

# UN Sustainable Development Goal Delivery in Scotland: Call for Evidence

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION | SDG NETWORK SCOTLAND



### What this survey is

This survey is one of a number of ways in which we are engaging with people across Scotland on Scotland's National Outcomes, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how best to approach achieving them.

Your views will inform development of our overall approach to implementing the National Outcomes and SDGs in Scotland as well as how we will report on this within the UK Government Voluntary National Review (VNR).

You can read more about the SDGs and VNR on the SDG Network Scotland website.

### How to respond

You can respond to this survey by Wednesday 27 February if you would like to inform development of the UK Government Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Most of this survey take the form of open text responses to prompt questions. This allows flexibility in how you respond. However we would be grateful if you could address your responses to the prompt questions as much as possible.

This survey will remain open after that point until Friday 29 March if you are not interested in or unable to contribute to the UK VNR deadline but would like to inform longer term considerations around SDG implementation in Scotland, including a potential Scottish Supplementary Review.

You can either complete the questions in this document and return it by email to [nationalperformance@gov.scot](mailto:nationalperformance@gov.scot) or [complete the online version of the survey](#). The questions are the same in both.

### Confidentiality

Responses from individuals will be treated confidentially and the data held securely. You will be asked during the survey if you consent for your response to the call to be published on <https://globalgoals.scot> once the exercise is complete.

Organisational responses providing potential content for the VNR may necessarily involve identifying specific organisations or sectors for Scotland's VNR contribution (for example, in terms of describing networks and partnerships working to realise the Goals).

## 1. Your details

Please indicate if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation:

- I am responding as an individual
- I am responding on behalf of an organisation

Your name

Esther Brooker

Your organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

Scottish Environment LINK (Marine Group)

Email address

esther@scotlink.org

Phone number

07726362727

Are you a member of the SDG Network Scotland?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate if you are happy to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland about further opportunities to participate in the SDG agenda

- I am happy to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland
- I do not want to be contacted by the SDG Network Scotland

## 2. Scotland's approach to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Through the VNR we are expected to report on the national policy and delivery infrastructure we currently have in place to progress the SDGs.

In this section we would like to seek your views on the effectiveness of this and what improvements you think need to be made.

### What are you doing?

Please tell us what actions or projects you are currently undertaking to encourage others to be involved with meeting the [SDGs](#).

These can be small or large. Local, national or international.

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- Name of the project (and a web address if available)
- The project's purpose
- The SDG Goals or targets it contributes to
- Your observations on its results, learning, or challenges

**Name of Project: Save Scottish Seas**

**Purpose:** to achieve our vision of healthy, well-managed seas, where wildlife and coastal communities flourish and ecosystems are protected, connected and thriving by ensuring the effective implementation of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

**SDG: 14**

- The Save Scottish Seas campaign ([www.savescottishseas.org](http://www.savescottishseas.org)) has been running for over 10 years and is a result of collective effort of SELINK members organisations to secure better marine conservation legislation and policy
- The main outcomes of the campaign so far have been to help secure the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and engage over 40,000 people on the measures required to implement it (marine protected areas (MPAs), marine spatial plans, etc).
- Learning from this project to date:
  - While the Scottish Government has made good progress there is still a long way to go in terms of completing the MPA network and establishing ecosystem-based Regional Marine Plans that will be required to more effectively manage activities at sea and underpin an improvement in the health of our seas.
  - Political ambition and sufficient resources are often lacking to ensure all aspects of marine conservation policy can be delivered (e.g. monitoring, compliance, cumulative impact assessment/management) and to develop policy in a timely manner (e.g. consultations on MPA proposals are currently over 4 years delayed and roll-out of regional marine planning is under-resourced).
  - MPA coverage alone is not a helpful conservation target – MPAs operate most effectively as part of an ecologically coherent network of sites and are meaningless if they do not also have legally binding management measures in place to restrict damaging activity.

- Better, more holistic, management of marine activities and industries is still needed, e.g. better regulation and modernisation of inshore fisheries so that they contribute to marine ecosystem enhancement, and better regulation and licensing of marine wildlife watching tourism
- There is growing public awareness of Scottish marine conservation issues but more efforts are needed to improve engagement and participation in decision-making processes

Promotion of engagement with the SDGs

Can you suggest ways in which we could promote engagement in the SDGs more widely across Scotland? In particular how can we ensure no one is left behind with SDG implementation?

#### In relation to SDG 14

Local promotion of marine protected areas (e.g. information boards, educational materials) and improved mechanisms for local engagement and participation in management is needed.

Local communities should be given greater opportunities to benefit from MPAs (e.g. promote domestic sustainable seafood markets, sustainable tourism)

Who are you working with?

What are the key organisations working to deliver the SDGs you are involved with and what function do they provide?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- Name of the organisation
- The organisation's function
- The Sustainable Development Goal(s) it contributes to
- Who they work with (e.g. social groups and/or partner organisations)

We are working with and reaching out to a number of organisations to enable an allied/complementary approach to ensure effective implementation of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. These include:

- Scottish Environment LINK members who have interests and expertise in marine conservation, maritime issues and planning (including UK organisations)
- Scottish Government, particularly Marine Scotland, and conservation agencies, particularly SNH and JNCC

- Academic/scientific institutions and research groups
- Local communities groups with particular interests in their surrounding marine areas

In what ways could Scotland improve its SDG delivery internationally and what would this involve (e.g. possible partnerships, policy, resources, practices)?

In terms of SDG 14:

- Greater financial and scientific resources are needed to expedite delivery of the MPA network (including management, monitoring and compliance), Regional Marine Plans and modernisation of fisheries management, including fully documented fisheries
- Reduce Scotland's footprint so that we are consuming our 'fair share' of planetary resources

### 3. How is Scotland doing in relation to each SDG?



This section asks you to focus on Scotland's performance and delivery of each of the 17 UN SDGs and their related targets.

There will be one page for each of the SDGs with the same question prompts on each.

Please draw on both your own experience and evidence you are aware of, and the evidence contained in the [discussion paper published alongside this survey](#).

You can respond to as many or as few SDG sections as you like.

You can use the index of SDGs below to jump to ones you are interested in responding on.

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[GOAL 14: Life Below Water](#)

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## GOAL 14: Life Below Water



We would encourage you to consider your response in light of the SDG targets for this indicator – see [Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources](#) – and also the initial assessment of Scotland’s performance in [the discussion paper published alongside this call for evidence](#).

Please tell us how well you think Scotland is progressing towards achieving this goal and related targets: What is your view of the evidence we have on this Goal, and what does your experience tell us about progress on this Goal?

### Goal 14

- Target 14.2 – The UK-wide Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 transpose the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and require the development of a UK marine strategy, which “must apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities within the marine strategy area.” The marine strategy is in three parts, part three describes the programme of measures required to meet the aim of achieving Good Environmental Status of our waters by 2020.  
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/msfd>.

In Scotland this is delivered inter alia through the policies of Scotland’s National Marine Plan (and in future also statutory Regional Marine Plans)  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan/>.

Target 14.4 – It would be misguided to assume that because few convictions are reported that there is effective enforcement. Reporting in 2017 the European Court of Auditors found that more effort is needed across the EU to have an effective fisheries control system in place. Visiting Scotland the auditors found that “Scotland had by far the highest proportion of vessels with more than five infringements, with 169 single operators committing more than five infringements between 2013 and 2015. Although the fine is doubled where an infringement previously sanctioned by a fine is repeated, the number of fines applied was very small. In practice, most of the action taken following infringements involved advisory letters and verbal and written warnings. These ‘soft measures’ were applied even in cases of serious infringements (e.g. catching fish after the closure of the respective fishery) and the measures did not seem to prevent recurrence. Even though the inspection efforts and coverage were higher than in other Member States, the recurrence was greater, which indicates that the sanctions are less dissuasive.” <http://publications.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/fisheries-08-2017/en/> See also the report of the House of Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-committee inquiry on the implementation and enforcement of the EU landing obligation (the discards ban). This found little evidence of the landing obligation being followed to date and an almost unanimous view that the UK was not ready for full implementation in Jan 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/hlinquiry-implementation-enforcement-landing-obligation>

- Target 14.5 – It is true that the spatial target of 10% protected areas has been exceeded in Scottish waters. However, the SDG indicator 14.5.1 of protected area spatial coverage is a far narrower indicator than provided by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Targets where Target 11 states “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”. On this measure Scotland is not yet meeting its obligations though has made considerable progress within the framework of EU, UK and Scots law and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-East Atlantic, the OSPAR Convention. The latest progress report on the Scottish Marine Protected Area Network was laid in the Scottish Parliament in Dec 2018.  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-protected-area-network-2018-report-scottish-parliament/>
- We also note the IUCN target for 30% of all habitat types to be protected from damaging activities which should drive an increase in ambition

What do you think are the significant programmes, actions, strategies, and policies currently in place to help deliver this Goal in Scotland (of any scale) and what have they achieved?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- Name of the programme, policy or action
- Partners involved in it
- SDG target(s) it contributes to
- Links with other Sustainable Development Goals that it also contributes to
- Outcomes and evidence on what is being achieved as a result

- On-going legislative processes, e.g. UK Marine Strategy, Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), EC Habitats Directive, EC Birds Directive, EC MSFD, Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
- National Marine Plan and emerging Regional Marine Plans for an ecosystem-based approach to managing activities at sea
- Coastal Communities Network (Fauna and Flora International coordinated project) – coordinating and informing local marine community group
- Local Coastal Forums
- Marine Planning Partnerships (Shetland, Clyde) – delivering Regional Marine Plans and undertaking local outreach
- DEEP (Dornoch Environment Enhancement Project) – native oyster restoration project
- Scotland’s circular economy strategy - *Making Things Last*. Main agency delivering: Zero Waste Scotland with various partners. Working with enterprises to promote and showcase more circular practices. Working on reducing food waste. Providing a material brokerage service. Will contribute to targets 14.1
- Deposit Return System (under development) will also contribute to target 14.1

What do you think are the key issues, challenges and opportunities we have in achieving this Goal and the related UN targets and what evidence is there to support your view?



Reduced or limited resources for completion of MPA network and creation of Regional Marine Plans. Lack of political will and pressure from marine industry.

Please see the answer above to question 2 in relation to issues, challenges and opportunities.

What actions or next steps do you think Scotland should take in response to the key issues, challenges and opportunities you have highlighted?

When responding, please include detail on (where possible):

- What action you think is needed
- The timeframe for the action (e.g. immediate, medium or longer term)
- What possible barriers exist to taking effective action
- What will help this action happen

- Embed the importance of this goal across Government and its agencies
- Enable greater access to funding and resources to deliver ongoing marine conservation policy priorities (e.g. MPAs)
- Introduce an Environment Act for Scotland to include clear targets and a commitment to develop policies and plans and resources to deliver on the targets.

What, if anything, should Scotland stop doing to improve delivery of this Goal? (For example, this could include specific approaches, policies, projects, funding streams, attitudes)

- Stop supporting the oil and gas sector
- Stop giving undue weight to GDP as an indicator of progress
- Stop considering MPA coverage alone as sufficient fulfilment of targets (MPAs need to be well-managed to be effective as conservation measures)
- Greater support to modernise fisheries management

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#### 4. Further examples and case studies

The links across the SDGs are often complex and our actions and policy decisions can create trade-offs and synergies across different goals.

Do you have any example to share that illustrate the links between the different SDGs?

Blue Carbon research forum (Scottish Government) – links with SDG 13, as greater protection of marine blue carbon features could contribute to emissions reduction

The UK Government VNR is likely to include a number of case studies which highlight particular activities, policies, legislation or initiatives which are significant, insightful, innovative and effective.

If you have a case study you think would be appropriate for this, please provide a brief outline below (or provide a link to an online summary if one exists).

## Consent for publication

Scotland's SDG network would like to publish responses to this exercise (excluding personal contact information you may have provided) on <https://globalgoals.scot/> upon completion.

Please indicate if you consent to publication of your response in full, in part (please specify) or not at all.

If you have any questions regarding the handling of your data or publication of responses, please contact [nationalperformance@gov.scot](mailto:nationalperformance@gov.scot)

- I consent to publication of my response IN FULL (excluding contact details)
- I consent to publication of my response IN PART (please specify below)
- I DO NOT CONSENT to publication of my response

If you would like only part of your response to be published (for example, for commercial confidentiality reasons), please specify which parts you DO and DO NOT wish to be published below.

# Thank you

Please send your completed survey, along with any attachments, to [nationalperformance@gov.scot](mailto:nationalperformance@gov.scot)

Your response will help to inform our overall approach to delivering the National Outcomes and SDGs in Scotland and our input into the UK Government VNR.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact [nationalperformance@gov.scot](mailto:nationalperformance@gov.scot)