

SDG 14 Life Below Water

Speaker: David C. Smith

Career/Experiment:

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Introduction of the speaker

- David was an author of the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2019. He is a member of the Science and Policy Advisory Committee of the Interamerican Institute for Global Change Research and the Caribbean Chair of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- He works on environmental management, disaster risk and climate change, focusing on Small Island Developing States.
- He helped to establish the Jamaican Protected Area system, was President of the Caribbean Conservation Association and a Regional Councillor for IUCN, the World Conservation Union.
- As the Assistant Resident Representative in the UNDP multi-country office in Jamaica he led the climate change, environmental management and disaster risk management folios for the multi-country office in Jamaica.

The University of the West Indies

- Campuses in 4 countries, plus one online.
- Serves 14 countries, 50,000 students
- ISD focuses on science-policy interface in:
 - Climate & energy
 - Cities, security and safety
 - Environment & Disaster management

Lecture overview

- Brief Description: Summary of targets & indicators and links to other SDGs
- Current State of implementation, progresses, and an example of good practice where youth are active
- Key issues & challenges related to the achievement of this Goal
- Suggested action areas for the youth to engage and contribute

Q1A: What is SDG14 and why does it matter?

- Life Underwater strongly influences progress in:
 - Poverty

- Hunger
- Decent work and economic growth (60 million fishers)
- Sustainable cities
- Climate change
- Life underwater is influenced by:
 - Water
 - Energy: climate change
 - Cities and communities: pollution
 - Consumption and production: waste
 - Climate change: acidification
- related to SDG1+2, SDG8 decent work, SDG11 cities around the sea, SDG13 climate action

Q1B: What are the targets and indicators of SDG14?

- Target 14.1 Reduce marine pollution
- Target 14.2 Sustainable management of ecosystems
- Target 14.3 Reduce ocean acidification
- Target 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- Target 14.5 Conserve coastal and marine areas (10%)
- Target 14.6 End subsidies contributing to overfishing #public_sea
- Target 14.7 Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources
 - SIDS: small island developing states
 - Including sustainable management of tourism
- Target 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health
- Target 14.b Support small scale fishers
 - Equity for all fishers
- Target 14.c Implement and enforce international sea law
 - UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea)

Q2: How much progress have we made since 2015?

- Coral reefs have lost 50% since 1870 while 25% of ocean species live in coral reefs. Caused by:
 - Higher ocean temperature
 - Coastal developments
 - Overfishing
- 1/3 of fish stocks are being fished unsustainably.

- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SNSD) shows the progress of SDG14. There's no countries reach the goal of managing the ocean sustainable.
- The gray countries in map are those which either do not have a coast they're landlocked or don't have enough information to figure out if they are doing well or not.

Q3: What are the key challenges?

- Tragedy of the commons is the main challenge we are facing.
 - Bad economics
 - ◆ If it has great value I should also be helping to maintain that value, so that we maintain that value for a long period of time, but in economics we tend not to value goods that we don't have to pay for. Hence, economics will be the challenge of SDG 14.
 - Lack of regulations
 - ◆ If nobody owns the common resources hen nobody takes care of them and it often means that everybody uses them with no cost and so everyone is going and taking out but nobody's putting back
 - Capacity for enforcement and monitoring especially in developing countries
 - Equity
 - Waste & waste disposal
- By trans-boundary efforts of sharing knowledge, we can improve the use of resources.

Q4: Any example in implementing SDG14? Any example for youth to contribute to SDG14?

- Sargassum
 - A kind of seaweed, has spread to the eastern Caribbean due to the pollution in the ocean, which effect the economics of tourism.
 - Sargassum blooms may be related to higher ocean temperatures and fertilizer and soil inputs from southern America and Africa.
 - The youths in Caribbean are taking action to deal with this problem.
- *Algas Organics* was set up by a young St Lucian to address the problem of the vast deposits of rotting seaweed washing up on Caribbean and meso-American beaches. The seaweed is collected and turned into fertilizer. ¹
- The Blue Economy ²
 - an organic vegan disruptor in the food Industry, proving fun, healthy...

¹ <https://www.algasorganics.com/>

² <https://bransoncentre.co/entrepreneur-directory/>

- provides green and cost effective plant based solutions
- dynamic and systematic cleanup and restoration
- A biotechnology major finding solutions to problems using his background in science.
- recreational fishing facility
- on organic seaweed designed around Belize seaweed formed behind the barrier reef.

Q5: What actions can youth take?

- Get involved in this issue
 - Join advocacy & civil society groups like SDSN Youth, CYEN
- Learn how people are affected
- Lobby government and elected representatives
- Apply science and business to solve the problem