



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

Source to Sea

Linkages in the
2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG
6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Linking freshwater and marine targets

There are strong linkages between sustainable management of water and sanitation and the conservation of our oceans. However, some linkages are not captured in the current formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their targets and indicators. Such gaps point to the importance of coordinating efforts to achieve the SDGs across sectors and jurisdictions, both upstream and downstream.

This leaflet is based on a study that identifies linkages between SDGs 6 and 14 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and gaps that need to be considered during its implementation*. The study was commissioned by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) and carried out by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The full report is available online at: www.havochvatten.se/linkages

*This analysis is based on the current formulation of indicators (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compiled/> accessed June 2016). Some indicators are still under review by the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators.

Integrated and Transboundary Water Resource Management

- 1 The implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and improved cooperation on transboundary waters would also enhance the implementation of SDG 14, but this requires aspects related to downstream environments to be considered. The current formulation of these targets and indicators does not capture aspects related to coastal and marine environments.

Target 6.5 ↔ 14.1 and 14.2

Water quality

- 1 Both SDG 6 and SDG 14 include targets to improve water quality. There are, however, some parameters of importance to both freshwater and marine water ecosystems, such as environmentally persistent contaminants, that are not included in the indicators' baseline selection. Moreover, the water quality indicators do not provide a means to track how pollutants flow through the environment, from source to sea.

Target 6.3 ↔ 14.1 and 14.2

Water ecosystems

- 1 The protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems, including coastal wetlands, is beneficial for SDG 14. The size of the protected and restored area matters, but quality aspects related to biodiversity and productivity are equally important. Such aspects are currently not captured by the indicator.

Target 6.6 ↔ 14.1 and 14.2



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG
14

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Linking freshwater and marine targets to the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Achieving several targets in the 2030 Agenda depends upon clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems. Those who are most vulnerable to ecosystem degradation are often the people close to, or below, the poverty line. At the same time, development activities that are also necessary to achieve many SDG targets risk resulting in negative downstream impacts unless their implementation is sustainably managed.

Progress towards SDG 6 and SDG 14 depends upon how efforts are designed to achieve for example food security (SDG 2), energy for all (SDG 7), sustainable economic growth (SDG 8) and sustainable industrialization (SDG 9). Such linkages are not always explicit in the 2030 Agenda. The current formulation of targets and indicators related to food security (SDG 2) places little emphasis on the downstream effects of increased agricultural production such as eutrophication. The sustainability of industrial processes (SDG 9) will be measured in relation to CO₂ emissions, but with limited attention to water pollution.

The complex inter-linkages between the SDGs and their targets represent an important challenge that needs to be considered when implementing the 2030 Agenda. In order to achieve healthy aquatic ecosystems and sustained provision of ecosystem services along the source-to-sea continuum, a balance needs to be struck between development objectives and related trade-offs, both upstream and downstream. Stronger integration between the SDGs can be achieved if we implement the 2030 Agenda from a source-to-sea perspective.

Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management

The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management is a global network through which knowledge and experiences can be generated and shared to support efforts to address land-river-sea linkages in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. It is open to governments, the private sector, the scientific community, civil society organizations and UN agencies. Find out more at: www.siwi.org/source-to-sea



The Sustainable Development Goals number six and fourteen are dedicated to freshwater and oceans.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



- 6.1 Achieve access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 Achieve access to sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation
- 6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution and increasing recycling
- 6.4 Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater
- 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management, including through transboundary cooperation
- 6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a Expand international cooperation and capacity-building to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities
- 6.b Support participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



- 14.1 Reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities
- 14.2 Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 Regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- 14.5 Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas
- 14.7 Increase the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources
- 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans by implementing international law

How can the international community support source-to-sea priorities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

› Coordinated planning

Design initiatives that support multiple SDGs and targets. Consider the SDG targets of importance to downstream stakeholders and ecosystems during the planning of investments in river basins. Coordinated planning of development activities is necessary to reduce unanticipated negative impacts downstream. It could also generate benefits for a wider range of stakeholders and lead to higher returns from investments.

› Support active and constructive stakeholder engagement

Strong stakeholder engagement is crucial to ensure equitable distribution and coordinated management of riverine, coastal and marine resources and ecosystems and to implement the measures that are necessary to achieve both SDG 6 and SDG 14.

› Strengthen sector integration

Support the efforts made by productive sectors to achieve water- and ocean-related targets and track such contributions. Delivering on SDG 6 is not the sole responsibility of the water sector and SDG 14 cannot be achieved by the coastal and marine communities alone. Increased water use efficiency and reduced water pollution and waste are prerequisites for sustainable production in the majority of sectors.

› Innovative governance approaches

Strengthen mechanisms that are able to assess and prioritize trade-offs between different sectors and stakeholders – both upstream and downstream. Governance arrangements are needed that can balance different development objectives and coordinate efforts to achieve all SDG targets in the source-to-sea continuum.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 by the United Nations. The agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, which are integrated and indivisible, balancing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Indicators are being developed to guide the follow-up of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These indicators are a key component of the SDGs as they also provide an indication of how the targets, which are broadly formulated, should be interpreted. As such, the extent to which source-to-sea linkages will be considered in the follow-up of the agenda is partly dependent on how they are captured by relevant indicators.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**