The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been promoting sustainable development and use of the marine and coastal areas by integrating the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic pillars.

i) Relevant Activities

UNEP is a co-facilitator of the Technical Support Team (TST) for Goal 14 - Ocean SDG, and participated in a workshop on developing integrated indicators for this SDG as well as linking Goal 14 with other relevant SDGs. At this workshop 4? Integrated indicators were drafted to demonstrate the integration of the three pillars:

Indicator 1: Small-Scale Fisheries

% or # of small-scale fisheries (as per FAO), including the actors along the value chain, with decent work (as defined by ILO) in fisheries sector that provides food and nutritional security, supported by management plans based on ecosystem approach to fisheries (as FAO) that account for small-scale fisheries and that conserves and builds resilient (marine/coastal) social-ecological systems.

Indicator 2: Industrial fisheries (capture fisheries and aquaculture)

% of industrial fisheries (as per FAO), both capture and aquaculture, providing sustainable and decent work (as per ILO) [cross-reference to goal on decent work], including the actors along the value chain, under a precautionary and ecosystem approach to fisheries (as per FAO) management plan that ensures equitable benefit sharing, with harmful subsidies eliminated (diminished) and the harvest being used efficiently fairly [cross-reference to goal 12] and conserves and builds resilient social-ecological systems.

Indicator 3: Coastal and marine Development

% of coastal and marine development (to be defined) with formulated or implemented ICZMs and MSPs (that are harmonized where applicable), based on an ecosystem approach (as defined by UNEP), that builds resilient human communities and ecosystems and provides for equitable benefit sharing and decent work.

Indicator 4: Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)

Increase the extent to which states implement the existing international legal frameworks and expand international legal instruments to encompass areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction [ABNJ] and implement through regional and national legal planning processes to include:

- Monitoring and social and environmental impact assessments (SEIA) and MSP to ensure restoration, preservation and enhancement of natural capital, based on a robust and strengthened [best] scientific evidence base and natural capital accounting,

- ensuring access and benefit sharing - both inter- and intra-generational - in an inclusive and equitable way.

UNEP's marine programme has a number of projects and activities that are fostering integration of the 3 pillars of sustainable development. The main focus of integration is through its Green Economy activities that are focused on marine and coastal areas and SIDS. Two global reports have been launched: Green Economy in a Blue World and SIDS focused Green Economy – Challenges and Opportunities, providing the structure to understanding the role of oceans in a resource efficient economy. UNEP has conducted capacity building workshops, through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, in the Caribbean and Western Indian Ocean, reaching over 35 member states, identifying key sectors linked to oceans that could undertake a green economy transition.

UNEP has undertaken two regional workshops on the economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services for the member states of the Lima Convention (CPPS), Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. These workshops built capacities of policy makers to understand the market and non-market values of the key marine and coastal ecosystems in the region. Case studies were also developed by the member states, providing the opportunity to share experiences on how these instruments can be utilized in a policy setting.

UNEP is also developing a TEEB [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity] for Oceans and Coasts programme to streamline economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services by providing the approaches and tools necessary to assist in the integration of the three pillars into decision making especially for development.

One such approach being evolved by UNEP and partners is ecosystem-based marine spatial planning for integrated environment and resource management and governance. This enables informed and comprehensive planning of ocean space by incorporating integrated ecosystem assessments, strategic environmental assessment, and ecosystem service valuations in trade-off analysis and comprehensive management scenario building; and facilitates broad and transparent stakeholder engagement in cross-sectoral priority-setting and decision-making on sector access and sustainable use of ocean space and resources. Addressing multiple drivers and cumulative human impacts, integrated coastal and marine spatial planning supports coastal resilience and human adaptive capacity and thereby ecosystem-based mitigation ('blue carbon'), adaption (EBA) and disaster risk reduction. UNEP works with a series of partners, sister-agencies and through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to develop decision-support tools, local demonstration projects, capacity building, and regional to global guidance and policy advice.

UNEP has compiled and collated information on the indicators or index used in the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and has published a report: Measuring Success: Indicators for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (http://apps.unep.org/publications/pmtdocuments/-Measuring_success__indicators.pdf) in which the regional seas indicators for the state of the marine environment and their socio-economic drivers for changes and for measuring the achievement for the regional targets and objectives set under the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were presented. Based on this report, UNEP organised the Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for the State of Regional Seas, Geneva, during 30 June 2 July 2014 (http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Indicator_RS_meeting/indicator_workshop.asp), where the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans decided to formulate a working group to discuss and agree on a set of indicators commonly used in the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. The working group has a specific intention that the discussion of such indicators should be closely linked with the indicators to be adopted in order to measure achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is a framework embedded within the Barcelona Convention that provides guidance to national decision makers in addressing sustainable development issues, implementing international agreements and initiating partnerships.

The implementation through the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) focuses on four main directions:

1. Contribute to economic development while building on Mediterranean assets
2. Reduce social disparities and fulfill MDGs while strengthening diversity
3. Ensure sustainable management of natural resources and change consumption and production patterns
4. Improve governance at local, national, and regional levels

The MSSD identifies priority fields of action: water; energy; transport; tourism; agriculture; urban development; and sea and coastal management. For each of these, orientations and possible actions are proposed.

Effective implementation of the MSSD calls for concrete and coordinated initiatives at the national and regional levels. At the national level, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention are at the core of implementation that entails:

- Integration of MSSD objectives, orientations and proposed actions into policy frameworks and instruments, e.g. through the formulation and implementation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD);
- Engagement of stakeholders and forging of partnerships;
- Capacity building;
- Management of knowledge and information; and,

- Mobilization and allocation of resources

The Ocean and its resources are used by human beings in a range of sectors. The marine and coastal ecosystem services provide socio-economic benefits for those directly or indirectly receiving benefits of these services. Given the spectral benefits emphasized, the Ocean Governance has been fragmented and sectoral governance and decision making has been a common practice at the national, regional and global levels. For the purpose of promoting integrated decision-making and of achieving sustainable development of the Ocean, a more coherent, integrated ocean governance is proposed. As the first step to discuss this, UNEP, emphasizing the importance of the regional-level governance, has compiled information on the currently available regional governance frameworks, particularly Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Regional Fishery Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms. Based on the recommendations in the report, cooperation among these categories of regional ocean governance frameworks and coordinated decision-making on oceans and their resources has been promoted. Such cooperation and coordination has already been evidenced through the examples of the collaborative arrangements between NEAFC and OSPAR, an MOU between MAP and GFCM, and establishment of the Guinea Current Commission under a protocol of the Abidjan Convention, to list a few.

The GPA focus on three partnerships: nutrients, wastewater and marine debris also integrate the three pillars since the partnerships are looking at the economics and social issues in addition to the environmental aspects. Of particular note is the work on marine debris, where a decision by member states for a study of the social and economic impacts of marine debris as well as further information on solutions is a specific example of this integration. Similarly, the wastewater partnership is shifting the view that wastewater is indeed a resource and not necessarily a problem with potential benefits socially and economically to community development as well as improving coastal water quality. Through its work on nutrients, the GPA has highlighted to impacts, both positive and negative of nutrient use, on social, economic and environmental issues, from food security to over-enrichment of marine and coastal waters.

Global change as wells as local pressures are driving declining coral reef health around the world, and accelerated loss of ecosystem services will increasingly affect people dependent on coral reefs in over 100 countries. In 2014, UNEP initiated a Global Coral Reef Partnership to support countries to deliver internationally agreed coral reef commitments, including Aichi Target 10. Developed in response to the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2013-2016, the partnership brings together Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP), participating countries as well as NGOs, academic institutions and private sector partners in collaboration towards ecosystem-based management of coral reefs. The partnership is the primary vehicle for strengthening implementation of the ICRI Continuing Call to Action through RSCAP. At the global level, tools and policy

frameworks are developed and exchange of best practice supported; at the regional level, adoption of tools and policy frameworks by countries is facilitated through Regional Seas intergovernmental mechanisms as well as capacity building; and at the national level uptake and upscaling is promoted through demonstration projects. The four substantive work areas of the partnership address key challenges facing coral reefs: 1) Building coral reef resilience in the face of climate change and ocean acidification; 2) Strengthening use of coral reef ecosystem service values in public and private decision-making; 3) Enhancing data and information provision for ecosystem-based coral reef planning and management; and 4) Securing impact through institutional support and outreach. UNEP hosts the partnership secretariat.

UNEP has initiated a marine resources work stream within the International Resource Panel (IRP), which is focusing on identify emerging issues which merit further research. The IRP is integrating the 3 pillars through work on resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from escalating resource use and environmental degradation. The work of the IRP is also related to the economic value of High-Seas ecosystems, marine litter, ocean energy, marine minerals and offshore hydrocarbon resources. Knowledge gaps at the science-policy interface and what might be the potential added value of an IRP assessment report on marine resources have been recently discussed at the latest IRP meeting in November 2014, where a new work area on Marine Resources was approved by the IRP Steering Committee.

The IRP is kick starting the new work area on Marine Resources in the 1st Quarter of 2015 with a scoping study that will look at green/blue economy inter-linkages with a focus on impact of land based activities in the marine environment through a perspective of resource efficiency and decoupling. The EC is a member of the IRP Steering Committee and also a key stakeholder in this process, following its renewed interest in exploring the linkages between the blue and green growth agendas with a focus on resource efficiency.

ii) **Challenges & Opportunities** – coordination and cooperation at intergovernmental and interagency level

The integration of the 3 pillars is already providing opportunities for intergovernmental coordination and cooperation at the regional level especially through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, as illustrated above with the work on the green economy for oceans. Future planning by UNEP and its partners gives particular emphasis on the implementation at the national level and fostering sectoral reforms through fiscal policies and improvement in the integrated management approach to oceans. UNEP and FAO are supporting Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and Regional Fishery Bodies to work together on fisheries and environment issues which includes improving not just the ecosystems and fish stocks but also the food security and decent jobs for communities. There is considerable scope to expand this work.

The major challenges include the human and financial resources needed to support the activities that are proposed and needed for integration. Other challenges include clarification of mandates among the agencies, and the lack of linked Programmes of Work among the agencies, making it difficult to coordinate joint work of the agencies.