



# COMMUNITIES OF OCEAN ACTION

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

## Interim assessment

1. What is the overall progress made with the implementation of the Voluntary Commitments in your Community of Ocean Action since the conclusion of the Ocean Conference?

Our Community continues to grow at a steady pace. Since the Ocean Conference, the number of commitments rose from 556 to 619 – an increase of 11%. The majority of new commitments have come from non-government actors, helping to fill the gap identified in UN-DESA's analysis.

Additionally, in 2018, the co-focal points (the Ocean Conservancy and the International Maritime Organization, IMO) hosted two webinars (28 June and 27 September 2018) to increase awareness of the platform and foster opportunities for information and best practice sharing. The first webinar was intended to raise the momentum within the COA, as well as a summary of our voluntary commitment gap analysis, and a conversation on how the community is measuring their respective progress. The second webinar had a focus on marine litter, being the main part of the VCs in the COA, and included a presentation by Dr. Jenna Jambeck (United States) on her marine debris sources and export flows research, with a presentation titled *Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean: Science and Solutions*.

2. What are the current gaps and challenges in your Community of Ocean Action that need to be addressed, including through new voluntary commitments and/or by engaging additional actors?

Building upon UN-DESA's gap analysis, we conducted a more focused review for the marine plastics and shipping commitments to get a greater understanding of the challenges unique to our COA. The list below reflects the key findings of that analysis.

### *Measurability*

Our analysis found that only about a third of the commitments were measurable, and within the commitments related to shipping, the number is much lower, around 5%.

Many commitments lack a clear plan for measurement of progress and impact.

#### *Scale*

Nearly three quarters of marine plastics or litter commitments were made at the national level, with 16% and 11% made at the regional or local level respectively. For the shipping related commitments, local/national commitments account for approx. 50%, and 26% each for the regional and global scales. Engaging a broader set of local actors will help extend the impact of the COA.

#### *Cross-cutting Impacts*

Overall 97% of SDG 14 voluntary commitments related to other SDGs, however within both the marine plastics and shipping commitments, only about a third reported connections to other SDGs. Increasing awareness of the range of cross-cutting impacts will help members and the global community to take a more holistic approach to implementation of their commitments.

At this point, measuring progress with the commitments will need to be based on the reporting of each commitment. It will therefore be important to reach out to all stakeholders who have made VCs to reports on their progress, through the online repository. Understanding the impact of the overall COA to the implementation of SDG 14 would require a different type of assessment, not currently provided for in this mechanism.

### **3. Please provide any illustrative examples of inspiring and impactful Voluntary Commitments in your Community of Ocean Action**

#### **Circulate Capital (formerly Closed Loop Ocean, #OceanAction24196)**

Commitment: Circulate Capital is designed to fund waste management and recycling solutions in Southeast Asia, with a focus on investments to improve collection, sorting and recycling markets that prevent plastics from entering the environment. This mechanism aims to catalyze investments from larger, less nimble actors such as development finance institutions by demonstrating solutions and building a pipeline of projects. It expects to deploy a combination of grants and concessionary capital to build recycling and waste management infrastructure as a tool to demonstrate investment viability and maximize recycling profitability.

Update: In October, Circulate Capital announced the capitalization of the investment fund at over \$100 million USD.

#### **Norway & UNEP (#OceanAction18304)**

Commitment: The objective of the support granted to UNEP is to assess the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking

into consideration the relevant international, regional and subregional regulatory frameworks and identifying possible gaps and options for addressing them, including through regional cooperation and coordination, and to present the assessment to the UN Environment Assembly 3 in December 2017.

Update: Norway and UNEP released the report at UNEA-3 and drafted a successful resolution for the creation of the Ad-hoc Open-Ended Experts Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics to explore a global framework for action.

#### **Dell / Lonely Whale (#OceanAction14578)**

Commitment: Our strategy, based on ongoing consultation with leading researchers and advocates on ocean health, is to intercept ocean bound plastics in areas with the highest concentration of the material. The pilot program processes plastics collected from beaches, waterways and coastal areas and molds them into recyclable packaging trays.

In support of UN SDG Goal 14, Dell commits to the following:

- 1) Dell commits to increase annual use of ocean bound plastic 10x by 2025, based on 2017 baseline.
- 2) Dell commits to open source our supply chain to encourage and enable broad usage of ocean bound plastic. As a first step, we will convene in partnership with the Lonely Whale Foundation, a cross-industry working group to encourage collaboration and share best practices.

Update: Dell formalized their partnership with Lonely Whale and created NextWave, a consortium of businesses including Dell, Bureo, GM, HermanMiller, Humanscale, Interface, Trek Bicycles, and Van De Sant. The consortium anticipates that together they will divert more than 3 million pounds of plastics and nylon based fishing gear from entering the ocean within 5 years, the equivalent to keeping 66 million water bottles from washing out to sea.

#### **4. Please provide any other comments, including lessons learned within your Community of Ocean Action**

To measure success with the commitments, it will be crucial to ensure that progress reports have been provided by all VCs.

We are currently planning for several more webinars during 2019, hopefully bringing further attention to the COA and raising the momentum even further in the lead-up to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

Send to Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA ([tahtinen@un.org](mailto:tahtinen@un.org),  
[goranssono@un.org](mailto:goranssono@un.org))