

Input by the German Government on the UN Secretary-General report on the protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development

Coral reefs and ecosystems-services provided by them are of crucial importance for marine biodiversity, for the protection of coastlines especially with regard to climate change and for the livelihood of millions of people especially in developing countries. Marine ecosystems and coral reefs are also of high importance with regard to the ongoing debate on green economy.

Germany currently supports several projects that involve protection measures for coral reefs in the broader context of integrated coastal area planning and management (ICAM). Within these projects the involved stakeholders develop and implement strategies and policies for the protection and sustainable use of the coral reefs. Related measures are the following:

- i) promotion of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture policies and practices;
- ii) adaptation to climate change through structural methods of coastal protection (dykes, water retention basins) and the boosting of natural resilience and the protective function of coastal ecosystems (mangrove forests, coral reefs, flood plains);
- iii) development of financing strategies for the protection and sustainable use of aquatic resources and coastal zones (e.g. eco-tourism);
- iv) designation and management of marine protected areas/no-take areas, reforestation and management of mangroves;
- v) human capacity building and decision support (as integral components of all measures).

These projects comprise a broad range of stakeholders, encompassing indigenous and local communities, and partner organizations at local, national, regional and international level, including involvement in the "Marine Coral Triangle Initiative", "Caribbean Challenge" and a triangular cooperation with the Australian Aid Agency AusAid.