



Dear RBF Participant,

We look forward to welcoming you at the 6th Responsible Business Forum next week. With regard to your participation in the discussion panel on **SDG 14: Life Below Water**, we would like to share some information on the Goal and logistics:



### SCHEDULING

Date : Thursday, 23 November 2017

Time : 11:25 – 12:55

Venue : Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, 10 Bayfront Avenue, Singapore 018956

Room : Hibiscus Jr. 3713 & 3613

### FORMAT (90 Minutes)

1. **Introduction and Panel Discussion:** The facilitator and discussion panel will briefly introduce themselves, their organisations and provide a short overview of SDG 14 to frame the discussion. Speakers will then share their perspectives and examples of action on this goal. The facilitator will then moderate a discussion with questions for the panellists. (55 minutes)
2. **Audience Roundtable Discussion:** Delegates to share, discuss and agree on priority recommendations for scaling up the kind of initiatives presented during the panel, to measuring their impacts and making these part of an integrated approach to the SDGs. (20 minutes)
3. **Feedback from Roundtables:** Each table will assign a discussion leader to stand and share their recommendations with the room. (10 minutes)

Panel speaker are encouraged to join in the audience discussion.

Facilitators will remain as the point of contact for the recommendations.

4. **Wrap Up:** The facilitator will wrap up with a quick summary of the main discussion points and recommendations. (5 minutes)

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **Scaling Up:** How might a wider collaboration help scale up these initiatives?
- **Measurement:** How can we measure collective impact?
- **Interconnectivity:** How can an integrated approach accelerate progress?

### RESOURCES

Our knowledge partner, **PwC**, has provided key facts and information about the Goal attached to this briefing note for reference.





## SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

CONSERVE AND  
SUSTAINABLY  
USE THE  
OCEANS, SEAS  
AND MARINE  
RESOURCES FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT.

### WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?

We rely heavily on our oceans: the market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at \$3 trillion per year or about 5 per cent of global GDP. More than 3 billion people depend on the oceans for protein (it's the world's largest source).

But we invest little in maintaining them:

- 40% of the oceans are suffering ill effects from human activities, including pollution, depleted fisheries, and loss of coastal habitats. Currently, 80-90% of marine pollution comes from land-based activities: everything from fertilizer and pesticide run-off from farms and lawns, to untreated sewage and improperly disposed of garbage.
- Plastic makes up the majority of marine debris. Plastic is particularly problematic because it is not biodegradable but instead gradually breaks up into smaller pieces that are mistaken for food by birds, fish and other marine life, with potentially fatal consequences.
- Oceans are becoming more acidic. Carbon dioxide dissolves readily in seawater to become a marine pollutant of global proportions that could have significant consequences on marine organisms, potentially damaging fishing, tourism and other human activities connected to the seas and having serious impacts on food security.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR BUSINESS?

There is currently not enough sustainable seafood to meet demand. Large scale business growth of sustainable operations depends on investment, innovation and connectivity throughout the seafood value chain.

### WHERE IS THIS A TOP CHALLENGE?

Australia (target 14.3), Canada (target 14.3), France (target 14.4), Germany (target 14.3 and 14.4), Japan (target 14.3), Netherlands (target 14.3 and 14.4), Russia (target 14.3), Saudi Arabia (target 14.3), Spain (target 14.3), Switzerland (target 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3), UK (target 14.3 and 14.4), US (target 14.3).



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## **POSSIBLE RELEVANT BUSINESS ACTIONS TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS GOAL**

- Improve waste and wastewater management, fuel efficiency, and remediate polluted lands and spills to reduce marine pollution.
- Understand the use of plastic in own operations and the supply chain; adopt a circular model for plastic production and/or use of recyclable packaging.
- Contribute to the mitigation of ocean acidification through reducing GHG emissions.
- Understand the dependence on marine ecosystem services and marine biodiversity and eliminate harmful practices in own operations and the supply chain.
- Balance priorities between economic growth and conservation of ocean ecosystem; obtain or ensure suppliers have sustainable aquaculture certifications.