



# Evaluation of FAO's support to Life below Water (SDG 14)

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### Why an evaluation?

At its 129th session, the FAO Programme Committee requested an evaluation of FAO's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life below Water (SDG 14 Evaluation). The SDG 14 evaluation is part of ongoing SDG evaluations and builds on their methodological approach (SDG 2, 6, 13, and 15). Considering that FAO is a direct custodian of several SDG 14 indicators and FAO's work contributes to other SDG 14 indicators, this SDG 14 evaluation will analyze various areas of FAO's work that contribute directly or indirectly to SDG 14 through interlinkages with other SDGs.

### What is the focus?

The overall objective of the SDG 14 evaluation is to assess FAO's contribution to SDG 14 and how SDG 14 indicators are mainstreamed into FAO's ongoing programmes and activities. It will also recommend improvements to optimally support Members in achieving SDG 14. The evaluation will focus on FAO SDG 14 related work from June 2016 to June 2021. In doing so, it will assess FAO's capacity to operate transformational change to meet the SDG 14 goals under the 2030 Agenda. This evaluation will also assess the organization's contribution to the methodological conceptualization, testing, and roll-out of indicators under SDG14 for which it is custodian agency and will evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of FAO's partnerships to enhance impact.

The evaluation will answer the following questions:

- i) Is FAO able to ensure that its work remains relevant and fit for purpose to contribute significantly to SDG 14 targets?
- ii) Is FAO making an effective contribution in facilitating, monitoring, and reporting SDG 14 indicators; and in supporting the achievement of the SDG14 targets in line with Agenda 2030?

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## CONTACTS

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## CALENDAR

### Preparatory phase:

*June 2021 – March 2022*

- Scoping interviews
- Portfolio analysis
- Concept note
- Webinar
- Stakeholder workshop
- Terms of reference

### Main phase:

*April – December 2022*

- Field visits
- Data analysis
- Stakeholders workshop
- Drafting of the report

### Dissemination of the results:

*January – April 2023*

- Presentation of evaluation to Programme Committee
- Production of communication materials and dissemination of the report

iii) Is FAO engaging in effective partnerships to ensure coherent implementation strategies focusing on the synergies and addressing the trade-offs in SDG 14?

### How will it be conducted and who is involved?

The evaluation will be led by the FAO Office of Evaluation with a team of external independent experts, covering various areas of FAO's work including: fishery and aquaculture, partnerships, gender and social inclusion, and coastal management. Internal FAO stakeholders will support this evaluation by providing comments on key deliverables. The evaluation is being carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will limit the capacity of this evaluation to carry out face-to-face meetings and international travel, and is pushing the FAO Office of Evaluation to set in place innovative ways of consultation, such as remote stakeholder workshops and webinars to present the underlying logic of the evaluation and its process. Missions at the regional and national level will be organized virtually or with the support of national consultants to meet with main FAO and non-FAO stakeholders, collect data, including for country case studies, and validate findings.

A number of FAO's partnerships, activities and projects relevant to SDG 14 will be reviewed to analyze how they contribute to SDG 14. This assessment will be done both on normative and operative outputs, at the country, regional and global level.

### Who are the users of the evaluation?

The intended users of this evaluation are FAO Members, FAO senior management, FAO technical units and decentralized offices that are directly involved in the implementation of SDG 14 related projects. FAO's partners working on life below water issues will also benefit from the results of this evaluation.

Lessons learned from the evaluation will be widely shared through different communication channels.

All FAO evaluations and management responses are public documents and can be found at:

[www.fao.org/evaluation](http://www.fao.org/evaluation)

