

POLICY BRIEF

SDG 14 IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: AN ACCELERATOR APPROACH FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Contents

1. Sustainable Development Goal 14 in Asia and the Pacific
 2. Accelerating development outcomes
 3. The principles of Accelerators
 4. Using SDG interlinkages for SDG 14 acceleration
 5. A methodology for a SDG 14 Accelerator
-

POLICY POINTERS:

This policy brief introduces Accelerators to facilitate transformative change across SDGs, with a focus on SDG 14 (“life below water”) in Asia and the Pacific region.

An Accelerator is a pivotal intervention, or suite of interventions, which has a substantial and positive multiplier effect on SDG delivery.

An Accelerator is designed using a participatory and analytical approach which catalyses existing national policy priorities and SDGs interlinkages.

Accelerators are a national approach to consider when business-as-usual delivery of SDGs provides, or will provide, inadequate progression towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

ESCAP, recognizing the vital role of the ocean to Asia and the Pacific, and with no specific SDG 14 accelerator being developed to date, intends to forge progression in this area.



1. Sustainable Development Goal 14

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a renewed effort for development that is inclusive and sustainable. The 2030 Agenda has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets which balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental (UN, 2015). Fundamental to the 2030 Agenda is the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs and interlinkages between the goals and targets. These interlinkages promote understanding on the way different SDGs affect each other, and how the design of interventions can create positive ripple effects across multiple SDGs (International Council for Science, 2017).

Transformative change will be required to meet the aspirations of the SDGs. Business-as-usual policies and investments are locking countries into unsustainable pathways which creates a gap between ambition and action. Incremental change, policy and institutional reform will not be enough for achieving the SDGs. Transformative change involving creation of new opportunities, technological and social innovation, shifting power structures and endorsing emergent learning will be necessitated (Transformations Forum, 2017). The urgent need to reframe and re-prioritize the relationship between economy, society and nature requires governments to set a clear transformative trajectory and initiate strategies to steer society forward (ESCAP, 2016).

In Asia and the Pacific, countries have been translating this ambitious Agenda into action. For Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific identifies priority areas for regional cooperation for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, developed by the Pacific Islands Forum, charts a path towards sustainable development and outlines five key elements to promote ownership of the 2030 Agenda. Awareness is growing about approaches to facilitate SDG delivery, but this is only slowly permeating into policy transformation and actionable change.

There is an urgent need for transformation to implement SDG 14 (“life below water”). Globally the rate of degradation of the marine environment has been outpacing developments in the international ocean governance landscape (IASS, 2017). SDG 14 will require transformative action and innovative approaches. Limited baseline data and sparse monitoring inadequately inform decision-making. Fragmentation of ocean governance at global, regional and national levels creates policy and institutional hurdles, necessitating improved coordination and cooperation at all levels. The ten targets of SDG 14 aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems (Appendix 1); four out of these 10 targets have an impending 2020 deadline. The High Level UN Oceans Conference was portrayed as a “game changer” for SDG 14 through a “Call for Action” and submission of Voluntary Commitments (UN, 2017). However, pioneering instruments and approaches are needed to translate intention and aspiration into targeted action.

Oceans in Asia and the Pacific provide significant benefit to people, planet and prosperity. Globally, the ocean economy directly employs around 31 million people and has been valued at around USD 1.5 trillion in 2010, with the potential to double by 2030 (OECD, 2018). In Asia and the Pacific, fisheries resources provide food and income to over 200 million people. Eighty-four percent of the global population engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is from Asia (FAO, 2016). The Pacific Islands supply one-third of the world’s tuna with a first-sale value of over \$4 billion per year (World Bank, 2014). Marine and coastal tourism, as well as a myriad of other activities such as seaweed collection, are dependent on marine sustainability. The combined value of ocean-related activities in the Melanesian region (Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) was estimated to be at least USD \$5.4 billion (WWF, 2016). Diversification and innovation of ocean-related activities can potentially support further sustainable prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region is already undertaking many initiatives which will progress SDG 14. At the UN Oceans Conference more than 800 Voluntary Commitments towards SDG 14 were made for the Pacific and Indian Oceans (UN, 2017); this represents over half the global total. At the UNFCCC COP-23, an



Oceans Pathway was launched to further recognise the role, and associated opportunities, of the ocean in the mediation of global climate and for promoting mitigation. As well as numerous regional thematic initiatives dedicated to the sustainable use of the ocean, various sub- regional analyses are helping to further understanding of oceans. In the Pacific this includes the Sustainable Future for Small Island States: Pacific 2050 (Commonwealth Secretariat) and the Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card (Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme). In Asia, this includes, for example, the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter from COBSEA (Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia) and the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia from PEMSEA (Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia).

However, the ocean in the Asia and the Pacific is still becoming increasingly degraded and over-exploited.

The First World Ocean Assessment identified a cycle of decline in the ocean health, with changes and losses in the structure, function and benefits obtained from marine systems (UNGA, 2017). East Asia and the Pacific have 71 % of the world's coral reefs, 45% of the world's mangroves, produce 66% of the world's fisheries production but also have over 5% more of their territorial waters as marine protected areas compared to the global average (World Bank, 2017a). Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the health of the ocean in the region has deteriorated further (ESCAP, 2018). In Asia and the Pacific about 60 percent of coral reefs in the region are at risk from coral bleaching and destructive human activities and another 60 percent of mangrove forests protecting coastlines have been lost (ESCAP, 2017). There are cumulative costs of inaction as well as direct costs associated with the declining state of the ocean. For example, in the "sunken billions" report, it was estimated that overfishing caused an economic loss of USD \$83 billion in 2012 associated with the loss from the potential annual benefits that could accrue to the sector following both major reform and fish stocks recovery to a higher, more sustainable, and more productive level (World Bank, 2017b). This report noted that the need for fisheries reform was greatest in Asia and Africa

With continual constraints in resources, there is a need to prioritise and channel investments into oceans that optimise benefits.

Low tax take, immature financial markets and inefficient intermediation services mean that development expenditures must be targeted to optimise impact and aid effectiveness as well as promote leverage, catalysing investment and promote diverse financial mechanism. Positioning effective investment in oceans is, thus, more than aligning expenditure with SDG 14 targets, but identification of key pivotal investments which optimise delivery across SDG 14, as well as take advantage of the "indivisibility" of the SDGs to create further co-benefits to people, planet and prosperity. The importance of oceans for the region and the need for transformation mean that promoting acceleration of SDG 14 is a priority.

Key message 1:

Ocean initiatives in Asia and the Pacific must be urgently targeted at transformative approaches if SDG 14 is to be achieved within time and current resource constraints.



2. Accelerating development outcomes

The acceleration approach was born out of a need to rapidly progress lagging development goals. A global review in 2010 of progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) identified a need to further support advancement in some countries to achieve lagging MDGs by 2015 (UN, 2010). Consequently, a MDG Acceleration Framework was developed to accelerate country-level progress in MDGs perceived as unlikely to be achieved by 2015 (UN, 2010). The Acceleration Framework was based on a premise that specific prioritized 'acceleration solutions' exist and can help countries improve the rate of progress. The systematic methodology identified factors causing MDGs to veer off, as well as generated shared diagnostics to accelerate prioritised development goals. Piloted in 10 countries, the acceleration approach led to formulation of coherent, focused and implementable MDG action plans which more rapidly facilitated MDG achievement (UNDP, 2011).

Learning from the Millennium Development Goals, efforts to avoid lags and to progress priority goals need to be made early on in the 2030 Agenda. The Accelerator approach was developed towards the end of the MDGs, leaving limited time for planning and implementation interventions and registering positive outcomes on MDGs. Rather than a final concerted thrust at lagging goals like the MDGs, proactive planning of Accelerators can obviate late-stage lags, but also help to focus efforts at development areas where there is a nationally-determined urgency or need for more rapid progress than the present trajectory. This opportunity, for invoking the accelerator approach to rapidly progress key aspects of the Agenda 2030 and the associated SDGs, presently exists; especially as out of the 10 SDG 14 targets, four are due by 2020 (14.2, 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6) and one by 2025 (14.1). However, there is a need for accelerator approaches to be articulated in a way in which policy makers can judge the relevance and appropriateness of this approach, among other policy options, for their national circumstances and context.

Under the 2030 Agenda, Accelerators focus on increasing the rate of delivery of a selected SDG through pivotal policy interventions. Accelerators are designed for use when business-as-usual delivery of selected SDGs provides, or will provide, inadequate progression towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. An Accelerator identifies a suite of interventions, which has a substantial and positive multiplier effect on the target SDG. Accelerators are aligned to national processes and priorities, but through a participatory and analytical process, identify emergent and integrated courses of action which optimise investment and implementation. Consequently, an Accelerator is a national plan of action targeted at optimising delivery of a specific and pre-defined SDG, or SDG targets. The transboundary nature of the marine environment and the need for approaches beyond national jurisdictions (Wright et al., 2017), could mean that Accelerators can have a multi-country or regional approach.

Various approaches have emerged which invoke acceleration of SDGs within the 2030 Agenda, but none specific to SDG 14. Accelerators for the 2030 Agenda are still in infancy as an applicable framework for national uptake. UNDP has developed a three-pronged approach, Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS), in which Accelerators are pivotal interventions defined by the beneficial interactions generated by the target SDG on other SDGs. UNDP developed the SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment tool (ABA) in which 'Accelerators' can trigger positive multiplier effects across the SDGs and targets. ESCAP, recognizing the vital role of the ocean to Asia and the Pacific, and with no specific SDG14 Accelerator being developed to date, intends to forge progression in this area.

Key message 2:

Accelerators are tools which optimise development benefits aligned to national priorities by identifying and planning pivotal interventions with positive multiplier effects.



3. The principles of Accelerators

A review of case studies and tools identified common characteristics associated with Accelerators. To identify common principles of Accelerators, an assessment was carried out of published tools and case studies drawn from MDG and SDG initiatives in which there was explicit consideration of an “Accelerator”. Whilst the development contexts are different, such pivotal and catalytic interventions which define Accelerators were found to have a suite of characteristics associated with them. An initial screening of case studies was used to identify common characteristics, or principles, which were commonly present in the publications and explicitly related to the “Accelerator” (Appendix 2). This was then further evidenced and iterated to produce a suite of working definitions of these principles which were embodied within an “Accelerator”.

Six principles of Accelerators emerged from the assessment:

- ◆ **Leap forward** – An identifiable desire or need to hasten forward, or promote more rapid progression, in a goal, target, or cluster of targets which is coherent with national sustainable development policy and which achieves the desired situation more rapidly than the present trajectory.
- ◆ **Linkages between SDGs** – An identifiable group or cluster of SDG targets in which progress is interlinked.
- ◆ **Locally relevant** – Positive and appreciable gains in the selected development target are attainable at the local scale and identifiable by local stakeholders. This is to ensure that top-down, policy-based approaches reach down and frame interventions which have a direct and tangible impact on people and prosperity.
- ◆ **Leave no-one behind** – Ensuring that poor, vulnerable or disempowered groups receive disproportional development benefits or dividends through anti-regressive safeguards and mechanisms.
- ◆ **Leadership** – An identifiable political and policy prioritisation and commitment to preferentially progress the identified development agenda through a participatory approach involving all relevant stakeholders.
- ◆ **Leverage** – A proactive capturing of assisted advantage to catalyse financial, capacity and technical resources to further progress.

Fundamental to the accelerator approach is the intent for a leap forward and the mobilisation of linkages to secure and amplify development outcomes. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the leap forward is related to the national intent to achieve more rapid progress reflected in triangulation of aspects such as government rhetoric, institutional architecture, policy coherence and budget allocation. The mobilisation of interlinkages is fundamental to promote rapid progression through the “integrated and indivisible” nature of the SDGs; realised through a deepened understanding of the causalities, contextual dependences and trade-offs between SDGs. Capturing these interlinkages would shape Accelerators and may highlight transboundary issues. A leap forward and mobilisation of SDG interlinkages are prerequisites for Accelerators, and can be considered as core principles.

Allied to core principles are satellite principles which are beneficial contextual aspects of an accelerator approach. There are a number of characteristics which can help form and refine an enduring Accelerator which are related to the institutional and socio-economic context. Principles of leadership and leverage provide further implementation strength and sustainability to the Accelerator approach. Locally-relevant and leaving no-one behind ensure that an Accelerator is appropriately targeted to foster direct benefits for



all, and especially to reach those that are been left behind. In the case of SDG 14 in Asia and the Pacific, the proven but entrenched inadequate weak governance system, and the vast scale of the ocean and pressing need for technology transfer, requires principles related to improved leadership and leverage, respectively. In addition, the high reliance of people in the region on marine resources, especially the poor and vulnerable, means the principles of local relevance and leaving no-one behind are also critical.

Key message 3:

Accelerators have core principles related to leaping forward and catalysing interlinkages, as well as additional principles related to context and equity.

4. Using SDG interlinkages for SDG 14 acceleration

SDG 14 is highly interlinked with other goals making oceans a prime target for accelerator approaches.

SDG 14 is highly connected to other SDGs, thus, progress in SDG 14 is related to progress in other SDGs, and similarly, progress in SDG 14 can lead to progress in other SDGs (International Council for Science, 2017). Understanding possible trade-offs as well as synergistic relations between the SDG 14 and other SDGs is crucial for achieving ocean sustainability; recent research in this area has helped to illuminate such connections and key factors which affect them (e.g. Nilsson et al, 2018, Singh et al, 2018). SDG 14 relates to the part of the biosphere which contains the marine ecosystems, the global natural capital of the oceans and which plays a major role in climate regulation; on which both society and economy are based (Fig. 1). Maintaining a balance between protection and restoration with sustainable exploitation of marine resources is critical and insight into connection between SDGs provides a better understanding of appropriate management trajectories.

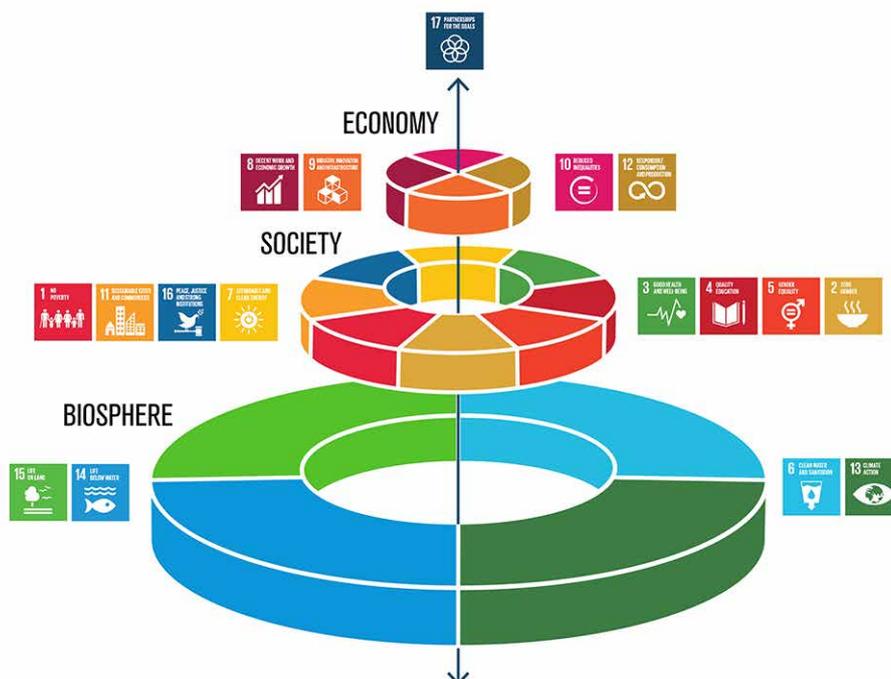
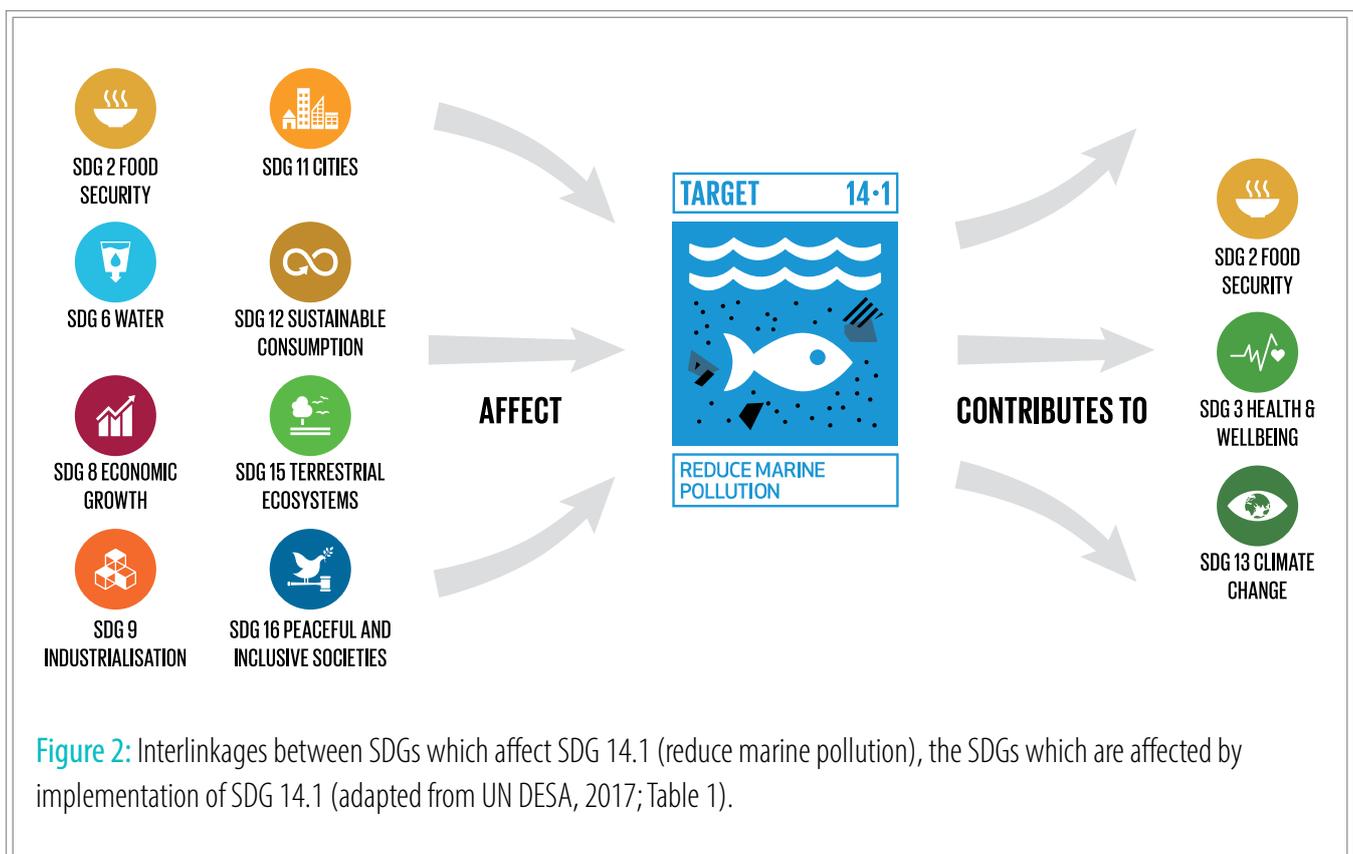


Figure 1: Arrangement of SDGs across Biosphere, Society and Economy dimensions (Stockholm Resilience Institute).



Mapping SDG interlinkages provides insight into the connections and options for pivotal interventions required for Accelerators. Mapping will need to be done at the national, or sub-national level, and in consultation with national experts and relevant stakeholders, in order to be valid and robust. At the goal level, SDG 14 is affected by all other SDGs and is also linked to all 16 other goals, so it plays a cross-cutting role in the 2030 Agenda (Singh et al., 2018). At the target level, however, differences between interactions of the SDG 14 targets and other SDGs are apparent; both in terms of those that can contribute to SDG 14 delivery as well as those that SDG 14 delivery can influence (Fig. 2). For example, SDG 14.1 (reduce marine pollution) is directly and negatively affected by production and consumer practices (SDG 12) that inadequately consider life-cycle impacts of products as about 80% of marine litter originates from land-based sources; progress in SDG 12 is thus important for SDG 14.1 achievement. Similarly, progress in SDG 14.1 (protect coastal and marine ecosystems), contributes to food security (SDG 2), to improving human health and well-being (SDG 3) and to climate change adaptation (SDG 13) through improving resilience of marine ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.



Mapping of SDG 14 interlinkages can provide detailed analyses to support transformative approaches. More detailed investigations can be undertaken between the target levels of SDG 14 and the 159 target levels of all other SDGs. The nature of the interlinkages, such as the strength, causality, positive or trade-off effects, and reliance on context, can help develop a more holistic understanding of the domain in which the accelerator will target. Through such mapping analyses, the contribution of other SDGs to SDG 14, and the direct impact of SDG 14 to other goals can be identified and used to help frame the Accelerator. Mapping the linkages and their characteristics builds up a functional understanding of the system and facilitates construction of Theory of Change diagrams for the Accelerator and identification of pivotal interventions.

However, Accelerators need a sequenced diagnostic approach including more than just SDG mapping. Detailed interrogation of SDG interlinkages may help identify and frame pivotal interventions for achieving SDGs by 2030. However, Accelerators may operate in diverse ways, such as unleashing unused capacity or creating preconditions conducive for progress, removing bottlenecks, underlying constraints or obstacles and boosting dynamic interactions (e.g. tipping points, feedback loops). Thus, an SDG Accelerator must



use a tight diagnostic framing, over-and-above just SDG interlinkage mapping, in a sequenced approach to identify pivotal interventions and then to structure such interventions in a national context. With a lack of precise definition and framing of acceleration, the grey area between Accelerators and business-as-usual development approaches and tools could expand; this will dilute the emphasis for really “pivotal” and transformative interventions.

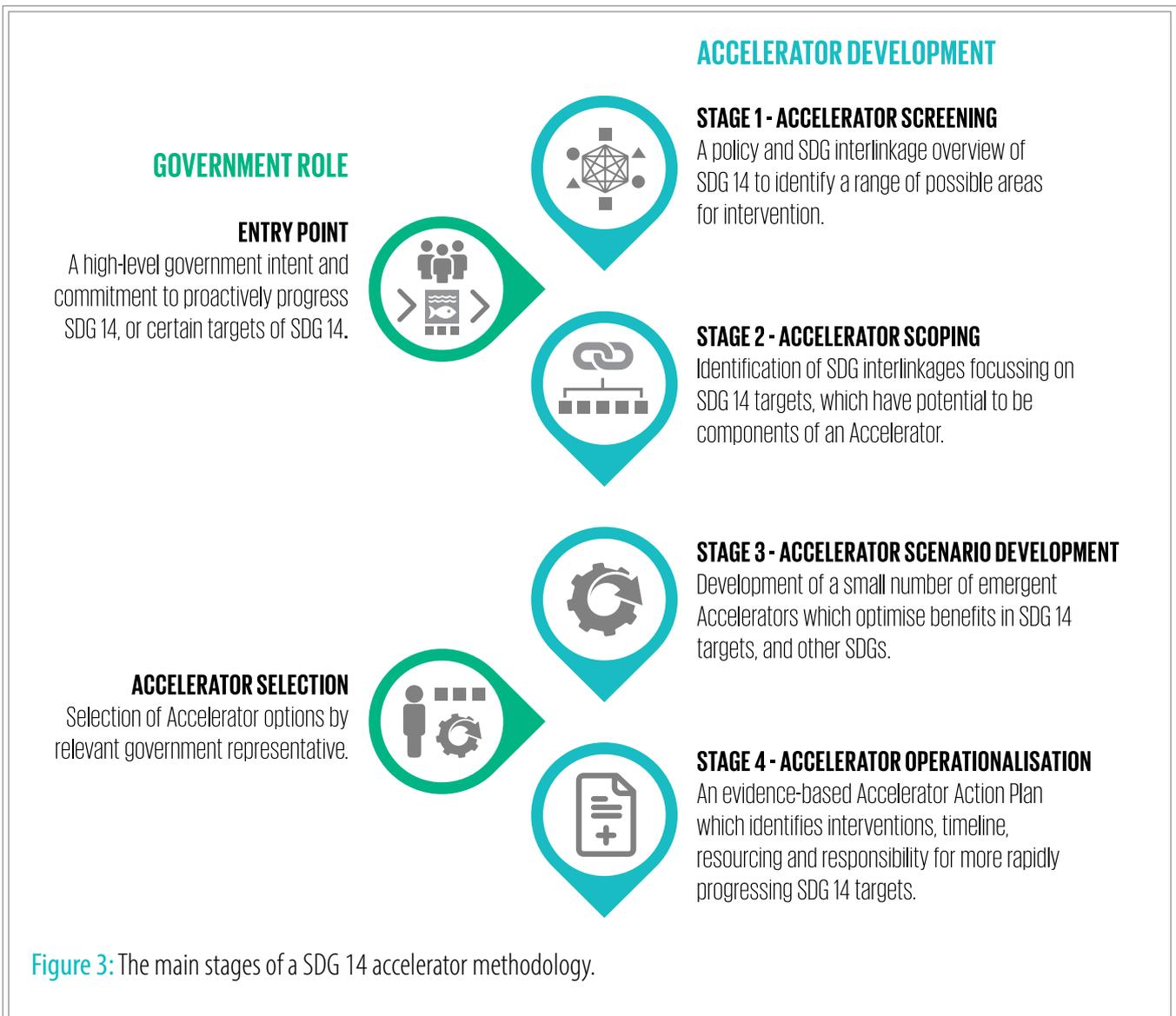
Key message 4:

Detailed mapping of interlinkages which affect SDG 14, and are affected by SDG 14, help identify pivotal intervention points and transformative potential.

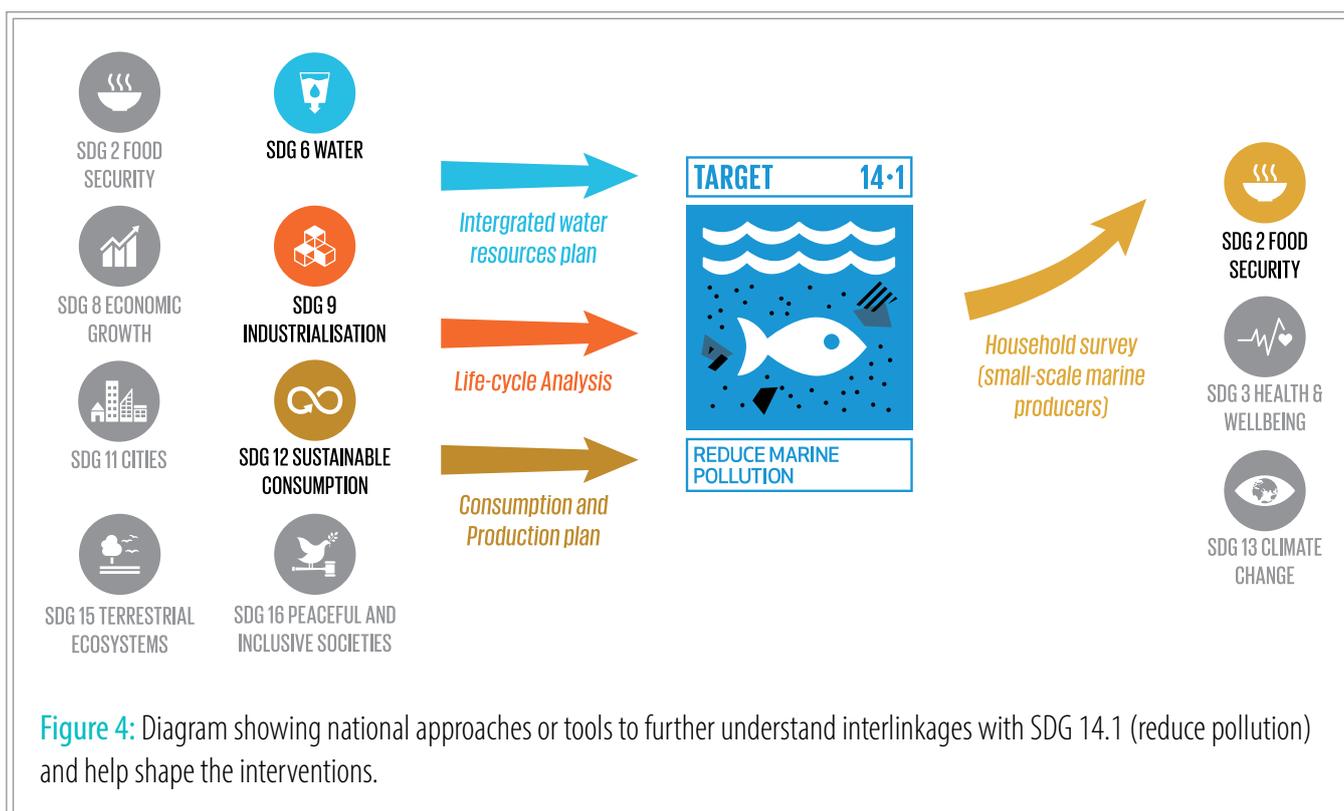
5. A methodology for a SDG 14 Accelerator

An Accelerator methodology must align with, and utilise, national processes. The precise methodology for accelerator identification should be in line with national circumstances and mobilise other ongoing initiatives. The entry point for an Accelerator is based around an articulated national imperative to see progress in SDG 14 which is faster than present progress. Entry points could be related to national governments initiatives linked to international agendas and agreements (e.g. Voluntary Commitments of UN Oceans Conference), national political commitments, such as a new oceans policy, or agenda setting from regional or national entities which lobby, urge and secure progressive action. The entry point for Accelerators requires high-level agreement within the government to ensure that it receives the cross-governmental support

Development of an Accelerator will be carried out over a number of stages. The first screening stage will identify broad areas of development intervention in terms of policy coherence and SDG interlinkages and frame the priority area of concern. The stage will identify coherent and mutually reinforcing national policies (e.g. Ocean Policy, National Development Plans, Social-economic policies) as well as relevant regional arrangements, or possible gaps and challenges as well as broadly map out SDG interlinkages (using best available evidence, similar to a more detailed version of Figure 2). The second scoping stage will narrow down onto possible accelerator intervention areas through a more detailed analysis of SDGs at the target level, including both positive and negative interactions. For key linkages, consultation with relevant stakeholders may be used to help fill information gaps. From these SDG interlinkage diagrams, clusters of upstream and downstream connections which link through SDG 14 targets will be identified and will be further explored through a number of dimensions including present status, capacity, finance adequacy and sources, policy and institutional arrangements and gender issues. The third stage will be a predominantly participatory stage in which possible accelerator areas will be further interrogated and reviewed in terms of refinement of SDG interlinkages and further contextualisation by key stakeholders; a small number of accelerator scenarios will be identified and documented. The final stage will also revolve around participation, in order to further detail change dynamics, proposed intervention and to develop an Accelerator Action Plan. The stages of the Accelerator methodology are outlined in figure 3.



The Accelerator methodology will leverage existing tools and approaches to strengthen the evidence-base action, where possible. Additional tools and approaches may be employed to refine the final Accelerator, especially in the final operationalisation stage. These include cost-benefit analysis, life-cycle analysis, institutional and capacity assessment, ecosystem service assessment or Strategic Environment Impact Assessment may all play a role, depending on the Accelerator focus and on the national circumstances. For example, for an Accelerator targeted at SDG 14.1 (reduce pollution), the key SDGs which affect SDG 14.1 may be SDG 6 on water, SDG 9 on infrastructure and 12 on sustainable consumption and production, and these interlinkages may be further understood through a national integrated water resources plan, a life-cycle analysis on key polluting products and use of a consumption and production plan, respectively. In terms of the positive effects of reduced pollution, a household survey of small-scale marine producers could provide insight into the potential impact of the Accelerator on food security of the most disadvantaged (Fig. 4). While each Accelerator is likely to be different, mobilising existing information and processes to substantiate the causality and change dynamics will be vital to develop a well-evidenced Accelerator Action Plan.



The Accelerator will deliver an action plan for a clearly-defined and nationally-relevant SDG 14 Accelerator based on analysis and consultation. The later stages of the methodology would require close involvement of the main actors, and participation of other stakeholders such as civil society organizations, local communities or private sector representatives. Accelerator inputs and outcomes would be developed on a short-, medium- and longer-term-basis in relation to the 2030 Agenda timeline. Areas in which regional approaches can be effective and opportunities mobilised will be identified. Ultimately, the Accelerator Action Plan should define a route for progressing priorities within SDG 14 which is feasible, and which mobilises the SDG framework to minimise negative trade-offs and maximise positive impacts.

Key message 5:

The Accelerator will use a sequenced diagnostic and participatory approach to produce an action plan which maximises progress and benefits for SDG 14 priorities.

Contact details

This policy brief is the initial outcome of the work of ESCAP on SDG 14 accelerators. ESCAP invites interested representatives to contact the Environment and Development Division (canalesc@un.org) to discuss developing possible future collaborations.



References

ESCAP (2016) Transformation for sustainable development: promoting environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP, UNEP, UNU and IGES.

ESCAP (2017) Statement at Launch of the Oceans Pathway. <https://www.unescap.org/speeches/statement-launch-oceans-pathway>

ESCAP (2018) Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2017. ESCAP.

FAO (2016) The State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture; contributing to food security and nutrition for all. FAO.

IASS (2017) Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal for the Oceans. Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Policy Brief 1/2017.

International Council for Science (2017) A Guide to SDG Interaction: from science to implementation. International Council for Science.

Nilsson, M., Chisholm, E., Griggs, D., Howden-Chpaman, P., McCollum, D., Messerli, P., Nieumann, B., Stevance, A-S., Visbeck, M. & Stafford-Smith, M. (2018) Mapping interactions between the sustainable development goals: lessons learned and ways forward. Sustainability Science, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-018-0604-z>

OECD (2018) Making Development Co-operation Work for SIDS. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264287648-en>

Singh et al (2018) A rapid assessment of co-benefits and trade-offs among Sustainable Development Goals. Marine Policy, 93, 223-231.

Transformations Forum (2017) <https://www.transformationsforum.net/>

UN (2017) United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. <https://oceanconference.un.org/about>

UNGA (2017) The First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment). United Nations General Assembly and its Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects. http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RegProcess.htm

UNDP (2010) Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015.

UNDP (2011) MDG Acceleration Framework. UN Development Group.

UNDP (2016) Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration Toolkit. <https://undg.org/2030-agenda/sdg-acceleration-toolkit/guidance/>

UN (2015) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1). UN.

UN DESA (2017) Mapping the linkages between oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals: a preliminary exploration. DESA Working Paper No. 149 - ST/ESA/2017/DWP/149.

World Bank (2014) Oceans; sector results profile. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2013/04/13/oceans-results-profile>

World Bank (2017a) The Little Green Data Book. World Bank Group.

World Bank (2017b) The sunken billions revisited: progress and challenges in global; marine fisheries. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and The World Bank.

Wright, G., Schmidt, S., Rochette, J., Shackeroff, J., Unger, S., Waweru, Y., Müller, A.. (2017). Partnering for a Sustainable Ocean: The Role of Regional Ocean Governance in Implementing SDG14. Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG): IDDRI, IASS, TMG & UN Environment, 2017.

WWF (2016) Reviving Melanesia's Ocean Economy: The Case for Action. WWF International.



Appendix 1. Sustainable development Goal 14 (“life below water”) and the 10 targets.

SDG 14 target	Target summary description	Possible custodian agency ¹
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.	IOC-UNESCO, IMO, FAO, UNEP
14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	UNEP, IOC-UNESCO, FAO
14.3	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.	IOC-UNESCO, UNEP
14.4	By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans.	FAO
14.5	By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, Ramsar
14.6	By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies.	FAO
14.7	By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.	FAO, UNEP-WCMC
14.a	Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.	IOC-UNESCO
14.b	Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.	FAO
14.c	Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS.	UN-DOALAS, FAO, UNEP, ILO, other UN-Oceans agencies

¹ Taken from IAEG-SDGs: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/> Correct as of 15th October, 2018.



Appendix 2. Principles of an Accelerator.

The table shows the results of an assessment of common characteristics of accelerator approaches through mapping case studies onto emergent principles, which are divided into core and satellite principles.

Literature source	Accelerator Principle					
	Core		Satellite			
	Leap forward	Linkages	Locally relevant	Leave no-one behind	Leadership	Leverage
SDG5 – Gender¹ Gender Equality MAPS – a key SDG accelerator in Moldova		✓		✓		
SDG6 – Water² Accelerating water-related SDG success - UNU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SDG7 – Energy³ The Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG 7 Action - HLPF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
All SDGs⁴ SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment tool			✓			
All SDGs⁵ Mechanisms to accelerate SDGs in the Caribbean.		✓	✓		✓	✓
All SDGs⁶ Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean - UNDP		✓				✓
All MDGs⁷ MDG acceleration toolkit	✓			✓		✓
All MDGs⁸ Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration	✓			✓		✓

¹ UNDG (2018) Gender – a key SDG accelerator: a case study from the republic of Moldova. UN Issue-based

² Colation on Gender Equality – Europe and Central Asia.

³ UNU-INWEH (2017) The SDG PSS General User Guidelines. UNU.

⁴ UNDESA (2018) Accelerating SDG7 Achievement: policy briefs in support of the first SDG7 review at the HLPF, 2018.

⁵ UNDP (2017) SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment. UNDP.

⁶ McKenzie, S. & Abdulkadri, A (2017) Mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean. ECLAC.

⁷ UNDP (2016) Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean Multidimensional progress: well-being beyond income. UNDP.

⁸ UNDP (2010) Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015.



This Policy Brief is issued without formal editing.
Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect that of ESCAP or any UN agency.

Authors

This Policy Brief was prepared by Caridad Canales Davila and Jeremy Hills (consultant), Environment and Development Division, ESCAP.

Acknowledgments

The author is grateful to the following reviewers for their valuable contributions to the paper: Stefanos Fotiou and Katinka Weinberger, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP; Anna Naupa and Timothy Westbury, Subregional Office for the Pacific, ESCAP; Sebastian Unger, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS); Maricor Ebarvia-Bautista, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA); Peni B. Suveinakama and Riibeta Abeta, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC); Chris Mcowen, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UN Environment-WCMC); and Benno Böer, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).