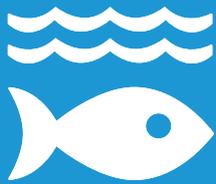
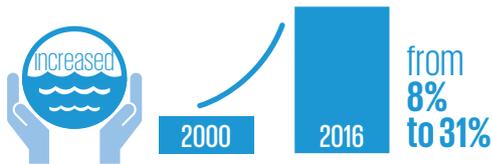


14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Goal Fourteen calls for conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas and marine resources. Careful management of these resources is a key feature of a sustainable future. Oceans and seas are crucial component of the planet’s ecosystem. Marine resources are important for global nutrition and to the livelihoods of people living in coastal areas. Currently, data needed to track progress in meeting targets are sparse for this Goal. Highlights of the baseline status of the region use limited data on threats from overuse and pollution and governments’ efforts to protect marine areas and monitor ‘integrated local threats’ to coral reefs.

Territorial waters under protection

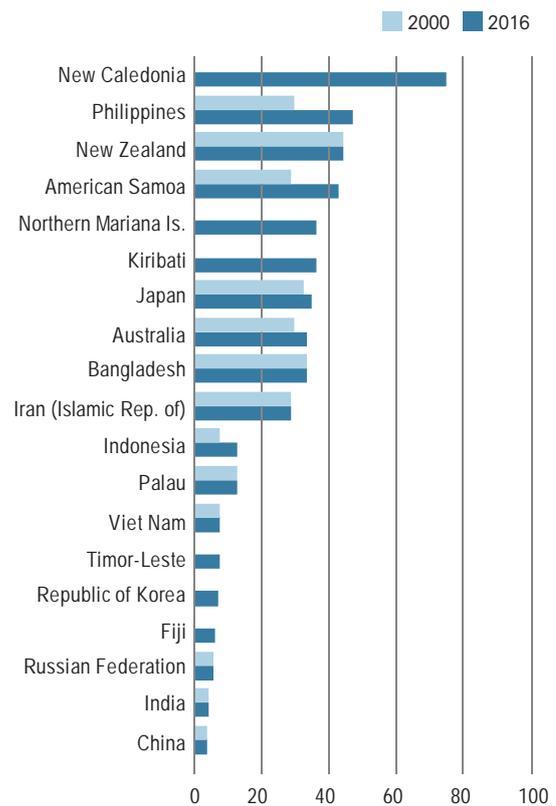


Marine areas in the Asia-Pacific region have to be protected more effectively to sustain biodiversity

Marine resources are increasingly threatened by climate change and by human activities, so governments have been trying to protect them. Between 2000 and 2016, on average across the region the proportion of the total territorial waters under protection increased from around 8% to 31% at the country level.

However, this may not be a sufficient improvement to preserve marine biodiversity because the change has largely happened in a few countries, mostly small island states. The region’s two largest countries, India and China, and the Russian Federation have experienced no change over the past 15 years.

Percentage of national marine areas protected in the Asia-Pacific region, 2000 and 2016

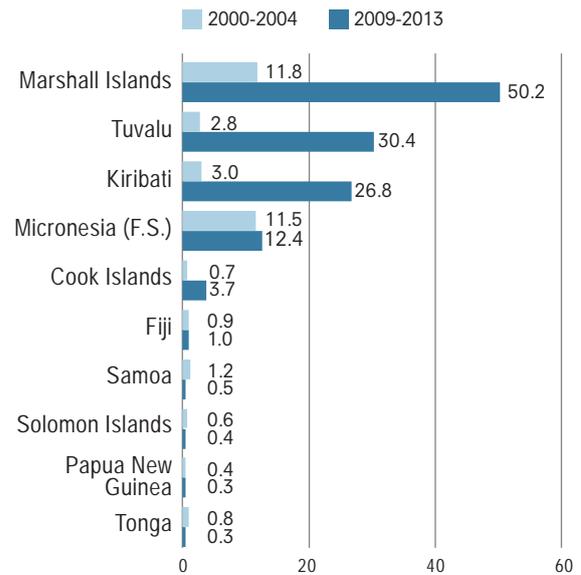




Some countries depend heavily on fisheries for food and for export income

In 2012, Asian countries constituted over 50% of the world's total marine capture. Over the period 2003-2012, the largest increases in output were for Myanmar (127%) and Viet Nam (121%). For some Pacific Island states fisheries account for an increasing proportion of export income. Between the periods 2000-2004 and 2009-2013, export income for Tuvalu and Kiribati saw 10-fold and 8-fold increases, respectively. And export income from fisheries was 50% of all exports for Marshall Islands.

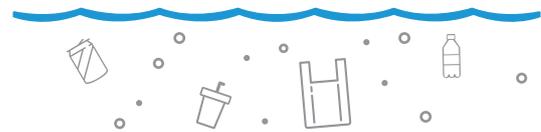
Fishery as a percentage of GDP



The world's top five countries accounting for more than 50% of 'mismanaged' plastics in the oceans are from Asia and the Pacific

Ocean ecosystems are increasingly being contaminated with plastic debris and microplastics – small plastic particles, generally less than one millimetre in diameter. The concentration is much higher in coastal

areas. The world's top five countries accounting for more than 50% of 'mismanaged' plastics in the oceans are from Asia and the Pacific: China, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.



The most threatened coral reef area of the world is located in the Asia-Pacific region

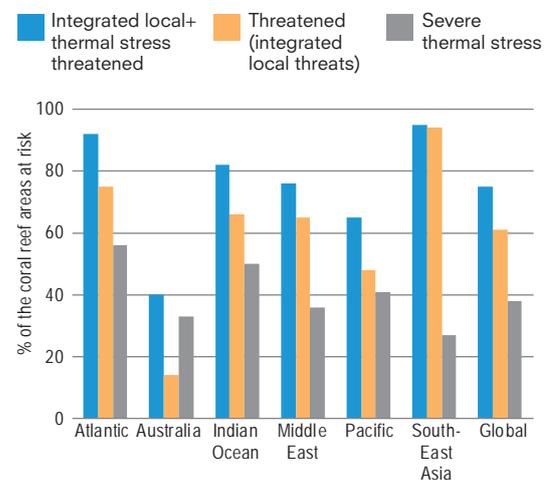
Coral reefs, are the "rain forests of the sea", supporting not only local fisheries and tourism, but also global marine biodiversity. In 2011, 61% of the coral reef areas globally were moderately or highly threatened by "integrated local threats" – namely coastal development, watershed-based pollution, marine-based pollution and damage, and overfishing and destructive fishing.

Around 38% of reefs are exposed to severe thermal stress including warming sea temperatures, which can induce widespread coral bleaching. Much of Australia's Great Barrier Reef is under threat.

The South-East Asia subregion has the lowest thermal stress but the highest risk of integrated local threats. The Indian Ocean

and the Middle East are above the global average for both thermal stress and local threats.

Integrated threat to coral reefs and severe thermal stress, by region



Source: Burke et al 2011