

Impact of COVID-19 on the SDG14 targets

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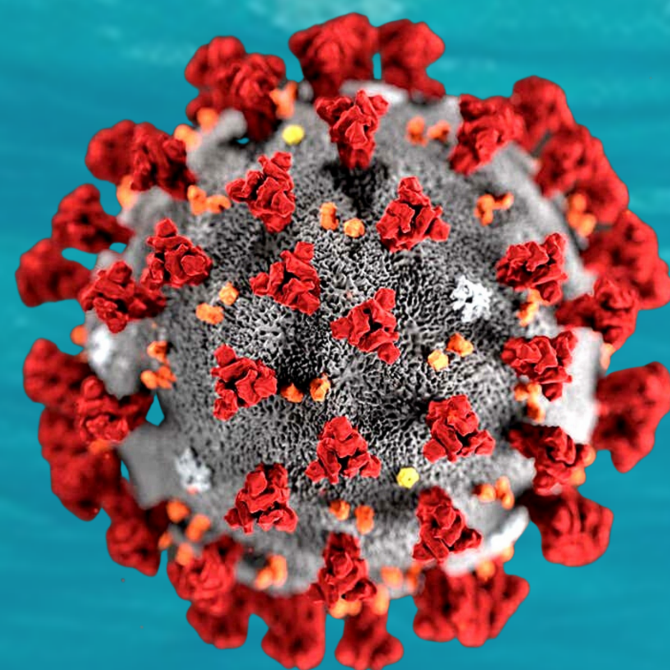


SCAN ME

WHAT IS SDG14?

IN 2015, the 193 member states of the UN adopted 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) in order to improve human life and environment conditions. [1]

SDG14 is a goal concentrated on "Life below water". It involves 10 targets centered around marine habitats and ocean health.



COVID-19

In November 2019 the Sars-cov-2 virus was discovered in the chinese Hubei province and Wuhan city. This virus is a novel respiratory virus and revealed itself to be highly transmissible and affecting people around the entire world. [2]

Governments tried to protect people with protective measures such as confinement and masks. Some of these measures affected marine ecosystems.



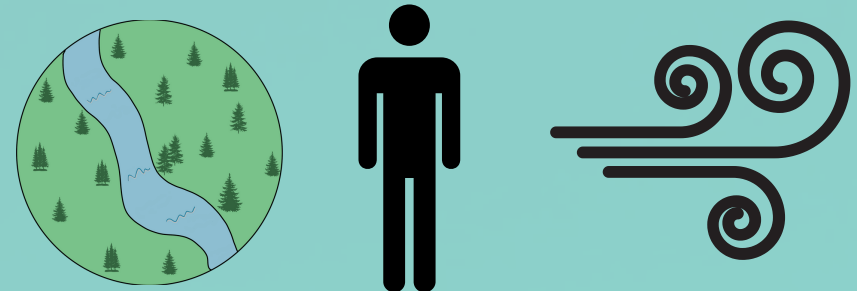
MARINE POLLUTION

MASKS

NEW CONTRIBUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

If only 1% of masks are not correctly thrown away it represents:
10 million/month going into the nature [3]

Ends up in the oceans due to



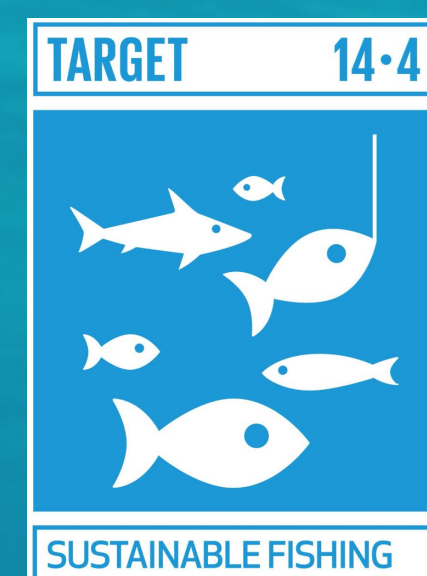
Will release in oceans



= **173 000 microfibers/day** [4]

Masks are responsible of entanglement and ingestion of its components that cause:

- + **death, deformities, oxidative stress**
- **reproduction, feeding activity, growth** [3]



FISHERIES

LOCKDOWNS:

SHORT AND LONG TERM EFFECTS

Small-scale fisheries in developing countries were hit extra hard during the pandemic and had to **stop their activity** [5]



HOWEVER

- human activities



Tourism & Fishing

+ marine biodiversity

High fish density
Recovery coral reefs

[6], [7]

SHORT TERM



TOURISM AND SIDS

SIDS: SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

SIDS rely heavily on ecotourism to sustain their economy which resulted in a significant GDP drop in the Maldives due to Covid-19 Lockdowns and restrictions. [8]

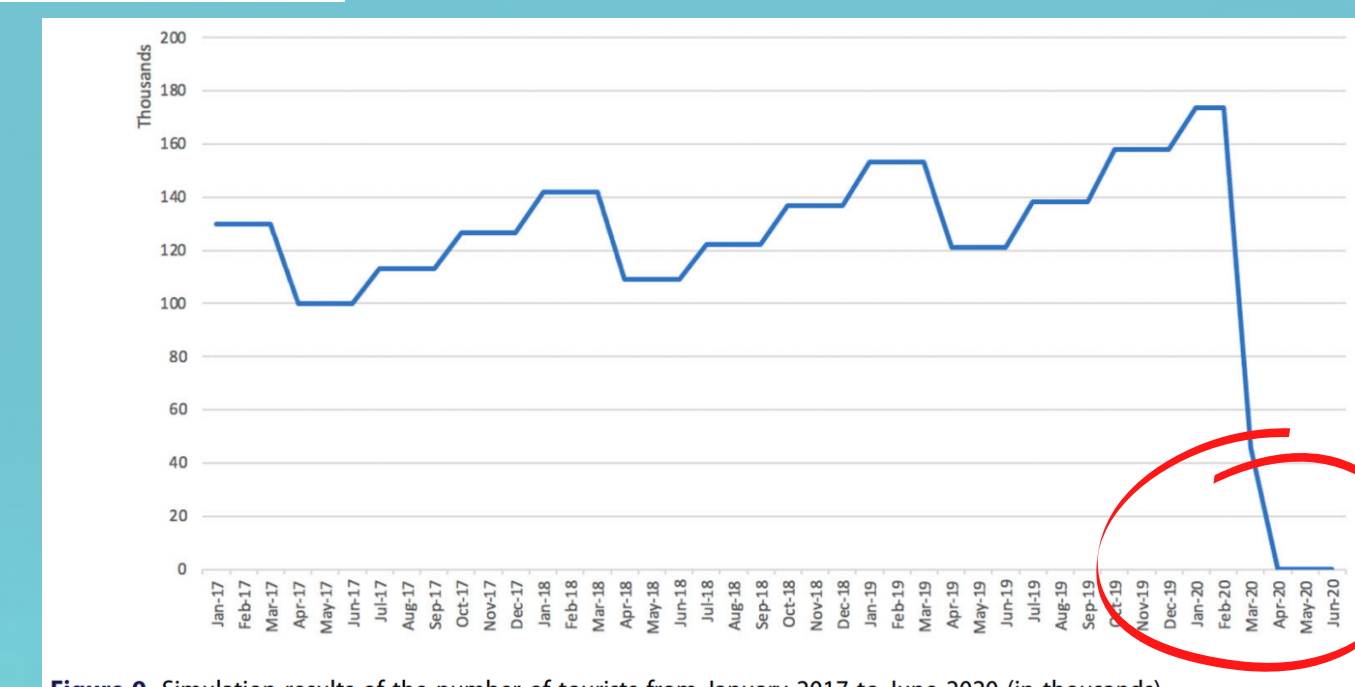


Figure 9. Simulation results of the number of tourists from January 2017 to June 2020 (in thousands).

figure 1: Tourism in the Maldives [8]

- reduced GDP in SIDS

less money = less funding for marine sustainability [8]

+ Recovery of fishstocks

No tourists = less disturbance on fishes [7]

Tourism went down to zero due to lockdown

Though... Reduced tourism also brought positive side effects

THE COVID-19 HIGHLIGHTS HUMAN REPERCUSSIONS ON OCEANS AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

References:

- [1] United Nations, n.d.
 - [2] Ciotti et al. 2020
 - [3] Silva et al. 2021
 - [4] Mghili et al. 2021
 - [5] Bennet et al. 2020
 - [6] China et al.
 - [7] Lecchini et al.
 - [8] Gu et al. 2021
- See article for full reference list