



Assessment of capacity development needs of the countries in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of SDG14: a regional perspective

Regular Process for Global Reporting and
Assessment of the State of the Marine
Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects
Multi-stakeholder Dialogue / Capacity-building
Partnership Event
24 -25 January 2019, New York

Content



Introduction



Recommendations coming from the assessment



Responding to
ESCAP Resolution 72/9



Ocean Accounts Partnership in Action



Assessment:
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Introduction

A healthy ocean for a sustainable Asia and the Pacific: Achieving SDG14

The importance of the ocean and their **critical role for sustainable development** is widely recognized and is an integral part of the core commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

However, the ocean, seas and **marine resources in Asia and the Pacific are increasingly threatened** by human activities and physical alterations and destruction of marine and coastal habitats

The world's top five countries accounting for **more than 50% of 'mismanaged' plastics** in the ocean are from Asia and the Pacific (China, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam). Weak laws, poor governance and ineffective fisheries management have made coastal fisheries in most of the region largely **open access and overfished**.

The prospects for the achievement of SDG 14 in the region hinge on **successful conservation and sustainability of marine and coastal ecosystems** while maintaining the economic, food security and livelihood benefits of marine resources.

ESCAP Resolution 72/9

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E/ESCAP/RES/72/9 calls for **greater cooperation, collaboration and coordination** between sub-regions and regional organizations of Asia and the Pacific and through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation for **promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans**, seas and marine resources in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 14 and requests ESCAP to **undertake an assessment of capacity development needs** of the countries in Asia and the Pacific **for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14** in collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies and international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

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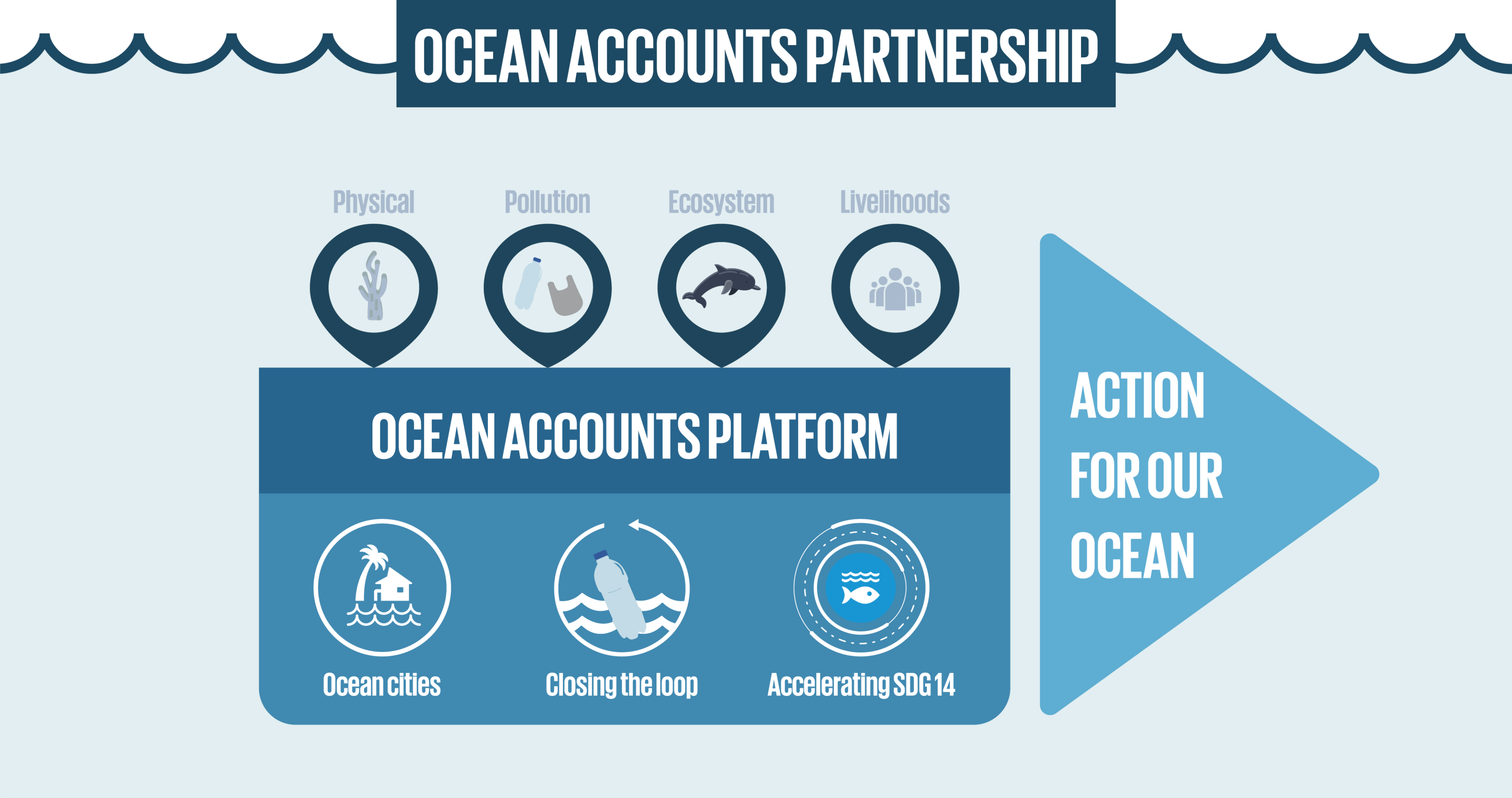
ESCAP Resolution 73/5

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E/ESCAP/RES/73/5 encourages member States **to continue to enhance their capacity in relation to the sustainable management and use of oceans** and requests ESCAP to **support current regional partnerships and develop new regional partnerships**, where appropriate, for **enhancing data and statistical capacities for Goal 14** in line with the document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia- Pacific statistical community.

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ESCAP - Ocean Accounts Partnership





Responding to ESCAP Resolution 72/9

1

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017



in-depth review of SDG 14

2



THE
**OCEAN
CONFERENCE**
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017



expert meeting/side event
Voluntary Commitment to support current regional
partnerships and develop new regional partnerships

3



survey on identifying capacity development needs
for implementing SDG 14

4



pilot case study on Indonesia to review
the country's capacity to implement SDG 14





Assessment: Findings from the Survey

Methodology



Questionnaire

**Group 1:
(30%)**

National Respondents

representatives of national governments
working in ocean policy (ministries of fisheries, environment,
marine resources, oceanographic agencies, statistical offices)

**Group 2:
(30%)**

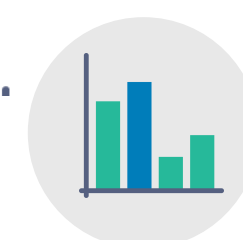
International Respondents

experts working in international organizations
(United Nations programmes and agencies, think tanks
and academia)



Interviews

from telephone and Skype interviews



Findings

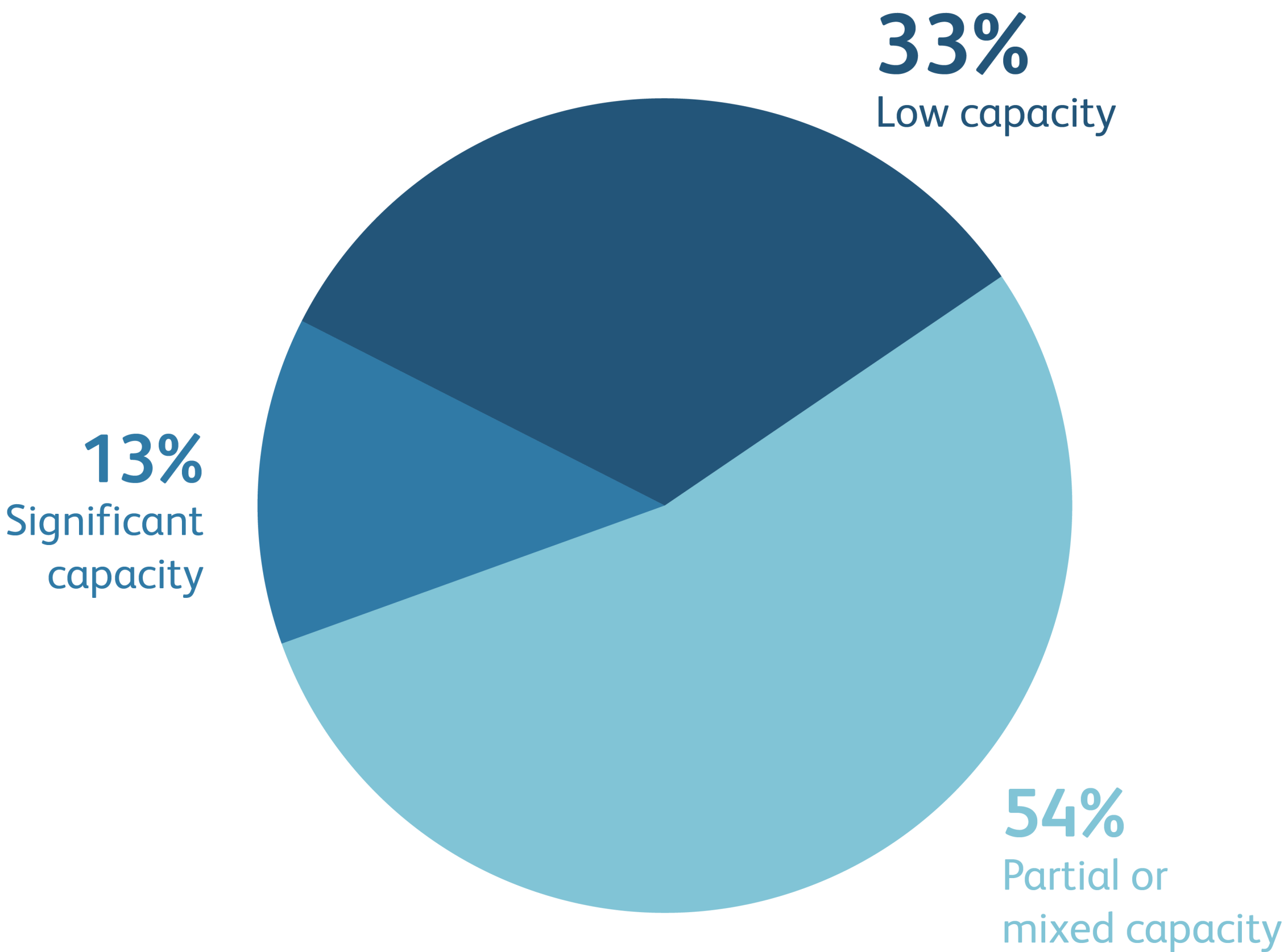


92% of respondents indicated that SDG 14 is considered a **national priority** and that policies, frameworks and mechanisms for implementation are in place

Over **70%** indicated the **existence of specific institutional mechanisms** for SDG 14 coordination or implementation



Level of capacity to achieve SDG14



We need more capacity



Obstacles for effective coordination



Ranking:

1 = most frequent
10 = least frequent

National Respondents	Ranking	International Respondents
Overlapping, unclear, non-existing allocation of responsibilities	1	Overlapping, unclear, non-existing allocation of responsibilities
Lack of technical capacities	2	Difficult implementation of central government decisions at local and regional level
Limited financial resources	3	Lack of staff and time
Lack of staff and time	4	Lack of data
Absence of common information and frame of reference for policymakers	5	Absence of common information and frame of reference for policymakers
Lack of data	6	Limited financial resources
Difficult implementation of central government decisions at local and regional level	7	Lack of technical capacities
Low priority	8	Lack of inclusion of all stakeholders
Lack of inclusion of all stakeholders	9	Low priority
Lack of coordination with research institutes/scientists	10	Lack of coordination with research institutes/scientists



Main governance challenges for ocean policy

Ranking:
1 = most challenging
10 = least challenging

National Respondents	Ranking	International Respondents
Local and regional governments' capacity to design/implement ocean policies	1	Vertical coordination between various levels of government (national, subnational, etc.)
Horizontal coordination across ministries	2	Enforcement of environmental/ sector norms
Enforcement of environmental/ sector norms	3	Local and regional governments' capacity to design/implement ocean policies
Vertical coordination between various levels of government (national, subnational, etc.)	4	Horizontal coordination across ministries
Economic regulation (tariffs, private sector participation etc.)	5	Managing geographically specific areas
Managing geographically specific areas	6	Economic regulation (tariffs, private sector participation etc.)



Critical capacity-building needs



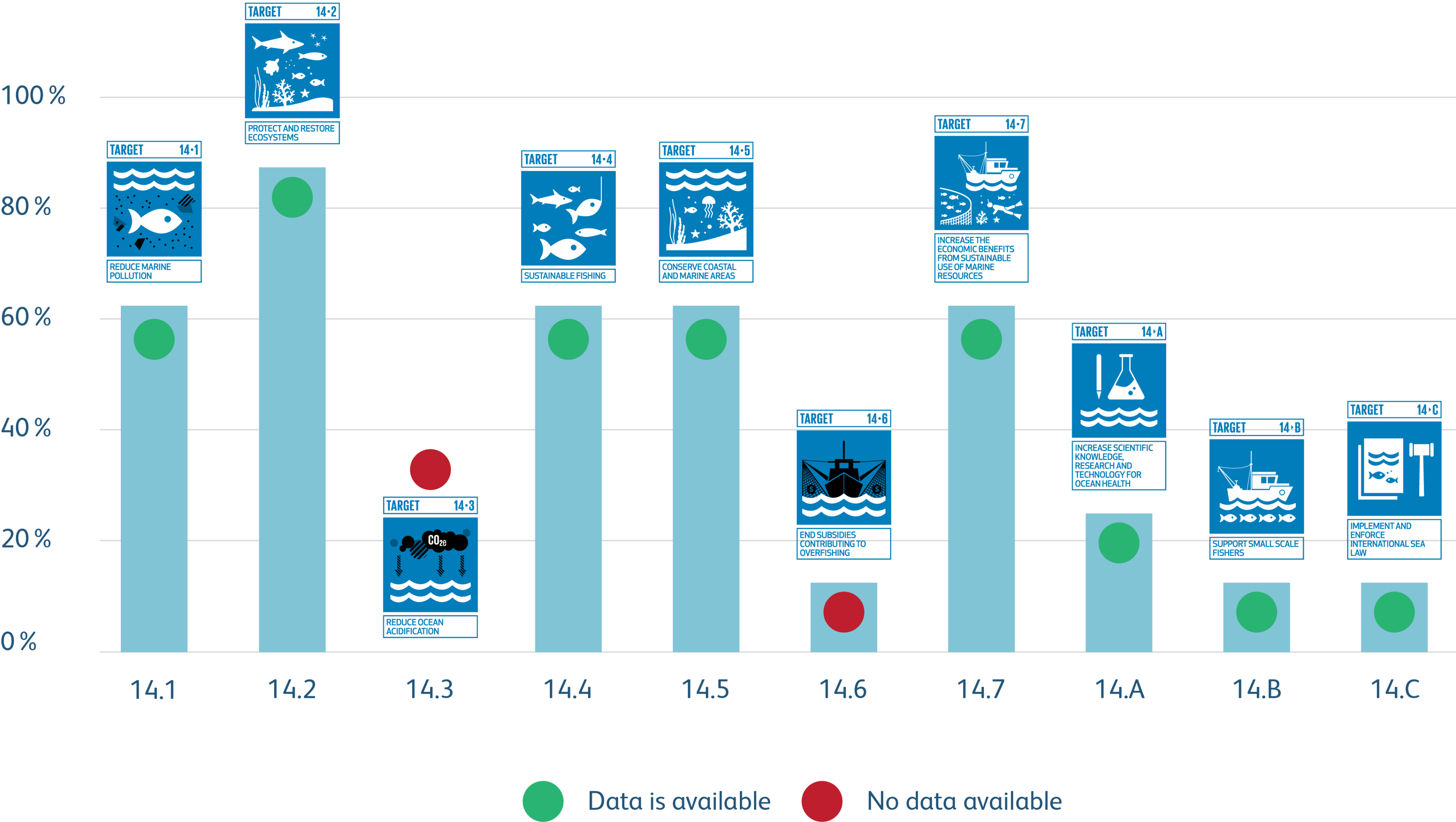
Ranking:

1 = more critical
10 = less critical

National Respondents	Ranking	International Respondents
Skilled human resources	1	International guidance and connecting to regional/international support
Legal frameworks, regulation and enforcement	2	Skilled human resources
Access to data and data management	3	Access to funding
Scientific knowledge	4	Access to data and data management
Access to funding	5	Scientific knowledge
Partnerships	6	Legal frameworks, regulation and enforcement
Technology and innovation	7	Partnerships
Stakeholder engagement, participation and inclusion	8	Stakeholder engagement, participation and inclusion
International guidance and connecting to regional/international support	9	Technology and innovation



SDG targets: priority areas and data availability



Data availability (continued)

Some key national publications and initiatives to develop new or improve existing data for SDG14 were highlighted:



Establishment of permanent station to observe ocean acidification – Sri Lanka

State of the Environment 2016 and establishment of national accounts on various environmental areas – Maldives

Atlas of Philippine Coral Reefs 2002

Pacific Blue Economy Hub



Stakeholder participation and awareness



Approximately **70%** of all respondents indicated that **stakeholders were involved in decision-making processes** in ocean policy through consultations, communities of actions, public meetings, etc.

In average, almost **60%** of the total of respondents **rated public awareness as inadequate.**



How can ESCAP support these needs

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- 1 **Peer to peer learning**
- 2 **Training on theory and field practice**
- 3 **Training on data base management**
- 4 **Technical cooperation**
- 5 **Supporting genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships**
- 6 **People empowerment through capacity**

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Recommendations

- 1 Developing and enhancing capacity
- 2 Strengthening governance and partnerships
- 3 Data and statistics
- 4 Awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement



Ocean Accounts Partnership in Action



Ocean Accounts Partnership in Action

➤ **Capacity needs assessment** (COVERED)

➤ **Regional expert workshop** 1-3 AUGUST 2018 WITH MORE THAN 80 INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL EXPERTS: SCIENCE – STATISTICS – GOVERNANCE ([HTTPS://WWW.UNESCAP.ORG/EVENTS/ASIA-AND-PACIFIC-REGIONAL-EXPERT-WORKSHOP-OCEAN-ACCOUNTS](https://www.unescap.org/events/asia-and-pacific-regional-expert-workshop-ocean-accounts))

➤ **Case studies & pilots** INCLUDING SCOPING STUDIES TO IDENTIFY NATIONAL VISION, POLICIES, REGULATION, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGMENTS, POLICY GAPS, GOOD PRACTICES, DATA PROVIDERS, USERS & STAKEHOLDERS.

➤ **Research & technical assistance** (SEE NEXT SLIDES)

➤ **Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean** 20 NOVEMBER 2018 TO TAKE STOCK OF PROGRESS MADE ON VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS, TO SHARE LESSONS LEARNED AND DISCUSS ALIGNMENT OF COMMUNITIES OF ACTION AND SDG 14 TARGETS IN LINE WITH REGIONAL PRIORITIES ([HTTPS://WWW.UNESCAP.ORG/EVENTS/ASIA-PACIFIC-DAY-OCEAN](https://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-day-ocean))



Ocean Accounts Partnership in Action - Research



Ocean Cities

Supporting sustainable urban development in island systems

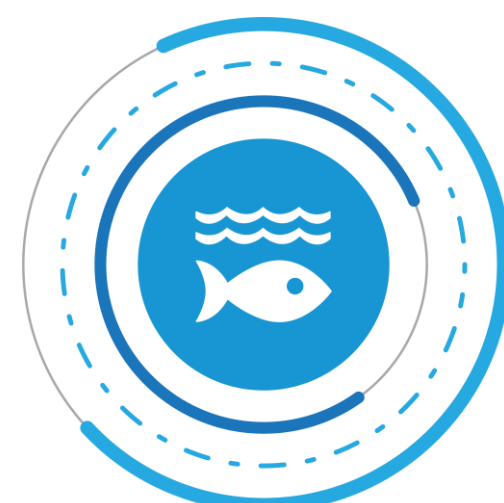
ESCAP is helping Pacific island developing States develop and apply an integrated policy approach for oceans-friendly and climate responsive urban development adapted to island systems.



Closing the Loop

Improving plastic waste management and reducing marine pollution

ESCAP is supporting cities in the region improve their urban waste management systems and reduce marine pollution by improving understanding of the intersections of the informal and formal waste sectors as part of a larger circular economy.



Accelerating SDG14

Supporting countries achieve SDG 14

ESCAP is developing a methodology to help governments in the region prioritize needs and identify entry points to accelerate implementation of the SDG 14 and its targets systems.



Ocean Accounts Partnership in Action - Technical assistance



Thank you!

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