

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

The ocean lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, it provides development pathways to achieve a more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world in which no one is left behind. The ocean is an essential component of our planet's ecosystem; its resources support human well-being and livelihoods, it is critical to global food security and it must be managed to support achievement of poverty eradication for a growing world population.

Marine and coastal ecosystems are critical to the livelihoods and nutritional needs of coastal communities in developing countries, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS). More than 3 billion people rely on fish for animal protein, and some 300 million people find their livelihoods in marine fisheries—90 percent of those in small-scale, artisanal fisheries. Global average fish consumption is increasing, and fish consumption in SIDS is 3 to 4 times the global average.

Rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification are altering ocean ecosystems and affecting the livelihoods of the communities that depend on fisheries, in particular in SIDS. Climate change is modifying distribution and the productivity of marine species. These changing conditions will test our ability to manage capture fisheries and aquaculture.

Approximately 31 percent of commercially important assessed marine fish stocks are fished at biologically unsustainable levels and 68 percent within biologically sustainable levels. Overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices threaten fish stocks and livelihoods. Unmanaged expansion of aquaculture can have adverse impacts on the broader marine environment.

To strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of member states, FAO leads consensus-building towards improved conservation and utilization of aquatic resources, through a global network of regional and country offices, advised by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and through recognition of and collaboration with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs).

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted by the FAO Conference in 1995 and its related instruments provide a robust framework for national and international efforts, including in the formulation of policies and other legal and institutional frameworks and instruments, to ensure sustainable fishing and use of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment.

Today many fisheries around the world are characterized by excessive fishing effort, low productivity and inadequate profitability. It has been estimated that rebuilding overfished stocks could increase annual fishery production by 16.5 million tons, worth US\$32 billion. This would not only increase the well-being of coastal communities, it would lead to healthier ecosystems that have greater resilience to climate change and ocean acidification.

Thus considerable benefits would be derived from 'rebuilding' fisheries through science-based management and by working together to end Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing undermines national, regional and international efforts to sustainably manage fisheries. The effective implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) will reduce the incentive to engage in IUU fishing and block fishery products derived from such activities from entering national and international markets, thereby bolstering international efforts to combat illegal fishing and contributing to strengthening fisheries management and governance at all levels.

Sustainable management of ocean ecosystems is imperative for ensuring sufficient fisheries production to sustain human well-being and livelihoods. As the mandated UN body for fisheries, the Food and Agricultural Organization recognizes the need to accelerate its work in supporting sustainable management of living aquatic resources, in order to balance use and conservation in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.

The sustainable use of oceans and seas fosters and requires global and regional cooperation in the management of shared resources. Access to productive resources including those of the oceans and seas supported by good governance, ensuring equitable benefits for communities, participatory decision-making processes and robust implementation of existing negotiated guidance and legal frameworks, including UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and its subsidiary agreements, are essential to achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

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 people, especially in Africa.
- ii) Policies to support the improvement of governance through capacity building and greater participation of stakeholders and populations in public policies, and of course;
- iii) Implementation of international agreements such as the PSMA which came into force in June 2016;
- iv) Policies in favour of the fight against poverty [and hunger and malnutrition], recognition of rights-based management and more generally inclusive growth, in the context of a blue economy with efficient use of its marine resources, through a value chain approach, a lower carbon footprint, high

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 acceptance in CBD policy in late 2018. OECMs hold great potential for many sectors to collectively increase the support base for healthy, productive and resilient marine ecosystems. If OECM's are considered as a form of MPAs, they can contribute to accelerating the achievement SDG14.2. FAO is supporting member countries by raising awareness about the role that sustainable fisheries can have in conserving biodiversity, in particular via ABMTs, and assisting countries operationalize the newly agreed CBD criteria for OECMs in the fisheries sector.

Related issues and approaches addressed within the BGI context include: (i) confronting the risks of famine, malnutrition and food insecurity, ii) strengthening efforts in support of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, iii) reducing rural poverty and developing coastal economies, iv) improving governance to facilitate the evolution towards more inclusive growth and more inter sectorial policy and more sustainable development, v) strengthening the resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems and human communities which depend on these resources

"Leaving no one behind"

By targeting more inclusive systems and taking a participative approach, Blue Growth ensures a holistic and integrated approach is taken that considers the needs of all stakeholders with a focus on engaging the relevant communities for whom livelihoods, revenues and life quality depend on marine ecosystems. Already countries continue to take concrete initiatives at national and sub-national levels, proposing institutional reforms or preparing action plans following an integrated approach with stakeholders to address the BG objectives as seen in Cabo Verde, Seychelles and Grenada with their Blue Economy Charter.

The Blue Growth initiative is aimed at reconciling economic growth with improved livelihoods and social equity, and strengthening transparent, reliable and more secure food systems based on sustainable use of resources. Blue Growth also places greater responsibility on national and regional policies for protecting and managing living aquatic resources, addressing employment and training with the sector and creating incentives for financial and technological innovation. It aims to create an enabling environment for workers involved in fisheries and aquaculture to

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-scale fisheries to ensure they can participate and benefit from Blue Growth policies and actions as seen in the Mediterranean through FAO's Blue Hope programme.

Blue Growth helps to streamline public choice and change preferences and practices of private stakeholders by strengthening knowledge and putting in place coherent incentives for innovation and uptake of best practices across the value chain from fishing operations to consumer action. Because it considers *all* the services provided by ecosystems, Blue Growth also facilitates the inclusion of balances to define and promote sectorial policies other than fisheries and aquaculture; the balance and regulation of competition with environmental policies advocating conservation, and the protection of certain ecosystems and water resources in addition to social policies such as decent work.

Blue Growth strategies can aim successively to: i) develop knowledge and harness the economic potential of the oceans through the development of new sectors and technologies, ii) combat more effectively the overexploitation of resources derived from marine, iii) ensure the maximum benefit is derived from the resources extracted so that losses and waste are eliminated, vi) enhance the economic and ecological potential of uses of oceans through technological innovations that benefit environmental and social performance, and v) by developing the practices and knowledge for ecological restoration and engineering in more inclusive production and value chain systems.

The early work of Blue Growth focuses on enabling conditions such as ensuring appropriate policies are in place, engaging appropriate institutions along with capacity development and incentives financial and technological innovation. An example of this work is the development of Blue Growth Investment portfolios in Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey. An example from the field is seen in coastal fishing communities in West Africa where women in the post-harvest sector are moving away from open smokers that burn large amounts of mangroves to more efficient closed smokers that either use less wood or alternative energy sources. This Blue Growth activity also has multiple benefits that include a better quality product that generates a higher price in the market, less wood exploited as well as less carbon emissions and improved health outcomes for the women who smoke the fish.

Below is an executive summary of some of the FAO's activities, as well as challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the SDG 14 targets, which are conducted under the overall framework of the FAO's Blue Growth Initiative.

Target 14.1: By 2050, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

- 1) Plastic pollution: Improve knowledge base on microplastics and its potential impacts in the fisheries, aquaculture and marine food-chains.
- 2) Effects of coastal pollution: Support reduction of pollution and protection of environment, especially coastal habitat and in the aquaculture sector through development of Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines initiated in 2019
- 3) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.1.

Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.1 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

Information:

- Data, information and knowledge gaps on pollution, in many developing as well developed countries.
- Adequate assessment of ecological and human health risks associated with pollution, especially microplastics.
- Lack of scientific evidence in many areas to obtain clear conclusions on the problem and impacts of plastic pollution.

Processes:

- Global monitoring protocols for measuring plastic pollution.
- Development of meaningful management plans that have robust and reliable risk management response strategies, and that translate into action at the national level.

Coordination:

- Development of agreed global policy, strategies and limits on plastic pollution.

Resources:

- How to overcome capacity limitation, including technical, scientific, financial, institutional and legal that precludes significant improvement against the target.
- Significant capacity development is required to address within country coordination as well as cooperation between countries on significant transboundary issues. In many cases local advances require a considerable change in the working relationship between national agencies responsible for fisheries and the one for environment-related matters and more cooperation required over legislation and access/use of financial resources.
- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons learnt in attempts to achieve SDG 14.1.

Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.1 with other relevant SDGs)

SDG 1, SDG 2 and SDG 3.

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

- Continued collaboration at national and international levels between organizations and authorities responsible for fisheries and aquaculture, consumer protection, food safety, and public health.
- For FAO and other related organizations, to partner with organizations such as WHO to facilitate

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

Target 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.2 (divided by major areas of work)

- 1) Support for implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), and the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and aquaculture (EAA): addressing impacts on ecosystems, including the development of appropriate tools and measures, questionnaire on the implementation of the CCRF and the Nansen Programme for sampling biodiversity and fisheries resources across global scales.
- 2) Identification of species biodiversity on national, regional and global scales: Fishfinder, marine and freshwater species identification information for resource management purposes.
- 3) Integration of fisheries and aquaculture into multi-sector, multi-use frameworks, that take into account spatial impacts of maritime sectors and marine spatial planning.
- 4) Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation programmes: example, deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (high seas).
- 5) Examining the impacts of climate change and the effects of pollution.
- 6) Database repository of relevant management measures to protect vulnerable species and ecosystems: sharks and rays measures database and VME database.
- 7) Awareness raising on issues pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture to private sector, academics, civil society, governments and intergovernmental organizations.
- 8) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.2.
- 9) FAO is developing an EAF- Monitoring implementation tool for the EAF-Nansen Programme. We are also working on a checklist for EAF and legislation, and following up on field activities

Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.2 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

Information:

- Lack of relevant environmental, fishery/ aquaculture data such as the position, area and status of key habits and species groups at appropriate temporal and geographical scales to facilitate management decision making.
- Understanding species and biodiversity of marine resources: Example; gaps in understanding and documentation of commercially-exploited aquatic species in the SW Atlantic.
- 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 that recognize biodiversity as an asset for sustainable fisheries. In particular, mainstreaming the consideration of biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture is progressively and interactively being implemented in cooperation with international, regional and national management authorities, and through collaboration defined by agreements and treaties.

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 the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*”

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 empowerment of fishing communities (small and large scale) to take a more active role in terms of resource stewardships. This requires a proper baseline understanding of the fisheries sector which is currently often not available at national level, the need for organizational strengthening of fisheries organizations (especially small-scale fishers), and the need for improved institutional knowledge and capacities in relation to participatory management approaches.
- Lack of coordination between fisheries / aquaculture sector with biodiversity/ conservation sector which needs to be addressed through sharing ecosystem approaches, information and experiences. Shared knowledge can help the stakeholders build resilience and custodianship in resource and environmental management.

Resources:

- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons learnt in attempts to achieve SDG 14.2.
- Significant capacity development is required to address within country coordination as well as cooperation between countries on significant transboundary issues. In many cases local advances require a considerable change in the working relationship between national agencies responsible for fisheries and the one for environment-related matters and more cooperation required over legislation and access/use of financial resources.
- How to overcome capacity limitation, including technical, scientific, financial, institutional and legal that precludes significant improvement against the target.
- Biological diversity and the complex interconnections between species and populations, their functions and the environment, underpin the food and livelihoods upon which our growing population depends. Despite the inextricable linkages between food provisioning, ecological and socio-economic systems, objectives for biodiversity conservation are often considered to be in competition with objectives for food security. This perception has been exacerbated by the fact that responsibilities for each are often mandated to different government departments and international

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 paradigms¹ that recognize biodiversity as an asset for sustainable fisheries. In particular, mainstreaming the consideration of biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture is progressively and interactively being implemented in cooperation with international, regional and national management authorities, and through collaboration defined by agreements and treaties. Mainstreaming biodiversity approaches in use sectors recognize the value of biodiverse natural systems in development and management, and accept full accountability for the broader impact of use related activities on biodiversity and related structure and function of ecosystems.

Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.2 with other relevant SDGs)

SDG 1, SDG 2 (2.4, 2.5), SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 7 (7.3), SDG 8 (8.2, 8.4), SDG 9 (9.1, 9.5), SDG 11 (11.5), 12 (12.4), SDG 13 (13.1), SDG 15 (15.1), SDG 16, SDG 17 (17.5, 17.8).

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

- Partnerships for knowledge generation and capacity development, with respect to research and management through UN, regional, academia, and civil society (CSO) organisations.
- Strengthen partnerships with other UN organizations at the global level, as well as with relevant RFBs and IGOs to enhance understanding of the sustainability of several fisheries related issues.
- Cooperation at regional level, between fisheries, environment and other relevant sectoral groups operating in the marine environment to ensure a cross-sectoral overview of multiple fisheries-related issues.
- Partnerships with research/academia, regional organizations, other UN organizations to strengthen capacities of public institutions to provide an enabling environment for small-scale fisheries to take part in resource management and conversation (e.g. in terms of policy coherence, institutional coordination, collaboration, information and communication and monitoring).
- Partnerships with trade and fishery/aquaculture stakeholders to include greater participation of fisheries resource/aquaculture stakeholders for greater social and economic resilience.
- Partnerships with CSO and research/academia to improve organizational capacities of small-scale fishing communities to better participate in resource management and strengthening of coastal area resilience.
- Collaboration with the Future Earth Coasts project in the Caribbean, on areas related to coastal fisheries/ aquaculture; plus Application of business modelling methodology developed under MARIBE in the business case development under the Caribbean Billfish Project are proposed.
- Partnerships with European H2020 projects dealing with EAA have been established (e.g. EcoAqua) as well as collaboration on EAA training courses with Wageningen University for participants from Africa and Asia.
- Partnership amongst S. American States to fund a species catalogue for the SW Atlantic.
- For the FAO VME-Database, possible future partnerships opportunities include: UNEP-Grid Arendal, the CBD and its supporting GOBI project.

SDG 14.3 Minimize and address the impact of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.3 (divided by major areas of work)

- 1) Ocean acidification impacts on the fisheries, aquaculture sector (resources and associated value chain).
- 2) Exploring capacity development and adaptation activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.3.

Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.3 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

Information:

- Consolidated scientific information on ocean acidification presently and in projections, including results obtained *in situ* and through laboratory experiments.
- The regional variability of ocean acidification impacts
- The impacts of ocean acidification, as a consequence of a combination of acidification with other stressors

Processes:

- The identification of adaptation and mitigation measures and processes that are likely to allow reliance to this stressor.

Resources:

- How to overcome capacity limitation, including technical, scientific, financial, institutional and legal that precludes significant involvement of local authorities working in relation to this target.
- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons learnt, in attempts to achieve SDG 14.3.

Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.3 with other relevant SDGs)

SDG 13 (13.2 and 13.3).

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

- Partnerships with organizations dealing with ocean acidification need to be established and reinforced to measure acidification and its impacts, and to ensure knowledge gaps are addressed in an appropriate manner.

Target 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

FAO's current activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 14.4 (divided by major areas of work)

- 1) Fisheries policy guidance and implementation support: Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) guidelines and questionnaire and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA).
- 2) Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods: Promotion of the SSF Guidelines. FAO is finalising 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 the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*”
- 3) Practical guidelines for collection and recording of fisheries information.
- 4) Development of voluntary guidelines for catch documentation schemes (CDS) and its implementation.
- 5) Global repository for fisheries and aquaculture statistics: Production databases related to national, stock, regional and global reporting of fisheries and aquaculture status.
- 6) Fisheries and Resources monitoring System (FIRMS): collating comprehensive inventories for marine resources with individual stock status data contributed by FIRMS partners.
- 7) Global repository for fisheries trade statistics: Fisheries commodities production and trade databases, plus enhancement of systems for traceability of fisheries products.
- 8) Support fisheries stock assessment: examples include, promoting a better understanding of small-scale fisheries through advancement of assessment methods for data and capacity- limited fisheries.
- 9) Support implementation of the precautionary approach: by encouraging adoption of limit and target reference points and harvest strategies in RFMOs managing shared tuna resources, extending to both EEZ's and areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- 10) Support implementation of the precautionary approach by encouraging adoption of limit and target reference points and harvest strategies in RFMO managing shared tuna resources, extending to both EEZ's and areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- 11) Support the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing: support the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and complementary binding and non-binding instruments to combat TIJU fishing. Including the development of a global record for fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels (Global Record).
- 12) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.4.

Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.4 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

Information:

- Measures of fishery effort to enable links between efforts and catch statistics, even when simple surrogates of effort are collected.
- Measures of stock status that are suitable for a wide range of data availability and useful for

both monitoring purposes and to inform management.

- Lack of awareness in good practices for traceability to combat *mu*fish entering markets.
- Trade statistics can be used in association to production data to help detecting *mu* fish entering markets. However, the level of detail by species of trade data is often not adequate, and it would be important to improve the detail by species in national classifications used to collect trade data. In addition, landings abroad are often not well recorded in trade statistics, with the risk of non-properly monitoring the trade flows of production.
- Continue to support development and training of national authorities for fisheries monitoring and compliance purposes.
- With regards to FIRMS, extending the FIRMS data coverage (currently 1300 stocks, and see opportunities) as well as ensuring timeliness in keeping the information constantly updated.
- With regard to the FAO Global and Regional capture production databases, a constant effort is needed to maintain level of submissions and compilation of the data at the highest standard possible. Relations with the countries is key, and given the number (231) of countries and territories covered by the database the amount of work involved is significant and needs greater support.

Tools:

- Low participation and commitment to the Global Record a a global tool to
- Lack of participation and commitment to the Global Record as a global tool to disseminate relevant information to increase transparency and traceability in the fisheries sector as an efficient way to fight *IUU* fishing.

Processes:

- Processes to record and communicate lost value from stock depletion, and how stock productivity can offer further food security and livelihoods.
- Development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), at useful time-scales, and with global coverage.
- Greater level of legislative support to allow policy changes and enforcement to be hard coded in law. This requires fishery, environment and trade legislation to be well aligned to deliver effective regulation across the full value chain of the sectors.

Coordination:

- Enhanced links between science-based tools and management authorities, to ensure harmonized and standardized data results is used in developing policy and ground level actions for adaptive management.
- Weak institutional and operational capacities, particularly with regard to monitoring and collection of species specific catch records.
- Better collaboration and coordination among national agencies (fisheries authorities, and wildlife/environmental authorities, customs, coast guard, etc.).
- Control and surveillance systems need greater cooperation and coordination nationally, among States, as well as at the regional level and international level.
- Need for greater community and stakeholder awareness of fishery and EAF principles and practices. Limited technical and institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries.
- Need for better cooperation, coordination and sharing of stocks data, nationally, among States, as well as at the regional level and development of assessment capacity to support adaptive management at a range of local national and regional scales.

Resources:

- How to overcome capacity limitation, including technical, scientific, financial, institutional and legal that precludes significant improvement against the target.
- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons

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 academic institutions and research centers to promote the development of assessment methods and harvest strategies.
- Partnerships with relevant national authorities, UN Agencies, RFMOs, regional organizations and NGOs working to combat IUU fishing.
- Partnership with other organizations would be beneficial, such as UNCTAD's national green export review project and World Bank projects on fisheries value chains.
- Possibility of promoting better links across the EU yellow/red flag system, CITES Appendices and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) ESA-listed species criteria, to get greater understanding of what comprises a threshold for fisheries sanctions and thresholds for threatened fisheries provisions.
- Enhance collaboration at sub-regional and regional level in terms of making efficient use of resources and also to increase capacities of neighboring countries through sharing experiences.
- There are existing partnerships arrangements for data formats and data exchange with some regional and international bodies. Dialogues are on-going with regard to the development and updating of global data standards for fisheries and aquaculture.
- Within the context of the EU funded Project BlueBRIDGE (Building research environments fostering Innovation, Decision making, Governance and Education for Blue Growth), FIRMS is working together with the University of Washington who owns the RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Data Base and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) who owns FishSource database to create a Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) with the goal to expand data coverage contributing to SDG 14.4.1.
- Partnership with Google Earth Engine on Google Fishing Watch raises the prospect of improving assessment of global fishing effort, hence improving the catch per unit effort (CPUE) and eventually assessment of state of world fishery resources.

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 impacts of tourism on the local environment and/or long-term economic impacts in addition to direct impacts on food security and livelihoods.
- Data on compliance within no-take areas of MPA's and across general MPA management provisions.

Tools:

- Promote and/or enhance existing tools for marine spatial planning and management (e.g. Open Ocean Map).
- Need for broad dissemination and uptake of the technical guidelines on Marine protected areas and fisheries (www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2090e/i2090e00.htm).
- Need for uptake and application of various instruments in relation to better understand interactions between fisheries and ecosystems with increased coordination across sectors and the importance of good governance, including stakeholder participation and ensuring equitable

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:

- Mechanisms and strategies for harmonizing diverse aims of fisheries and biodiversity management in clearly defined the MPA objectives, to ensure conservation of ecosystems, food security and livelihoods.
- Mechanisms to measure progress against MPA objectives so that effectiveness can be measured.
- Lack of approaches to measure and reduce effects of land-based and non-fishing impacts on coastal and marine ecosystem health and productivity.
- Need for policies and inclusive and effective participatory approaches that empower small-scale fishing communities and traditional communities to take a more active role in terms of resource stewardship, including the establishment and management of MPAs and other forms of spatial conservation measures.
- Need for MPA establishment processes to take into account small-scale fishers and traditional ecological knowledge.
- Need for mechanisms to ensure enforcement and compliance.

Coordination:

- Better coordination across sectors and between government agencies responsible for different sectors (e.g. biodiversity/environment and fisheries).
- Need for better integration of MPAs into broader governance and management frameworks (e.g., fisheries management, ICZM, OECMs, MSP, rights based approaches in fisheries) including MPAs with multiple objectives, and incorporating socio-cultural issues of equity, in rulings, permitting and licensing procedures.
- Improved participation of fishers, including small-scale fisheries in relevant processes.

Resources:

- Insufficient institutional capacities and inter-institutional collaboration in relation to fisheries and environmental issues (e.g. establishment and management of MPAs and other spatial conservation measures).
- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons learnt, in attempts to achieve SDG 14.5.

Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.5 with other relevant SDGs)

SDG 1 (Reduce poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (Gender empowerment), SDG 7 (7.3), SDG 8 (8.2, 8.4), SDG 9 (9.1, 9.5), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 15 (Life on land), 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)

- 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 of small-scale fishing communities to better participate in resource management, including through establishment of MPAs and other forms of spatial conservation measures.
- Partnerships with research/academia, regional organizations, other UN organizations to strengthen capacities of public institutions to provide an enabling environment for all fisheries and particularly small-scale fisheries (e.g. in terms of policy coherence, institutional coordination, collaboration, information and communication and monitoring).

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 14.6 (divided by major areas of work)

- 1) Provide the necessary support in order to allow the use of definitions already set in international instruments for a possible regulatory framework on fisheries subsidies, including joint actions such as the UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP Joint Statement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- 2) Support the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing: support the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and complementary binding and non-binding instruments to combat IUU fishing, including the development of a framework for being able to individually identify fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels (The Global Record).
- 3) Develop technical assistance and capacity-building activities in the area of regulation of trade in fisheries.
- 4) Implement capacity development activities associated with related aspects of SDG Target 14.6.
- 5) FAO, UNCTAD and UN Environment launched an inter-agency Plan of Action (IAPoA) on trade-related aspects of SDG 14 to “accelerate the achievement of trade-related targets of SDG 14 (namely targets 4, 6, 7 and b) through improved trade and trade-related policies that safeguard food security and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, living marine resources and livelihoods”. This Plan of Action focuses on:
 - promoting multilateral oceans and trade-related reforms through dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building;
 - strengthening national and regional capacities on policy frameworks for sustainable seafood trade and the development of other oceans based sectors; and
 - enhancing awareness, knowledge and capacity to implement effective governance & sustainable seafood trade and other oceans based sectors.
- 6)

Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.6 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

Information:

- Limited availability of data (including not many available WTO notifications) in order to allow a better analysis of current trends and issues. This is particularly the case when considering activities and practices of traditional fisheries communities in both developing and developed countries.
- Lack of knowledge of the main international instruments dealing with fisheries, and how they can possibly be used in cross-referencing future rules on fisheries subsidies.
- Lack of a minimum *acquis* for technical discussions at the negotiation level.

Processes:

- Providing trade negotiators with better information through improved links with fisheries experts. This gap leads to unwanted desynchronized situations among representatives of the countries during the negotiations.

- Analysis and advice or recommended draft legislative text is not excepted or acted upon including enactment by government/legislature into national laws and regulations.
- Absence of harmonized and continuous processes for collecting and analyzing government support measures (including fuel subsidies).
- Notwithstanding, in the last two years, many regional trade agreements started implementing environmental rules for, including specific clauses dealing with fisheries subsidies.

Coordination:

- In order to make clear the terminology already existent in international instruments on fisheries and how they can be transposed to other regulatory framework, it is necessary having more meetings, seminars and events for member States organized by International Organizations.

Resources:

- Insufficient institutional capacities and inter-institutional collaboration in relation to fisheries and environmental issues (e.g. establishment and management of MPAs and other spatial conservation measures).
- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons l

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

- Partnerships with other relevant UN agencies dealing with trade, especially UNCTAD, as well as WTO.
- Partnerships with regional initiatives (including RFBs), especially those incorporating developing countries and small islands, in order to provide necessary inputs and to reduce information asymmetries for a more effective negotiation pattern and a better understanding of the main issues at stake.
- Partnerships with NGOs in order to discuss specific issues to reach the objective - especially involving special and differentiated treatment (S&DT) and traditional and cultural activities.
- Partnerships with national statistical offices and relevant fisheries bodies to improve reporting is a critical step for addressing data gaps.
- Partnerships established through the FiTI (Fishing Transparency Initiative), HSVAR / skyTruth collaboration also provide an important alternate source of data.

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 methodology designed by FAO is built on international standards, namely; GDP, the value added of fisheries and the biological sustainability of fish stocks. All of these inputs are utilized by international agencies, policymakers and public bodies, amongst others, for informing decision making and planning. An indicator to monitor the economic contribution of sustainable fisheries may provide a better picture of the real importance of fisheries in national economies, ensuring a more balanced allocation of resources that may benefit the sector. Given their global nature, SDG Indicator 14.7.1 was developed to be applicable to as many countries as possible, while keeping to a minimum any additional reporting requirements for countries by using internationally accepted and already available inputs for the calculation. This indicator integrates economic contribution with sustainability.

Challenges in the implementation of SDG 14.7 (areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

Information:

- An amalgamated understanding of investments against priorities for SIDS.

Tools:

- For capacity development to be successful one needs to know and connect with human capital across SIDS and between SIDS and others. An address book of key fisheries, resource and biodiversity practitioners within and across SIDS would ensure greater access to key people, an ability for SIDS voices to be heard when information was needed, and an avenue for SIDS decision makers to be alerted to opportunities.

Processes:

- Work with enumerators, data collectors and statistical offices of relevant fishery industry-customs and port authorities and management bodies to improve species based reporting.
- Assist SIDS in curation, accessibility and distribution of fisheries data, nationally and across SIDS.
- Improving the data quality and coverage, and capacity development for assessments to be made available for national reporting.

Coordination:

- In order to bring critical mass to problems, there needs to be better cross-agency coordination in planning, to bring sufficient resources and capacity to fisheries, resource and biodiversity issues of interest in SIDS. If this was better facilitated there could be better complementarity and sharing of information and greater awareness of proposed and on-going activities.

Resources:

- Fisheries data collection is a national responsibility and, in order to be sustainable, need dedicated national budget line support, to ensure support for routine data collection.
- Looking for new ways of making small island state investment a possibility by bringing in new donors and making gains a more visible focus of communication.

Opportunities (interlinkages of SDG 14.7 with other relevant SDGs)

SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12.

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

- Establishment of partnerships across national statistical offices and relevant fisheries bodies to improve species catch reporting as a critical step for addressing fishery and biodiversity data gaps.
- Improved methodologies and for data collection for improved sex-disaggregated statistics and understanding of all forms of employment.
- Continue to strengthen collaboration with SIDS networks and other partners, particularly in respect of contributing to sustainable aquaculture development in SIDS countries as part of FAO's Blue Growth Initiative.
- FAO to use national regional and global mechanisms (e.g. COFI, COFI FT, Country Planning Frameworks) to publish a regular SIDS informed 'outlook' that defines a needs assessment for SIDS fisheries, linked to indicators of work program progress for implementation.
- Work with UN agencies and private organizations (such as LinkedIn) to identify and link people, skills, and opportunities to assist in access to key people to support human capital development in SIDS.

Current FAO Fishery and Aquaculture related investment in SIDS

Background

This list of major initiatives and activities for FAO fisheries¹ 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

¹ There is some addition of agricultural activity, food, waste, market and disaster relief projects that also cover or include impacts to 'fish

also includes Cabo Verde;

- Improving fish port infrastructure in Grenada;
- Supporting Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management in The North Brazil-Guianas Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem: Brazil, Guyana, French Guyane, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela shrimp and groundfish investment, economics and management;
- Promotion of Small Scale Aquaculture in Guyana for Food Security and Rural Development. Guyana Aquaculture demonstration FAO 2014-2016;
- Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC) Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago By- catch reduction, capacity building GEF 2012-2018

Target 14a. Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small

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

- 1) Strengthening the knowledge base for and implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries (EAF) in developing countries.
- 2) Support for fishery stock assessment techniques and capacity. Stock assessment examples include, tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation while promoting a better understanding of small-scale fisheries through advancement of assessment methods for data limited fisheries.
- 3) Research Partnerships with Google/ Global Fishing Watch.
- 4) Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA): International information system covering the science, technology, management, and conservation of marine, brackish water, and freshwater resources and environments, including their socio-economic and legal aspects.
- 5) Fisher safety at sea programme.
- 6) Capacity development activities for the various aspects of delivering against SDG Target 14.a.

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

Information:

- The data to perform an analysis of the status of a stock is often difficult to obtain.
- No common reporting standards.
- The development of science driven tools based on harmonized and standardized data does not automatically result in their adaptation at policy level, and a science-policy dialogue is needed.
- Models of global applicability: the variety of fisheries does not allow for completely science based management plans, and the challenge is to find cost effective means to adapt to local scales.
- Maintaining-increasing the membership and participation of institutes in ASFA (especially in developing countries and small island states) in light of international financial restraints and competition with other information systems.

Tools:

- Ongoing development and maintenance of the ASFA database and the indexing tools that allow the decentralized input to conform to international standards (thesauri, authority lists of geographic and taxonomic indexing terms, guidelines and methodology for input preparations).

Processes:

- Maintaining-increasing the membership and participation of institutes in ASFA. Identifying and publicizing ASFA's comparative advantages so as to contend with competition from other information systems.
- Improving timeliness, coverage and accuracy of the database as these are the standard quality markers of any database.
- Including in ASFA's coverage, greater grey literature capture, as this is one of its main comparative advantage over other information systems.
- Establish sufficient contacts with local higher education institutions and research institutions to achieve local ownership of capacity and research.

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

Resources:

- How to overcome capacity limitation, including technical, financial, institutional and legal capacity deficiencies, that precludes significant improvement against the target.
- In order to be sustainable, investment in releasing information on fisheries work needs dedicated national budget line support to support routine publication.
- Looking for new ways of making investment a possibility by bringing in new donors and making gains a more visible focus of communication.

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

- Partnerships could be developed with IOC-UNESCO, UNEP, LME programmes, local and international reference universities and regional marine science associations (e.g. WIOMSA).
- The EU H2020 funded Project BlueBRIDGE (Building research environments fostering Innovation, Decision making, Governance and Education for Blue Growth), and the iMarine initiative already offer a framework for future partnership development to address gaps.
- Possibility of establishing partnership with key universities in the sector, such as the University of Santa Barbara focusing on sustainable aquaculture.

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: [*Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development - A handbook.*](#)

Tools:

- Need tools for all stakeholders for assessing and addressing issues of tenure and clarifying access to marine resources to support uptake and use of the VGGT Guidelines.
- Need for tools for assisting fisheries stakeholders in implementing the SSF Guidelines.

Processes:

- Need for policies and strategies that empower small-scale fishing communities to take a more active role in terms of resource access, stewardship and marketing and trade of their products: This requires appropriate infrastructure and qualified personnel at a national level.
- Need for organizational strengthening of small-scale fisheries communities and their organizations.

Coordination:

- 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)

SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 16, SDG 17.

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

- Partnerships with research/academia, regional organizations, other relevant UN organizations to strengthen capacities of public institutions to provide an enabling environment for supporting small-scale fisheries (e.g. in terms of policy coherence, coherence of legislation, institutional coordination, collaboration, information and communication and monitoring).
- Partnerships with civil society organisations (CSOs) to support the empowerment and active engagement of small-scale fishing communities through organizational strengthening and capacity development (e.g. technical, financial, human).
- Partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), International NGOs (INGOs), and the private sector to support the empowerment and active engagement of large- and small-scale fishing communities through organizational strengthening and capacity development (e.g. technical, financial, human).
- Research/academia to support improved organizational capacities of small-scale fishing communities to better participate in resource management and marketing of large and small-scale fisheries products, as well as to better link science and policy for informed decision-making processes.
- Donor support to provide capacity development at country level in relation to the application of the SSF Guidelines.
- Partnership with other relevant UN organizations/inter-governmental organizations to apply the human rights-based approach in small-scale fisheries (e.g. UNOHCHR, ILO, regional human rights commissions, IFAD etc.).

Target 14c. Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources as recalled in paragraph 158 of the Future We Want

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:

- Better understanding of what needs to be delivered on each of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Tools:

- Measurement of agreed indicators for measuring change and clarification of the monitoring mechanism for reporting globally.

Processes:

- Measurement of agreed indicators for measuring change and clarification of the monitoring mechanism for reporting globally.

Resources:

- How to deliver funding to collate and communicate how data is informing progress and lessons learnt for success and issues.
- Capacity limitation, including technical, scientific, financial, institutional and legal that precludes significant improvement against the target.

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

SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 13, SDG 16, and SDG 17.

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

- Partnerships with other UN entities in terms of specific areas for collaboration (e.g. Convention

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.