



SULITEST SDG14 MODULE – CONCEPT NOTE

Rationale All citizens are agents for change and must be helped, as Ocean Citizens, to take good care of the Ocean in their private or professional lives.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), hosting the Secretariat for SDGs UN DESA, Sulitest.org (1) and Mercator Ocean International (2) decided to join forces in July 2020 to work on the first educational module dedicated to the Ocean and SDG14 entitled "Life below Water".

The module consists of a MCQ and a Quiz accessible on a Sulitest.org platform. The aim is to enable citizens to discover or better understand Sustainable Development Goal # 14 of the United Nations, also called SDG 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". By supporting the dissemination of SDG14 knowledge among citizens and particularly youth, the module is designed to enable individuals to become deeply committed to building a sustainable future and to make informed and effective decisions with respect to Ocean health.

Project The module has been conceived and peer-reviewed by a pool of experts. From September 2020 to May 2021, they met during webinars and work sessions, sharing their experiences and perspectives to build the MCQ according to a method designed by Sulitest.org:

The participants include UNDESA, Mercator Ocean International and the COPERNICUS Marine Service of the European Union, EMODnet, the European Marine Observation and Data Network, the *Fondation de la Mer*, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the French Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), the Group on Earth Observation's initiative "GEO BLUE PLANET", the *Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale*, the Villefranche Oceanographic Laboratory, the Ocean Azul Foundation (Portugal), the Ocean & Climate Platform, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), VTA Tassin Ocean & Law policy, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA, Kenya), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-European Policy Office).

Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, kindly accepted to make his precious contribution.

Event The project was launched exactly one year ago at the High-Level Political Forum, SDG Learning and Training 2020. The SDG14 module will be launched during the High-Level Political Forum 2021 side event called "#WeAreAllOceanCitizens" on July 9 (7:30 – 9:00 EDT – 13:30-15:00 CEST).

The objectives of this event are:

- to remind the audience of the objectives of SDG 14 to and the intention of the parties to construct a SULITEST SDG14 module.
- to explain the major role of Ocean Literacy for the successful implementation of SDG14, with perspectives given by policymakers, project stakeholders and young ocean advocates.
- to take a quiz online so the audience can measure its level of knowledge about SDG 14
- to encourage the audience to take the SULITEST SDG 14 MCQ

Event Audience Our Communication campaigns (Sulitest.org and Mercator Ocean International) are targeting young citizens (academies), policy makers and ocean industry professionals.

(1) **SULITEST.org** is a French NGO accredited at the UNEA (United Nations Environment Assembly). Its mission is to expand sustainability knowledge, skills, and mindsets to motivate individuals to become deeply committed to build a sustainable future, reach the sustainable development goals and to make informed and effective decisions. SULITEST offers a set of online tools for raising awareness and improving understanding of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(2) **Mercator Ocean International** is a non-profit international organisation based in France, which is committed to building a science- based Digital Ocean. It maintains an operational digital description of the marine environment worldwide and helps organisations implement community and institutional programmes that strive towards a sustainable ocean. It makes its expert services available for the resolution of major environmental, climatic, and societal challenges and continuously builds interactions between science, policy, and society. It will be very active in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for a Sustainable Development.