



Blue Economy for Sustainable Development

12th Royal Thai Navy Symposium

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Bangkok, Thailand

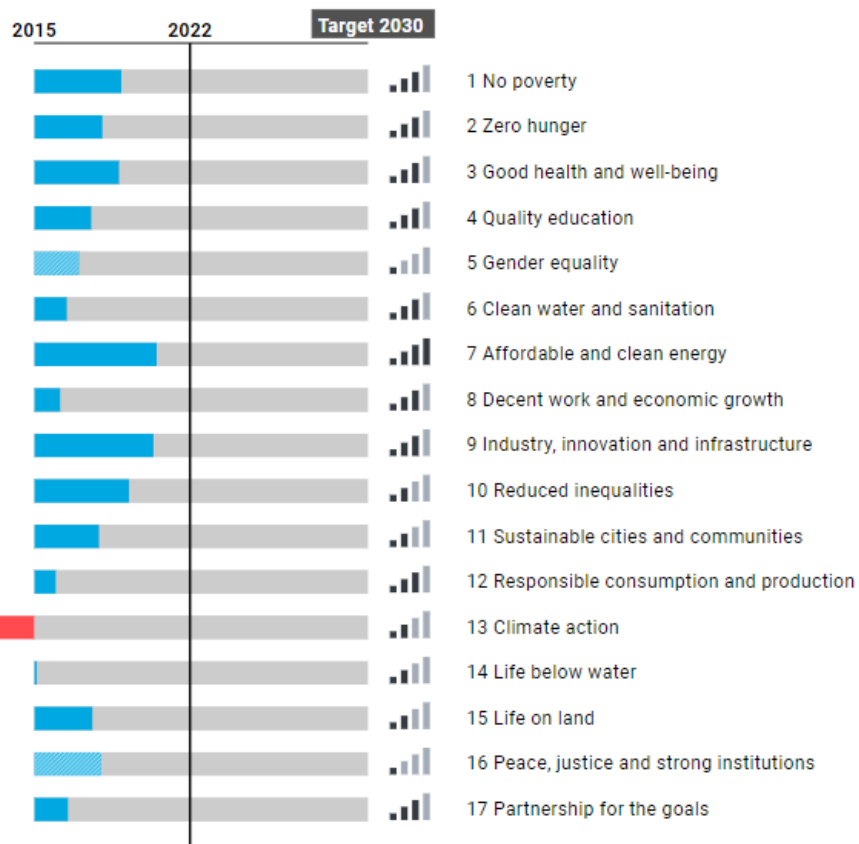
30 August 2023

Overview

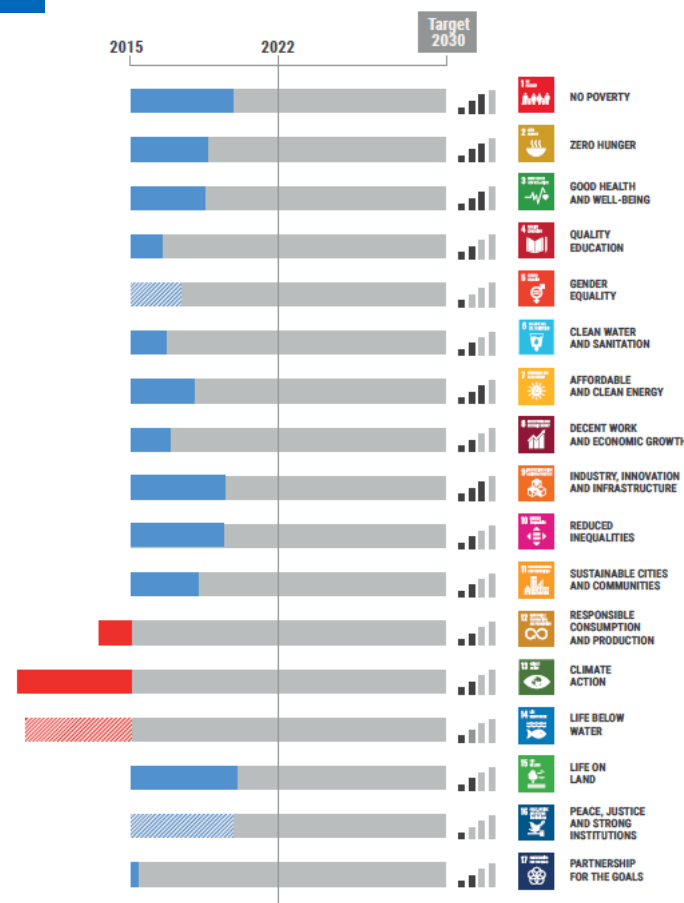
- 1. SDG Progress**
- 2. Definitions**
- 3. Case studies**
- 4. Going Forward**
- 5. Royal Thai Navy**

2030 Agenda + SDG Progress

Asia-Pacific



Southeast Asia



Legend key

- Regression
- Progress since 2015
- ■ Inufficient indicators
- ■ ■ Evidence Strength

SDG14 Targets and Indicators

TARGET 14-1



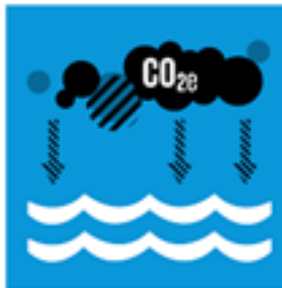
REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

TARGET 14-2



PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

TARGET 14-3



REDUCE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

TARGET 14-4



SUSTAINABLE FISHING

TARGET 14-5



CONSERVE COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

TARGET 14-6



END SUBSIDIES CONTRIBUTING TO OVERFISHING

TARGET 14-7



INCREASE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES

TARGET 14-A



INCREASE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OCEAN HEALTH

TARGET 14-B



SUPPORT SMALL SCALE FISHERS

TARGET 14-C







IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL SEA LAW

Expected Achievements



LIFE BELOW WATER

-  14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
-  14.1 Marine pollution
-  14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
-  14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
-  14.3 Ocean acidification
-  14.4 Sustainable fishing
-  14.6 Fisheries subsidies
-  14.a Research capacity & marine technology
-  14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
-  14.c Implementing UNCLOS

-  MAINTAIN progress to achieve target
-  ACCELERATE progress to achieve target
-  REVERSE trend to achieve target
-  Cannot be measured

Priority Areas for Action

Priority areas:



1. Improve data collection and sharing
2. Enhance policy design and implementation
(Improve waste management and prevent marine pollution)
3. Increase financing for sustainable practices
4. Enforce international treaties and regulations
5. Promote regional cooperation to strengthen ocean governance

Definitions

A) Nature-based solutions (and ecosystem-based approaches)

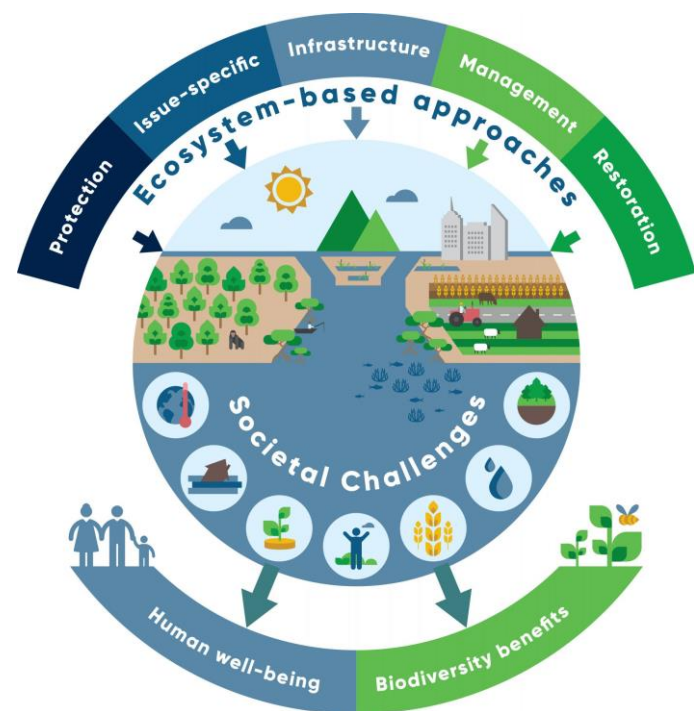
B) Blue economy

Nature-based solutions

UN Environment Assembly 5.5 (2 March 2022)

“Decides that nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address *social, economic and environmental challenges* effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, *ecosystem services*, resilience and biodiversity benefits ...”

→ *Nature-based solutions include Ocean-based solutions.*



Blue Economy

World Bank (2017)



THE WORLD BANK

“....comprising the range of economic sectors and related policies that together determine whether the use of oceanic resources is sustainable.”

Blue Economy - Declaration

ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy (26 October 2021)



"...the Blue Economy for ASEAN refers to the sustainable, resilient and inclusive use, governance, management and conservation of oceans, seas as well as marine and coastal resources and ecosystems for economic growth across various sectors such as fishery, aquaculture, maritime transport, renewable energy, tourism, climate change, and research and development while improving human well-being and social equity."

Blue Economy - Framework

- An effort to optimize economic growth by utilizing marine resources inclusively and sustainably.
- The blue economy has great potential to become the "engine" of ASEAN development, more than 66 percent of the area in the Southeast Asian region is dominated by water.
- Increase the prosperity and welfare of the community, especially in ASEAN countries with lower middle-income status. Several ASEAN countries included in the category of lower-middle-income countries are Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Meanwhile, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia are “trapped” in the middle-income status (13 years).
- Blue economy implementation can provide an opportunity in driving GDP growth, while supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in ASEAN.



ASEAN
INDONESIA
2023 

From Declaration to Action Plan



ASEAN Blue Economy Framework:

a guideline for sustainable and comprehensive implementation of ASEAN blue economy



-> Approved by Thai Cabinet, for adoption at the 43rd ASEAN Summit

Blue Economy and Ocean Governance

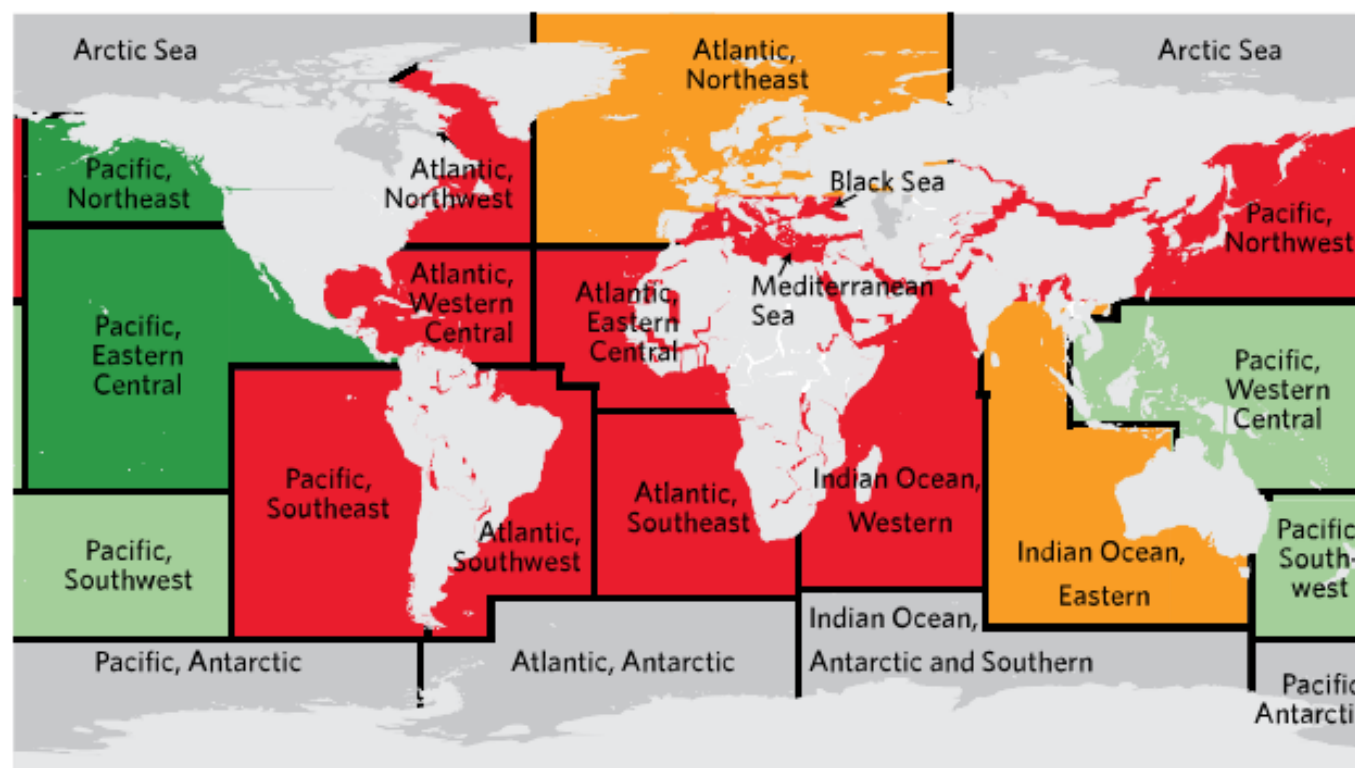
- Having a **Blue** Economy is *not* enough
(good/bad economy, strong/weak economy, sustainable/independent)

All aspects of **Ocean Governance**:

- a) Policymaking
- b) Agreements
- c) Compliance
- d) Enforcement
- e) Monitoring and Evaluation

Fish stocks

Proportion of fish stocks at biologically unsustainable levels, by major fishing areas as defined by the FAO, 2017
(percentage)



● 0-5 ● 5-15 ● 15-25 ● 25-35 ● >35 ● Data not available

The Blue Economy and Climate Change



- **Ocean and Climate Synergies**
- **We cannot have a healthy planet without a healthy ocean**
- **We cannot have a sustainable blue economy in a changing climate**
- **Resilience**



Opportunities for the Ocean and Climate

- **Ocean-based solutions** to climate change can vastly contribute to the reduction the carbon dioxide emissions.
- Coastal habitats have the capacity to **sequester** two to four times the amount of **carbon** per area than terrestrial forests, yet they are being lost at about 1.5% per year.
- **Indonesia's seagrasses and mangroves** combined account for 3.4Gt of carbon, about **17% of the world's blue carbon reservoir**.
- Bali **Leader's Declaration** 15-16 November 2022.

Maximizing Ocean-based Solutions

To reach the full potential of such solutions, we must:

- **Leverage Scientific Research, Developments and Technology** to harness ocean-based solutions to climate change. But only 1.7% of national research budgets are allocated to ocean science.
- **Improve Ocean Data and Statistics** in a uniform and systematic manner and leverage geospatial technologies.
- **Understand and measure the capacity of marine ecosystems** in the region to provide services, such as carbon sequestration.

Case Study: China-Indonesia

- “Two countries, twin parks”
(Fuzhou, China and Indonesia:
Bintan Industrial Estate, Aviarna
Industrial Estate and Batang
Industrial Estate)
- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- First four months of 2023, foreign
trade Fujian province and ASEAN
reached 144.69 billion yuan =
700.69 billion THB (19.7% increase
2022).



Case Study: Samoa

- Enforcement
- Assets
- Cooperation



Case Study: Mexico

- ❑ International **black-blue** markets (demand and supply)
- ❑ Illegal trade / transit
- ❑ Lack of enforcement
- ❑ Incentive for fisherfolks

World's smallest porpoise on the edge of extinction

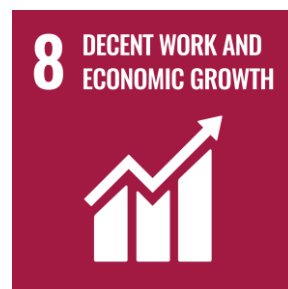
The vaquita is the most endangered cetacean in the world



Sources: Profepa/WWF/IUCN/CIRVA

Accelerating the Blue Economy

- Promoting employment, gender equality and environmental protection



Targeted support to women in fisheries (including aquaculture)

Requests:

- Address IUU Fishing
- Access to credit and financing solutions for women
- Human rights on vessels (LGBTQI+)

Going Forward

- ❑ **Land to sea interactions:** green and blue economy are not mutually exclusive concepts (food security, pollution)
- ❑ **The global context:** Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ), the “Plastics treaty”, post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and others.
- ❑ **Regional cooperation** is the key (Ocean governance)
- ❑ **Identify and engage stakeholders:** private sector, civil society, youth, scientific community/academia, leverage public-private partnerships
- ❑ **Policymaking:** Evolve from piecemeal legislations towards comprehensive policymaking (Big picture)
- ❑ **COVID-19 recovery:** Step up our efforts and build back *bluer*!

Opportunities for the Royal Thai Navy

- Interdisciplinary issues -> Inter-ministerial coordination
- Resource identification
- Recommendations to policymakers
- Partnerships with stakeholders
- Proactive and preventative/precautionary approach

Resources

- ❑ Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2023>

- ❑ SDG14 Goal Profile

<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/SDG%2014%20Profile.pdf>

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