

**FAO's input to the Secretary-General's background note to the Preparatory Meeting of the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**INTRODUCTION**

**FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) as a platform to assist countries in the achievement of SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs**

FAO believes that more than ever before, achieving the full potential of the oceans and wetlands requires an integrated approach to restore their productive capacity and ecosystem services.

Blue Growth constitutes a holistic approach, which seeks to strengthen interactions with existing policies linked in particular to the implementation of:

- i) Sustainable development frameworks and ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture as well as the integrated management of oceans and coastal systems; through these frameworks the livelihoods of coastal communities are supported with aquaculture growing in importance as a source of livelihoods for many coastal (i4(e)-3( )63(f)10(ra)-3(m)7(e)-3(w)3(orks)3( )63(t)-2(he)-3( )63(l)7(i)-2(v)10(e)-3.0 G 1 345.31

employment and decent work promoting social and territorial cohesion.

Countries that transform their marine sectors using a Blue Growth approach can potentially reach not just sustainable development goal (SDG) 14 for oceans but contributes to meeting the 3 pillars of sustainable development and to help meet SDGs 2 (End hunger), SDG 8 (Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all), SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), and SDG 17 (Means of implementation).

The holistic Blue Growth approach which takes into consideration the many aspects of managing fisheries and aquaculture as well as marine and coastal areas provides an integrated framework for meeting many of the SDG 14 targets. Of particular note are those targets directly related to building resilience for healthy and productive oceans (Target 14.2) and those addressing fisheries management including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (14.4), conserving coastal and marine areas (14.5), managing fisheries subsidies (14.6) as well as supporting Small Island developing States and least developed countries in the sustainable use of marine resources (14.7) and access to marine resources and markets for small-scale artisanal fishers (14.b).

Many fisheries approaches are now being considered within the context of the CBD's 'other effective area-based measures' (OECMs) concept, an area-based conservation approach that gained full

act not only as resource users, but also to play an active role in protecting and safeguarding these natural resources for the benefit of future generations. To ensure no one is left behind, the Blue Communities Platform within the Blue Growth Initiative is focused on communities, especially small



the process for compiling available information on the impact of microplastics ingestion in human and ecosystem health. Based on the conclusions, FAO will see how to raise awareness about the importance to reduce marine pollution of the environment and protect human health.

- The need for capacity development and training in the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and for reduction of land based impacts call for relevant partnerships at national and regional levels in the form of training that takes into consideration the multi-sectoral complexities that this type of intervention requires



**Tools:**

- Tools to increase accessibility of environment layers and information on environmental (habitats), fishery/ aquaculture (habitats and resources).
- Collated presentation of a global report on the status of environments (habitats), fisheries/ aquaculture (habitats and resources).
- FAO is about to finalise a legal guide on “*Legislating for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries A Guide on how to align national fisheries legislation to the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in th*”

**Processes:**

- Further support enhancement (for quantity and quality) CCRF responses to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) questionnaire, to overcome the lack of management tracking to determine progress and management needs.
- Process for addressing the different knowledge gaps (research) to ensure sound advice is available for management, in relation to critical fishery resources, habitats and critical natural processes.
- In many social-geographic contexts, women use aquatic biodiversity to make significant contributions along the value chain, including leveraging their local knowledge about biodiversity, which is often different than men’s.

**Coordination:**

- Balancing sustainable use and biodiversity conservation, in areas of sustainable use and recovery of threatened species.
- Lack of relevant market involvement of companies/stakeholders, especially from developing Countries in conservation and resource management responsibility. There is a need for



agencies. In recent years we have seen a growth in the calls from national and international fora to better integrate these objectives, given their shared interest in and need for sustainability.

- Increased consideration of the impacts of harvesting activities on biodiversity over time has resulted in greater inclusion of concepts of biodiversity in fisheries management. In addition, the adoption of more broadly focused, science-based governance approaches have evolved and expanded the concept of natural resource management to include more integrated operational paradigms<sup>1</sup> that recognize biodiversity as an asset for nBT/F5 11.52 Tf1.0476 0 0 1 5 nBT/F4 11.52 Tf5cETQq04(i)-2(o2(a)-3(n).



- Partnerships with organizations dealing with ocean acidification need to be established and reinforced to measure aci





learnt in attempts to achieve SDG 14.4.

**Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.4 with other relevant SDGs)**

SDG 1 (End poverty), SDG 2 (food security), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (adaptation to climate change), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

**Development of partnerships (Possible partnership(s) that can be developed to address gaps (in particular capacity gaps) to achieve the relevant SDG 14)**

- Partnership with other UN Agencies, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations with complementary and synergic roles working in the marine ecosystems.
- Partnerships with a

**Target 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information**

**FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.5 (divided by major areas of work)**

- 1) Marine spatial planning for enhanced fisheries, aquaculture sustainability and biodiversity conservation.
- 2) OECM's that FAO is supporting their development and when considered as a marine protected area (MPA) they can accelerate reaching the 10% target and improve management of these areas
- 3) Increase capacity for identification of marine species biodiversity: FishFinder, marine and freshwater species identification information.
- 4) Understand distribution and status of critical marine ecosystems: vulnerable marine ecosystems database.
- 5) Facilitating understanding of tenure issues in marine spatial planning for small scale fisheries (SSF) by incorporating these issues in guidelines that assist management.
- 6) Supporting and facilitating uptake and application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT Guidelines).
- 7) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.5.
- 8) OECM present new opportunities to rebuild areas and resources and when considered as MPAs they can accelerate reaching the target and contribute to effective management of these areas.

**Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.5 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)**

***Information:***

- Data on economic and social issues and values related to MPA establishment required - both positive and negative in the short and long-term. Costs and how these impact local communities/ stakeholders.
- Information on ecosystem services and non-use values required for MPAs. Also required, better knowledge on the impact of MPAs under different conditions (impact on fisheries, tenure, food security and livelihoods as well as biodiversity).
- Lack of understanding on the impact of

outcomes for (small- scale) fishing communities, including:

- *The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries* (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-y4470e.pdf>) and
- *Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture* (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1750e/i1750e.pdf>);
- *The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines) (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e.pdf>);
- *The Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (the VOGT) (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/O16/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>).

***Processes:***



- With regard to FAQ VME-Database, possible partnerships opportunities in the near future include: UNEP-Grid Arendal, the CBD and its supporting GOBI project.
- Possibility of working closer with small scale fisheries representatives and their organizations, such as the IPC Fisheries Working Group, with which FAQ has a partnership agreement.
- Partnerships with civil society organisations and research/academia to improve organizational capacities

**Target 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 and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation**

**FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG**

- Analysis and



**Target 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.**

**FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.7 (divided by major areas of work)**

The main fisheries based activity is recorded across (for greater detail on various projects, please find appended sheet):

- 1) Policy and governance support programmes;
- 2) Coastal fisheries assessment and census programmes;
- 3) Sustainable aquaculture support programmes;
- 4) Protected area management programmes;
- 5) Large Marine Ecosystem and ABNJ Assessment and Census programmes;
- 6) Threatened species provisions (e.g. implementation of CITES listings);
- 7) Biosecurity and introduced species programmes;
- 8) Integrated land and ocean management programmes;
- 9) Climate change adaptation and resilience programmes;
- 10) Disaster risk management and emergency assistance for the re-establishment of fisheries affected by natural disasters;
- 11) Fisher safety at sea programmes;
- 12) Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing programmes;
- 13) Regional management organisation programmes and inter-regional cooperation; and
- 14) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.7.
- 15) Recently, FAO succeeded in establishing an internationally recognised methodology for SDG Indicator 14.7.1, which monitors the economic contribution of marine resources to national economies through fisheries by calculating sustainable fisheries as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The



## **Current FAO Fishery and Aquaculture related investment in SIDS**

### **Background**

This list of major initiatives and activities for FAO fisheries<sup>1</sup> projects that have a SIDS focus, current for October 2019 does not represent FAO's full focus of work related to fisheries in SIDS.

### **Main Area Focus**

- Policy and governance support programmes;
- Coastal Fisheries Assessment and Census programmes;
- Fisheries and aquaculture value chain improvements
- Protected area management programmes;
- Large Marine Ecosystem and ABNJ Assessment and Census programmes;
- Support for Aquaculture;
- Threatened species provisions (e.g. CITES listings);
- Biosecurity and introduced species programmes;
- Integrated land and ocean management programmes;
- Climate change adaptation and resilience programmes;
- Disaster risk management and emergency assistance for the re-establishment of fisheries affected by natural disasters;
- Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) programmes;
- Regional cooperation on the management organisation programmes; and
- On-going National Capacity Development.

### **Examples**

- The Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing
- Coastal Fisheries Initiative (GEF Project) on and Cabo Verde;
- Cuba, Dominica, Guyana, Palau, Tonga, and Vanuatu: Technical assistance for the formulation of national strategies and action plans to improve compliance with the
- Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) (also other 8 non-SIDS participating);
- Sao Tome and Principe: Development of Blue Growth Investment Portfolio;
- Comoros and Mauritius: FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme -SWIOFish1 and SWIOFish2 (also other 3 non-SIDS countries participating);
- Bahamas project, Development of a Fisheries management information system (FisMIS);
- Haiti Fisheries Census;
- Trinidad and Tobago development of an integrated Fisheries management information system;
- In-depth aquaculture risk assessment and business planning, SAP project; Countries: Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Nauru;
- Improving food security in Papua New Guinea
- GEF CC4FISH: climate change adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean countries;
- CLME+ Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project: management of shared fisheries resources and associated governance;
- EAF-Nansen and ABNJ Deep-seas;
- Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II (under re-development). West Africa





**Target 14a.**

- Translate the increase in scientific knowledge into effective development opportunities, especially for small island developing States and least developed countries.

***Resources:***

- How

**Target 14b. Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources.**

**FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.b (divided by major areas of work)**

- 1) Supporting and facilitating uptake and application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods.
- 2) Gathering, assessing, analyzing and disseminating up-to-date fish market and trade information.
- 3) Advancing knowledge and frameworks for rights-based approaches in fisheries for recognizing and ensuring access to resources as called for in the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT Guidelines) and in the SSF Guidelines (Chapter 5), including hosting of a Global Meeting in 2019 focusing on rights based management of fisheries and an experts meeting to explore applying right-based fisheries management in areas beyond national jurisdiction
- 4) Production of legislative studies and legal papers documenting best practice on legislative frameworks for provision of access to small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets, and support countries in making legal changes to further recognize and support small-scale fisheries.
- 5) Safety at sea programme in the fisheries sector.
- 6) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.b.

**Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.b (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)**

***Information:***

- A baseline understanding of the activities, socioeconomic, cultural, traditional and human rights elements and productivity of small-scale fisheries sector needs to be collected and monitored.
- The postharvest subsector constitutes the critical link between harvesting and consumers and a well-functioning postharvest sector is a fundamental part of a sustainable food system. In most low-income countries, women predominate the postharvest sector and play a key role in ensuring that their families and consumers more broadly have access to food, but they face many obstacles and frequently do not have the same rights and opportunities as men. Empowerment of women and support to the postharvest sector are key to providing access to markets for small-scale fishing communities. Within the framework of the SSF Guidelines, FAO has developed guidance on improving gender equality in the small-scale fisheries sector.

- Insufficient inter-institutional collaboration and institutional capacities to support small-scale fisheries.

***Resources:***

- Need for capacity development support for small-scale fisheries communities. How to overcome capacity limitation, including technical, organizational, financial, institutional and legal capacity deficiencies, that precludes significant improvement against the target.
- Lack of funding support to provide assistance to all countries interested in implementing the SSF Guidelines, as well as the linked VGGT Guidelines.

**Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.b with other relevant SDGs)**

**FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.c (divided by major areas of work)**

- 1) Legal assistance to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and ecosystem: Development of legislative studies and legal papers documenting best practice on legislative frameworks for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production and Strengthening national legal frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture
- 2) Documentation of legislation and management measures for fisheries and marine conservation: FAOLEX, a global repository (searchable database) of relevant legislative and policy information (national laws, regulations and policies on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources).
- 3) Documentation of legislation and management measures to protect vulnerable species and environments: For example, a global repository (searchable database) of relevant sharks and rays management measures.
- 4) Supporting the implementation of relevant provisions of international law through the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) established under FAO's Constitution, Articles VI (CECAF, CIFAA, COPESCAALC, EIFAAC, SWIOFC WECAFC) and XIV (APFIC, CACFish, GFCM, IOTC, RECOFI), as well as through the technical support provided to other non-FAO RFBs.
- 5) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.c.

**Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.c (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)**

***Information:***

on Biological Diversity in relation to genetic resources and the Nagoya Protocol and United Nations Environmental Programme).

- Partnerships with environmental NGOs and other Civil Society Organizations, including representative industry associations, to enhance cooperation to address identified capacity gaps and improve communication.
- Partnership with relevant regional fishery bodies (RFB).
- Partnerships with RFMOs and Regional Seas such as the recent partnership between SWIOF and FAO focusing on ecosystem management
- For example, the VME-Database has partnerships opportunities in the near future which could include: UNEP-Grid Arendal, the CBD and its supporting GOBI project.