



Explore interdependencies

ZMT dedicates its training and research to the study and better understanding of coastal ecosystems in the tropics. These include mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass meadows, but also rivers, estuaries, coastal waters and upwelling systems. ZMT scientists analyse the natural processes of these habitats. They explore the ecosystems' interdependencies with the hinterland and the open ocean. The structure and functionality of tropical coastal ecosystems, resource use and resilience against human intervention and natural changes are at the centre of the studies.

Capacity development

Important objectives of ZMT are the development and exchange of knowledge and capacity. The Bremen-based institute provides training for students and PhD candidates from all over the world. ZMT scientists teach at the universities of Bremen and the surrounding region, contributing significantly to international study courses, such as the master programme ISATEC (International Studies in Aquatic Tropical Ecology), which is offered in cooperation with the University of Bremen. ZMT supports the development and expansion of expertise



and structures in the tropics to allow for a sustainable management of coastal zones. In its partner countries, the institute organises international summer schools and offers courses and practical training. ZMT's certified Centre for Scientific Diving provides training for scientists to become scientific divers pursuant to the standards of the German Employers' Liability Insurance Association.

Cooperation and consultation

ZMT scientists conduct research in close cooperation with stakeholders and central actors from science, politics, economy, NGOs and the civil society – both at national and international level – in order to support a stronger integration of sustainable development and protection of tropical coastal ecosystems in society. In this context, ZMT's Office for Knowledge Exchange (OKE) serves as a hub to generate research networks between these different stakeholders. At the same time, the OKE is both an institutional focal point for national and international research, educational and governmental institutions for the exchange of expert knowledge.

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Seagrass monitoring: Chunxia Jiang, Hainan University • Mangroves: M. Zimmer, ZMT • Lab photo: T. Vierus, ZMT • Cover photo: Roger Spranz, ZMT



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for Tropical Marine Research

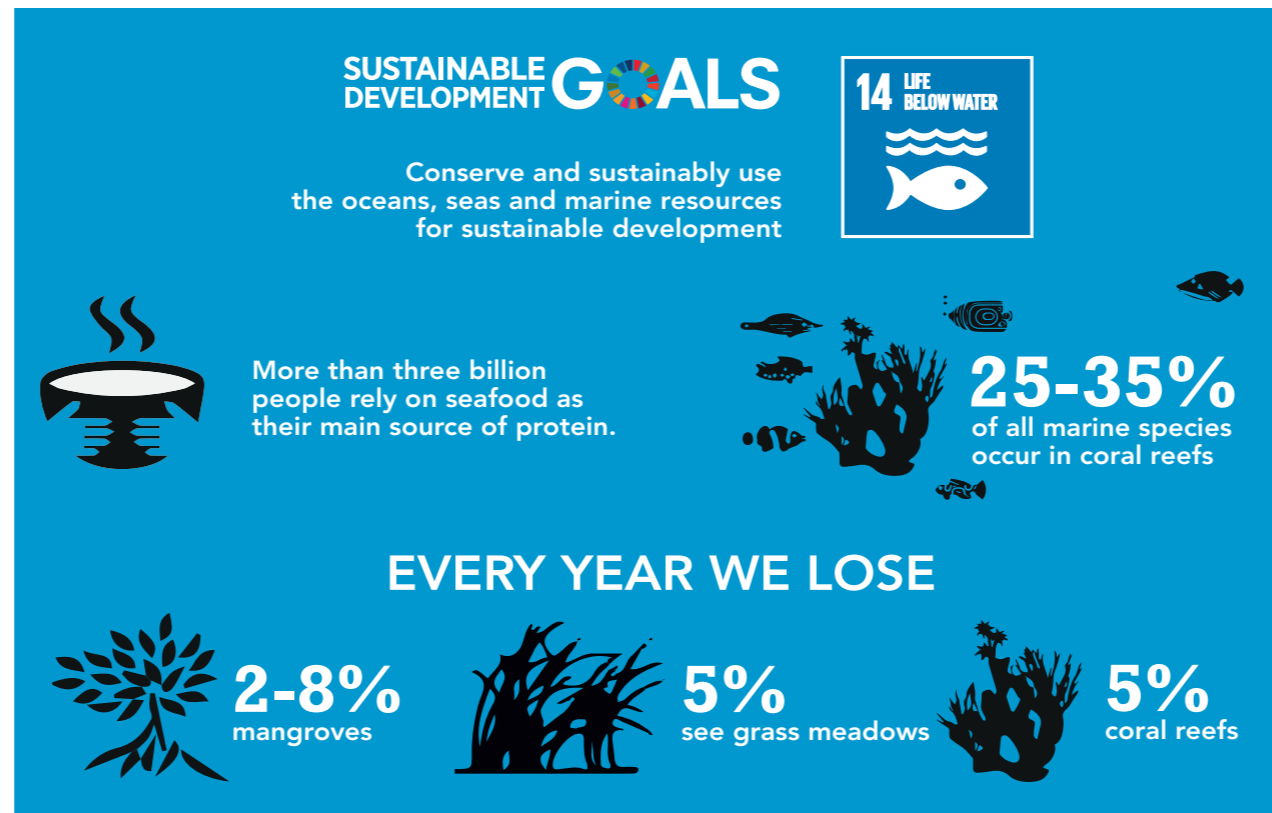
Because global challenges
need science beyond borders

ZMT 
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Sources: UN SDG Goal OHI 2016, WWF 2016, Gaskin-Reyes 2016: 118 u. Reaka-Kudla 2005: 259 / Miththapala 2008: 12 / Waycott et al 2009: 12378, 12380

Our world is getting more and more complex and faces major ecological, social and economic challenges. Increasing urbanisation, unsparing use of natural resources and global climate change have dramatic consequences for our seas and oceans.

These effects are particularly severe in regions with rapidly increasing economic development and high population growth, as in many countries of the tropics.

Ecosystems situated near densely populated coasts of the tropical belt are particularly affected by strong global, regional and local environmental changes. Tropical coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, coral

reefs or seagrass meadows are among the most productive and diverse habitats of our planet. They are an essential source of food and income for billions of people and central to economy and tourism in many tropical countries.

With its work the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) provides a scientific basis for the protection and sustainable use of these tropical coastal ecosystems.

In addition to research, the focus lies on capacity development and consultation services – always in close cooperation with international and national partners.



Facts & Figures

1991: ZMT is founded

2009: ZMT becomes a member of the Leibniz Association

Scientific research in more than 30 countries around the globe, including South East Asia, South America, Africa and Oceania

More than 200 employees, students, guest scientists and researchers and more than 800 alumni worldwide.

Departments: Biogeochemistry and Geology, Ecology, Social Sciences, Theoretical Ecology and Modelling, Research Infrastructure

18 scientific working groups

ZMT Academy for the training of doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers

Facilities: Chemistry and biology laboratories, marine experimental facility, thin section and SEM microscopy lab, workshops, research stations in the tropics, MEDIA and IT unit, administration, Centre for Scientific Diving

The Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen is the only scientific institute in Germany that solely investigates tropical and sub-tropical coastal ecosystems and their importance for nature and people.

ZMT understands its mission as a great responsibility to provide excellent research and to act in a credible manner.

This is closely linked to responsibility, transparency, respect, reliability and communication at eye level, which are the values that determine the culture of our institute.