. The commitment contributes to achieving the SDG targets 14.2 and 14.5, the Aichitarget 11 on protected areas and fulfilling EU environmental legislation goals. Relevant conservation measures regulating fisheries contribute to achieving conservation objectives for each MPA, as well as the functionality of the MPA network. Conservation measures will be based on scientific evidence and fisheries regulations are designed as far as possible in consultation with researchers, the fishery sector and civil society. A variety of regulations may be relevant, such as no-take zones, restrictions and/or prohibitions against the use of certain gears and fishing methods. Conservation measures regulating fisheries need to be complemented with regulations for other activities and sectors to ensure adequate protection. Current work is progressing according the national plan "Measures to achieve conservation objectives in MPAs with focus on fisheries" from 2014. A joint recommendation to the EU Commission to introduce fisheries regulations in the Natura 2000 sites, including Ospar MPA, Bratten in the Swedish EEZ, was made autumn 2016 and entered into force January 2017. Work is in progress with five more MPAs with measures falling under the EU Common Fisheries Policy on the West Coast of Sweden. The Government intends to initiate conservation measures and provide relevant information to other concerned EU Member States with the aim of submitting a joint recommendation with proposed conservation measures to the EU commission. Since 2014, additional MPAs have been established, and in June 2016, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) on behalf of the government, presented a National Action Plan for MPAs.

The Swedish government therefore intends to give a new assignment to SwAM and other relevant authorities in 2017. The authorities shall:

- Identify and ensure that measures are taken to achieve conservation objectives in MPAs, both new ones and where necessary in earlier established MPAs, especially regarding harmful fishing practices in relation to the conservation objectives in these areas. A timetable shall be included.
- Evaluate and compile existing knowledge regarding ongoing trawling on biotic and abiotic environmental impacts, primarily within MPAs, and within the national trawl boundary, and if necessary propose measures.

- Review and modernize the coastal fisheries legislation with a view to safeguarding Swedish coastal fisheries by contributing to the goal of the Swedish Maritime Strategy "Competitive, innovative and sustainable marine industries that can contribute to increased employment, reduced environmental impact and an attractive living environment".

The authorities shall identify areas that may constitute MPAs with strong protection without a local human impact. The identification is a first step in mapping such areas and will focus, i.a., on areas that may be suitable as fisheries no-take zones. Such areas could be located within established MPAs that are given a stronger protection or be new MPAs with the purpose to strengthening the representative protection and function as future reference areas. A proposal for the continued process shall be included.

**Timeframe:** January 2016 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19794>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.2 14.5

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#### **Progress report: According to plan**

Since June 2017 the work concerning fisheries conservation measures has proceeded further. On the basis of a request from the County Administrative Board of Halland for fisheries conservation measures in five marine protected areas (MPA) in the Kattegat, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management sent out the proposal on national hearing during the summer of 2017. After this, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management formulated a proposal. Four of the MPAs require negotiations with concerned member states within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy. Therefore the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management asked for a government assignment in September 2017 on developing a joint recommendation for fisheries conservation measures in the MPAs.

In November 2017, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management received a government assignment to develop a joint recommendation for fisheries conservation measures together with other concerned member states with the purpose to achieve the conservation objectives in the marine protected areas Fladen, Lilla Middelgrund, Stora Middelgrund och Röde bank and Morups bank.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has in January 2018 initiated the regional process for these MPAs with a pre-consultation meeting with concerned member states and the EU-Commission, as well as succeeding ad-hoc meetings in the working group consisting of concerned member states; Denmark and Germany.



The Swedish Government has in October 2017 given the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management an assignment to identify additional measures with the purpose of achieving the conservation objectives in all MPAs by 2020, with focus on fisheries conservation measures. In another assignment concerning identifying areas that could form MPAs with a strong protection without local human impact. The areas were supposed to be areas that in a representative way would cover the main marine habitats. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has also, through a report from SLU Aqua investigated the effects of bottom trawling, mainly in MPAs but also within 12 nautical miles. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has reported the result of the assignment by the 30 of May 2018. The result from the report includes taking the work concerning fisheries conservation measures further in a platform where The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is a key actor. The reason for this platform process is mainly because the task of implementing necessary fisheries conservation measures is a major one and for being able to perform it by end 2020 this platform will be a coordinating function that will be responsible for implementing measures and involving stakeholders and managers.

## Ban plastic microbeads in cosmetics --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18818

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Finland (Government), France (Government), Ireland (Government), Iceland (Government), Luxembourg (Government), Norway (Government), Sweden (Government) -

**Description:** We, the partners have committed to aim to ban no later than June 2020, the placing on the market of rinse off cosmetic products that contains plastic micro beads that are intended to be used to exfoliate or cleanse the human body. It is broadly documented that ingestion of marine litter, including micro plastics can have negative consequences on the physical condition of marine animals and even lead to death. Ingestion of micro plastics is also of concern as it may provide a pathway for transport of harmful chemicals into the food web. Both OSPAR and HELCOM Regional Action Plans address the risks posed by micro plastic pollution, within the overall aim of substantially reducing marine litter to levels where properties and quantities do not cause harm to the marine environment. Microbeads in rinse off cosmetic products have been identified as one of several sources of primary micro plastics pollution to the seas. It has further been highlighted that this use is not necessary, as alternative and less hazardous substitutes are readily available. Hence, several actors have called on governments to ban this use. By committing to aim to swiftly introduce a ban on these products we start the process of implementing measures that reduce the amounts of micro particles in the marine environment.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – June 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18818>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1

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### **Progress report: According to plan**

On 1st February 2018 the Swedish Government decided to ban cosmetic products that are intended to be rinsed off or spat out and contain plastic particles that have been added to cleanse, exfoliate or polish. The ban applies to products such as toothpaste, body exfoliators, face scrubs, shower gels, shampoos and conditioners containing microplastics.

During 2018, the Swedish Chemicals Agency investigated the need for an additional ban on microplastics in certain cosmetic products that are not covered by the Swedish prohibition now decided on. It was concluded that further restriction work should take place at EU level. Since then, the Swedish Chemicals

Agency has cooperated with the European Chemicals Agency on a broad restriction proposal on microplastics in chemical products including cosmetic products. The restriction proposal was put forward in 2019 and is currently being discussed in the scientific committees at ECHA. A final decision will probably follow in 2020.

Responsible plastic management --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20448

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Sweden

**Description:** Responsible plastic management, substantially emanating from EU measures and national initiatives targeting the main sources of plastic pollution and which includes the following key factors: A sound waste management, including regulation, waste statistics, guidance, a national waste management plan and waste management plans in all municipalities. Separate collection of different wastes, a deposit system for PET bottles and aluminum cans and high targets for recycling. Information and education about the importance of both separated collection of waste and the impact of littering, through municipalities as well as schools and special campaigns. A ban on littering. Sweden has a ban which make all littering punishable by fine or imprisonment. This is codified in the Environmental Code and the municipalities are obliged by law to uphold sanitation standards, implemented through monitoring. A plan to reduce the use of Plastic bags. A Swedish ordinance requires the distributors of plastic carrier bags to inform consumers about: - the environmental impact of plastic carrier bags and the benefits of reduced consumption of plastic carrier bags and, - measures to reduce consumption. The manufacturer and importers of plastic carrier bags have to report to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the number of bags they put on the Swedish market, The SEPA in turn monitors the reduction and reports to the EU. Other measures can be activated if consumption does not decrease. A plan to map sources and reduce pollution from micro plastics. In order to act against pollution of micro plastics there is a need to map all sources and the Swedish EPA is tasked to do this. Sweden aims to ban micro plastic in rinse of cosmetics and the Swedish Chemical Agency has been tasked to assess the risk with micro plastics in other products, including leave on cosmetics. Financial support for measures against plastics in the ocean, such as Cleaning beaches from plastic waste, Public awareness Financial support for water treatment Innovation and new materials A governmental commission to reduce the negative environmental impact from plastics, To increase the knowledge of negative environmental effects of plastics a governmental commission of inquiry has been appointed to map the environmental impacts of plastics throughout their life cycle and to propose measures to reduce these impacts. A government commission on measures against littering of plastic To suggest measures against littering of plastic.

- Financial contribution to UN environmental campaign Clean Sea 2017
- Financial support for measures against plastics in the ocean 2020
- Governmental commission for mapping micro plastic source June 2017

- Governmental commission to reduce negative environmental impacts from plastics October 2018

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20448>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: According to plan**

In the time period 2017 to 2020 major political initiatives have been taken to reach a more responsible plastic management at the national level and also to contribute to the development in the EU and at the global level. In May 2017, the government announced 78 million SEK per year to 2020 in a “plastic package” with the overarching goal to reach a sustainable plastic use and decrease plastic litter in the marine and terrestrial environment. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) have had the main responsibility to distribute the funds and to coordinate activities under the plastic package. A government investigation on the possibilities to reach a sustainable use of plastics was also carried out in 2017-2018. The investigation includes several suggestions for actions to be taken, including establishment of a national focal point for coordination of the plastic issue, development of a national knowledge platform, harmonization of standards, incentives to the development of new innovations and techniques and measures to phase out of hazardous substances from plastic production.

The “plastic package” and government investigation that was initiated in 2017 set the ground and showed the direction for authority activities on the plastic issue for the coming years. The governmental activities have also spread to the trade and industry as well as to the civil society. The activities on the national level have been carried out in close connection with activities in the EU, such as the circular economy action plan and plastic strategy, and also with ongoing global activities.

In 2018 and 2019, SEPA funded over thirty national projects on sustainable plastic use and microplastics for more than 20 million SEK. For instance projects to decrease littering, development of reuse models for single use plastics and packaging and recycling projects aimed at plastics in packaging, fishing gear, vehicles, flooring and healthcare. In 2018-2019, the SEPA also financed beach clean-up activities in several municipalities in the Swedish coastal area.

SEPA has also carried out several projects to strengthen the knowledge base for suggestions about regulatory measures and other instruments. For example, a comprehensive national survey on plastic waste streams, studies on safe methods for plastic recycling and the potential for increased recycling.

Sweden has also carried out a lot of activities to support the implementation of the new EU rules on plastic bags. SEPA have developed guidance documents directed to companies and also funded several external projects with the aim to raise awareness about the new rules and to achieve behavioural change when it comes to the use of plastic bags.

In line with the proposals in the government investigation on plastics, SEPA has commissioned the Swedish Institute of Standards (SIS) to develop product standards for recycled plastics, including the establishment of an ISO secretariat for plastic recycling. The aim of the new standards is to increase recycling of plastic products, packaging and textiles, and to accelerate the transition to a circular plastics economy.

When it comes to activities concerning microplastics, SEPA has carried out a government assignment on microplastics that include a comprehensive survey of sources and distribution of microplastics in Sweden and also an assessment of potential measures for reducing emissions of microplastics to the sea, lakes and watercourses. SEPA has also developed several guidance documents to decrease emissions of microplastics, directed to for instance sewer overflow, artificial turf pitches and production of primary plastic. With the aim to enhance the knowledge of microplastics, in terms of sources, pathways, ecological effects and potential measures for reduction, SEPA has granted government funding of 25 million SEK to five research projects.

Sweden has been a driving force in several EU and global processes to strengthen the regulatory framework on plastic use and management of plastic waste, such as the EU packaging directive, the EU directive on single use plastics, the Basel convention, OECD Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste, UNEA:s expert group on marine litter and microplastics. To support the implementations of such global processes SEPA are also funding development projects on sustainable plastic use and plastic waste management in the BRIICS countries.

Although much have been done the last couple of years, the Swedish government see a continued need to work towards a responsible plastic management on the national level as well as the regional and global level. We aim to continue the ongoing work to implement and strengthen the regulatory framework on plastic management, support voluntary measures and accelerate the development new techniques and innovations.

Development of ecosystem-based management of fish and fisheries in Sweden --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20189

**By:** Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)

**Partners:** The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (government agency) in dialogue with the Swedish Board of Agriculture (government agency), the Swedish County Administrative Boards and affected stakeholders.

**Description:** Sweden commits to further develop ecosystem-based management of fish and fisheries in Sweden as an integral part of achieving sustainable fisheries. As a first step the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has been commissioned by the government to develop a strategy for how ecosystem based management of fish and fisheries can be developed to form an integrated part in achieving the aims for marine and water management. The strategy shall consider cost implications of developing ecosystem based management and shall highlight the effects of climate change on fisheries management. The strategy shall be developed in dialogue with the Swedish Board of Agriculture (government agency), the Swedish County Administrative Boards and affected stakeholders. SwAM will report on the progress of development and implementation of the strategy on an annual basis. The strategy is expected to be reviewed regularly to enable adaptive management. Ocean basins targeted by this commitment: Swedish waters in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea.

**Timeframe:** January 2016 --

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20189>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4

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**Progress report: According to plan**

In 2018 the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), in dialogue with various stakeholders, produced a draft strategy on a ecosystembased management of fish and fisheries as an integral part to achieve its objectives for marine and water management (or environmental policies).

Ecosystembased fish management requires a broad knowledge to provide an integrated view of how fisheries management decisions affect different parts of the ecosystem and its services, as well as how different decisions in other management areas work together.

During 2019, the work has progressed by compiling the proposals from the dialogues and a report from the Swedish Institute for Marine Environment (HMI). A summarised report have been compiled by SwAM.

Some examples of how this work have been used to develop an ecosystembased fish management in various strategic areas during 2019 are:

- Establishment of five regional groups for regulation of the national fisheries consisting of relevant stakeholders from the county administrative boards as well as SLU Aqua and the Swedish Board of Agriculture.
- Initiated an analysis of possibilities for further measures to achieve good environmental status (GES) for fish and the impact of fish on ecosystems in accordance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Improved guidance by updating national interests in commercial fishing to protect important catch areas for fish within marine spatial planning, spatial planning, environmental assessment.
- Developed methods for fisheries regulation in protected to highlight the social, socio-economic and ecosystem effects of possible measures in collaboration with the relevant county administrative boards, fisheries and environmental organizations.
- Mapping of social, economic and environmental objectives as a basis for an investigation of the distribution of demersal fishing opportunities.
- A compilation from The Swedish Institute of Marine Environment (SIME) of how social science can contribute to the development of ecosystembased fish management in Sweden.
- An overview of (by SLU Aqua, on behalf of SwAM) space and time scales of biological aspects in the implementation of ecosystem-based fish management.



The ICRI plan of Action 2016-2018 --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16778

**By:** FRANCE, MONACO, SWEDEN and UN Environment (UNEP)

**Partners:** ICRI Members include a mix of governments, non-governmental organisations and international organisations. Today, ICRI counts more than 60 members. The full list is available at <http://www.icriforum.org/members/icri-members>

**Description:** ICRI is a partnership among governments, international organizations, and non-government organizations. An ambitious plan of action 2016-2018 proposed by France was adopted by the ICRI membership in November 2016. It comprises 5 themes:

1. Highlight the contribution of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses to mitigate and adapt to climate change and its impacts, encourage financing for projects and initiatives which help protect and restore coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, an online catalog and a report will be produced.
2. Production of an analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs, with recommendations for action
3. Several recommendations to reduce human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses will be adopted on legislative or regulatory measures (e.g. on dredging, marine or coastal infrastructure; deployment of mooring devices limiting mechanical damage to coral reefs and seagrasses). A review on the impacts of sunscreens and other endocrine disruptors on coral reefs will be produced.
4. Several reports on the status and trends of coral reefs will be release: Status and Trends of Coral Reefs of the Pacific Islands; or one for the Indian Ocean (in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission). See #SDGAction14306 Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)
5. Declaration of 2018 as the International Year of coral reef (IYOR 2018). IYOR 2018 will consist of a wide range of events and activities that will take place throughout the year and around the world.

Finally, a small projects scheme - aiming to help ICRI members to implement the plan of action will be set-up.

**Timeframe:** November 2016 - December 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16778>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.7 14a

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The International Coral Reef Initiative ICRI has used the Swedish contribution for 2017 to implement the Action Plan 2016-2018. The Swedish grant has been used for a number of studies and activities to raise awareness of the links between coral reefs, including related coastal ecosystems and climate change protection. ICRI has analysed coral reef protection legislation, organized workshops in Tanzania and in Paris, produced a report on coral reefs in the Pacific and prepared the 2018 International Coral Reef ([www.iyor2018.org](http://www.iyor2018.org)). The activities led to that 2018 was proclaimed as the International Year of the Reef.

Swedish support to FAO for developing countries implementation of Port State Measures Agreement, the Global Registry and technical consultations for the marking of fishing gear --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20124

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations system)

**Description:** Sweden will support for the Implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and complementary Instruments to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. This will be done through the five-year global umbrella Programme to support coastal and small island developing States in building capacity to adopt and implement the provisions of the PSMA, complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to combat IUU fishing. Sweden will also support The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), which provides a single access point for information on vessels used for fishing and fishing-related activities to combat IUU fishing. Furthermore the contribution will help to support technical consultations for the marking of fishing gear in developing countries.

**Timeframe:** July 2017 – December 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20124>

**Ocean basin:** Indian Ocean, South Atlantic, South Pacific

**Target:** 14.1 14.4 14.7

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

Sweden.s support to FAO, of SEK 50 million, consists of three parts:

- Support for the umbrella program for "Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing" (PSMA)
- Support for Global Record of Fishing Vessels (SEK 7.2 million)
- Support for the technical consultation on the marking of fishing gear (SEK 1.5 million).

On February 5-9, 2018, FAO held the technical consultation on guidelines for the marking of fishing gear. The purpose is to prevent and reduce the presence of abandoned fishing gear, or ghost gear. Marking of fishing gear is a tool that may prevent that fishing nets and other fishing gear, are abandoned, discarded or lost at sea. Such labeling can also contribute to more efficient fisheries management

and may assist in the prevention and identification of unreported and unregulated fishing (ie IUU fishing).

Swedish strategy for global action on the environment, climate, oceans and natural resources 2018-2022 --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction21416

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** TBD likely partners are United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, Swedish Agencies, etc.

**Description:** On the 1st of June 2017 the Swedish Government decided to start developing a new strategy for global action on the environment, climate, oceans and natural resources. This is the first time oceans are explicitly highlighted as a focus area. The forthcoming strategy will enable the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to support global action for Sustainable Oceans, including support to normative processes and institutional capacity building, during the period 2018-2022. The funds, preliminary totalling up to 750 million USD in grants over the 5 year period, amount to significantly raised ambitions for this strategy as a whole but in particular regarding oceans. Possibilities to use innovative finance, such as guarantees, to leverage additional finance will also be explored.

**Timeframe:** January 2018 – December 2022

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21416>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** Objective 14

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

On March 1, 2018, the Swedish Government decided on the new Swedish strategy for global action on the environment, climate, ocean and natural resources for the period 2018-2022. The strategy takes its point of departure from the Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In particular, the strategy aims to contribute to the implementation of: clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14) and life on land (SDG 15).

This is the first time the ocean is explicitly included as a priority area for the Swedish global development cooperation. Ocean related goals include actions for clean water and ocean, reduced emissions and reduced marine debris. This also encompasses action for biodiversity, sustainable management of water and ocean as well as sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems.

The strategy is implemented and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is providing support to about 28 activities related to freshwater- and marine environment to an amount around 340 million SEK annually. The marine activities focus on international initiatives (World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, WRI and others) dealing with among others small scale fisheries, blue economy, marine spatial planning, marine pollution including plastics. Examples of activities include Problue and WorldFish, UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge, UNEP Regional Seas Programme and regional activities . Apart from this strategy, Sida is also including marine-related activities in other strategies, ie. Asia and Africa. The strategy is under implementation until 2022 and will most probably be renewed after that.

Contribution to the Blue Action Fund #OceanAction16098 --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction21424

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Blue Action Fund (Philanthropic Organization), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ (Government); KfW Development Bank (Government)

**Description:** The Blue Action Fund makes funding available for the activities of national and international non-governmental organizations in their efforts to help conserve marine and coastal ecosystems with the following objectives: - The safeguarding of marine biodiversity: by creating new protected areas and by improving the management of existing ones. - The sustainable use of marine biodiversity: in fishery, aquaculture and in tourism. BMZ in cooperation with KfW Development Bank founded the Blue Action Fund as a response to the funding gap for the conservation of marine biodiversity, in particular with a view to networks of marine protected areas and transboundary conservation measures. The initial endowment provided by Sweden is worth 50 million SEK (approx. 5.5 million USD). The Fund will work in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Pacific region. The Blue Action Fund will issue public tenders to which interested eligible organizations may submit their proposals.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – December 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21424>

**Ocean basin:** Indian Ocean, North Atlantic, North Pacific, South Atlantic, South Pacific

**Target:** 14.2 14.4 14.5 14.7 14a 14b

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

A grant amounting to SEK 50 million has been disbursed to the Blue Action Fund in 2018. Sweden was assigned observer/advisory status to the Blue Action Fund Supervisory Board in connection to the board meeting that took place August 31 – September 1, 2017. As an observer/advisor to the Supervisory Board, Sweden is invited to monitor the work of the Blue Action Fund and contribute to the development of its organization and structure.

The Blue Action Fund finances NGO projects supporting local, national and regional marine conservation strategies and sustainable livelihoods. The Blue Action Fund portfolio consists projects in the Pacific Ocean, the Eastern Tropical Pacific, the East Atlantic and the Western Indian Ocean. All projects seek to

establish, enlarge or better manage MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) of regional importance and to improve livelihood conditions and food security.

In 2019, Blue Action Fund signed four new grant agreements, providing more than €10 Million for projects situated in the Western Indian Ocean. In addition, Blue Action Fund launched two new open Calls for Proposals focusing on the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean and on Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Western Indian Ocean, respectively. Blue Action Fund intends to fund about 10 to 15 projects with a total volume of more than €40 Million through these calls. In 2020, the Fund expects to conclude several grant agreements from its East Asian Seas call, which was launched in 2018. The Fund will also continue its work to select additional projects in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, the Western Indian Ocean and Western and Central Africa.



Environmental monitoring with one of the world's most modern research vessels --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction19499

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Aquatic Resources (Academic institution), Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (Government), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Government), Swedish Maritime Administrati

**Description:** A new large research vessel has been commissioned and will be delivered to Sweden, in 2019. Sweden has not had its own larger research vessel since R/V Argos was discontinued in 2011 and currently Sweden rent similar vessels from Denmark and Finland. Every year, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) carry out a variety of expeditions and surveys as part of a national environmental monitoring effort of the waters around Sweden. SLU implements five internationally coordinated surveys annually, and uses trawling and advanced echo sounding to search for fish in the Baltic Sea, the Kattegat Sea, and the Skagerrak Strait. The aim is to collect fishery-independent estimates of the number of fish and fish fry in different areas. The surveys collect information on various species of fish, which is then used to make stock estimates and to develop advice on how much fishing is sustainable. SMHI's oceanographic unit conducts much of the national environmental monitoring of the bodies of water that surround Sweden. The monitoring currently focuses primarily on eutrophication, the proliferation of anoxic bottoms (dead zones), ocean acidification, physical oceanography, marine biology, fisheries hydrography, climate change, and oceanographic data assimilation. The new Swedish research vessel will also act as a research platform for independent marine research in the North Sea.

**Timeframe:** September 2015 – Open ended

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19499>

**Ocean basin:** Global, North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.2 14.3 14.4 14a

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The vessel has been delivered and is now in use for Swedish marine monitoring and research. After a procurement process, the design of the vessel was commissioned to Skipsteknisk A/S in Norway, and the construction to the ship builders Astilleros Armon in Spain. The total period for design and construction

was expected to be 26 months, in the end the delivery was carried out after 29 months, in July 2019. The slight shift in delivery date was mainly due to a few extra modifications of the performance and equipment of the vessel ordered by the client during the construction period.

After launching the vessel in July 2018, the remaining period of the building phase was largely utilised to equip her with all gears needed for scientific purposes, such as cranes and winches, as well as furnishing and installing the laboratories, living spaces, navigational spaces and related equipment.

The vessel finally became close to 70 m long all-over, and is fully equipped for fisheries research as well as marine research and monitoring, for example water quality measurements. She is being used mainly by the Swedish Agricultural University, who also owns the vessel, and by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. Staff from the Swedish Maritime Administration are responsible for running the vessel. To some extent it will be possible for other interested parties (such as universities) to use the capacity of this highly capable ship.

More information can be found at <https://www.slu.se/en/Collaborative-Centres-and-Projects/research-vessel-svea/>

Strengthening capacity on ocean acidification monitoring, ecosystem resilience, MPA networks in a changing climate, coral reef protection and marine spatial planning --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18823

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** IUCN (IGO), The Ocean Foundation (NGO), International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

**Description:** The Swedish Government commit to financially support to IUCN to strengthen knowledge generation and taking measures within the ocean and climate context. The support contributes to capacity development, knowledge generation and methodological development, particularly in developing countries, contributing to the implementation of SDG 14, in particular 14.2, 14.3 and 14.5. The Swedish Government also commit to financially support to The Ocean Foundations "Ocean acidification program". The support contributes to training researchers in monitoring and measuring, and, if possible, contribute to create a monitoring function for ocean acidification to contribute data to the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network. The support contributes to capacity development, knowledge generation and methodological development, particularly in developing countries, contributing to the implementation of SDG 14, in particular 14.3. The Swedish Government financially supports the implementation of the Action Plan of the International Coral Reef Initiative, ICRI, together with France and Monaco. The support contributes to the plan of action 2016-2018 adopted in November 2016. It comprises five themes: a) Raising awareness on the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. b) Production of an analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs, with recommendations for action c) To help reducing human threats to coral reefs and associated mangroves and seagrasses, d) To monitor the state of coral reefs e) To raise awareness about the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems. This is tied to the #OceanAction16778.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – December 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18823>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.2 14.3 14.5

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The international union for the conservation of Nature, IUCN has been supported (SEK 8 million) by the Swedish government during 2017 for the following projects:

- The blue carbon content and potential of MPA networks and other effective area-based conservation measures in Mozambique and Tanzania
- Blue Carbon – Strengthening countries' NDCs while supporting SDG implementation
- Ocean Acidification: from global science to regional action. Developing regional action plans with the Ocean Acidification international Reference User Group 2017 – 2019
- Ocean deoxygenation: Everyone's problem - Causes, impacts, consequences and solutions
- Understanding Ocean Risk - financial, social and environmental dimensions

The Ocean Foundation has been supported (SEK 4 million) by the Swedish government to increase ocean acidification monitoring and measuring capacity in developing regions. A number of training and workshops has been held, i.e. on Fiji in the Pacific.

Cross-boundary and inter-sectorial solutions for ecosystem-based marine spatial planning: the Symphony method --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18361

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** The Swedish Government in cooperation with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (government, lead partner), Geological Survey of Sweden (government, partner), Helcom Helsinki Commission (other intergovernmental organization, advisory), Chalm

**Description:** This voluntary commitment has the objective of underpinning true ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning in Sweden and neighboring waters through the integration of semi-quantitative spatial assessments of the cumulative environmental impact in the planning process and stakeholder consultations. With the Symphony method marine planners can easily assess the expected environmental impact of any drafted plan through a science-based and transparent spatial analysis. By integrating this information in the planning process and dialogue, sustainable solutions can be identified and more easily adopted. The Symphony-method enables MSP to account for the spatially confined cumulative impact from all concurrent human activities in an area on a representation of all present ecosystem values. With the method the marine planners can quickly and straightforwardly assess the cumulative (total) environmental impact of any drafted plan and use the results to modify the plans where needed, in dialogue with involved stakeholders. The method is truly inter-sectorial and allows for estimating the relative contribution of environmental impact from each sector (e.g. fisheries, shipping, energy and mineral mining) in any defined area. This information is of particular value for solving conflicts where there are multiple sectorial claims on ocean space in ecologically sensitive areas. Furthermore the method generates semi-quantitative spatial representations not only of environmental impact but also ecological values and sensitivity.

**Timeframe:** September 2015 – December 2019

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18361>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The Swedish commitment to support truly ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) through development and planning-integrated use of a tool for

cumulative impact assessment, Symphony, has been fulfilled. The commitment has led to substantial impact nationally and internationally.

By using the tool, marine planners and managers can estimate the cumulative environmental impact in any given area and study the details of how different human pressures contribute to impact on different parts of the ecosystem. Development-scenarios can be implemented to study how marine plans and management actions may change (reduce or increase) environmental impact. This is to assist institutions in reaching the goals of ecosystem-based management and MSP.

The Symphony tool was operative from 2017 and has been used over 3 years in support of the Swedish national MSP. It has enabled marine planners to take environmental impacts of different plan solutions into account throughout the MSP process and to identify important areas for environmental protection; it has facilitated for stakeholders to review the impact of the plan and it has increased the overall transparency of the MSP process. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is now refining the technical developments of Symphony into a user-friendly open-source tool for cumulative impact assessment with scenario functionality, in support of the global community of MSP and marine management, available to actors from local authorities to governments in any country.

The advantages represented by the Swedish use of Symphony has inspired equivalent developments in several countries and regional MSP collaboration projects (North Zee, Pan-Baltic Scope). Likewise, further developments of Symphony have benefited from the progress on equivalent approaches in other countries, such as Denmark, Latvia, Italy, Portugal, France and USA. Sweden is currently engaged in supporting the development of Symphony-like decision support tools in South Africa, Russia and on regional level for the Western Indian Ocean in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention (UNEP). Moreover, the Symphony tool has led to several new research projects where the method is applied to the Climate Change context and the context of terrestrial strategic planning for wind energy.

Sweden has promoted the use of cumulative impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment in the context of the United Nations led development of international agreement for biodiversity on the high seas (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, BBNJ). Lately, the Swedish experience from developing and using Symphony in strategic planning was demonstrated at two Side events in the UN Headquarters during BBNJ prep-com (2017) and negotiations (2019), in collaboration with France, IUCN, WWF, and Gothenburg University.

The impact of this commitment may not be limited to the advantages for ecosystem-based MSP. The ability to synthesize large data into comprehensive and visual analyses of environmental impact at strategic level, and the ability for forward-looking scenario-analyses, have great value as bridging marine science-to-policy and for the constructive use of marine data under transparent preconditions.

More information at: <https://www.havochvatten.se/symphony-eng>

Symphony is demonstrated in this short video:<https://youtu.be/E9p7ISpNGKM>

Contribution to the CBD Special Voluntary Trust Fund to support work on EBSAs, Marine Spatial Planning and the Sustainable Ocean Initiative --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18376

**By:** Government of Sweden

**Partners:** The Secretariat of CBD

**Description:** The Swedish Government is contributing to the CBD Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BE) for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities for the period 2017-2020. The work in CBD on coastal and marine biodiversity is important for the success of Goal 14 and Agenda 2030. Sweden has therefor committed to make a financial support to the work of the CBD on Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas, marine spatial planning and the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, in particular regarding sectorial integration. The contribution from Swedish Government to the CBD Trust Fund (BE) will in particular support the implementation of SDG 14 in regard of: - Participation from developing states at the expert workshop to develop options for modifying EBSA description and strengthening scientific credibility and implementation of Voluntary guidelines and other related work in EBSA - Increased Capacity Building in the implementation of Marine Spatial planning - Support to Sustainable Ocean Initiative for Capacity Building and Partnerships in particular regarding sectorial integration

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – June 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18376>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.2 14.5 14.7 14c

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

CBD has allocated the funding to secure participation from developing countries and regions at the CBD Expert Workshop to Develop Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, for Describing New Areas, and for Strengthening the Scientific Credibility and Transparency of this Process, that was held in Berlin December 2017. The contribution has also been used in the planning of and support participation from developing at the second meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organisations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) on accelerating the process to achieve the Aichi targets. This is an initiative in line with the government prioritization on strengthening the regional marine cooperation. There is still a need for mainstreaming of marine



biodiversity into different sectors and cooperation of between global and regional conventions as well as different competent organisations. Also, there is a further need to increase capacity building and improve ocean literacy.

## Connecting and Protecting Our Seas: Initiatives in the Baltic and the Mediterranean --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20104

**By:** Governments of Sweden and Monaco

**Partners:** The governments of Sweden and Monaco , The Prince Albert II Foundation, The Stockholm Resilience Centre, University of Stockholm, Race for the Baltic, Centre Scientifique de Monaco, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health and Sustainable Development, Monaco

**Description:** Event about facilitating the exchange of experiences and know-how in dealing with the preservation of our oceans. The core part of the event will take place during two days in Monaco, 12-13th of October. On October 12th, a high level business round table on Sustainable Shipping is organised as well as a research symposium on the Impact of climate change on the marine ecosystem. On October 13th, a high level international conference on the theme: Connecting and Protecting Our Seas: Initiatives in the Baltic and the Mediterranean is organised. At the core of our attention lie the Baltic and the Mediterranean Seas - and the links between them. Strong local ownership and commitment to improve the situation in the Baltic and the Mediterranean Seas has led to dedicated research and concrete, solutions-oriented cooperation between actors across the board governments, regional and local authorities, academia, agencies and companies. By focusing on the local level the Baltic and the Mediterranean Seas the conference will draw conclusions and showcase proven and scalable solutions with both ecological and economic benefits. The results and the solutions produced locally are, however, most likely to have strong relevance for other seas and oceans. The conference in Monaco in October will thereby contribute to create momentum for global action to implement SDG 14 by putting these results and solutions at display. The conference will also help to create the new partnerships needed for action: government to government, scientists to scientists, company to company - and just as important, the partnerships between these different categories of relevant actors. The discussion in Monaco, based on the experiences from the two seas, will inter alia touch upon healthier and more sustainable seafood management, industry involvement - examples of companies, notably in the shipping industry, moving beyond compliance and into innovation to create shared value, and Marine Protected Areas experiences from the two seas. On this occasion a forward looking Swedish-Monegasque Cooperation Agreement aiming to support the implementation of SDG 14 will be signed by the governments of the two countries. Also, a conference synthesis report will be produced and presented later in the fall of 2017. In connection with the conference an array of business oriented as well as cultural activities focusing on sustainable innovations will take place.

**Timeframe:** October 2017 – December 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20104>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.4 14.6 14a

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

In the presence of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco and H.R.H. Prince Carl Philip of Sweden, Sweden and Monaco co-organised a follow-up conference to the UN Ocean Summit in New York, in Monaco on 12-14 October 2017. By bridging the parallels between the Mediterranean and the Baltic Seas, high-level discussions among representatives from the business industry, academia and policy makers contributed with their experiences and perspectives.

The Swedish Minister for the Environment, Ms. Karolina Skog and the Monegasque Minister for Public Works, Environment and Urban Development Ms. Marie-Pierre Gramaglia signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the intention to deepening the bilateral cooperation and to step-up the engagements to support the implementation of Agenda 2013 and SDG14. The Monegasque Prime Minister Mr Serge Telle as well as the Swedish State Secretary for Infrastructure Mr Mattias Landgren participated at the conference. World leading companies in the shipping industries shared their experiences and solutions on sustainable and innovative shipping.

Prince Albert II Monaco Foundation together with the Swedish Embassy in Paris, in close cooperation with the Swedish Consulate in Monaco, were implementing partners.

Arctic Marine Protected Area Network Toolbox Project (2017-2019) ---  
Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18421

**By:** Governments of Finland Sweden and Canada

**Partners:** Governments of Finland Sweden and Canada, The Arctic Council (the working groups PAME and CAFF), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

**Description:** PAMEs Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs sets out the vision for an ecologically connected, representative and effectively-managed network of protected and specially managed areas. As a step towards contributing to the Aichi target of 10% marine protected areas, a series of MPA science workshops are being organized by the project co-leads, during 2017-2018. These workshops will build on the findings from previous work undertaken by the Arctic Council. Key aspects of this collective work within the Arctic Council include ways to build and strengthen networks of MPAs in the context of climate change and ocean acidification, as well as incorporating traditional and local knowledge (TLK). Scientific, TLK and technical experts as well as management and policy makers will take stock of the current scientific understanding and identify new research questions on MPA networks and how these networks, and other area-based measures, may be used to decrease the negative effects of climate change and acidification, and their interaction with other human induced stressors in the Arctic. The aim of the MPA networks commitment is to take stock of the current scientific and other knowledge, and identify important new research questions on MPA networks and how such networks, and other area-based measures, may be used to decrease the negative effects of climate change and ocean acidification and their interactions with other human induced stressors in the Arctic. The third MPA workshop will be held in September 2017 in Helsinki, focusing on MPA networks in the context of climate change and ocean acidification. A fourth MPA workshop will be hosted by Canada 2018, which is intended to convene MPA managers, Indigenous peoples, community representatives, and other MPA partners to share experiences in planning and developing Arctic MPA networks, including the role that Indigenous people may play in developing and managing protected areas and other measures. The series of workshops are arranged as part of the Arctic Councils overall aim to strengthen the cooperation among the Arctic Council countries on implementing MPA networks that are representative and ecologically connected. The outcome of the commitment will be included in the future work within the Arctic Council on the implementation of Area Based Management Tools , climate change and ocean acidification.

**Timeframe:** September 2016 – December 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18421>

**Ocean basin:** Arctic Ocean

**Target:** 14.2 14.3 14.5

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The third Expert Workshop on Marine Protected Area networks in the Arctic was organised by Sweden and Finland, under the auspices of the PAME working group of the Arctic Council, in Helsinki, Finland, 21-22 September 2017. The workshop focused on “Scientific considerations of how Arctic Marine Protected networks may reduce negative effects of climate change and ocean acidification”.

A fourth workshop, focusing on “Exploring ways to support Indigenous/Local involvement in, and Indigenous/Local led, marine protection in the circumpolar Arctic Ocean, was organized by Canada in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut 19-21 March 2019.

Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic (Phase I) --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18373

**By:** Governments of Sweden, Norway, Iceland,

**Partners:** The Government of Sweden, The governments of Norway, The Government of Iceland, and Aleut International Association, PAME Secretariat, The Arctic Council (particularly working groups PAME and AMAP), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

**Description:** In June 2014, governments attending the first UN Environment Assembly noted with concern the impacts of plastics and microplastics on the marine environment, fisheries, tourism and development calling for strengthened action, in particular by addressing such materials at the source. A resolution was adopted calling for the strengthening of information exchange mechanisms, requesting UNEP to present scientific assessments on microplastics for consideration by the next session of the Assembly, Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The aim of the project is to provide the current status on marine litter in the Arctic, including: To evaluate the scope of marine litter in the Arctic, and its effects on the marine environment; To enhance knowledge and awareness of marine litter in the Arctic; To enhance cooperation by the eight Arctic Council member governments to reduce negative impacts of marine litter to the Arctic marine environment; and To contribute to the prevention and/or reduction of marine litter pollution in the Arctic and its impact on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety, and reduce the socioeconomic costs it causes.

**Timeframe:** March 2017 – December 2019

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18373>

**Ocean basin:** Arctic Ocean

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

A first draft of a literature review was presented at the PAME I-2018, 11-14 February 2018 in Quebec City, Canada. The following process was established at the PAME meeting;

- Organising an Arctic marine litter workshop 5-6 June 2018 in Iceland.
- End of June 2018: Marine litter co-leads to send out a revised version of the desktop study including the initial draft recommendations to PAME for comments by 10th of August 2018

- Mid-August 2018 (or 30 days prior to PAME II-2018): Marine litter co-leads to revise the desktop study and submit in advance of the PAME II-2018 meeting to include revised draft recommendations on next steps as a part of the PAMEs future work plan developments.
- December 2018: Final draft desktop study distributed in advance of the PAME I-2019. February 2019: Approval at PAME I-2019
- March 2019: Approval by Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs).
- May 2019: Approval by Ministers.

PAME requests that the projects co-leads work closely with other Arctic Council working groups encourages active engagement with relevant experts, observers and international organizations.

The PAME Desktop Study on Marine Litter was published in May 2019, as a product for the 11th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland. The Desktop Study provides a base for the next phase of PAME's work on marine litter, where work on an Arctic regional action plan on marine litter is ongoing.

Strengthening the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to support ocean-related SDGs --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction17174

**By:** Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

**Partners:** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden (governments) and European Union

**Description:** HELCOM will continue implementation of agreed actions that will contribute to the implementation of SDG 14. For instance, this includes: - speeding up the implementation of the marine litter regional action plan, continuing its battle against eutrophication and planning towards the elaboration of a regional action plan on underwater noise, to fulfil SDG 14.1, - ensuring close cooperation on any maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea area and management plans for all marine protected areas, to fulfil SDG 14.2 and 14.5, - supporting sustainable agricultural practices, to contribute to SDG 2.4, and ecosystem-related fishery measures, towards SDG 14.4 and 14.6. More generally, HELCOM will strive for more resilient marine ecosystems to be better prepared for human-induced climate change challenges. It will also promote further regional development of socio-economic analyses to create tailor-made connecting points between implementation of different SDGs. For years, HELCOM has developed regional indicators and assessments to measure the environmental status of the Baltic Sea, which can also be used for the future regional work on the implementation of SDGs.

**Timeframe:** 28 feb 2017 - 2021

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17174>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: According to plan**

The update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) is an important process for achieving good environmental status in the Baltic Sea without significant action from the countries in the region. There are strong links to the need for environmental measures and work aimed at, among other things, strengthened work on nutrient recycling, marine debris, noise and impact on bottoms.

Work to strengthen the implementation of commitments in the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), according to the following timetable:

2019: Structure and main components of a new BSAP

- New ecological / management objectives



- How far do we go get with existing measures?

2020: focus on new actions/measures

- Draft on synopses of new actions and recommendations. The results will be published in the spring of 2020.
- Working Group meetings in April / May, BSAP workshops in May 2020
- Update of BSAP by 2021 with the ocean-related SDG goals as a framework
- Adopting a final version at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2021.

In the preparations for the BSAP update includes a review of the extent to the existing “actions” and recommendations have been implemented. The results will be published in the spring of 2020. The review conducted in 2017 covered only part of the agreements.

Sweden supports this work in several ways, for example:

- “In kind” with experts participation in various meetings, generally around the update of BSAP
- through financial support to the HELCOM Secretariat for BSAP update project management, and support for analyzes of adequacy in existing measures and hazardous topics
- by having leading roles in several working groups, or for sub-assignments, within the HELCOM ACTION projects and within the SOM platform, which analyzes adequacy in existing measures.

Designation and enhancement of implementation of the Baltic Sea as NOx Emission Control Area for ships and public-private partnership ---  
According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15614

**By:** Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

**Partners:** Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden. HELCOM Observers active in HELCOM MARITIME group are invited as partners to this voluntary commitment

**Description:** The NECA regulations target new ships built on or after 2021 and do not address existing ships. A two-decade long period of fleet renewal is needed before the regulation will show the full effect. Parallel work to promote the green shipping technology and use of alternative fuels, as means of compliance with NECA, will be undertaken by HELCOM and in the region to facilitate emission reductions ahead of the regulatory schedule. A regional public-private partnership on green technology and alternative fuels for shipping called HELCOM GREEN TEAM has been established for this purpose. The NECA regulation brings a new momentum and a demand to intensify the public-private partnership. The new work plan of the partnership, adopted in 2017, aims to promote public and private co-operation at national and Baltic Sea levels to enhance development and uptake of green technology and alternative fuels in shipping, including LNG. The work will be undertaken jointly by HELCOM countries in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community.

**Timeframe:** August 2015 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15614>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14c

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**Progress report: According to plan**

Meetings in GreenTeam are held annually. Public private partnership is an important part of the Green Team work, but the focus has not been entirely on NECA (NOx Emission Control Area) implementation within the group, but also other ways of promoting green shipping. However, at best, a proposal for an updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is being developed to "Develop a roadmap for enforcement of the Baltic Sea NOx Emission Control area." The BSAP update will be approved by the HELCOM ministerial meeting in the autumn of 2021.

Tackling abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear at global scale - a multi-stakeholder partnership --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction14840

**By:** Global Ghost Gear Initiative

**Partners:** Civil society: Project Aware, Parley for the Oceans, Northwest Straits Foundation, Plastic Disclosure Project, Ocean Conservancy, Morigenos, Natural Resource Consultants, PEW, Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, International Pole and Line Foundatio

**Description:** The Global Ghost Gear Initiative The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) is a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership committed to driving solutions to the problem of lost and abandoned fishing gear worldwide. The GGGI currently brings together over 80 participants across 50 unique organisations including the fishing industry, the private sector, academia, governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, is led by a Steering Group voted on by majority from and by the Global Ghost Gear Initiative's participant base. The GGGI's tackle the global ghost gear problem in the following ways: Build evidence: Collecting data locally and regionally and standardising it globally to understand ghost gear abundance, causes, impacts and trends. The evidence will then be used to prioritise solutions in 'hotspot' areas where ghost gear is a particular problem. Define best practices and inform policies: Developing best practice guidance on the management of fishing gear at the different stages of its life. This guidance will be used to advise government and industry policies to ensure enhanced prevention and mitigation of the ghost gear problem globally. The Best Practice Guidelines have recently been released for industry consultation and will be formally launched in June. Expanding scalable and replicable solutions will develop new ways to tackle the problem of ghost gear. They are particularly focused on holistic solutions that can evolve into sustainable business models. Several solutions projects have started in the UK, Pakistan, Indonesia, the USA and Canada.

**Timeframe:** September 2015 – December 2030

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=14840>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14.4 14.6

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**Progress report: According to plan**

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI), continues its work to show the value of taking care of and reducing the presence of lost fishing gear, ghost nets, to achieve sustainable fisheries. In 2019, the initiative participated in a number of

global political forums, including the Our Ocean 2019 conference in Oslo, Norway and the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. There they addressed the fight against sea plastics and sustainable fishing. For 2020, GGCI plans to update the data portal (<https://oceanconservancy.org/>), participate in various political forums, including the United Nations Ocean Conference, Halifax Gear Innovation Summit (Halifax, Canada), International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic (Reykjavik, Iceland), International Conference on the African Marine Waste Network (Port Elizabeth, South Africa) and the UN FAO Fisheries Committee Meeting (COFI). In addition, a framework for best practice will be launched that specifically addresses the issue of problems with lost nets from aquaculture.

Partnership for Implementing SDG14 in the Western Indian Ocean ---  
According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18313

**By:** Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention

**Partners:** Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention - Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and South Africa (Governments) UN Environment (Intergovernmental Organization) Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) (Intergov

**Description:** Under the Nairobi Convention, governments, civil society, scientific community and the private sector are working together for a prosperous Western Indian Ocean with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans. The Convention pursues this vision by providing a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions and by engaging countries into actions to protect their shared marine environment. The Convention has provided effective leadership in fostering sustainable ocean management through ecosystem-based approaches and has secured greater commitments by States, cooperation of stakeholders and active involvement of the civil society. There still remains institutional, governance and financing impediments that are beyond the ability of the Western Indian Ocean countries to address. The challenges require concerted international support to secure sources of long-term financing for the investments needed by these countries to transform to integrated, coastal and maritime sources of production, employment and growth. The aim of the partnership is to reduce marine pollution, demonstrate and enhance ocean governance and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems for a prosperous Western Indian Ocean. Objectives:

1. Implementation of the strategic action programme to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems through implementation of the agreed priorities
2. Implementation of the Western Indian Ocean strategic action programme on policy harmonization and institutional reforms towards improved ocean governance and transition to a low carbon pathway
3. Sustainable management of shared fish resources and collaborative management of marine and coastal resources in the Northern Mozambique Channel
4. Improved governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction to promote the blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region

**Timeframe:** April 2017 – December 2022

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18313>

**Ocean basin:** Indian Ocean**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.7 14a 14b 14c**Progress report: According to plan**

Since the conference, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has contributed 160 million SEK to the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) for the period 2018-2022. The initiative aims to support research and education in marine sciences, application of research results and to present and communicate research results for sustainable development in marine and coastal environments in eastern and southern Africa as the basis for political decisions, for example, within the framework of international conventions within the UN system. The initiative also includes an initiative on coastal and ocean impacts on coastal stretches.

Sida also initiated cooperation in marine environment and fisheries management in the region between 2018 and 2021 in the order of SEK 80 million. Cooperation aim at strengthening the capacity of regional actors to promote sustainable management and utilization of common ecosystem services and natural resources, and to promote greater resistance to climate change and natural disasters, including the ability to ensure food security.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) has engaged in close collaboration with the Nairobi Convention as part of the SwAM Ocean development program, funded by Sida. The cooperation serves to strengthen regional capacity within marine spatial planning (MSP), environmental assessment and source to sea management, in support of the Nairobi convention projects WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE. Among cooperation activities SwAM and the Convention has held a technical workshop on marine spatial planning for civil servants and appointed stakeholders of the Federal Republic of Somalia (November 2019) which continues as a close collaboration with support to the development of MSP Roadmap for this country. The cooperation between SwAM and Nairobi Convention also include the co-development of a regional and national tool for cumulative impact assessment (WioSym). The primary aim of this work (2019-2021) is to develop a common and transparent decision support tool that facilitate the bridging of science and policy. Regional sharing of open source marine data is another expected output of WioSym. Moreover, SwAM has contributed with experiences on MSP and source to sea management at several regional conferences under the Nairobi Convention. A formal expression of understanding between SwAM and Nairobi Convention will be signed in 2020.

## Identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) in the Baltic Sea --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18382

**By:** Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

**Partners:** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden (governments), European Union and The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

**Description:** The commitment is to identify Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) in the Baltic Sea. A regional workshop will be organized in 2018 for this purpose. The EBSAs are expected to contribute to fulfilling the regional goal of drawing up and applying maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.

**Timeframe:** May 2017 – Feb 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18382>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.2

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### **Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The Baltic EBSA workshop was held on 24 February 2018, in Helsinki, Finland, hosted by Finland and with financial support by Finland and Sweden. The workshop was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with HELCOM. The workshop was attended by experts from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden, as well as from a number of organizations.

Nine EBSAs in the Baltic Sea were described by the workshop. Five of these areas are transboundary areas, covering waters of two or more countries. Altogether, the described EBSAs cover 23% of the Baltic Sea waters.

The EBSAs are expected to contribute to fulfilling the regional goal of drawing up and applying maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region, which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.

The report of the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs in the Baltic Sea (EBSA workshop) was reviewed at the CBD Twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 22), 2-7 July 2018 in Montreal. The EBSA reports for the Baltic Sea were adopted at the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14), 17-29 November 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The EBSA descriptions have been included in the global EBSA repository. In addition, Sweden hosted a regional EBSA workshop for the North East Atlantic in Stockholm in September 2019.

Subsequently the report was forwarded to, where the identified areas was considered and the meeting requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD to include the summary reports in the EBSA repository, and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and its relevant processes, as well as Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations.



Ocean Literacy for all: a global strategy to raise the awareness for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of our ocean --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15187

**By:** UNESCO

**Partners:** College of Exploration, Consortium for Ocean Science Exploration and Engagement, European Marine Science Educators Association, World Ocean Network, Ocean Frontier Institute, Ciencia Viva, Italian Network on Ocean Literacy, Western Indian Ocean Marine Sci

**Description:** Most of us live our lives unaware of how our day-to-day actions impact on the health of the ocean, or how the health of the ocean impacts on our own daily lives. Ocean literacy is defined as an understanding of the oceans influence on you and your influence on the ocean. The focus of the Ocean Literacy for ALL initiative is to develop a global partnership to raise the awareness on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our ocean and its resources and to build an improved public knowledge base across the worlds population regarding our global ocean. Building on existing national, regional, and international ocean education initiatives, such as those conducted by the Trans-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the International Consortium for Ocean Science Exploration and Engagement (COSEE), and the European and Asian Association of Marine Science Educators, this initiative aims at developing a plan to foster ocean awareness and ocean literacy education in all segments of society. The goals of this initiative are to: 1.) Encourage cooperation and exchange on ocean education to improve ocean literacy; 2.) Raise awareness of the two-way interactions between the ocean and peoples daily lives, and empower citizens to adjust their everyday behavior; and 3.) Seek and apply innovative ways to make our current and future citizens ocean literate, so that they recognize environmental challenges and can make informed and responsible decisions related to ocean stewardship and the use of ocean resources. The activities will be coordinated by UNESCOs Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The Swedish Government provides financial support. Following this initiative, several strategic activities will continue the momentum toward achieving the three goals listed above. In joint deliberation with all partners involved, international working groups will be established to continue to steer the implementation of the activities.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – July 2019

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15187>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.2 14a

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### **Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

During 2017 IOC-UNESCO has used the financial support from Sweden to arrange a high-level conference on Ocean Literacy the 4-5th of December 2017, in Venice. The aim of the conference was to develop a roadmap and framework for the global work on Ocean Literacy and implement the voluntary commitment that was made by IOC-UNESCO at the UN Ocean Conference. More than 100 participants from over 30 countries participated at the conference on ocean literacy, for example decision-makers, researchers and teachers. The Swedish Minister for the Environment Ms Karolina Skog participated at the conference with a video message. A publication was released (Ocean Literacy for All: A toolkit), to provide educators worldwide with tools, methods and resources to develop work on ocean literacy.

During 2018-2020 financial support from Sweden contributed to the development of a Strategy and Framework for Ocean Literacy integrated with the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. A series of stakeholder consultations were performed, including an open questionnaire with over 300 respondents from 70 countries across the world. Belonging to a variety of sectors: Government, UN partner, Ocean Science Community, Formal and non-Formal education, Civil Society, Private Sector, Media.

A workshop, based on the outcome of the questionnaire, was held in Venice on 12-13 December 2019. Attended by 37 people from 25 countries. A joint vision for the strategy was developed, main objectives identified as well as implementation mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation strategies.

The first ever ocean literacy professional development workshop for the private sector was organised in Venice 16-17 December 2019. 15 participants from 7 countries attended. During the workshop, business and industry sectors shared their experiences on integrating ocean literacy into their business models. Benefits and barriers to implementing behaviour- change strategies was identified and Blue Action Plans developed to address and highlight sustainable ways of using the sea. The blueprint concept will provide basis for future workshops.

As part of the Decade Roadmap to develop the implementation Plan of the Decade also several regional workshops were organised: Pacific Community in Noumea, New Caledonia, 23-25 July, 2019; North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas in Tokyo, Japan, 31 July - 2 August 2019; and South-East Pacific Workshop in Guayaquil, Ecuador, 24-26 September, 2019.

Financial support from Sweden contributed to the Regional South Atlantic Planning Workshop hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 25-27 November 2019. Attendance of 119 people, from 22 countries and 4 International Organizations, included a balanced representation from Government, Academy, Private Companies, NGOs and Communication Sectors as well as "Youth Ambassadors" of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. During the workshop a seventh

Working Group was proposed, entitled “Communication Strategies on the relevance of oceans: an Ocean valued by all”. The communications group was established since the recognition of the importance of this tool in identifying user needs and throughout the preparation process and even in conducting the Decade itself.

Keep the Oceans Tidy --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16042

**By:** Keep Sweden Tidy

**Partners:** Lead Partners: Orkla Foods Sverige (private sector), BillerudKorsns AB (private sector), LIDL Sverige (private sector) Partners: Systembolaget AB (private sector), Apoteket AB (private sector), Konsumentföreningen Stockholm (private sector)

**Description:** Keep the Oceans Tidy is a new, proactive and voluntary network that strives to reduce the man-made litter choking our oceans. The membership network is open to all actors in trade, industry, academic, civil society and public sectors. Litter on land ends up in the oceans with the largest portion consisting of plastics. Plastics eventually break down and are ingested by fish and other marine life, which are then consumed by humans. This cycle has devastating effects on our oceans and on our well-being.

The challenge of ocean-borne plastic involves a full chain of responsible actors: a) producers throughout the product lifecycle (design, manufacturing, distribution, consumption, end of life) b) authorities that steer regulation and create regulatory frameworks, i.e. the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI), Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket), the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Havs- och Vattenmyndigheten), the Swedish National Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket) c) stakeholders including retailers, customers and end consumers

Keep the Oceans Tidy is a platform designed to link all actors in Sweden as we seek to stop the tide of ocean-borne plastic. What we hope to achieve - Concrete action in product and packaging development o the elimination or reduction of plastics used o promote processes that do not produce litter, i.e. caps that remain attached to bottles, etc. - New service offers that exclude packaging - Regulations designed to promote new initiatives and innovation A three-point strategy to achieve our goals - Increase and share knowledge about consequences - Promote the speedy development of concrete action - Boost public awareness in order to foster behavioural change. Objective: 50% less litter in december 2025

**Timeframe:** April 2017 – December 2025

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16042>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14a

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**Progress report:** According to plan

The Network Keep Sweden Tidy is aimed at organizations and companies that want to join and create long-term commitment to clean seas and reduced litters. Meetings with seminars, workshops and knowledge sharing, members are supportive elements of the program, where the aim is to motivate and inspire joint projects. The government decided in the budget for 2018 that SEK 20 million per year during the period 2018-2020 may be paid as a contribution to the organization Keep Sweden Tidy for work to generate and convey knowledge and experience that contributes to reducing littering with a special effort directed at the public and especially children and young people.

The amount of members have increased and now encompass 13 larger businesses. Representatives within the businesses have in different ways within their companies and together with the network taken actions in order to reach the network's goals;

1) To increase and share knowledge about consequences: The network have hosted 10 network meetings and seminars where members could share and receive knowledge. The issue of plastic bags received a lot of attention and we were able to share best practise in how to decrease the usage. We are also sharing business intelligence through newsletters 4times a year in which the members receive latest development in the area of marine littering and plastics in the oceans. In 2018 the network was nominated to the Nordic Councils environment prize, for creating the network and the power of making joined forces to combat plastic.

2) Promote the speedy development of concrete action: All members have committed to three to five concrete actions that will decrease the amount of plastics until 2025. Focus in the actions is to stop using unnecessary plastics and increase the amount of recycled material. Some of the concrete initiatives taken are; - Increase on price in order to minimize sale of plastic bags. Should be reduced by 50% by 2020 - Minimize usage of single-use articles within the company - Piloting a new store without (plastic) bags - A change in packaging on consumer products; from plastic to paper. - Open innovation challenge on the theme sustainable on-the-go packaging - All packaging shall be 100% recycled (to new packaging) by 2025

3) Boost public awareness in order to foster behavioural change: In order to create and enhance the knowledge of marine littering and plastics in the ocean a number of activities have been taken. Public Relations has been an important tool in receiving awareness with the public audience. A number of debate articles in leading papers, nationwide newspapers as well as leading finance-papers has been published with a reach of millions of potential readers. We have also advertised "the actions taken", in social media as well as papers and on-line. We can also see that the knowledge of marine litter has increased. 48% of the Swedish adult population is stating that littering is contributing to an increased amount of plastics in the ocean. (Novus 201910) and 59% knows that plastics that ends up in our oceans does not disappear.

Regional action plan for a Sustainability Maritime Sector --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20119

**By:** Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

**Partners:** Region Västra Götaland, (regional government)

**Description:** The Region has adopted a Regional Action Plan for a sustainable maritime sector. This action plan has been developed in close cooperation with industry, academia, institutes, local and regional authorities. To enable implementation of the plan, an indicative budget of 18 MSEK per year has been allocated for projects aiming to work towards the goals stated in the Action Plan. The projects are decided upon by the Regional Development Committee and continuously evaluated in line with the Committees standards. The projects are always elaborated in close cooperation with the industry. Pivotal and mandatory in all projects are the sustainability aspects and the potential contribution to our societal challenges.

**Timeframe:** June 2016 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20119>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14a

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**Progress report: According to plan**

The maritime sector in West Sweden is a heterogenous sector with both well developed and emerging businesses, thus the needs of the different companies is vastly different. The size of projects in the well-established sectors such as shipping (maritime operations and technologies) is often much larger than in the emerging sectors. Hence the number of projects is often lower as well. The shipping and maritime technologies sector is much more mature than for example marine biotechnology and shipping has a lot more big companies that can afford to contribute with time and money in projects. There is also more national funding available for the more established sectors in Sweden's case. Marine renewable energy is an important emerging sector for West Sweden that has applications all over Europe and potentially the world. All businesses are in a development phase and work closely with stakeholders around Europe as Sweden has relatively benign wave climate and currents. Seafood is focused on increasing the value of existing marine biomass through the whole value chain as well as producing new biomass/food mainly through modern, recirculating & sustainable aquaculture.

Web addresses to the main projects:

[www.lighthouse.nu/en](http://www.lighthouse.nu/en) (maritime operations/shipping)

[offshorevast.com/](http://offshorevast.com/) (marine energy)

[www.maritimaklustret.se/en/](http://www.maritimaklustret.se/en/) (generic)

[www.innovatum.se/starta-och-utveckla/utvecklingsprojekt/vara-fokusomraden/hallbara-maritima-naringar/](http://www.innovatum.se/starta-och-utveckla/utvecklingsprojekt/vara-fokusomraden/hallbara-maritima-naringar/) (seafood)

[smtf.se/en/](http://smtf.se/en/) (maritime technologies)

[renkust.se/](http://renkust.se/) (marine litter)

Member driven advocacy for sustainable oceans, ecosystems and fisheries --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15167

**By:** Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

**Partners:** Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

**Description:** The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) was founded in 1909, and is the largest environmental organization in Sweden with the power to bring about change. We, as an NGO, commit to strive for healthy oceans and marine ecosystems that can deliver ecosystem services by: - Stronger regulation and restrictions on destructive fishing practices such as bottom trawling - No illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing - Protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass meadows - Better regulation on hazardous substances and plastics - More and better managed Marine Protected Areas In addition, we will also work with capacity building of member based organizations in low income countries (LDCs) in Asia, Latin America and Africa for gender equality, democracy, transparency and their full participation in decision-making processes related to fisheries and ocean/coastal use and management, and thus promote global solidarity. Implementation methodologies include: - Evaluate the progress on SDG commitments, communicate best practices and highlight areas where governments can improve. - Publish reports, participate in advisory councils and answer public consultations. - Together with partners, and our membership in the EC Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council, work towards transparent and fair EU-third country fisheries agreements, and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries, both in EU's fishery policy and in LDCs. - Capacity building and training activities. - Support local initiatives for marine conservation and protection. Gathered information, knowledge and experiences derived from working with our commitment, will further be transferred to our members, partner organizations and policy makers. Through our extensive collaboration with schools in Sweden, the stated commitment should also engage youth and raise awareness of issues related to the state of our oceans.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – December 2030

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15167>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.6 14.7 14b 14c

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**Progress report:** According to plan



Since the Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has continued to strive for healthy oceans and marine ecosystems by:

- Through membership in EUs Long Distance Advisory Board (LDAC), Seas at Risk, Coalition Clean Baltic and Fish Sec, and together with other allies, SSNC has continued to provide advice related to sustainable fisheries within EU and in EUs external fisheries dimension. As a result, some advice are reflected in e.g. re-negotiated fishing agreement,

- SSNC has participated in several conferences, such as e.g. the Blue Economy conference in Nairobi where we, together with partners and FAO, organized a side event on blue economy and the need to think beyond GDP and place environmental sustainability and sustainable blue sectors, such as small-scale fisheries, at the centre. The side event was well attended and further covered in the media,

- SSNCs work on marine protected areas has continued and during late 2019/early 2020 two reports were published and launched. One report focused on the issues of bottom trawling in Swedish MPAs, and the other one on the important role local communities play in marine and coastal conservation in Kenya and Senegal. Both reports include key recommendations for improved management and healthier oceans. In addition, SSNC run a four-week campaign to raise public awareness about threats and challenges to the ocean, as well as the importance of securing healthy oceans and biodiversity for human well-being. This campaign resulted in 11 000 individual signatures requesting stronger protection of Swedish waters. These were further handed over, in person, to ms Isabella Lövin (Minster for Environment, Sweden),

- SSNC has conducted several activities for our Swedish members, such as e.g. a “water conference”, as well as a number of capacity building/knowledge transfer workshops with partner organizations and local resource users in low income countries. The focus has largely been on various fresh water/marine issues but also biodiversity, fisheries and blue economy. These have all resulted in enhanced understanding, collaboration and joint strategies for onward work,

- SSNC has continued to spread information, participate in various meetings/fora, and conduct advocacy work (nationally and internationally) related to various fisheries issues (e.g. eel fisheries and fisheries quotas, the need to shift to more low impact fishing gear, more and larger trawling free areas, EUs fishing agreements with third countries and subsidies), hydropower, marine spatial planning, biodiversity and CBD-processes, blue economy, to mention just a few,

- SSNC and partners have sent several letters to the EU commissioner for environment and ocean, specifically requesting a revision of EUs ocean economy, and also to pause all fishing on Baltic cod as this species is in critical condition.

The latter resulted in an EU-decision to temporary stop all fishing on the eastern cod,

- SSNC has continued to support partner organizations in low income countries in their work towards healthy oceans and sustainable management of marine/coastal ecosystems. This has resulted in increased understanding about policy processes as well as the stronger representation of CSOs in various decision-making fora,

The following years, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation aim to continue to spread information, participate in various fora/ advisory councils/boards, conduct capacity building activities, engage in advocacy work (national and international level), and support partner organizations in low income countries related to ocean/coastal/water use and management as well as fisheries.

HYBRIT - Towards fossilfree steel --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction17154

**By:** SSAB

**Partners:**

**Description:** SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall has initiated a project that, if proven feasible, can solve the steel industrys carbon dioxide challenge, HYBRIT (Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology).The aim is to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions from ironmaking by eliminating the need to use fossil fuel for iron ore reduction. The idea is to replace the blast furnaces with an alternative process, using hydrogen produced from clean electricity. This means that the by-product from ironmaking would be water not carbon dioxide. Lower carbon emissions means a positive effect on the acidification, which is critical to preserve the biodiversity of the oceans

**Timeframe:** April 2016 – December 2035

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17154>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.3

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**Progress report: According to plan**

In 2018 the ground was broken for the world-unique pilot plant for fossil free steel to be built on the SSAB site in Luleå. The pilot plant, which is a part of the Hybrit-initiative by SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall, will be ready in the summer of 2020. The lessons learned from the pilot will form the basis for a demonstration plant, which will be in place in 2025. There, iron will be produced under the same conditions as in a full-scale plant, but with limited capacity.

The goal is to deliver fossil-free steel to the market in 2026. Using this technique Sweden can reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by ten percent and Finland by seven percent.

By-products from steel industry for water purification --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20844

**By:** Höganäs AB

**Partners:** Hoganas AB

**Description:** Phosphorous are present in many anthropogenic waters with lakes and oceans as final recipients, where phosphorous cause eutrophication. The fact that large and important agriculture areas are placed close to the sea shores, poses a potential conflict between the need to keep the farmlands fertile and the possible phosphorus leakage from these areas. Small private owned sewage facilities is another major area causing emissions of phosphorous to lakes and oceans if no polishing is in use. Hoganas is engaged in a partnership research project in Sweden (Project MINRENT) to explore the possibilities of purifying water from phosphorus, by using tailored filter materials made from industrial by-products from the Swedish steel and metal industry. The by-products included in the project are different kinds of slags. The partners in the project includes the Swedish steel industry as producers of filter material, manufacturers of filter systems and academia. Lab and pilot-scale studies of by-products from Hoganas AB have shown that close to 100 % of phosphorus can be removed from water over time by using slag from steel and metal industry as filter material. These materials have also shown capacity to remove high level of nickel, zinc and copper from water. When using by-products for water purification it will contribute to a decreased eutrophication. In addition, it will also lead to less use of virgin materials (including processing of these materials), that otherwise is used for this purpose. At end of life, the sauterated filter materials can find use as either fertilizer and soil enricher, or as slag former in the steel and metal production. Hoganas AB will

- control its production processes and include also the quality of the side stream materials and continuously work on improving its byproducts to turn them into valuable resources such as products efficient for water purification.
- Through the deliberate involvement of universities and others, findings from on-going pilot scale operations at Hoganas AB will be publically available for others to take inspiration in developing similar solutions.

**Timeframe:** June 2017- December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20844>

**Ocean basin:** North Arlantic

**Target:** 14.1

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### **Progress report: According to plan**

"Höganäs AB has continuously worked with the side-stream materials (e.g. mineral-based by-products) with the objective to make them useful for different applications instead of being treated and handled as waste. This also includes upgrading of these materials into high value applications.

In the area of water purification through the use of slags from steel industry, a spectrum of different technologies including mechanisms for these processes have been investigated and studied within the Swedish research project Minrent, where Höganäs takes an active part. This has also included several pilot scale trials based on the lab scale results within the project. The first pilot scale test was on sewage water in order to remove phosphorous which also was one of the main commitments from Höganäs side within project Minrent. In addition to that, there has also been pilot scale purifying of "industrial" wastewater, also by using slags. This wastewater came in this case from a municipal landfill area.

Results from both these pilot trials of water purification showed that by using slags from steel production, a significant amount of unwanted elements can be removed. Examples of removed elements are phosphorous (from sewage water) and lead, zinc, copper etc, (from landfill waste water) thus a high capacity for purification from slags. A preliminary conclusion is that water purification by using mineral-based by-products (slag from steel production) can be used as a sustainable treatment technology.

The project Minrent will continue to explore how the slags fit for water purification through the study of how these residues react with different polluting elements, including the mechanism behind.

In 2018 the pilot scale testing was reported successful and Höganäs would continue these tests. The test will be carried out both at the same locations in order to get long term results, but also at new sites with new conditions in order to learn more about the processes and capacities. The filter material from the cleaning of sewage water will also be used for culture trials in order to study the possibility to pick up and recover the phosphorous to be used as fertiliser.

Since 2018, in the area of water purification with steel slags as filter media several long-term field trials have been carried out. The results so far are in general very successful and the interest for using steel slags as filter media is high both from end-users and from companies in the area of water purification.

Even if the outcome from these trials in general is successful, there are some variations in results that are difficult to understand and explain. This in turn demands more activities and evaluations before it is possible to make the transition from pilot scale operations to industrial scale and put the material on the market. Keeping this in mind, we foresee that the end date of this project will be postponed with one year approximately.

Maritime Green Team 01 --- Assumed - Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction19335

**By:** ZVT

**Partners:** Public Private Partnerships and support HELCOM Maritime, sub-group and CBSS EGMP

**Description:** Several investments have already been made and pioneering projects have been, and are, implemented in the maritime transport sector. Shipowners, ports and transport buyers share knowledge and progress. Two of the projects participating in this progress are the voluntary commitments #14975 and #15203. To take the next step, to make the tipping point, the forerunners higher risk when going through a process of change, has to be shared. One way of doing that is to measure benefits to society when choosing green to find a denominator that focus on the initiative and lesser on which company that is investing. To be able to do this, the University need to align measurement models, both available and those which have to be established, that are linking resources from Financial Instrument (FI) availability and its pricing, together with reductions of fees/dues to actual external benefit (to the climate, environment, sea and society), have to be supported. All perspectives need to be included; ship and technology, infrastructure, regulations, R&D and financing, to continue towards the new normal where green investments are the natural choice.

**Timeframe:** January 2017 – December 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19335>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.3

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**Progress report: Assumed - Finalized according to plan**

The Green Team platform is intended as a joint cooperation platform which is open for public sector institutions and governments, maritime business as well as civil society (NGOs) interested in working together to advance sustainable shipping at sea in the region.

Three meetings of the HELCOM MARITIME Sub-group on Green Technology and Alternative Fuels for Shipping (GREEN TEAM) has been held; in 2017, 2018 and 2019. A fourth meeting is planned in 2020.

Commitment from a group of Swedish Investors on Goal 14 and Goal 6 ---  
Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18768

**By:** AP7, SPP, Church of Sweden Asset Management, Alecta, Folksam, Handelsbanken Asset Management, East Capital (Private sector)

**Partners:** AP7 - lead entity (one of Sweden's state pension funds), SPP (Swedish private pension company), Church of Sweden Asset Management (asset manager for the capital of Church of Sweden), Alecta (Swedish pension company), Folksam (Swedish pension company/insura

**Description:** In our commitment, formed by individual investors but within the framework of Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development (initiated by Sida), we focus the activities around Goal 6. Following the principle of source to sea this, to some extent, also connects to Goal 14. We will study and address the fresh water risks in our portfolios and stimulate towards best practices. We have taken a joint initiative in order to understand the barriers for investments in water infrastructure in Sweden, by commissioning a report that maps the issuers' knowledge and prerequisites to contribute to the solution. The objective of this report is: to raise political awareness around the issue, to demonstrate the need for increased technical project management capacity at a local level, and to show that there is available capital as well as a clear interest to invest in the solutions. We are all committed to, in different ways, making best water practices part of the agenda for our dialogue and corporate governance. In addition, AP7 has identified a list of companies that they and some of us will be addressing in a broad engagement process where the target is to find ways of best practices and improved water management. Indicators that will be used to measure progress include level of means of responsibility for water issues at board level, water policy applied, targets for water consumption and pollution levels, local community impacts. Our expectations and aspirations are to see progress for more effective water management.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – June 2019

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18768>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The so-called "Water Group" of Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development has made a comprehensive report on investment needs in Swedish municipalities. The report was presented at a parliamentary seminar in mid-December 2017. AP7

and SPP also wrote a debate article in connection with this in Dagens industri (<https://www.di.se/debatt/debatt-slapp-in-privatkapital-i-va-networks/>). In addition, AP7 makes a greater commitment with some participants in Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development as a follower, on water issues and "better water management" in some portfolio companies in the "food and beverage", "garment" and "mining" industries.

In 2019 AP7's Fresh Water theme was concluded. It aimed at investigating how their corporate governance and our investments can contribute to the attainment of the UN:s SDG 6. In the theme, they analysed companies with water risks, identified the opportunities for blue investments for asset owners, and highlighted challenges in the Swedish water and sanitation infrastructure. The results showed that water-related risks are underreported and need to be standardized. They also noted that companies need to become better at collaborating with other actors on shared water resources. The companies are much better at managing water risks internally than, for example, collaborating upstream and downstream in a river basin.

Separately, in the report "Vatten som investeringsobjekt" they presented the need for investments in the Swedish water and sanitation infrastructure and the barriers to investing the capital available for blue investments. In 2019 two water mandates was set up that invest specifically in listed companies with water related enterprise, for example water infrastructure and innovations. Through these mandates they initiated projects aimed at investigating how reporting of water-related impact and indicators can be improved. Results are expected in the coming years. Reports can be downloaded from: <https://www.ap7.se/om-oss/dokument/>



Local Governments for the Oceans --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction21400

**By:** City of Malmö / ICLEI

**Partners:** ICLEI

**Description:** The City of Malmö and ICLEI together commit to host a conference on the implementation of SDG 14 at a local level Life Below Water 11-13th October 2017 in Malmö Sweden. This will kick start a global network for ocean literacy, knowledge exchange and up-scaling of local initiatives for the marine environment. As part of this work Malmö and ICLEI will take these initiatives to ICLEI's membership of 1500 cities and regions across the globe, about 50% of which are in coastal areas. The focus for this work will be on the marine environment, but with strong links to climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable procurement, ecosystem services, community development and the circular economy. In this way, work with SDG 14 will be integrated closely with action for the other SDGs. A more detailed declaration for the global local government network will be launched by the City of Malmö and ICLEI at the Life Below Water Conference in October 2017 and also presented at COP23 in Bonn, 3rd UN Environment Assembly and finalised with an phase 1 action plan at the ICLEI World Congress in Montreal in June 2018. This will be a commitment for the period 2017 to 2030.

**Timeframe:** September 2017 – December 2030

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21400>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.5 14.b

**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The Life Below Water 2017 Conference was held in Malmö 11-13th October 2017 bringing together 250 delegates from four continents to inspire, learn, debate and drive action at a local level for the marine environment.

The conference, opened by Mayor Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, featured inspiring keynote addresses from NGOs, cities, academia and business as well as Sweden's Minister for the Environment, Karolina Skog. Crown Princess Victoria also participated in the conference before inaugurating the new Marine Education Centre at the beach in Malmö. Technical visits at sea and on land inspired dialogue seminars on diverse topics such as Sustainable Marine Food, Sustainable Vessels and Ports and Plastic Pollution in the Ocean.

The conference highlighted the complexity and interrelated thematic challenges linking our activities on land to a range of threats to the ocean environment. The

links with work in cities for circular resource management, sustainable food systems, waste management, climate mitigation and adaptation were just some of the most obvious connections. The conference focused heavily on the opportunities presented for economic development through improved management and use of our ocean resource, creating local jobs and making local economies work for marine protection.

The city of Malmö and ICLEI took the findings of the Conference to COP23 in Bonn in November 2017 at the Ocean Day to highlight the strong interlinkages between climate change and the marine environment.

In December 2018 the City of Malmö, together with UNESCO IOC and the World Maritime University, hosted a thematic conference on the topic of Ocean Literacy bringing together 100 delegates from ca 20 countries.

The City of Malmö will take part in the 2020 UN Ocean Conference with the ambition to host a side-event on the topic of Ocean Literacy. At the conference ICLEI and the City of Malmö will announce the programme for the ICLEI World Congress which will be held in Malmö in April 2021.

Innovative management solutions for minimizing emissions of hazardous substances from urban areas in the Baltic Sea Region --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16482

**By:** City of Stockholm/The NonHazCity project (financed by partners, the EU Interreg Baltic Sea Programme and Swedish Institute) involving municipalities, NGOs and Universities around the Baltic Sea 2016-2019

**Partners:** Sweden: City of Stockholm and Västerås, University of Agricultural Sciences Finland: Turku Univ, TUKES, Estonia: Prnu, BEF-EE Latvia: Riga, BEF-LV Lithuania: Silale, Kaunas, Klaipeda Regional Environment Department, BEF-LT Poland: Gdansk Univ, Gdansk City

**Description:** The majority of small scale emitters of wastewaters (households, enterprises and service providers and municipal entities) are so far weakly regulated and controlled. The project aims at identifying and addressing these small scale emitters by various means, adapted to each specific target group. Municipal entities themselves shall exercise own substance reduction measures at their premises. Private small scale businesses and households, will be motivated for voluntary commitments for less hazardous substances by the expert partners and by cooperation with municipal authorities. The actions will not only decrease emissions to protect the environment but also the health of humans in contact with these products and materials. The project will result in Chemicals Action Plans for partner municipalities that will guide their future work with reducing emissions of hazardous substances from enterprises, households and their own entities. Due to the fact that hazardous substance management at urban areas is a new issue for most municipalities, the development of actions will benefit from a wider, transnational perspective. Municipalities can learn from each other and test out ideas developed in other municipalities. This will help to generate more effective solutions. The results will be communicated to inspire also other municipalities to work with these problems. The aim is to increase efficiency of water management for decreased discharges of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea and the regional waters based on enhanced capacity of public and private actors.

**Timeframe:** March 2016 – February 2019

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16482>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The commitment describes a work that was performed within the Interreg-project with the same name (acronym: NonHazCity). In all municipalities, communication activities have been conducted, aiming at reducing the use and release of harmful substances to the environment from their own entities, from enterprises and households. In the municipalities several initiatives have been taken to impose procurement requirements on content in goods and chemical products. Many municipalities have focussed on children's everyday environments. The harmful substances, in addition to affecting life in the ocean environment, can lead to health-related impacts in environments where they are used, and children are particularly sensitive. We have also raised the awareness among companies and residents through different campaigns. Chemical analyses have been carried out on wastewater, stormwater, goods and indoor dust from preschools and households. The results have been compiled in reports. A result of these campaigns is that awareness of the harmful substances has increased in the municipalities. Politicians, national and European authorities and the media have been made aware of these issues. In January 2019 a final conference was held in Riga, LV with almost 100 participants, of which approximately half were external. Project members have also participated in a number of international and national events where the need to address issues related to hazardous substances in everyday life has been stressed. The general conclusions of the project are summarized in the report NonHazCity – a flagship project of the Baltic Sea Region, which can be found on the project website.

In September 2019 an extension project, NonHazCity2 was launched with the aim to implement the action plans that were produced within the original project. The City of Riga has taken over as lead partner. More information and all reports can be found on [www.nonhazcity.eu](http://www.nonhazcity.eu)

Solution Initiative Solutions (SIF) Oceans - a forum for highlighting smart and sustainable marine solutions --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16026

**By:** SDSN Northern Europe

**Partners:** Maritime Cluster of West Sweden (Partnership)

**Description:** We arrange Solution Initiative Forums as meeting points for entrepreneurs, investors, businesses, civil society, policy makers and academia to identify and promote sustainable solutions. SIF Oceans was arranged in May 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden as an action-oriented event where entrepreneurs, industry, investors, researchers, and decision makers come together to identify and promote solutions to challenges connected to our oceans. A report was launched, focussing on some innovative and available solutions from Northern Europe within four ocean-related challenges. All the solutions comprised in this report have gone through a self-evaluation of their impact in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a so-called SDG Impact Assessment. The Advisory Panel took part in the review of submissions and gave feedback to the solution owners regarding their replies in the self-evaluation. The focus has been on the learning process of going through an SDG Impact Assessment, especially to learn to reflect holistically about potential effects of the solutions on the SDGs. The Oceans Solutions Report was handed over to the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lvin, as part of the preparatory work for the UN Ocean Conference. Read more: <https://www.unsdsn-ne.org/news/2017/05/16/launch-of-the-oceans-solutions-report-at-sif-oceans/>

<https://www.unsdsn-ne.org/news/2017/05/15/now-its-all-about-our-oceans-starting-tomorrow-16-may-with-sif-oceans/>

**Timeframe:** November 2016 – December 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16026>

**Ocean basin:** Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14.3 14.4

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

Following the UN Conference, the report "Solution Initiative Solutions (SIF) Ocean" has been presented at several international conferences. Some of the solutions have been further scaled up and gained international recognition.

Bothnia Bulk --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15203

**By:** SSAB

**Partners:** SSAB, ESL Shipping, Port of Raahe, Port of Lule, Port of Oxelsund, RaahenVoima

**Description:** The primary objective is to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40-50% for the dry bulk transports between the steelworks at Raahe, Lule and Oxelsund in the northern Baltic Sea. Zero Vision Tool is used as the collaboration method. The upgraded maritime link will be a cost-effective way to meet the new and more stringent environmental regulations and to ensure year-round supply in the peripheral regions having the longest sea route to the European main market within the SECA. The action supports the objectives to remove the bottleneck of the raw material transport in Sweden and Finland. The maritime link offers a cost and energy efficient transport of dry bulk between Sweden and Finland. It completes the cross-border rail connection, the Bothnian Corridor, which is a pre-identified part of the core trans-european transport network. The ports act as multimodal links connecting the maritime, rail and road transport of raw materials. The new, ice-class IA ships will be the first LNG-fuelled large bulk carriers in the world, representing the latest in technology and innovation. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne of cargo transported will be reduced by 40-50% in comparison to the current vessels in operation. The area in question provides steel supply to the processing and manufacturing industries throughout Europe and delivers end-products worldwide. The steelworks use raw materials which are transported from the hinterland with the Iron Ore railway line, Malmbanan, between Lule and Narvik (Norway). The project includes - procurement of additional environmental efforts of two new build bulk Carriers - development of port efficiency - procurement of LNG refueling truck for maritime transport in Raahe - development of on-shore power supply in Lule - a technical study on the most sustainable and adequate way to handle and storage dry bulk cargo residues on board and in port reception facilities (MARPOL Annex V) - development of LNG availability and safe bunkering procedures

**Timeframe:** April 2018 – December 2019

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15203>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.3

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The two LNG powered dry cargo ships Viikki and Haaga are in commercial operation in the Baltic sea. CO<sub>2</sub> savings in 2019 compared to older tonnage, measured in units of CO<sub>2</sub> produced per cargo ton mile, exceed 40%.

Facilitating learning and sharing of good practices within and beyond UNESCO Biosphere Reserves How do UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the Baltic Sea Region contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20476

**By:** UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme in Sweden (MAB Sweden)

**Partners:** Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Government) Swedish National Commission for UNESCO (Government) UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme in Sweden (Other)

**Description:** The aim of the project is to facilitate learning from biosphere reserves (BRs), both within the UNESCO MAB Programme and with other networks, organizations and stakeholders. In order to better share good practices and inspiring activities with regards to implementing the SDGs, the project also aims to extract stories and communicate these to different target audiences. Project description: Work package 1: Facilitate learning - Inventory of other groups, networks, constellations of interest - Start-up conference: BRs, National commissions, MAB National committees, Central authorities - Thematic workshop during Baltic Sea Future 2018, March 6-7th in Stockholm - Thematic workshop during Havs- och vattenforum, May 2018, in Göteborg Work package 2: Sharing good practices This work package will communicate the experiences and lessons learned for global diffusion and application. All actions are linked to SDGs. - Inventory of projects of implementing SDGs in BRs: Collect and choose examples - Conduct interviews, scouting of websites, etc - Produce booklet: Summary of good practices - Show case via websites, visitors centers, social media

**Timeframe:** August 2017 – December 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20476>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.7 14b

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The voluntary commitment has resulted in the international network Biosphere for Baltic that gathers and disseminate experiences from biosphere reserves in the Baltic Sea region and provide opportunities for exchange between biosphere reserves (BRs) and organizations with Baltic Sea focus. Nine BRs in seven countries (Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Germany and Denmark) participate in the project which is coordinated by Kristianstads Vattenrike BR and

the Man and Biosphere Program in Sweden with funding from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

Biosphere for Baltic explores and highlights how the Baltic Sea BRs contribute to local sustainable development in practice, and more specifically to the implementation of SDG 14 – Life Below Water. During 2018 and 2019 three international exchange events was arranged where the participating BRs have exchanged knowledge and learned from each other. They have shared stories and experiences from their respective biosphere reserves focusing on two themes that are of great importance for sustainable development in Baltic Sea and for the implementation of SDG 14; Source to Sea and Ocean Literacy. The outcome and conclusions from the exchange events have been summarized in a folder and a short film has also been produced. Both the folder and film are available through the Swedish MAB website: [www.biosfarprogrammet.se/projekt/biosphere-for-baltic/](http://www.biosfarprogrammet.se/projekt/biosphere-for-baltic/)

Further, the output of the commitment has been presented at the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Managements yearly national conference and at the international conference “Ocean Literacy in Coastal Cities” held in Malmö, Sweden, in December 2018. The International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme (MAB-ICC) has received updates and results from Biosphere for Baltic during 2018 and 2019 and the National Commission of UNESCO has published a news article.

Biosphere for Baltic has resulted in an increased dialogue and exchange between the BRs and ideas for future collaborations has been developed. Further, the collaboration has resulted in strengthening the biosphere reserve’s role in engaging the public and making them aware of how their involvement is a prerequisite for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Biosphere for Baltic has also been granted additional funding from the Swedish Institute to initiate a collaboration on sustainable practices in the Baltic Sea region in order to highlight environmental challenges and contribute to ocean literacy.



Statement to address the inter-linkages between land and sea in Swedish business core operations --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18472

**By:** Sida - Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development

**Partners:** ABB (Private sector) AstraZeneca (Private sector) Elekta (Private sector) Ericsson (Private sector) Fretagarna (Private sector) KF (Private sector) H&M (Private sector) ICA (Private sector) Lindex (Private sector) Lfbergs (Private sector) Ratos (Private s

**Description:** Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development is a network taking leadership and pursuing sustainable development. The network consists of 26 multinational and leading Swedish companies, three expert organisations, a Development Finance Institution (Swedfund) and the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), which is also a facilitator. Together the members work to contribute to the SDGs and demonstrate leadership for sustainable global development by integrating social, environmental and economic sustainability into their business models and core operations. In 2015 the members embraced a Joint Commitment and pledged to focus efforts on three main areas:

Systematically reducing environmental impact and increasing efficient resource use (SDG 12), creating decent jobs and development opportunities, along the supply chain (SDG 8), and fighting corruption and unethical business practices in the countries of operation (SDG 16). In addition, the promotion of gender equality (SDG 5) in all operations is considered key.

The network is a platform where experiences are shared, partnerships initiated and members pursue advocacy and representation in the global dialogue, in order to highlight the role of the private sector in sustainable development. The network is an important forum for issues of sustainable development, as well as a breeding ground for innovative collaborations.

The majority of the network members, through the voluntary statement commit to address the interlinkages between their core operations on land with the sea and, in doing so, systematically minimizing the negative environmental impact related to SDG 14. The statement represents the fundamental role of the private sector for achieving the Global Goals. <http://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/approaches-and-methods/funding/financing-for-development/swedish-leadership-for-sustainable-development/>

**Timeframe:** May 2017 – May 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18472>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

Members of the Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development, a network of twenty-one leading companies and three expert organizations with Swedish links, coordinated by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, have formed a water team that included the commitment in its work plan.

In May 2018, the Stockholm International Water Institute, (SIWI, a member of the Swedish Leadership network and founder of the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management) held a learning event on Source to Sea for network members. At this learning event, members shared company experiences that are most relevant from a “source-to-sea perspective”. Based on this, Swedish Leadership co-convened the CEO Panel on Oceans (August 2018) together with the S2S Platform and World Ocean Council. The Panel showcased the links between the work to improve sustainability among businesses in their core operations (both land- and sea-based) and the well-being and productivity of coasts and oceans. Under the theme of “Business Leadership for Oceans - Source-to-sea Solutions” representatives of companies, including network members H&M and IKEA, presented challenges and solutions from their own operations.

Signatories to the voluntary commitment have continued to work on water issues including the inter-linkages between land and sea in their core operations. We do not intend to report on these here but refer instead to the companies’ respective annual sustainability reports, which go into more detail

Developing and sharing solutions to Marine Plastic Litter --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18391

**By:** University of Gothenburg, Center for Sea and Society

**Partners:** University of Gothenburg, Center for Sea and Society (academic institution), Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment (academic institution)

**Description:** Marine litter is a demanding global challenge. The impacts of plastic litter in the marine environment affects different societies unequally as a consequence of several factors, including sea currents, potential for local waste management, economic incentives to reduce plastic products, etc. In areas with strong reliance on tourism and small scale fishing (like Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries), marine litter has the potential to cause extensive harm to the environmental, as well as to social and economic values.

We commit to collaborate in our efforts to develop and disseminate solutions to reduce marine plastic litter in the ocean and coastal areas, particularly in exposed areas in developing countries. By sharing our experiences and knowledge, we want to build alliances in the development of solutions to tackle different aspects of marine plastic litter using approaches grounded in education, research and policy. In June 2018 we will manifest our progress during the year.

- JUNE 2018: Sharing our experiences and knowledge using approaches grounded in education, research and policy

**Timeframe:** June 2017 – June 2018

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18391>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

Marine litter is a hot topic, receiving interest from all sectors of society. The Centre for Sea and Society at the University of Gothenburg and the Swedish Agency for the Marine Environment are continuously collaborating with partners to develop and disseminate solutions to reduce marine plastic litter in the ocean and coastal areas. A major contributor to the below described work have also been the Swedish Agency for the Marine Environment and the Centre for Collective Action (CeCar) at the University of Gothenburg. Since the commitment in 2017 the work has been concentrated but not exclusively directed towards three focus areas:

- Knowledge Transfer– Done mainly by organizing, participated, and supporting different initiatives to produce and share knowledge and experiences regarding solutions to marine plastic litter. This has been done by using approaches grounded in research, outreach, and policy and by facilitating discussions and alliances among stakeholders.
- Transdisciplinary Research Projects - Several new projects both with a national and international focus have started and are ongoing with a strong focus on solutions and problem management of marine plastic litter.
- Transdisciplinary Education – By incorporating the global issue of marine plastic litter in existing and newly developed courses at the University of Gothenburg as well as in national open digital learning platforms and outreach projects directed towards schools.

Next step:

- Continue the work towards the goal that by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
- Working within the new initiative “Global Sustainable Futures” . A network that has been established to facilitate collaboration between Chalmers and University of Gothenburg and universities in low- and middle-income countries. This work is subject to a bottom-up process where experiences, plans, ideas and projects form the basis.
- Intensifying the national and international work and spreading of ocean literacy.
- Working and collaborating around marine litter within the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

LNG4Solution - The solution to minimize air emissions and to increase energy efficiency in maritime transport --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction14975

**By:** Terntank

**Partners:** Terntank Rederi (private) - Trntank Ship Management (private) - NEOT (private) - ST1 (private) - Preem (private) - Wrtsil (private) - GESAB (private) - Wega (private)

**Description:** LNG4Solution is a joint industry project (JIP) under the collaboration platform Zero Vision Tool, which had a statement in the preparatory meeting held in 13-15.2.2017. Zero Visio Tool is, and has been since late 2011, an industry driven PPP (triple helix) for a safer and more environmentally climate and energy efficient transport at sea, where lessons learned and information are shared in the areas of vessel, infrastructure, finance, regulation and new R&D topics, when implementing real green sustainable solutions. The JIP LNG4Solution is introducing four the worlds most environmentally friendly and energy efficient tankers running on LNG and reducing air emissions in the whole supply chain of clean petroleum products (CPP) in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. The JIP develops a comprehensive solution to minimize harmful air emissions (NOX, CO2 and PM) in shipping and it significantly increases the energy efficiency of maritime transport within the Sulphur Emission Control Area (SECA). As a forerunner, LNG4Solution sets a benchmark for achievable environmental performance and plays an important role as a viable example for followers and other stakeholders. LNG4Solution works to find a way to environmentally optimize the supply chain of energy products and supports the development of a strong, safe and competitive shipping sector in the region. This is done together with charterers, ports and technology manufacturers. The objective is to connect over 30 ports and to enhance the ports in order to accommodate LNG fueled vessels. The project promotes safe and clean shipping, as well as alternative fuels; it increases the demand and deployment of LNG as marine fuel in the SECA. The shipowner, Terntank, has been awarded with the Shipowner Efficiency Award for pioneering use of LNG fuel in the tanker industry at the Marine Propulsion Awards in London, 15 April 2015. Terntanks new building Ternsund has been nominated to the top 10 ships of 2016 and is introduced in the shipping magazine Maritime Reporter & Engineering News. The shipowner has also been awarded in the International Green Shipping IGS awards 2016 which was held in Rotterdam 17th October for The most exceptional contribution to green shipping and received a nomination from jury For being the first shipowner to order vessels within the project platform Zero vision tool ZVT. At the moment, Terntank Rederi is nominated under the category Ship of the year 2017 at the Nor-Shipping conference, which will be held in Oslo 30 May 2 June 2017.

**Timeframe:** September 2013 – June 2037

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=14975>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14.3 14a

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

The LNG4Solution joint industry project (JIP) has now all four new LNG-fueled tankers in operation in the Baltic and North Sea. They are the world's most environmentally friendly and energy efficient tankers. Measurements are showing remarkable emission reductions due to improved energy efficiency and cleaner energy. The voluntary commitment will continue in daily operations using LNG as well as to promote the deployment of LNG refilling infrastructure in maritime ports and the enhancement of clean shipping.

Strengthening international cooperation to conserve whales, dolphins and porpoises in European waters and beyond --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction20074

**By:** Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), CMS, UN environment (United Nations entity)

**Partners:** Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, UN environment

**Description:** In 2016 the ASCOBANS Parties committed themselves to applying best practises regarding bycatch, underwater noise, ocean energy, cetacean watching industry, recreational sea use, underwater munitions, marine debris, pollution (emphasis on Polychlorinated Biphenyls), strandings response and other threats. In addition to these individual legally binding decisions, a number of guidelines have been developed including on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 -- ongoing

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20074>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1

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**Progress report: According to plan**

Sweden has long been active in the Conventions concerning whales. ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic) is an agreement resolved in 1991 to protect small whales in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

An actual issue for ASCOBANS is that Council Regulation EU 812/2004 on measures concerning accidental catches of whales in fisheries has major shortcomings and is intended to be repealed. A proposal for a new regulation has been developed (“Regulation on the conservation of marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures”). ASCOBANS has expressed its position on the drift ban prohibition, and proposes that Sweden support a continued drift banning the by-catch of the emergency threatened harbour porpoises (but also because of the fishery for salmon and trout) By 2017, ASCOBANS has also appointed a working group on by-catch regulation and another one of underwater noise in which Sweden participates in both. In 2019 Sweden contributed to finance a coordinator ( for the Harbor porpoise action plan 2019.

Enabling transdisciplinary ocean sciences for SDG implementation ---  
According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16174

**By:** Brazilian Future Ocean Panel

**Partners:** APRENDER - NGO Aquasis - NGO Brazilian Navy - Government Campinas State University - Academia Comisso de Fortalecimento das Reservas Extrativistas Marinhas - NGO Conservation International - NGO Fórum do Mar Fundação Grupo Boticário - Philantropy Fundação

**Description:** Fundamental Mission and Objectives of PainelMar: To act as a multi-sectorial collaborative platform for individuals and organizations on the interface of knowledge and decision-making processes, aiming at the qualification of policies for the sustainable use and health of the oceans **OBJECTIVES:** 1. Promote connections among knowledge networks. 2. Build strategies for assembly and joint action of different actors. 3. Arrange the available knowledge and distribute in an accessible way to governmental agencies, civil society and interested parties. 4. Develop and assemble capacities of different sectors of society (civil society, government, private sector, academy, etc.) that promotes the engagement in knowledge and interests dialogues. 5. Mediate communication amongst multiple actors. 6. Contribute to strengthening the Brazilian role in the international realm of ocean governance. 7. Discuss and propose targets, guidelines and strategies for marine and coastal governance. 8. Evaluate, develop, transfer and distribute innovative marine technologies.

**Timeframe:** August 2015 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16174>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Southern Ocean

**Target:** 14

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#### **Progress report: According to plan**

PainelMar was formed in 2015 after Rio + 20 to set up a platform between academia and politics in Brazil. A basic document was produced by IUCN-Brazil and academics in 2015, whereupon PainelMar was formally formed as a “network of networks”, ie a sort of umbrella organization for the many sea-related networks that exist in Brazil. During the first years, the work has been focused on setting the structure and developing an action program, which was completed in 2017 in the form of a strategy. The Panels mission consists exclusively in mediating contacts and exchanges of knowledge between different actors, for a more informed decision-making and for public awareness.



Since 2018 (and until 2022), PainelMar has been running the project “Horizonte Oceânico Brasileiro” (Brazil's oceanic horizon), whose overall goal is to advance the careers of young academics, on issues related to the marine environment and the coastal zone. Within the project, a week-long seminar was held in April 2019 in Brasilia including meetings with politicians and in the Federal Parliament (Seminário Inter-redes). A new seminar will take place digitally in April/May 2020.

Last year a report was produced presenting main issues related to Brazil's marine environment, namely fishing, marine spatial planning, governance and international politics, communications, etc. The report is to be published during the 2020 Inter-redesign seminar. The authors of the report come from various organizations in Brazil, especially in the academy and NGO sectors.

PainelMar has also been involved in a few initiatives involving Swedish stakeholders, namely:

- Participates as an observer/institutional partner, in the Oceans PACT project, which is led by Michael Gilek at Södertörn University, focusing on conflict management in marine water management
- Collaboration with Hannah Wetterstrand on small-scale fishing
- Attends 8th Conference on Sustainability Science, supported by Future Earth.

Baltic Sea region: Soil carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling to combat eutrophication and climate change --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction18085

**By:** Foundation for a Living Baltic Sea/Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG) (Non-governmental organization)

**Partners:** BSAG (lead); Finnish Institute of the Environment (academic institute/government); HELCOM (intergovernmental organization: Fi, SE, DK, FRG, Pol, Lit, Lat, Est, Ru, EU); Baltic Works Commission (Fi-SE; NGO); ministries in Finland and Sweden; University of

**Description:** Baltic Sea Action Group will promote soil carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling to combat eutrophication and climate change. Alongside land-based measures, BSAG also promotes research on sea-based measures and the internal nutrient load to restore the good ecological status of the Baltic Sea. This is done by collecting Baltic Sea Commitments and generating public-private co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region. BSAGs Commitments are legally non-binding statements by the actor on what actions are to be taken in what time frame. By the Commitments BSAG activates all levels of society, from private actors to governments in the Baltic Sea region. The creation of a sound scientific base for the issues at hand is also a crucial part of the work. BSAG will bring together know-how and expertise from best available sources.

**Timeframe:** January 2018 – December 2025

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18085>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.3

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**Progress report: According to plan**

Starting in October 2017, the foundation is part of two consortia dealing with sea eutrophication and the climate change: BSAG is part of a consortium lead by Vahanen Consulting Ltd that is analyzing the scale and effects of the massive amounts of nutrients (Phosphorus and Nitrogen) that are stored in the bottom sediments of the Baltic Sea.

The Finnish Foundation for Innovation SITRA, is financing BSAG and the Finnish Institute of Meteorology for a large pilot project dealing with carbon sequestration. The duration of this first phase is two years. The scope of the project is to understand how carbon is stored in soil and how this can be enhanced through agricultural practice.

Carbon Action pilot, funded by Sitra (2017-2019), has grown into a platform. The platform contains several funders and projects, and enables close cooperation among the projects. The platform brings together farmers, advisors, researchers, companies and decision-makers. The holistic approach has already evoked international interest. More information on the projects can be found at: <https://carbonaction.org/projects/>

Installation of a German air monitoring network to support MARPOL Annex-VI compliance monitoring --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16090

**By:** Germany

**Partners:** Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) (Lead, Government) Institute of Environmental Physics, University of Bremen (Academic Institution)

**Description:** According to the MARPOL Annex VI regulations by the International maritime Organisation (IMO) and to the EU Sulphur directive (1999/33/EC and 2012/33/EC) sea going vessels are forced to burn only fuel with a reduced sulphur content or to use exhaust gas treatment systems (Scrubber) achieving the same amount of emission reduction.

The question rises how to increase the number of checked vessels without increasing the number of the personnel intensive on board inspections. Within the BSH funded MeSMarT project (measurement of shipping emissions in the marine troposphere, [www.mesmart.de](http://www.mesmart.de)) the University of Bremen enhanced a method to estimate the FSC of passing vessels by measuring the chemical composition of the exhaust gas from remote. Therefore modified standard in situ air quality monitors are used. By sending the analysis results in near real time to the responsible authorities, this information can be used to select conspicuously measured vessels for the on board inspections (targeting).

Since summer 2016 the above described remote measurement method is in test operation at a pilot station about 10 km downriver of Hamburg harbour. Due to very positive experience the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) decided to establish a German air monitoring network to support MARPOL Annex-VI compliance monitoring. This monitoring is planned to report conspicuously measured vessels automatically in near real time to the international database Thetis-EU (<http://emsa.europa.eu/psc-main/thetis.html>).

Results from compasspections carried out by the water police or the port state control (PSC) at the port of calling. Due to the large number of vessels calling ports inside the ECA regions, only a small numbrable remote measurement carried out in other states (e.g. Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, and Belgium) will be reported by the national operators to this database, too. As all national authorities of EMSA member states do have access, the Thetis-EU database enables a quick data exchange to trigger on board inspections and therefore to increase the inspections efficiency in all countries.

**Timeframe:** December 2015 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16090>

**Ocean basin:** North Atlantic

**Target:** 14.1 14c

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**Progress report: According to plan**

The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) currently operates measuring stations in the access routes to the ports of Hamburg, Bremerhaven and Kiel. Further stations are planned on the Warnow and on government vessels. In further developing and operating the monitoring network, BSH works closely with other European countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland, which carry out comparable measurements. The aim of the cooperation is to establish a European measurement network to provide mutual support in tracking the use of marine fuels that do not comply with the regulations. The Swedish Transport Agency is part of a project together with Chalmers University of Technology. In 2018 they installed a “sniffer” (remote measurement) on the Oresund Bridge (Öresundsbron) that will estimate the sulphur content in the fuel tank of passing vessels.

Establishment of the International Marine Training Centre for Innovative Science and Technology for Sea Dumped Weapons, and Shipborne Disposal Solutions to Support the Eradication of all Underwater Munitions -  
 -- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction21356

**By:** International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM) (Non-governmental organization)

**Partners:** Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, UN Environment, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Helsinki Commission, Canada, United

**Description:** The International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM) is a non-governmental organization founded in Canada in 2004, and established as a Dutch Foundation in The Hague, The Netherlands in 2014. IDUM, is an internationally recognized body of experts, where stakeholders (diplomats, government departments including external affairs, environmental protection and fishery, fossil fuel, salvage divers, military, and others) can come together in an open and transparent forum to discuss underwater munitions, seek solutions, develop partnerships and promote science, research and international cooperation on sea dumped chemical and conventional weapons.

IDUM declares to create an International Marine Training Centre for Innovative Science and Technology for Sea Dumped Weapons, and Shipborne Disposal Solutions to Support the Eradication of all Underwater Munitions. The centre will serve as the global focal point for exchange of information to further increase knowledge and awareness of Underwater Munitions Policy, Science, Technology and Responses by:

1. Promoting an International Treaty for all Underwater Munitions on Human Health and Environment,
2. Creating Global Awareness about the Impact from Underwater Munitions on Human Health, Environment and the Economy,
3. Creating a Global Database and Regional Maps of Underwater Munitions Sites for the Exchange of Information,
4. Developing an International Underwater Testing and Training Centre for Underwater Munitions Innovative Science and Technology,
5. Developing International Training Programs on Underwater Munitions for Marine Surveys, Investigations, Recovery, and Disposal,
6. Promoting Global Clean-up by developing Shipborne Disposal Solutions for Underwater Munitions.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 -- ongoing

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21356>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** Objective 14

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**Progress report: According to plan**

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) has during 2017 completed additional exploratory fishing and deployed mussel cages for long-term exposure at a number of wrecks on the Swedish west coast. In addition, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has in collaboration with Chalmers University of Technology and Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, within the Interreg project DAIMON performed sediment sampling at 29 sites in the area. Tissue and sediment samples have been sent for analysis of degradation products of CWA. Measurements of arsenic will also be performed on the sampled sediment.

The International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM) have established an action plan based on their commitment “Establishment of the International Marine Training Centre for Innovative Science and Technology for Sea Dumped Weapons, and Shipborne Disposal Solutions to Support the Eradication of all Underwater Munitions” (#OceanAction21356) and are mobilizing partners in the private sector to establish center, in addition to developing a roadmap for an International Treaty on Munitions. SwAM performed during 2019 an exploratory fishing in two areas with dumped chemical warfare agents (CWA) in Swedish territorial sea and EEZ. In the ship wreck dumpsite west of the island of Måseskär on the Swedish west coast three wrecks previously not investigated were subject of an exploratory fishing. Norwegian lobster, northern shrimp and hagfish were fished upstream and downstream of the wrecks. The catch was then analysed for CWA. In the dumping area in the Gotland Basin cod and European flounder were fished and the catch analysed for CWA. Sediment samples were also retrieved and sent for analysis. Detection of CWA was found in several biota samples, from both dumpsites. CWA was detected in all sediment samples from the Gotland Basin.

Chalmers University of Technology deployed in 2018, within the Interreg project DAIMON, an acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) on the sea floor (depth: 210 m) at the dumpsite west of Måseskär. The purpose was to gather data regarding environmental parameters at the dumpsite. To be used in for example risk assessments of munition dumpsites. The instrument measured and stored data regarding sea currents in the pelagic, salinity, temperature and oxygen. After 530 days the instrument was retrieved. Results showed on average a NW current, 34 psu with 95 % oxygen saturation close to the sea floor.

Improving international cooperation to conserve and better manage sharks and rays --- According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction21260

**By:** Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU- UNEP/CMS)

**Partners:** 42 Signatories: Australia (Government), Belgium (Government), Chile (Government), Colombia (Government), Comoros (Government), Republic of Congo (Government), Costa Rica (Government), Denmark (Government), Egypt (Government), European Union (Government),

**Description:** The Signatory states are committed to implement a comprehensive Conservation Plan in cooperation with other organizations relevant for the conservation and management of sharks and rays, including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Seas Conventions and biodiversity-related conventions. Despite past and ongoing scientific research and monitoring, knowledge of the biology, ecology, and population dynamics of many migratory sharks is still rather deficient. Hence, as a matter of highest priority Signatories aim to improve the understanding of migratory shark populations, which is key to inform decision makers on the most appropriate and efficient species specific conservation and management measures, through research and monitoring. Another main objective of the Conservation Plan is to ensure that directed and non-directed fisheries for sharks and rays are sustainable, and that bycatch is mitigated or kept at ecologically acceptable levels. To this end, reporting and information sharing as well as a strong cooperation with and through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations is regarded as key for the success of the Sharks MOU. The Signatories have agreed to identify the most critical habitats and migration corridors of sharks and rays and to prioritize those for management and conservation. In order to pave the way for enhanced public participation in conservation activities, the Signatories agreed to increase overall public awareness of threats to sharks and their habitats.

**Timeframe:** June 2017 -- ongoing

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21260>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.1 14.2 14.4 14.5 14.6 14.7 14a 14b 14c

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**Progress report: According to plan**

The internationally works with sharks and rays takes place in several forums. In October 2017, 34 listed proposals were adopted on Annex I / and II lists at the



Convention on Migratory Species CMS COP 12 meeting. Sweden attended the meeting and a total of 54 resolutions were adopted, including the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species.

An important issue addressed at the meeting was sustainable boat tours with people watching marine organism, including sharks and rays. The guidelines provide both general and group-specific guidance. Further adopted resolutions concerning sharks and rays were “Aquatic wild meat”, which is defined as products derived from aquatic mammals and reptiles used as food and for traditional uses, including shells, bones and organs, and also as bait for fishing. “Aquatic wild meat” is obtained through unregulated, and sometimes illegal hunting, as well as from stranded (dead or alive) and / or persecuted animals. This definition may be extended to include sharks and rays.

The need for coordinated action for migrating rays was also discussed at the party meeting, especially the link to the Sharks MoU and the need for concerted action. Measures to improve the conservation status of these rays were considered important.

In the work of OSPAR, there were also collective actions concerning sharks and rays. Sweden has contributed with relevant information. Plans are being made to contribute to the adaptation identification guide from 2016 to make it useful throughout region II. Within ICES system work is being carried out to evaluate status, action needs and recovery for a number of listed species of sharks and rays. There is a need for regional coordination in action and knowledge building. In this context, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has decided to establish a knowledge-building action program for sharks and rays and one of the components of this program will be to map important habitats for different species in Swedish waters. Improved coordination of research and data collection with the aim of increasing knowledge of propagation, life history, population trends in some sharks and rays species has also be clarified in a publication from SwAM in 2019.

FOCUS (Fisheries Open Source Community Software) --- Assumed -  
According to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16718

**By:** FOCUS

**Partners:** FOCUS (NGO), European Commission (GOV), UNECE (NGO), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (GOV), Government of Flanders Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (GOV), The Danish Agrifish Agency (GOV), Marine Scotland (GOV), European Fisheries Co

**Description:** FOCUS is an open source community that want to provide a free suite of integrated systems enabling an information-sharing environment for fisheries management organisations. FOCUS commits to collaboratively and openly maintain and share free software dedicated to the management, conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resource. The community accepts donations of open source initiatives that supports this vision. All deliverables from the FOCUS projects will be made available under an open-source licence and are free to download, change and use. We hope that any beneficiaries of FOCUS also will be giving something back to the community but this is voluntary. FOCUS believes that collaboration and exchange of information are critical success factors to reduce illegal fishery and reach sustainability goals. FOCUS has established a strategic partnership with UN/CEFACT to support the FLUX Standard for sustainable fisheries management. The currently available FOCUS software suite aims at implementing the global FLUX standards. The FOCUS community is led by a Community Manager and a Community Board, which together are responsible for the strategic direction. It is the Community Managers role to ensure that projects are able to progress in a coordinated way. The FOCUS projects are characterised by a collaborative, vision based development process, an open and pragmatic software license, and a desire to create high quality software that leads the way in its field.

- 11/2017 UnionVMS: a FOCUS system component that provides fisheries management organisations with an efficient tool to collect, analyse and share positioning information and data from fishing vessels. UnionVMS implements the global UN/Cefact standard for VesselPositions.
- 11/2017 E-Sales notes. The e-sales notes FOCUS system component enables fisheries management organisations to collect, analyse and share sales notes as defined in the global UN/Cefact standard for Sales Notes.
- 11/2017 E-log viewer. The e-log viewer FOCUS system component enables fisheries management organisations to collect, analyse and share vessel activities as defined in the global UN/Cefact standard for Vessel Activity.
- 6/2018 E-log reporting for coastal fishery. This mobile app (E-log lite) component of the FOCUS suite allows masters of coastal fishing vessels to fulfil

their reporting obligations in an innovative, secure and user-friendly way. The E-log lite component supports the global UN/Cefact standard for Vessel Activity.

**Timeframe:** 2016 - 2030

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16718>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14.4 14a 14b

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**Progress report: Assumed - According to plan**

FOCUS, as an open source community, has committed itself to creating and maintaining a free and open system platform for fisheries management organizations and spreading it globally. FOCUS has conducted a number of board meetings and expanded its expertise with a communication expert (NLD). The focus of the board is to expand the staff with more roles. A partnership has been established with the UN Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists [SFToS]. SFToS has the main activity of marketing and helping with the introduction of global standards for information exchange in fisheries. FOCUS and SFToS working as complementary to each other and will help each other with support and marketing. Conversations and meetings with new members have been conducted with a view to using the FOCUS tool platform. These include Brazil, Uruguay, Thailand, Ireland, Cyprus and England. FOCUS has participated as an expert at work meetings with, inter alia, Cyprus and the European Commission.

France decided to contribute financially to UNEP activities under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), for the 2017- 2020 period --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15686

**By:** FRANCE with UNEP and international coalition to reduce marine

**Partners:** Initially proposed by France, together with Monaco and Morocco, during the "Our Ocean" conference in September 2016 in Washington, the coalition quickly raised interest among several countries. Then, the initiative was formally launched during COP 22 in M

**Description:** The commitment aims to reinforce the coalition The coalition brings together local and national governments. It aims at promoting the reduction of plastic waste pollution of the oceans and in particular the elimination of single-use plastic bags in all countries. The members of the coalition take the commitment to promote, in particular, elimination of these plastic bags in a consistent manner with existing international instruments and policies, and to share experience gained by States that already take action on this matter. The coalition also aims at: - coordinating and strengthening actions already undertaken at national and sub-national levels and also under conventions or international agreements related to the fight against plastic waste pollution of the seas; - and contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015, and more particularly goals 12 and 14.

**Timeframe:** 2017 – December 2020

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15686>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14,1 14,2

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

Initially proposed by France, together with Monaco and Morocco, during the "Our Ocean" conference in September 2016 in Washington, the coalition quickly raised interest among several countries. Then, the initiative was formally launched during COP 22 in Marrakesh on November 14, 2016.

During this event, all countries have been invited to formally join the declaration of intent of the coalition (attached herein). The ministers of Mauritius, Sweden, Bangladesh, Italy, Chile and HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco signed this declaration then. Australia and Senegal joined the dynamic shortly afterwards.

Finally, representatives from the civil society (researchers, associations, private sector) gave testimonies of their commitment towards the reduction of plastic waste. France and Sweden decided to contribute financially to UNEP activities under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), for the 2017-2020 period.

Scientific discourse and public debate on the law of the sea and international marine environmental law --- Finalized according to plan

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15554

**By:** Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law (ISRIM)

**Partners:** Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law (Academic institution); Hugo Grotius gGmbH - non-profit society for the enhancement of legal sciences (Scientific community)

**Description:** The Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law (ISRIM) is leading the scientific discourse and public debate project 'Free Seas? - A Legal Order for the Seas and Oceans'. The project is supported through public funding by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and is a contribution to open science in the context of the German Science Year 2016\*17 - Seas and Oceans.

The project includes the production of six videos on the legal aspects on the exploration, the usage and the protection of the seas and oceans, freely accessible at the ISRIM YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ISRIMde>). The videos include expert opinions by international legal scholars:

- Dr. Blanco-Bazán, international lawyer and consultant as well as former Senior Deputy Director (retired), Legal Affairs, International Maritime Organization (IMO), London/UK;
- Prof. Dr. Aref Fakhry, Professor of International Law, World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö/Sweden;
- Prof. Dr. Iris Kirchner-Freis, Director, Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law (ISRIM), Bremen/Germany and Professor of EU and Intellectual Property Law, University of Bremen, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Andree Kirchner, Director, Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law (ISRIM), Bremen/Germany and Professor of International Law, University of Applied Sciences Bremerhaven, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Lorenzo Schiano di Pepe, Professor of EU and International Law, University of Genoa, Italy.

The videos are accompanied by a series of public lectures at the Science Matinee "Knowledge at 11" at the House of Science Bremen.

**Timeframe:** October 2016 – October 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15554>

**Ocean basin:** Global

**Target:** 14a, 14c

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**Progress report: Finalized according to plan**

A series of six videos on "Free Seas? - A Legal Order for the Seas and Oceans" have been produced, covering legal aspects on the exploration, the usage and the protection of the seas and oceans. These videos were accompanied by several seminars open for the public on marine legal issues held in 2016 and 2017 at the House of Science in Bremen, Germany. These seminars were conducted in German only.

Capacity Building on Coastal Protection in South Indian and Atlantic Oceans --- No updates available

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction16238

**By:** Department of Geography, Kenyatta University

**Partners:** Kenyatta University (KU), Nairobi, Kenya (Academic Institution) University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), DR Congo (Academic Institution) Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), Uppsala, Sweden (Research Institution)

**Description:** Our contribution will be focused on disseminating best management practices of coastal ecosystems, and green technologies for containing coastal erosion by fishermen and hunters. One way to do so is to manage small water catchments that flow in the sea through application of the Source-to-Sea (S2S) Continuum concept. We will disseminate this concept by helping community living along the south Indian and south Atlantic oceans to develop Integrated plans for water resources and sanitation management. For this to be done, we will help communities develop Water Users' Associations (WUAs) in each catchment.

**Timeframe:** March 2018 – March 2026

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16238>

**Ocean basin:** Indian Ocean, South Atlantic

**Target:** 14a

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**Progress report: No updates available**

The "African Professionals' Initiative on Water, Energy, Environment and Climate" (APIWEC) has adopted the Ocean Commitment as one of its milestones to be achieved in the first five years of its existence. APIWEC is a new Pan African initiative created in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 2017 with the aim of assisting professionals working in the areas underlined above to assess the effectiveness of the technology and knowledge being proposed to African communities.

The initiative does not have funds for implementing the project immediately. It has hopes for the potential support it can receive from its partners in the project. The universities have proposed to offer space and technical support to the project. A meeting was held in April 2018, in Mombasa.

The following actions are planned further on;

- March 2019 - Mapping key watersheds along the Indian and Atlantic coasts of Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo, respectively.



- March 2021 - First engagement meeting for developing a WUA.
- March 2023 - Second engagement meeting for developing water and sanitation management plans.
- March 2025 - Third engagement meeting for evaluating water and sanitation management plans.

La Minga: Long-term financing for two marine conservation mosaics in Colombia --- No updates available

**Number on UN webpage:** #OceanAction15087

**By:** by Conservation International

**Partners:** Conservation International (NGO) Fondo Accion (NGO) The Walton Family Foundation (Philanthropic organization)

**Description:** La Minga Fund: Conservation International, Fondo Accion, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Swedish Embassy in Bogota have worked to design and advance a long-term financing solution for two large community-managed conservation mosaics along Colombia's Pacific coast. The Baha Malaga and North Choco conservation mosaics incorporate two national parks and three locally-managed MPAs. This is one of the poorest regions of Colombia, largely populated by Afro-Colombian communities, and recovering from the long-running conflict in Colombia. The recently signed peace accord presents an opportunity to rebuild, with nature at the core of the sustainable development model. There is extensive community involvement in La Minga through a set of community councils and an ongoing capacity building program.

The partnership is building and capitalizing a dedicated conservation trust fund called La Minga (everyone together), which will include both a \$5M endowment and a sinking fund. Funding from the trust fund will be leveraged by budgetary allocations from both regional and national governments, which will cover around 60% of the annual core budgetary need for the locally-managed MPAs, and the majority of the core need for the national parks.

With a strong governance system in place, government commitments secured, and strong donor interest, La Minga is on track to be launched by the end of 2017. The first tranche of funding for La Minga will be delivered by CI's Global Conservation Fund, which has committed \$500,000, and the Swedish Embassy which has pledged 5 million Swedish Krona.

La Minga forms part of a global portfolio of MPA financing deals that CI and partners are committed to designing and securing. For example, together with partners, we recently announced the Blue Abadi endowment fund for the Birds Head Seascape, with an initial capitalisation of \$23 million - we are committed to seeking additional funding to reach a total goal of \$38 million. Additional deals are also under development in other countries.

**Timeframe:** January 2017 – December 2017

**Web:** <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15087>

**Ocean basin:** South Pacific

**Target:** 14.2 14.4 14.5

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**Progress report: No updates available**

In August 2017 the initiative established a legal structure and made initial disbursement from Conservation International (CI) to La Minga (everyone together). In December 2017 the funding USD 5 Million endowment and a sinking fund for La Minga was delivered.

<http://www.conservation.org.co/media/minga.pdf>