

*Climate change is limiting our ability to achieve a future we want*

Gerald G. Singh, Nathalie Hilmi, Joey Bernhardt, Andres M. Cisneros Montemayor, Madeline Cashion, Yoshitaka Ota, Sevil Acar, Jason M. Brown, Richard Cottrell, Salpie Djoundourian, Pedro C. González -Espinosa, Vicky Lam, Nadine Marshall, Barbara Neumann, Nicolas Pascal, Gabriel Reygondeau, Joacim Rocklöv, Alain Safa, Laura R. Virto, William Cheung

Our inability to curb the impacts of climate change are making it harder for us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – a set of internationally agreed on goals intended to outline what “the future we want” looks like. While we found that climate change will impact the environment – something that is well known and anticipated – we also found that climate change impacts are likely to inhibit our ability to reduce poverty, end hunger, improve health, reduce gender inequality, ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promote peace and establish effective institutions. We both reviewed the latest scientific literature and asked a wide range of experts to identify consequences from climate change for the various Sustainable Development Goals. We focused this study around oceans, because coastal regions are home to many people and oceans face a wide variety of climate risks, including some that do not directly affect land. We first determined how climate change is affecting oceans, then we linked ocean change to human well-being and the Sustainable Development Goals. We found that there is a variety of ways that climate change is affecting oceans, directly and indirectly such as through increasing runoff rates and land-based pollution. Though our results found overwhelmingly negative consequences from climate change on society’s ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we found that the least affected goals were (1) changing global consumption and production patterns and (2) developing affordable clean energy systems. These two goals are also important as ways to mitigate climate change and help achieve the other Sustainable Development Goals. We suggest that these two goals can be prioritized by governments as ways to act against climate change and towards sustainable development in the face of climate change.



*Climate change and Sustainable Development Goals*

Plain language summary from article: Singh, GG, Hilmi, N, Bernhardt, J, et al. Climate impacts on the ocean are making the Sustainable Development Goals a moving target travelling away from us. *People Nat.* 2019; 1: 317– 330. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.26>