CLIMATE AND LIFE BELOW WATER

Oceans regulate Earth's climate and **are impacted by** climate change.

The ocean is one of the drivers of the climate system. Climate change is affecting costal and marine life.

Climate changes include sea level rise, increasing temperature and acidity, decreasing oxygenation, as well as changes to oceanic chemistry and ocean currents.

Other man-made factors, such as unsustainable fishing practices and marine pollution, are worsening this process. This leads to the degradation of entire ecosystems, like algal- and coral reefs, mangrove forests, salt marshes, seagrass beds and others.

However, the ocean and coastal zones provide multiple powerful opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, such as through offshore renewable energy, emission reductions of marine vessels, sustainable fishing practices, restoration of ecosystems and establishment of protected areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Barrier Reef has lost 50% of its corals within the last few decades.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

CLIMATE SCIENCE LITERACY

IN SUPPORT OF THE **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Photo: SergeUWPhoto/Shutterstock.com