

A closer look at the Voluntary Commitments for SDG 14.3

(Nairobi, 2018-25-11)

SDG 14.3: *Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels*

- 1) Out of the 1,400 VCs submitted as an outcome of the June 2017 Ocean Conference, we have received 240 to-date that address SDG 14.3
- 2) We binned the voluntary commitments into the following categories:
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
 - Monitoring
 - Risk assessment
 - Governance
 - Communication
 - Education
 - Capacity building
 - Advocacy
- 3) Of the 240 VCs we received for SDG 14.3, 150 address communication while 153 identify w/ scientific research (monitoring & risk assessment). Not surprising as this is one of the more technical SDG14 targets.
- 4) We also looked the VCs in terms of how they relate to other SDG14 targets: Only 21 of the 240 VCs tackled 14.3 directly. Most common other targets in addition to OA are those related to sustainably manage marine ecosystems (14.2), increasing scientific knowledge and capacity building (14.a), marine pollution (14.1) and the conservation of marine areas (14.5).
- 5) The main SDGs that share VCs with 14 are:
 - SDG 13 = Climate Action.
 - SDG 17 = Partnership for the Goals
- 6) Geographic scope of the VCs
 - Nearly half of the VCs are global in scope.
 - Yet, the VCs have a larger percentage in North Pacific & Arctic, and less in N Atlantic.
 - Underrepresented regions include the South Atlantic, South Pacific, and Arctic, despite known vulnerabilities to OA.
- 7) Stakeholder involvement of the VCs
 - SDG 14.3 follows general tendency of VC submissions overall, as most of the 1400 submitted VCs were done by Governments and NGOs.
 - While Academia & Scientific Community seems low for SDG 14.3, these percentages are higher than for other SDG targets.
- 8) Deliverables from the 14.3 VCs
 - Less than 20% of the submitted VCs have deliverables post 2020. Reasoning may be lack of financial / technical resources to keep projects going.

UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development from 2021-2030 is expected to help promote new VC submissions and will motivate projects to continue past 2020.

9) Survey results

Which stakeholder is involved; how many people?

We conducted a survey to ask more focused questions regarding the scope / progress of their VC. [While 23 responses may seem low, there were only 21 VCs that solely focused on OA, so it is not a big surprise that almost the same number responded to this survey.]

Important to note that nearly all VCs included scientists. We were excited to see that policy makers are involved in many VCs. This is in line with the stakeholder statistics presented on all VCs, particularly those directly focusing on OA since government and academia / scientists were the highest percentage of stakeholders involved in these VCs.

We also wanted to get a sense of how many people were involved in achieving each VC. These numbers ranged between less than 10, and over 100.

Current progress of your VC??

43% VCs say there is very good progress, while 53% report satisfactory progress

nearly half of the VCs generate solid carbonate chemistry data that could be used to report against the 14.3.1 target indicator.

How much of the funding that you need to deliver your VC as planned do you have access to?

40% respondents said they have 80-100% of the necessary funds to succeed in their project.

10) Next steps

- How can the COA work together better?
- Identify and attract new VCs / key stakeholders
- Identify upcoming meetings where actors could meet
- Other challenges / Ideas???