

ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Driving the transition to a resilient and inclusive future: the role of the ocean.



A Scottish Universities Insights Initiative (SUII) funded Project

<https://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/UNGlobalGoals/RoleoftheOcean.aspx>

January to June 2021

The beginning of 2021 marks a crucial time for action with 2021-2030 declared as the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** and the **UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**, recognising the decline in ocean health and the need for global action. Attention is also building on the twin emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss, with focus on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 26 in Glasgow and the Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 in Kunming, along with leaving the European Union and 'building back better' in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through a programme of events, we seek to **accelerate progress towards the 'Just Transition'** for an environmentally sustainable, resilient and equitable economy and society in Scotland. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are indivisible, yet there remains a task to understand **interdependencies, synergies and trade-offs** in implementing them at national level. This includes fully recognising and acting upon the role of **SDG 14: Conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and seas** in achieving several inter-dependent SDG targets, in order to better consider the ocean in policy and decision-making. Cross-fertilisation of knowledge across academia, government and civil society will advance synergies, along with policy specialists from **'beyond the marine realm'**.

We frame our programme in line with **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)** concept to ensure that different parts of government - or society more broadly - work together to identify common goals while ensuring one area of work does not undermine that of another. Positive steps have been taken to enhance PCSD in Scotland, including improving **Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF)** which presents a national vision and approach to implementation of the SDGs.

To further progress, we bring focus to the ocean and its critical role across a breadth of policy and social, environmental and economic ambitions, and seek to develop the knowledge and capacity to accelerate SDGs implementation. Through interaction between our science and policy communities we will develop recommendations for action to promote policy coherence for the SDGs.

Focussing on the themes of **'Climate Change'** and **'Seafood'**, we will identify connections between the marine environment, maritime sectors and the breadth of ecosystem services provided by the ocean, to a wide range of SDGs and policy areas, including energy, production and consumption, natural capital, resource use and the circular economy, supply chain transparency, employment and nutritional health.

Through a programme running from January to June 2021 of two events with interim activities, we will:

- a) Develop our understanding of interdependencies between marine and cross-cutting policy themes to promote policy coherence, promoting synergies and managing trade-offs
- b) Mobilise the science and policy communities in co-developing knowledge for policy impact, including understanding data and evidence needs for innovation and measuring progress.

EVENT 1: Connecting social, economic and environmental SDGs and other policy areas through the focal themes of climate change (Day 1) and seafood (Day 2) - 27th & 28th January 2021

At Event 1, we will explore the connections between the ocean (marine ecosystems and the marine economy) and other government policy areas. We will hold 2 online (half-day) workshops on sequential days, Day 1 focussing on the theme of climate change, and Day 2 on seafood. Participants can choose to attend either or both (recognising the interlinkages between these two themes), depending on their interests and expertise.

EVENT 1 – PROGRAMME OUTLINE	
DAY 1: OCEANS AND CLIMATE 27 th January 2021, 09:30-13:30	DAY 2: SEAFOOD 28 th January 2021, 13:00-17:00
Introduction to the Project and Event 1 – Prof Dani Diz and Dr Chris Leakey	
Keynote 1: Annabel Turpie, Director, Marine Scotland – “Approach to the SDGs in Scotland and the role of marine science”	
Keynote 2: Professor Martin Visbeck, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research - “Oceans, climate and the SDGs”	Keynote 2: Dr Jake Rice, Chief Scientist Emeritus, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - “Seafood and Society – A Sustainable Future?”
Workshop Introduction - Approaching Policy Coherence in Scotland: Dr Lucy Greenhill, Howell Marine Consulting, with Lewis Ryder-Jones, Scottish International Development Alliance.	
UNDERSTANDING THE OCEAN CLIMATE NEXUS <i>(Facilitated breakout sessions)</i>	SEAFOOD & THE SDGs <i>(Facilitated breakout sessions)</i>
<p>Session 1. What are the interlinkages between ocean and climate at different scales (local, national, international)?</p> <p>Exploring topics such as mitigation, adaptation, resilience and ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Session 1. How does seafood intersect with SDG targets and relevant policy areas at different scales (local, national and international)?</p> <p>Exploring topics such as production and consumption, trade & supply chains, skills and rural economies, nutrition and implications of/for climate.</p>
<p>Session 2. What are the synergies and trade-offs in ocean and climate policy?</p> <p>Considering key and supporting policy areas, links to biodiversity and the Just Transition, implications of/for Green/Blue Recovery and EU Exit.</p>	<p>Session 2. What are the synergies and trade-offs in achieving sustainable seafood production and consumption and the SDGs?</p> <p>Considering key and supporting policy areas, links to biodiversity and the Just Transition, and implications of/for Green/Blue Recovery and EU Exit.</p>
<p>Session 3. What action is needed to address the synergies / trade-offs at the ocean-climate nexus?</p> <p>Develop ideas and actions to improve coherence and synergy and address challenges to achieving integration, identify mechanisms for progress and consider international dimensions.</p>	<p>Session 3. What action is needed to address the synergies / trade-offs in sustainable seafood production and consumption and wider SDGs?</p> <p>Develop ideas and actions to improve coherence and synergy and address challenges to achieving integration, identify mechanisms for progress and consider international dimensions.</p>

INTERIM ACTIVITIES – Feb – April 2021

A programme of online activities between Event 1 and Event 2 will facilitate ongoing dialogue on emerging topics that arise from Event 1 and support focussed action, including:

- Discussion and corroboration of draft outputs from Event 1, including by engaging with additional government officials for their views and feedback;
- Considering the relationship between the two themes addressed in Event 1 to highlight synergies and trade-offs between matters of climate and seafood;

- A deeper-dive into Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development;
- Focus sessions of particular relevance in Scottish context, e.g. offshore skills and employment in the Just Transition;
- Consider the outcomes of Event 1 in relation to the upcoming review of Scotland’s National Marine Plan (NMP) working in collaboration with colleagues at Marine Scotland.

EVENT 2 - May 2021: Implementation and capacity building: understanding data and evidence needs to develop indicators and measure progress towards a sustainable and inclusive ocean economy, in Scotland and beyond.

In Event 2 we will develop our practical understanding of the data and evidence needed to inform indicators and measure progress, enabling ongoing innovation for policy coherence and implementation of the SDGs. Principles of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development include enhancing scientific capacity, bridging the science-policy interface and strengthening international co-operation. Working towards these broad outcomes, we will:

- Reflect on outputs from Event 1 and interim activities, connect expertise in the marine science community to policy areas that can drive synergies and address trade-offs for a healthy and resilient ocean (SDG 14.2) that underpins a resilient society and sustainable economy;
- Outline the status of data and evidence to steer progress towards SDGs and other relevant global goals, examining where we can be more ambitious, identifying key knowledge gaps and opportunities to maximise synergies and tackle trade-offs for healthy marine ecosystems and societies.

Speaker contributions include:

- H. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
- Prof Colin Moffat, Chief Scientific Adviser (Marine), Scottish Government

COMMITTED PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS

- Senior representatives from across Scottish Government including Fisheries Policy Division, EU Exit Team, International Development Team, Marine Scotland Science, NatureScot and others.
- Leading academics from Scottish Universities spanning marine science disciplines connected to climate, seafood, ecosystem function, marine law and governance systems.
- Internationally recognised experts on climate, seafood production, fisheries science and ocean governance

PROGRAMME OUTPUTS

Tailored summaries of the project and recommendations will be developed for:

- The UN Decade kick-off conference in 2021
- The Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 in 2021
- Scotland’s Just Transition Commission
- The review of Scotland’s National Marine Plan (NMP) beginning in March 2021
- Scottish Policy Research Exchange and the Scottish Parliament Academic Network
- MASTS Annual Science Meeting 2021
- COP26 – role of the oceans in climate change

Led by:

Chris Leakey and Dani Diz

And:

Lucy Greenhill

Other Project Partners:

