

## Global Researcher Attitudes to Societal Impact: SDG14: LIFE BELOW WATER

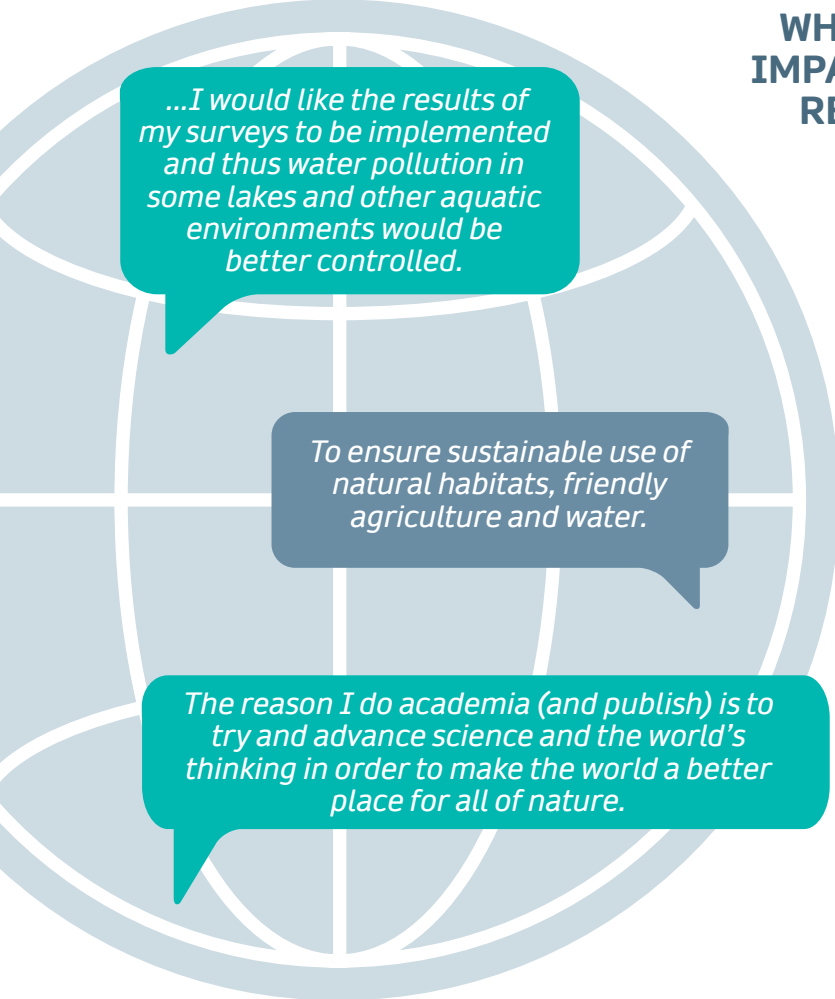


These findings are part of a **GLOBAL SURVEY** of more than **9,000** researchers. Nearly **400** researchers identified SDG14 as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to their research.

Researchers who identified **LIFE BELOW WATER** as relevant to their research most often said that **CLIMATE ACTION (58%)** and **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION (56%)** were related to their work as well.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIETAL IMPACT TO RESEARCHERS

**74%** of researchers who identify SDG14 as related to their research describe **societal impact** as either **extremely or very important**.



#### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF IMPACT DO YOU HOPE THAT YOUR MOST RECENT PUBLICATION WILL HAVE?



### THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH FUNDING

The majority of researchers believe that the funding of research should be more strongly linked to demonstrable societal impact.

#### STRONGLY AGREE

34%

30%

#### STRONGLY DISAGREE

16%

10% 11%

While societal impact might not always be direct or immediately apparent, there should be some tangible link. There are too many existential problems in the world for money to be spent on funding research that doesn't benefit the greater world.

I consider it as the goal of each study.

It is the correct use of funded money.

WHILE SOME DISAGREE →

Pure research cannot be linked directly to societal impact, even though results can be open access.

I think the notion of "demonstrable societal impact" is very vague and very difficult to define in a fair and objective manner. Tying funding to such a notion is dangerous.

### COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

**45%** of researchers say their choice of journal was influenced 'a great deal' or 'a lot' by the intended societal impact of their research.

#### A GREAT DEAL

19%

26%

30%

#### NOT APPLICABLE

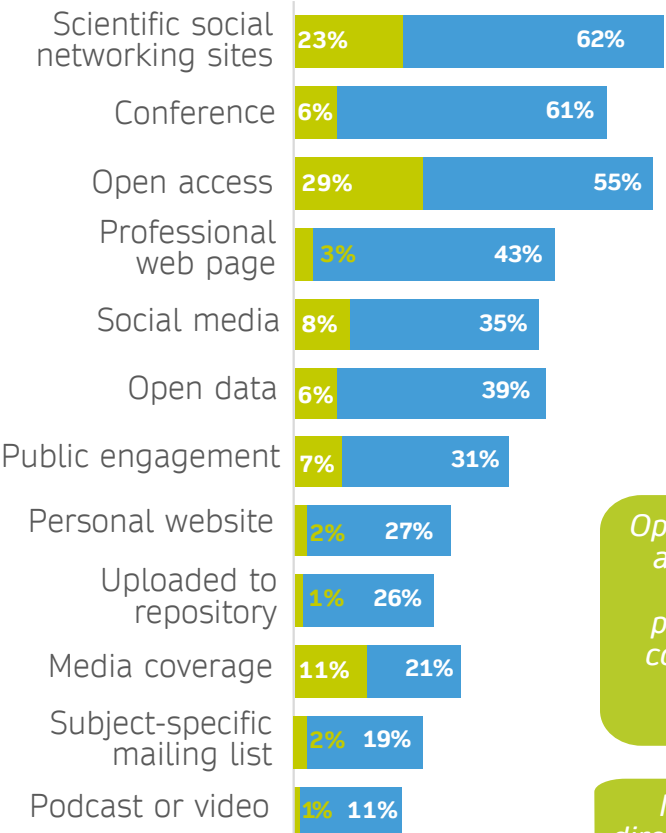
12%

9 %

3%



**Scientific social networking sites** are the most popular way SDG14 researchers increase their societal impact.



■ Which have you done?

■ Which one has the greatest effect?

But more researchers consider **open access to have the greatest impact**.



Open access publishing allows articles to reach a much wider audience, in these days of Google searches.

Open access (OA) in itself is reaching one and all with an access to the Internet. The subject specialists, academics, public administrators and the student community can dip in to this OA ocean. To get all they want to use however, whenever and wherever.



Media coverage provides the information directly to the general public and policy makers.

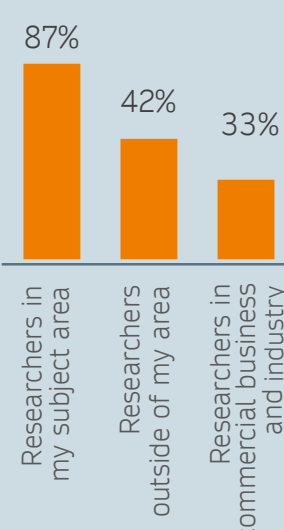
### MEASURING ACADEMIC VS. SOCIETAL IMPACT

An overwhelming majority of researchers track the societal impact of their research to some extent, but there is limited tracking of impact outside of academic research.

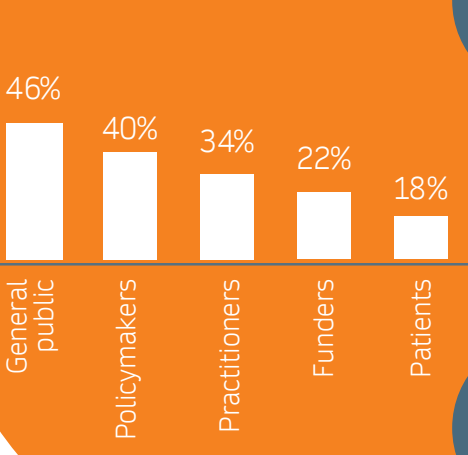
Q

Which of the following audiences were you trying to reach with your most recent publication?

#### ACADEMIC SPHERE



#### SOCIETAL SPHERE



Q

Which **one** method do you think is the best for tracking the societal impact of your research?

**CITATIONS FROM OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**  
36%

**DOWNLOADS OF YOUR RESEARCH PAPERS**  
15%

**CITATIONS/ REFERENCES IN POLICY DOCUMENTS**  
15%

**MENTIONS/ ENQUIRIES BY PEERS AND OTHERS**  
9%

What are the **biggest roadblocks** stopping researchers from measuring the societal impact of their work?



TIME



TOOLS



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

To learn more about our new strategic partnership to accelerate progress on global societal challenges through open research, visit:

[springernature.com/SDGimpact](https://springernature.com/SDGimpact)

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