

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

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

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Background: UN Environment, supported by IOC-UNESCO, are tasked with supporting countries to implement methodologies and procedures to report against target 14.1 *'By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution'* under Sustainable Development Goal 14. There are currently numerous partners working on many facets of this topic and various levels and scales. There is recognition that there is considerable variability on how data is being collected, assimilated, packaged and made available for users. There is continuing need to facilitate the process to help designated entities in countries to understand what is available, and make determinations on how best to utilize assessment methods and information products to support reporting against the marine pollution target. Under the SDG process the vision is for harmonization of the methodology at the global level, with the assistance of the UN family agencies and various partnerships and support mechanisms available. More information on the SDG14.1.1 indicator development process/methodology can be found at on the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) website at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/tierIII-indicators/files/Tier3-14-01-01.pdf>.

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

- Determine the state of science on the target indicators (index of coastal eutrophication potential, floating plastic debris and other relevant metrics);
- Explore the application of 'big data' through earth observation systems and how these can be applied in linking landuse change with respect to freshwater and coastal pollution;
- Determine a systematic approach to facilitate country adoption of a 'harmonized approach';
- Determine the scale of reporting and how to apply across transboundary waters; coastal and open ocean;
- Determine roles among agencies in the development process; who can provide what and what is already being done and available;
- Examine the types of reporting that can be done globally versus nationally and how can these be integrated for seamless reporting;
- Determine how to bring it all together; outlining the methodology.

Draft agenda

Session description	Lead(s) /presenter(s)
DAY 1	
SESSION 1: Introductions	IOC-UNESCO; UN Environment
The SDG indicator process and progress toward adoption; Status of marine pollution indicator and outlook	UN Environment
SESSION 2: State of the art in estimating marine pollution	
Conventional In-situ to monitoring nutrient loading, plastic deposition in riverine and coastal environments; SDG6 water quality monitoring linked to coastal water quality	UN GEMS Water
Remote sensing marine pollution assessment applications and validation eg chlorophyll-a concentrations; floating debris. What are the gaps?	Earth observation agencies
Modelling approaches including the ICEP modelling; plastic circulation. What are the gaps?	Lead scientists
SESSION 3: National and regional experiences in marine pollution assessments; focus on challenges and gaps	Country delegates
Brief presentations from select countries and Regional Seas Programmes	
SESSION 4: Approach for integration – SDG 6 and 14 country support pathway. Progress, challenges and gaps	UN Environment
Summary discussion on challenges, gaps and the integration of national and global data sources. What are realistic ambitions?	
SESSION 5: Toward an updated workplan. Overview of working group process and parallel working discussions. Closing the gaps, identifying the work needed, who will do what and by when. Discussion on existing resources and areas where funding is required.	Joint facilitation IOC-UNESCO; UN Environment
Parallel workgroup 1 – nutrient pollution monitoring and assessment	
Parallel workgroup 2 – plastics pollution monitoring and assessment	
DAY 2	
SESSION 5: Parallel work group discussion continue	Joint facilitation IOC-UNESCO; UN Environment
Parallel workgroup 1 – nutrient pollution monitoring and assessment	
Parallel workgroup 2 – plastics pollution monitoring and assessment	
SESSION 6: Work group report-back; action plan	Working group rapporteurs
Joint road map key elements	UN Environment, IOC-UNESCO
Wrap-up	UN Environment, IOC-UNESCO

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