

# From global to local: translating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into action (and how natural capital ideas can help)



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# What I'll cover

1. Introducing the SDGs
2. How is world doing?
3. How is UK doing?
4. Role of UK Marine Strategy
5. Role of natural capital in delivering SDGs



# 1. Introducing the SDGs





# Key themes

- *Universality*: No one left behind
- *Equality*: Common responsibility for delivery
- *Interconnectivity*: No SDG exists in isolation
- *Comprehensivity (sp?!)*  
Addresses all issues and areas

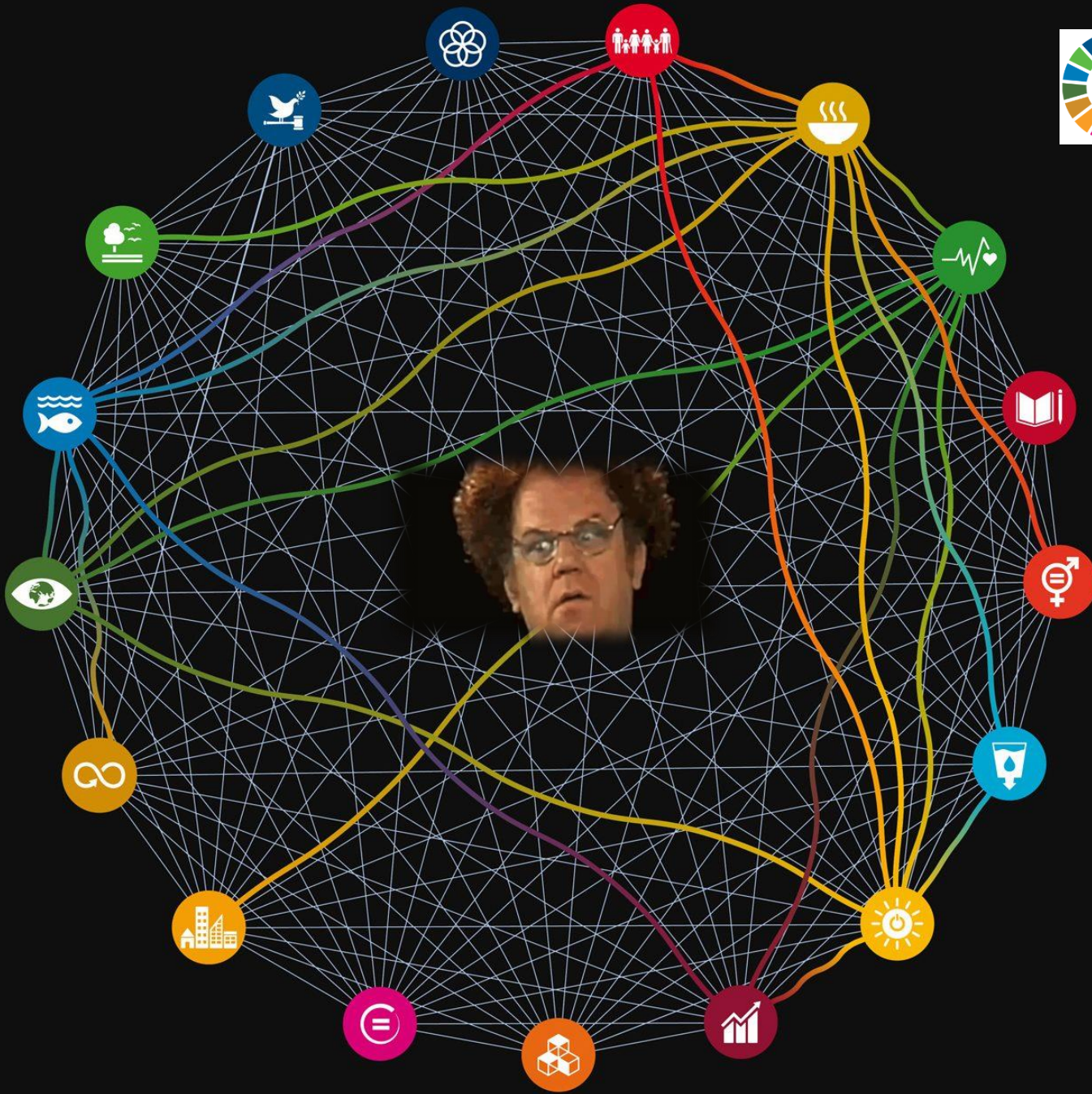






# Everything is linked!



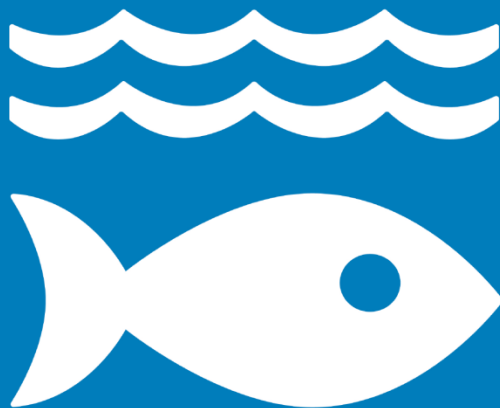




# SDG14: Oceans



## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



### SDG 14 TARGETS:

**14.1** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds

**14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts

**14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

**14.4:** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices

**14.5:** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas

**14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

**14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources



## 2. How is world doing on SDG14?

- Continued deterioration of coastal waters
- Third fish stocks overfished (vs 10% in 1970s)
- 13.2% MPA coverage in EEZs, 0.25% in high seas.

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**2017 session**

28 July 2016-27 July 2017

Agenda items 5, 6 and 18 (a)

**High-level segment**

**High-level political forum on sustainable development,  
convened under the auspices of the Economic and  
Social Council**

**Economic and environmental questions:  
Sustainable development**

**Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/1, the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations system, has the honour to submit the report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The report provides a global overview of the current situation of the Goals, on the basis of the latest available data for indicators in the global indicator framework.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The report was submitted on 10 May 2017 because of new data updates from a few international organizations.

\* Second reissue for technical reasons (8 June 2017).



# 3. How is UK doing?



## Measuring up

How the UK is performing on the  
UN Sustainable Development Goals

[ukssd.co.uk/measuringup](http://ukssd.co.uk/measuringup)



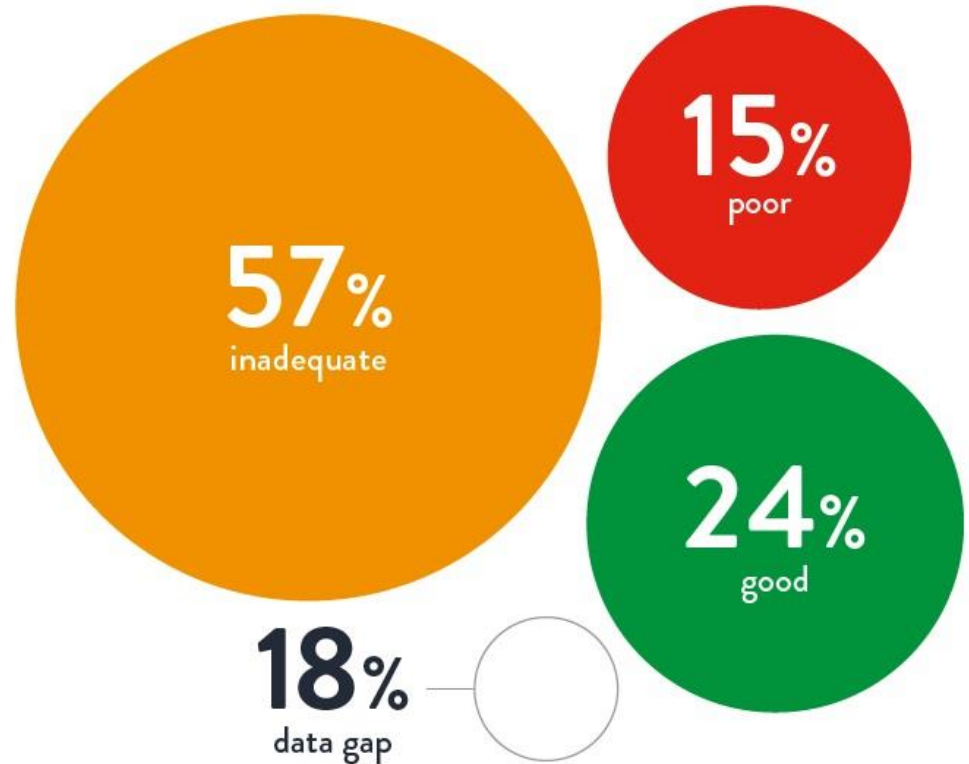
# Across all SDGs:



## Measuring up

How the UK is performing on the  
UN Sustainable Development Goals

[ukssd.co.uk/measuringup](https://ukssd.co.uk/measuringup)





# Across SDG14:



SDG14 target	Deadline	UKSSD rating
14.1 (pollution)	2025	
14.2 (ecosystem-based mgmt)	2020	
14.3 (ocean acidification)	?	
14.4 (sustainable fisheries)	2020	
14.5 (MPAs)	2020	
14.6 (fisheries subsidies)	2020	
14.7 (benefits to SIDs and LDCs)	2030	

To note:

- Ratings broad and vary even within target (e.g. plastics = red, water quality = green)
- Ratings at U.K. scale not at devolved level
- SDG metrics largely inadequate to measure success
- Ratings = current state, not future likelihood of meeting target

# Implementation challenges



Lack of metrics?

Lack of ambition?

Lack of resources?

(~~B\*!^it~~) Lack of certainty?

Lack of joined up thinking?

Lack of accountability?

**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Home / Goal

<b>14.1.1</b> Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density <b>Exploring data sources</b>	<b>14.2.1</b> Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches <b>Reported online</b>	<b>14.3.1</b> Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations <b>Exploring data sources</b>	<b>14.4.1</b> Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels <b>Reported online</b>
<b>14.5.1</b> Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas <b>Reported online</b>	<b>14.6.1</b> Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing <b>Statistics in progress</b>	<b>14.7.1</b> Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries <b>Exploring data sources</b>	<b>14.a.1</b> Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology <b>Exploring data sources</b>
<b>14.b.1</b> Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries <b>Statistics in progress</b>	<b>14.c.1</b> Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the		

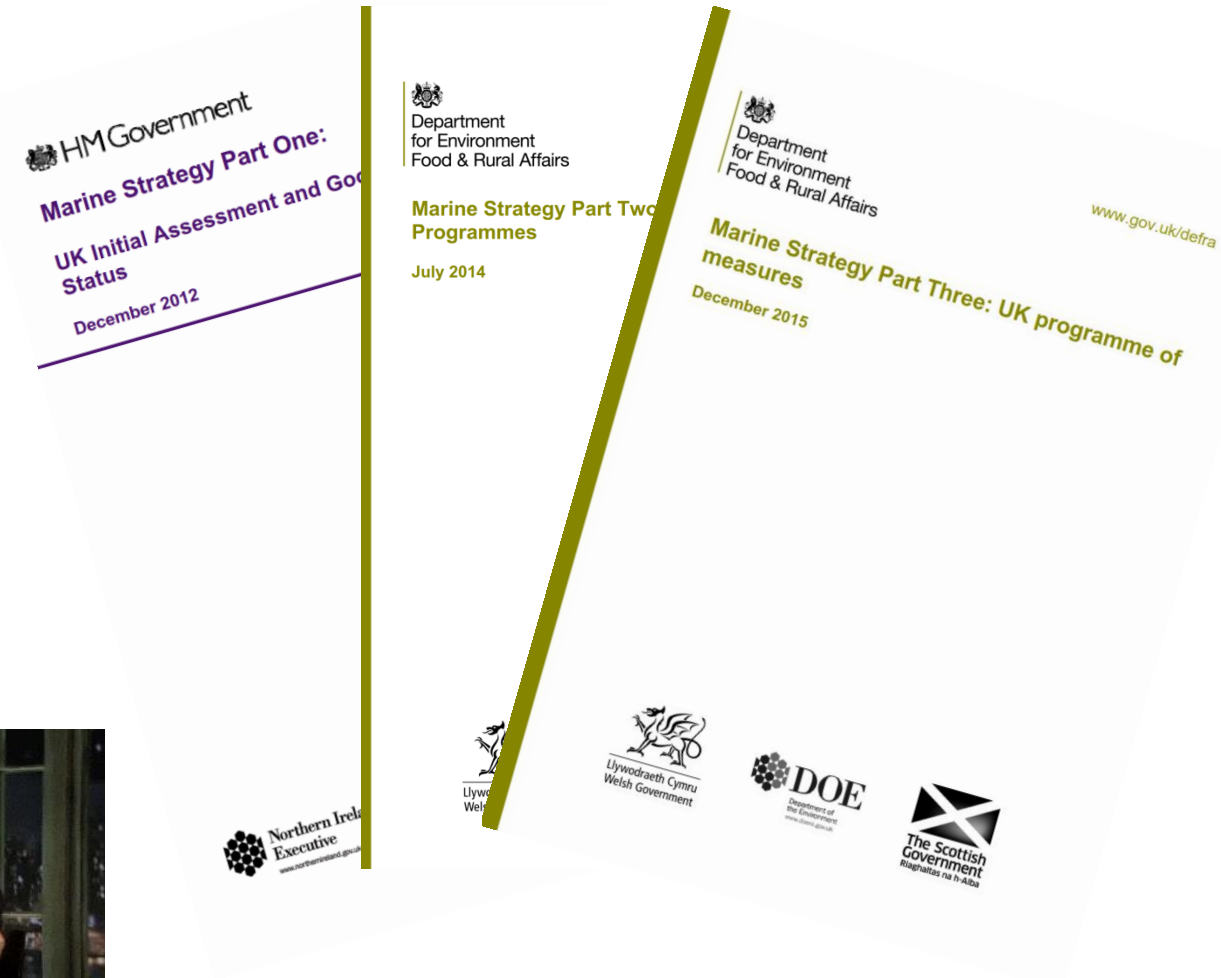
uk.nithub.io/14-3-1

Office for National Statistics

# 4. Role of Marine Strategy



- Common UK framework with devolved implementation
- Lots of targets and metrics
- Integrating framework for other policies







D1

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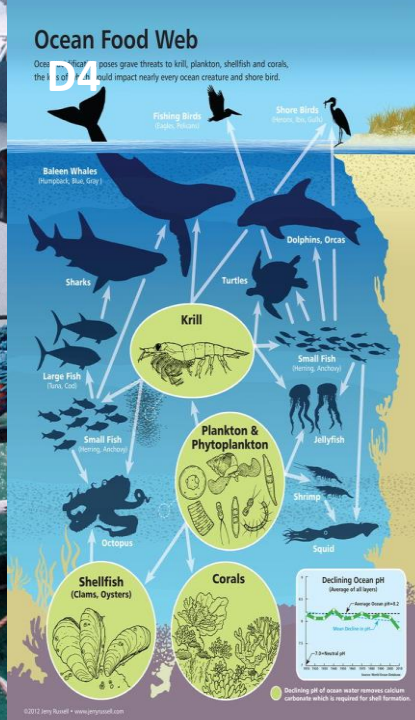
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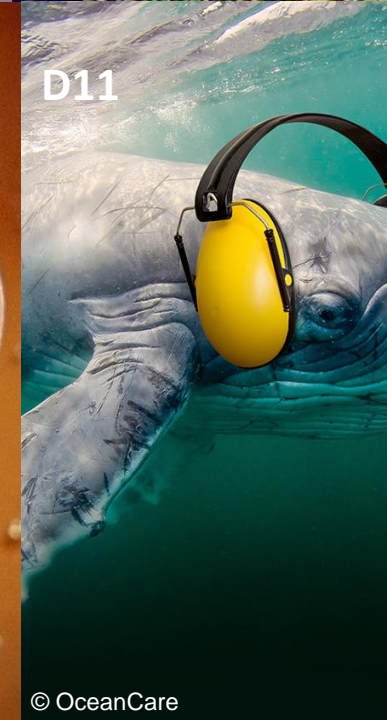
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# Marine Strategy: Links to SDG14



## Marine Strategy Regulation 2010

## Sustainable Development Goal/Agenda 2030

Clause 5 (1): The Secretary of State must develop a marine strategy for the marine strategy area in order to:

(a) **protect and preserve the marine environment**, prevent its deterioration or, where practicable, **restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected**; and

(b) **prevent and reduce inputs into the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution**, so as to ensure they do not give rise to any significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.

Clause 5 (2) **The marine strategy must apply an ecosystem-based approach** to the management of human activities within the marine strategy area.

(4) For the purpose of this regulation, an “ecosystem-based approach” means an approach which—

- (a) ensures that the collective pressure of human activities within the marine strategy area is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status; and
- (b) does not compromise the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes.

Target 14.2: “**By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems** to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by **strengthening their resilience**, and **take action for their restoration** in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans”

Target 14.1: “**By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds**, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.”

Target 14.c: “**Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources** by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”.”

## 5. How can natural capital ideas help?

1. **Monitor progress:** natural capital flows as measures of SDG implementation (“SDG accounts<sup>1</sup>”?)
2. **Highlight flows between SDGs**, e.g. freshwater, climate, food systems...
3. **Promotion of nature-based solutions** (reinforces link between SDG14 and social capital)
4. **Economic case for restoration** (e.g. via impact assessments, delivery of Marine Strategy)
5. **Catalyse business engagement** (e.g. Natural Capital Protocol)
6. **Sustainable financing models** (e.g. for MPAs)

<sup>1</sup>. [http://www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/cms/publicaties/pbl-2018-natural-capital-accounting-for-the-sdgs-3010\\_0.pdf](http://www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/cms/publicaties/pbl-2018-natural-capital-accounting-for-the-sdgs-3010_0.pdf)



# WWF 'UK Seas' work



- Sustainable finance of MPAs (as part of North Devon Marine Pioneer)

## Key areas of research completed / under way:

Natural capital assessment to identify MPA assets, trends, threats, risks and opportunities (*Plymouth University*)

Assessment of current spend on marine environment and additional funds required to achieve good MPA management (*Eftec*)

Scoping of potential MPA financing mechanisms (*Vivid Economics / Environmental Finance Ltd*)

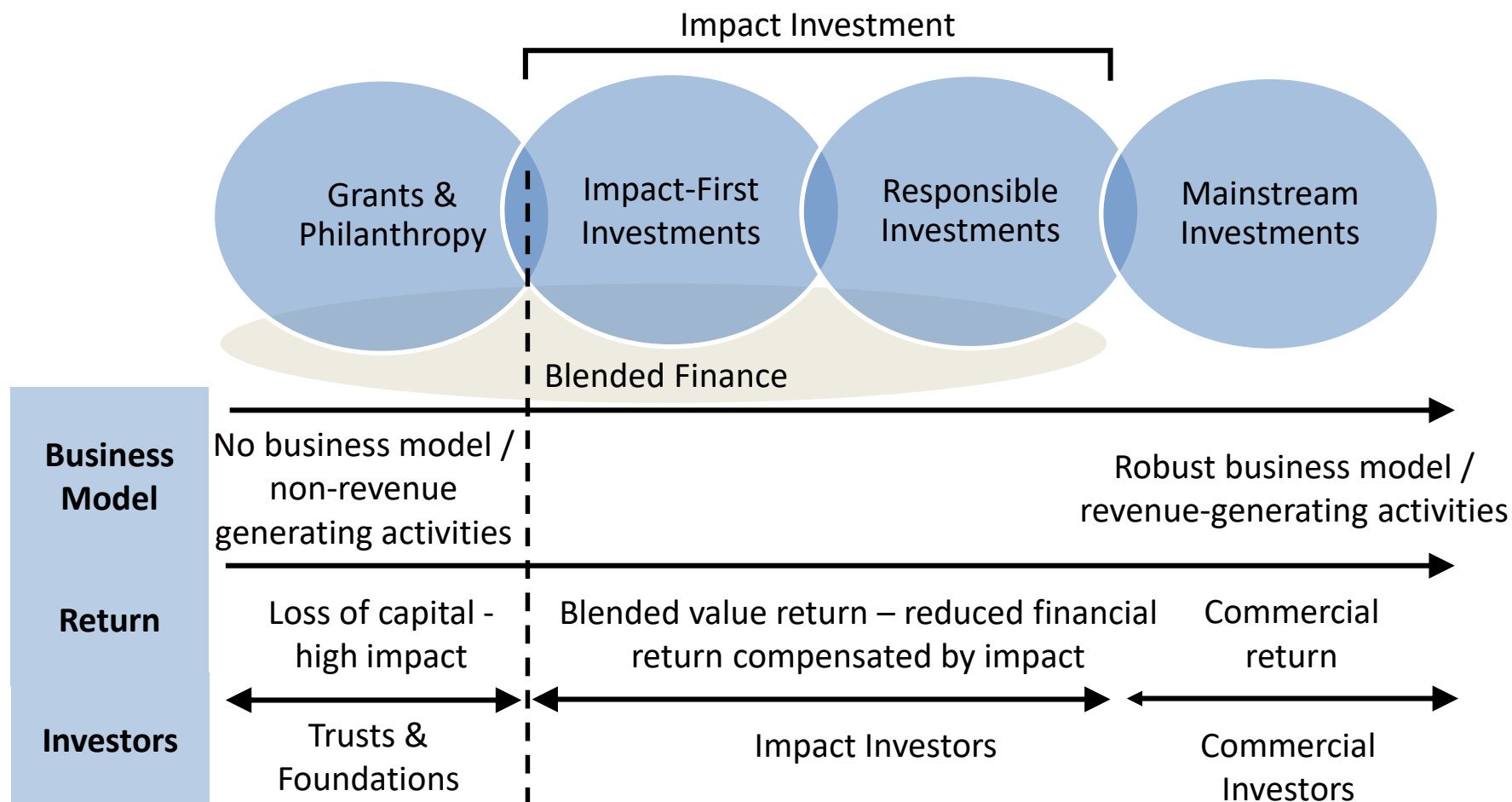
- Detailed planning of pilot (Sept 2018 - June 2019)
- Implementation of pilot (July 2019 onwards)

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Working together to safeguard  
Marine Protected Areas

# Towards blended finance?





"IN EVERY OUTTHRUST HEADLAND, IN EVERY  
CURVING BEACH, IN EVERY GRAIN OF SAND  
THERE IS THE STORY OF THE EARTH"

RACHEL CARSON

**IS THIS ENOUGH?**





# Conclusions



- SDGs are a global frame for collective action and a new way of thinking (in theory)
- They emphasise the natural world (SDG14,15) as a basis for social and economic well-being
- Natural capital can play a role in this relationship in various ways
- SDG targets and metrics are too broad!
- Marine Strategy can provide UK focus/detail – watch this space...



**Thank you!**

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