Sida's Commitment to Life Below Water

– Saving our Oceans for a Sustainable Future

The state of our oceans is of paramount importance to ensure the health of marine and coastal biodiversity, mankind and the planet at large. The sustainable conservation and use of our oceans and marine resources is the main objective of the Global Goal for Sustainable Development 14 and remains a priority on both the international and Swedish development cooperation agenda. In 2016, Sida disbursed approximately SEK 484 million to marine-oriented projects.

WHY IS THE GOAL 14 IMPORTANT TO SIDA?

More than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal resources for employment opportunities, food security and sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, as the globe's oceans absorb about 30 per cent of human related carbon dioxide emissions and the fact that marine phytoplankton generate approximately 50 per cent of the world's oxygen, the well-being of the oceans is indispensable in fighting climate change.[1] Healthy and viable seas are also vital for the marine biodiversity and for overall sustainable development. The preservation- and sustainable use of our oceans, seas, and marine resources therefore corresponds with Sida's overall objectives to eradicate poverty, counter climate change and promote a sustainable environment.

"The oceans are of vital importance to our survival and that of the entire planet. They are a crucial source of protein for the world's poorest people. Failing to save the oceans will lead to widespread global insecurity"
– Ms. Isabella Lövin, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate.

HOW DOES LIFE BELOW WATER LINK TO THE OTHER GLOBAL GOALS?

The Global Goal 14 and its ten sub-targets are closely interrelated with the other Global goals. For example, 14.1 – to reduce marine pollution – is linked to food security (Goal 2), good health and well-being (Goal 3) and clean water and sanitation (Goal 6). Similarly, the reduction of marine acidification (14.2) through lowered level of carbon emission is intimately connected to fighting climate change (Goal 13). In turn, the restoration of our fish stocks (14.4) has clear implications for goals such as creating economic growth and employment (Goal 8), reducing poverty (Goal 1), and achieving sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12).[2] In the same way as the other Global Goals in Agenda 2030, the impact of Goal 14 and its sub-targets are greater than the sum of its parts. By being closely linked to other goals, the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans will generate mutually reinforcing gains in other areas and take us closer to achieving a more sustainable future.

1 Julia Ritz (UNDESA). The Oceans, Seas, Marine Resources and Human Well-Being Nexus. In UNDESA, UNIDO & UNEP- DTIE, 2015, Global Sustainable Development Report. Accessed at http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/global-sustainable-development-report-2015-edition.html.

2 Le Blanc, Freire, and Vierros (DESA), 2017, Mapping the linkages between oceans and other sustainable development goals: A preliminary exploration. Accessed at https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/working-paper/wp149.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.

Results

SWEDISH SUPPORT

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's (Sida) disbursements allocated to marine initiatives amounted to approximately SEK 484 million in 2016. Of this, SEK 222 million was allocated to global cooperation programmes and included core support to key partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). Through UNEP, Sida supports initiatives to curtail emissions from land-based sources, reduce maritime litter, and promote the development of sound eco-management systems. SEK 157 million was allocated to scientific research cooperation in 2016, including the funding of the operations of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as well as the promotion of expanded marine research capacity at universities and research institutes in Mozambique and Tanzania. Furthermore, Sida supports multiple projects for water provisioning, treatment and sanitation in Eastern Europe, which are partly aimed at significantly improving the water quality of the Baltic Sea. In Asia, Sida funds regional marine management and resilience initiatives. Among other things, this includes the programme 'Mangroves for the Future' that strengthens local institutions, civil society and governance management with the purpose of ensuring sustainable conservation and development of coastal ecosystems. In Africa, and in addition to the abovementioned research-related contributions, Sida sponsors for example a regional marine and coastal programme through UNEP that has been pivotal in the preparation and implementation of two major marine projects in the West Indian Ocean within the scope of the Nairobi Convention. With these actions, Sida continues to be a committed supporter in the efforts to save our oceans for a sustainable future.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. Supported by Sida for more than a decade and co-chaired by the IUCN and UNDP, MFF provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors, and countries that are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. The goal is to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal management and to building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities.

Woman planting mangrove saplings at high tide.

The **NEPAD-FAO Fisheries Programme (NFFP)** has been a collaborative partnership in regional Sub-Saharan Africa to support improved governance, reduce vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. It also promotes the adoption of an Eco-system Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) for the private-sector aqua-businesses and services. Supported by Sida since 2010, the programme has been implemented at the local, sub-regional, and regional levels, and has contributed to strengthening regional food security, governance, and institutional capacity.

Local fisherman out on the water.

Art.no.: sida62048en, urn:nbn:se:Sida-62048en Print: Edita 2017

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
Address: SE-105 25 Stockholm, Sweden. Office: Valhallavägen 199, Stockholm
Telephone: +46 (0)8-698 50 00. Telefax: +46 (0)8-20 88 64
E-mail: info@sida.se. Homepage: http://www.sida.se

Sida