

GOAL 14: Life Below Water -Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

THE FACTS:The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea. Throughout history, oceans and seas have been vital conduits for trade and transportation.

THE FIGURES:

- Oceans cover three quarters of the Earth's surface, contain 97 per cent of the Earth's water, and represent 99 per cent of the living space on the planet by volume
- Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods

- Oceans absorb about 30 per cent of carbon dioxide produced by humans, buffering the impacts of global warming
- As much as 40 per cent of the world oceans are heavily affected by human activities, including pollution, depleted fisheries, and loss of coastal habitats

In realization of the devastating effects of conflicts arising from mismanagement of natural resources, WANEP through its West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) trains relevant stakeholders and peacebuilders from across the region on natural resource management. WANEP reiterates and affirms that only a careful management of this essential global resource can lead to sustainable future.