

The contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Report of the Secretary General on oceans and the law of the sea, on the topic of focus of WKH , & 3 - O H H H D U L V H D Q G L W V L P S D F W V ´

Introduction

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recognizes that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and has made it a top priority. The FAO 2017 Climate Change Strategy acknowledges the linkages between reducing the causes and impacts of climate change and the achievement of the SDGs. It sets out how FAO can contribute its expertise and resources to support Member Nations achieve climate change goals, build partnerships with other organizations and make a positive contribution to the international agenda on climate change. This priority and the outcomes of the Strategy are

yield variability and diseases. These changes are having an impact on the socioeconomic status of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in many parts of the world, levels of poverty and food insecurity in areas dependent on fish and fishery products, as well as on the governance and management of the sector and societies at large. In sum, these changes are having profound impacts on fishery and aquaculture communities and the ecosystems they depend on, especially in tropical regions.

5. A noteworthy finding in FAO Technical Paper 627 is that while the mean global and Indian Ocean sea levels have risen during the past decades, the sea level has decreased substantially in parts of the western equatorial Indian Ocean near Zanzibar. This finding is in contrast with global SLR, needs to be monitored carefully in the near future.

Observed and projected environmental, social and economic impacts and resulting challenges relating to sea level rise

6. The SROCC considers ocean warming and acidification to be greater drivers of change in fisheries and aquaculture than SLR. The SROCC further concludes that the negative effects of SLR on fisheries and aquaculture are indirect, through adverse impacts on habitats (e.g., coral reef degradation, reduced water quality in deltas and estuarine environments, salinisation), as well as on facilities (e.g., damage to small and large harbours). The FAO Technical Paper 627 also concludes that SLR can have serious consequences for fisheries and aquaculture adversely impacting nearshore habitats (the freshwater-marine interface along North Pacific coasts and ecosystems, and the muddy coastal regions of Cameroon), and coastal infrastructures (for example, coasts of Angola and Tanzania).
7. This indirect impact pathway makes projection of future SLR implications for coastal and marine fisheries and aquaculture challenging. Nevertheless, FAO considers that non-climatic anthropogenic drivers such as demographic growth and reduced availability and quality of freshwater, play an important role in increasing low- and high-latitude vulnerability to SLR and to extreme sea level events. Therefore, adaptation measures should target such non-climatic anthropogenic drivers, notwithstanding some of the uncertainty associated with SLR and its impacts on fisheries and aquaculture.

Opportunities in responding to those challenges, including through cooperation and coordination at all levels on scientific, technical, technological, and financial aspects and capacity-building

8. The SROCC considers that various options can play critical roles in crafting context-specific and integrated responses to SLR. Complementary to the protection, accommodation, ecosystem-based adaptation, coastal advance and retreat measures proposed by the SROCC, FAO identifies additional adaptation responses under its Adaptation Toolbox.

Category 1: Institutional adaptation (e.g., spatial planning, sectoral planning, ecosystem approach to fisheries/aquaculture (EAF/EAA), adaptive fisheries management, conflict-solving mechanisms)

Category 2: Measures addressing livelihoods (e.g., diversification of markets/fish products/livelihoods)

Category 3: Measures for risk reduction and management for resilience (e.g., monitoring, safety at sea, rehabilitation of ecosystems, reinforced barriers, social protection, stronger farming structures, addressing underlying poverty problems)

9. FAO is working with its partners to support the implementation of Adaptation Toolbox at global, regional and country levels through its climate change adaptation projects. For example, Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded projects through the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) are being implemented in various countries. For more information, please contact the Adaptation Toolbox team at adaptation@fao.org.

D Uddm?nited to a collective effort, including to develop international law, with the aim of
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1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, that the Members maritime zones could not
challenged or reduced as a result of sea level rise and climate change

12. FAO considers climate change and its impacts in their entirety and designs its related strategies, plans, programmes and projects in this context. Beyond oceans and fisheries and aquaculture, FAO is undertaking the following initiatives relating to climate change which form the basis for partnerships and investment:

Climate-Smart Agriculture Programme

Climate Change and Poverty±) \$ 2 ¶ V 6 W U D W H J L F 3 U R J U D P P H R Q 5 X U I
developed a framework document, *Addressing the Climate Change and Poverty Nexus: A
coordinated approach in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement* (2019),

FAO is currently finalizing two projects. The first project is '3 6 F D O L Q J X S i n P S O H P H C' of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) in Agriculture and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) under the UNFCCC (2020-2021). The project aims to support Least Developed Countries to develop gender-sensitive policies; build capacities to implement, monitor and report on NDCs, KJWA and SDGs; increase participation and engagement of women in the UNFCCC processes; improve access to information and knowledge SURGXFWV UHODWHG WR WKH DJULFXOWXUH VHFWRU in food systems and strengthening the local capacities and resilience of Small Island Developing States in the agri-IRRGVHFWRU to promote a enabling policy environment for the socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and girls through enhanced participation and benefit from climate resilient value chains. The activities under the two projects will contribute to the implementation of the ABSIDS.

References

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