

United Nations Environment Programme contributions to Secretary-General's background note for the preparatory meeting of the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

31 October 2019

I. Introduction

Healthy and well-functioning oceans and coasts are integral to our life-support system at many levels. They provide wide-ranging social and economic benefits and are crucial in targeting poverty-reduction for millions of people. Thriving oceans can ensure food and energy security, and are closely interlinked with maritime security, peace and prosperity. Healthy and resilient oceans regulate climate and provide adaptation pathways to climate change.

At the same time, oceans face unprecedented decline due to increasing human uses and impacts. Marine litter and micro-plastic from consumer products combined with untreated wastewater and nutrients continue to pollute our oceans. Ocean acidification, warming and changing currents disrupt ecological processes and functions. Furthermore, enhanced technologies and capabilities, combined with lack of global governance, oversight and accountability, have brought human exploitation of living and non-living ocean resources to an unprecedented level.

There is an urgent need to change the course of action by addressing the challenges ocean health face. Pursuing sustainable ocean economies is one essential avenue to support coastal communities and societies, as well as land-locked countries, profiting from marine resources in generations to come. Well-managed oceans can support large and growing economies.

The international community recognizes the *ecosystem approach* as the basis for sustainable management and use of marine and coastal environments and resources. The approach signifies that the assessment, management and governance would be based on defined ecosystems. Goods and services emanating from functions of these ecosystems shall be sustainably used for economic and social benefits, thus contributing to sustainable blue economy or growth. Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems are rich in biodiversity, underpinning high value ecosystem services.

The UN is the only mechanism with a global mandate that can catalyze coordinated actions to bolster ocean sustainability and security for future generations. UNEP plays a central role in fostering innovative partnerships, convening key actors, supporting governance and implement environmental policies through regional coordination. Global partnerships for healthy oceans contribute to the restoration of international peace and security, promoting human rights by addressing illegal fisheries, secure economic growth and decent jobs.

UNEP and partners launched two partnership at the 1st UN Oceans conference (June 2017): “Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance” and “Partnership for Land Based Pollution” .

Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance aims to support regional ocean partnership frameworks to effectively implement and review the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Regional Seas Programme is a results-oriented ocean governance mechanism. It supports regional level implementation and follow-up for harmonized and ecosystem-based implementation of national action for SDG14, for example enhanced cooperation between existing regional inter-governmental mechanisms, such as Regional Seas programmes and regional fisheries bodies. Regional Seas Programmes are recommended as platforms for further engagements with relevant initiatives to strengthen and apply an effective science-policy interface on oceans, building enhanced ownership from contracting Parties, and private sector engagement. Regional

following sections. A detailed overview Regional Seas input to implementation of SDG14 is presented in ANNEX 1.

UNEP proposes three interactive dialogues within the overall focus of the 2nd UN Oceans conference (June

related to reporting and advancing global and regional governance arrangements to address the issue, including:

- a) Establishment of Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics with two meetings convened in 2018 and an additional three planned. Work includes a global stock-taking; inventory of finance and technical resources and mechanisms (Note: this work is under UNEA).
- b) Support to Regional Seas Programmes to develop and implement marine litter action plans: A total of 11 regions of 18 have adopted regional action plans and another 4 are at various stages

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sensitize the citizens to understand the natural nitrogen cycle and how human impacts alter its balance.

- Addressing nutrient pollution

the lack of any internationally binding agreement with a primary objective to reduce marine plastics and microplastics; ii) measurable targets or global standards; iii) geographical gaps in coverage of existing agreements such as on the high seas, and gaps in signatories to agreements and their instruments; iv) poor implementation of policies and enforcement, often the result of no single authority being responsible for overseeing the management of marine litter; and v) a general absence of legal and market-based instruments to reduce consumption of difficult-to-recycle products and to stimulate industry's involvement in solutions. Additional ones include the lack of definitions, clear targets and hard numerical limits in regulations; gaps in legislation, including sustainable public procurement; lagging or incomplete implementation or enforcement of legislation; inconsistent national implementation of international legislation; and legislation conflicting values, for example hygiene regulations conflicting with regulations on food waste.

- (b) Financial (when high costs make a certain activity difficult to afford or implement; some also constitute economic barriers). Examples of financial barriers include: i) fossil fuel subsidies; ii) a chronic lack of funds in developing countries for waste infrastructure; iii) the absence the polluter pays principle, especially in areas such as the high seas, leaving governments with the burden of clean-up costs; iv) limited cross-border investments; v) absence of global and national markets for end-of-life plastics; and vi) a failure to internalize or make explicit the costs to human health and the environment.
- (c) Technological (including aspects related to the production, manufacturing and design of products, consumption systems and all aspects of waste collection, management and recovery). Examples of technological barriers exist for all aspects of the production, manufacturing and design of products, waste collection and recovery. In the absence of global standards, there has been a proliferation of widely different approaches to recovery, sorting and reprocessing technologies, across the informal and formal sectors and between developing and developed countries, undermining the viability of financially viable and effective markets. Waste management is often highly fragmented, with rural areas very often poorly serviced. Regarding upstream processes, there is a clear disconnect between innovation in the design and production phases and after-use systems, and little prioritization of the reduce-reuse-recycle waste hierarchy, for example how to increase the recycled content of products. There are also gaps in understanding of the best available technologies especially in how to deal with new alternative materials appearing in the marketplace.
- (d) Information (access to data, research, transparency, and education and awareness). Whilst there are multiple barriers relating to information, access to data, research, education and awareness raising, and transparency in reporting, which hamper decision-making and priority-setting, they are not sufficient to stop concrete actions in the short-term in parallel to longer-term responses. In other words, there is enough knowledge to act immediately in many areas. Significant efforts are still needed to close the knowledge gaps on the levels and sources of marine litter and microplastics, their accumulation in organisms and associated impacts on human health and ecosystem functioning.

IV. Development of partnerships

Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

- With plastic production set to rise over the next decade, even the positive developments that are happening on the ground may simply be overshadowed unless there is a change in thinking about waste prevention amongst industry as well as individual consumers coupled to actions at the global level. Thus, the identification of success factors likely to support national and international efforts will be crucial in establishing a strong basis for tackling marine litter and plastics. Examples of success factors include:
 - (a) adopting an integrated, holistic approach to waste management;
 - (b) embedding reduce-reuse-recycle thinking into all aspects of the economy, including producer responsibility;
 - (c) using a source-to-sea approach given the importance of rivers as conduits for the delivery of plastic litter to the marine environment;
 - (d) building on successful regional and global mechanisms such as the Regional Seas and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions¹, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Programme of Action.

- UNEP is actively engaged at the global level with engagement of partners on combating marine litter. The primary delivery mechanism is through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter for which the GPA provides secretariat services and leads on land-based sources. Close collabo75 577.Pon8

UNEP has supported the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) to develop a governance and implementation plan for the network, as well as to produce regional reports on the status and trends of coral reefs in various regions of the world including the Caribbean (2014), the Western Indian Ocean (2017), the Pacific (2018). Currently UNEP is supporting the production of reports on the status of coral reefs in the Eastern Tropical Pacific and the ROPME Sea Area, as well as a key *global* report on the status on coral reefs which will be ready in mid-2020.

In addition, status reports / policy briefs have been produced on wastewater pollution on coral reefs (UNEP, 2018), and plastics and shallow water coral reefs (UNEP, 2019). Both reports provide policy and management recommendations for addressing and reducing the impacts of pollution on coral reefs, based on current scientific knowledge. They promote integrated planning and management, awareness-raising, capacity-building and other efforts to improve monitoring of pollution and its impacts among key stakeholder groups.

Current status of international coral reef policy has been assessed with the UNEP/ICRI 'Analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and

environmental commitments (including SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the CBD), as well as examine the current status of payment for ecosystem services schemes.

- UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The recent declaration of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (March 2019) is one of a number of international conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention and UNFCCC

economy-related financing, the Sustainable Blue Economy Financing Principles and Initiative addresses the risk of natural capital loss resulting from unsustainable economic activity. It also supports efforts to reduce carbon emissions and maintain the sustainability of ocean-based businesses, as well as the livelihoods of people who depend on them for their prosperity and their way of life, thus securing the long-term health, resilience and integrity of our ocean.

2. Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (e.g., areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

- Climate change is a critical challenge to coral reefs globally, as highlighted by recent IPCC reports, and understanding coral bleaching trends, vulnerabilities and potential climate refugia will be critical in ensuring the survival of coral reefs. The Coral Bleaching Futures report (UNEP, 2017) describes includes do

- (c) There is a lack of clarity on the priorities, policies and practices for translating marine ecosystem restoration targets in success on the ground and how to mainstream ecosystem restoration into consumption and production sectors and society.
- Funding gaps and financing in protection of coastal ecosystems also present challenges and opportunities. UNEP has supported analyses and reports on understanding and leveraging the coral reef economy and funding, including a report on “The Coral Reef Economy: The business case for investment in the protection, preservation and enhancement of coral reef health” (UNEP, 2018), and a report on an “Analysis of international funding for the sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems” (UNEP, 2018). These reports highlight the clear funding gap for the sustainable management of coral reefs and provide the evidence base for increased investment. A collaboration is currently underway between UNEP, UNDP, Vulcan Inc and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation to develop a Global Coral Reef Fund in order to address the funding gap. Exploration of innovative financing mechanisms, such as insurance for coral reefs in the Mesoamerican Reef, or carbon market payments in Kenya and Madagascar, also provide promising avenues.
 - Payments for ecosystem services schemes similarly pose both challenges and opportunities for

- Inadequate collaboration and resources have been identified as key issues that need to be addressed to fill these gaps and support better management of marine resources and ecosystems, particularly in locations with limited human, technological or financial capacity. Limited global coordination presents a major challenge to establishing consolidated global in situ data related to coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves, for example, as data are currently collected by different organisations within countries with varying protocols and/or levels of capacity. Insufficient resources, particularly in developing countries, has been identified as a key impediment to accurate and reliable data collection for fisheries, and is likely to contribute to the continuation of illegal and unreported fishing activity.
- There is a need to focus more attention on monitoring the state and condition of ecosystems at the land-sea interface, including the impacts of land-based activities on marine and coastal ecosystems, and their relevance for achieving sustainable blue economies.

Opportunities (e.g. interlinkages of SDG14 with other relevant SDGs)

- Strengthening and mainstreaming action plans for ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management, including MSP, in line with national SDG actions, is a measure to overcome challenges faced in regard to 14.2. Formulation of national and regional policy on ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management is another opportunity as well as conducting a review of existing national and regional legal and policy frameworks.
- Enhancing cooperation and synergies in implementing biodiversity-related conventions

Conventions). Proactive consideration of these synergies can support more efficient data collation and use in reporting, following a “collect once, use many times” philosophy.

IV. Development of partnerships

- International Seagrass Experts Network

UNEP, with GRID-Arendal and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, has convened a global network of over 50 seagrass experts to explore challenges related to seagrass science, policy and management.

- International Coral Reef Initiative and Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

UNEP is a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and on the steering committee of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). UNEP has supported the development of a governance and implementation plan for the GCRMN, and is currently working closely with ICRI on the delivery of UNEA Resolution 4/13 on Sustainable Coral Reefs Management.

- The coral reef community of ocean action

Nearly 1,400 voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG 14 were made at the 1st UN Oceans conference (June 2017) by governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community, and the private sector. As a follow-up to the conference, UN Secretary General Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson created the Communities of Ocean Action. UNEP and ICRI currently co-chair the Coral Reefs Community of Ocean Action. There are currently 142 voluntary commitments from 106 members in the Coral Reefs Community of Ocean Action, representing over USD 400 million in investments for coral reef protection.

- Partnerships on ocean data

There is growing recognition of the need to form partnerships and streamline ocean data observation systems, as evidenced within the roadmap for implementing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (A/RES/72/73). Examples of ongoing initiatives to streamline data include IOC-UNESCO's Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and efforts to define Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs). Global communities of practice such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) provide a framework for contributing high quality data to this global system. IOC-UNESCO's Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) and the World Meteorological Organization's Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) have also been involved in collating and standardizing marine-related datasets.

- Linking coral reef monitoring and the Global Ocean Observing System

There is a need to promote global coordination and streamline protocols to establish consolidated global datasets for coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as seagrasses and mangroves, drawing on initiatives such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and related habitat networks associated with IOC-UNESCO's Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

- Ecosystem restoration

Sustainable ecosystem restoration offers the opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral engagement to deliver social, economic, biodiversity and climate benefits to people and nature.

Alignment between global, regional and national policies, conventions and initiatives provides the opportunity to maximise upon political will and societal needs and to understand and clearly articulate the priorities for ecosystem restoration to a range of stakeholders. This informed decision

Mediterranean; preparation of a “Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity Among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med and UNEP/MAP”; FAO-GFCM recommendations to ensure compatibility with the Barcelona Convention SPA/BD Protocol, etc.

- Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean

UNEP/MAP has formalized a joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, and IUCN-Med submitted for discussion at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (September 2019) for possible signing during the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP21, December 2019).

- MoU between Cartagena Convention and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

Cartagena Convention has signed a MoU with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) for mutual development and implementation of several strategies including, precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches, fisheries management and recovery plans for commercially important marine species.

- MoU between UNEP Nairobi Convention and Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

The Nairobi Convention has concluded an MoU with the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) in March 2019 to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration with the Nairobi Convention in areas of common concern and interest.

The Convention also expects to conclude MoUs with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD),

equitable sharing of their costs and benefits. There is no "one size fits all" solution and the Guide provides a flexible approach to governance that can be relevant to any MPA.

- Marine protected area coverage

In 2018, UNEP-WCMC launched the protected planet report demonstrating that marine protected area coverage increased from 10.2% to 18.1% in national waters. With concerted efforts from governments to implement national commitments, both terrestrial and marine coverage targets are likely to be achieved by 2020, although further areas will be needed for a full representation of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP-WCMC, 2018).

- Area-based management to achieve SDGs

UNEP and UNEP-WCMC has developed guidance on 'Applying marine and coastal area-based management approaches to achieve multiple sustainable development goals'. The report provides an overview of different area-based management approaches that support the delivery of many sustainable development goals and subsequently provided guidance for the implementation of area-based management approaches.

- Cross-sector collaboration on area-based management

Joint efforts of CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies to Accelerate Progress toward the Aichi Targets and SDG's is focusing on how cross-sectoral cooperation can enhance the application of the ecosystem management approach and the effectiveness of area-based management tools; among other areas.

- Regional Seas SDG 14 Outlook Report

UNEP is collaborating with UNEP-WCMC to produce a "Regional Seas SDG 14 Outlook Report" using the best available scientific information to illustrate the progress made towards achieving SDG 14, focusing primarily on SDG Target 14.2.1 and 14.5.1.

2. Challenges to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (e.g., areas where gaps exist, where more action is needed)

- While MPA coverage has grown significantly over the last decade, the geographical distribution of MPAs is very biased with a small number of countries making up the majority of the area of MPAs. There is a trend towards larger MPAs in light of scientific studies demonstrating the conservation benefits of scale in MPA establishment. There are questions over the effectiveness of these sites where they are not appropriately established or managed. Many regions of the world have minimal MPA coverage in national waters. Coastal MPAs are thereby underrepresented with implications for ecological representativity.
- There are gaps in terms of integration of MPAs within broader spatial planning efforts. National

MPA comes from a misunderstanding or under-appreciation of the core principles of MPAs, coupled with the conflation of the legal establishment of an area equating to the site having effective management and governance (IUCN WCPA, 2018a). Moreover, there have been questions raised about the strength and efficacy of some protected areas, which allow industrial fishing including destructive bottom trawling (Sala et al. 2018).

- UNEP-WCMC has worked with IUCN and others to publish '*Global Conservation Standards for MPAs*' (Day et al., 2018), including a clear definition and guiding principles, and currently an international and multidisciplinary group is working to develop a simple framework to describe different types of MPAs according to their level of protection and their stage of establishment, which would allow greater clarity and transparency in discussing and tracking MPAs, and reporting progress towards global goals.
- While the general outlook for increasing marine protected area coverage is positive, to truly meet the target will require, amongst other things, the increased protection of ABNJ, of which only 1.2% is currently protected. Designating MPAs in ABNJ is significantly more difficult than in territorial waters, although the designation of the approximately 2 million km² Ross Sea Marine Protected Area shows how this can be done.
- Another challenge is tracking progress towards specific aspects of SDG 14.5. Currently, there is no global indicator for marine connectivity. This leaves a significant gap in one of the key areas of marine health and requirements for many ocean and coastal species. There is a need to develop a process that includes discreet sequential activities, that could inform the development of connectivity measures in the context of the SDGs.

Opportunities (e.g. interlinkages of SDG14 with other relevant SDGs)

- Overall, SDG14.5 has links to SDGs 1; 2; 5; 7; 8; 9; 11; 12; 13; 16 and 17, because the achievement of some of those SDG's may either positively or negatively impact the achievement of SDG14.5.
- Integrate MPAs within larger EEZ-scale ocean management, zonation and multiple-use plans to ensure 100% of EEZ is under "good" management and where at least 10% of the EEZ receives stronger protection from extractive uses.
- Integrate MPAs into national strategies related to sustainable development is currently weak. Need to integrate policies, build institutional bridges and clarify governance frameworks between sector-specific policies and policies relevant to MPAs at national level. Promote synergies and agreements between conservation, the fishing industry, but also in the field of tourism, surveillance, tax and finance, and legal framework and policies for territorial development reinforcement.
- MPAs represent an effective tool to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts and to increase the resilience of social and ecological ecosystems. For example, MPAs that protect coastal habitats such as barrier islands, coral reefs, mangroves and wetlands reduce human vulnerability in the face of climate change and provide the natural infrastructure (e.g. storm protection) on which people rely.

- Consider the challenges of climate change both in MPA management plans and their monitoring activities, for example (a) explore possibility to have mobile boundaries of MPAs adopted at national level, and (b) utilise MPAs and other area based management measures in the face of a changing environment in particular climate change, e.g. use MPAs as sentinels to monitor climate change impacts.

IV. Development of partnerships

- Support cross-sectoral partnerships that include communities and civil society will be important for effective MPAs. Support institutional agreements between fisheries and MPA institutions at national and regional levels promoting synergies and/or clarifying shared responsibilities.
- Regional MPA networks (e.g. MedPAN, CAMPAM, RAMPAN) can promote MPAs as tools for addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as support monitoring of the state and effectiveness of MPAs through more harmonized monitoring systems including comparable sets of natural, socioeconomic and management effectiveness indicators at national and regional levels.
- Develop new regional cooperation at scientific knowledge and management levels to reinforce the role of MPAs towards climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Develop international sustainable financing mechanisms for long-term MPA networking (to support permanent platforms of MPA managers at regional level (such as MedPAN, CaMPAM, RAMPAN, others) as well as sub-regional networks of MPA managers (such as Adriapan in the Mediterranean).
- Build a win-win relationship with decision-makers and funding bodies on marine spatial planning, integrated coastal management, blue economy strategies, and sustainable fisheries policies, to deal with

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2. Challenges and opportunities

- Natural capital provided by the oceans, including services, are not recognized by today's markets, such as their contribution to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and biodiversity conservation. These services must be integrated in decision-making and account systems.
- Transition to sustainable ocean/blue economies will be indispensable in order to expand and maintain t

Target 14.a: 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 island developing States and least developed countries

1. Status and trends

- UNEP is providing practical area-based management tools, policy guidance and capacity building to support implementation of ecosystem-based management and governance to reduce human impacts and enable sustainable resource use of the marine environment. It hosts the UNEP-Live, a data depository portal and also coordinates the implementation of SDG14.
- UN Environment administers seven Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, namely Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention, Cartagena Convention, East Asian Seas Action Plan, Nairobi Convention, Northeast Pacific Action Plan and Teheran Convention, all generating knowledge and governance mechanism, such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the sustainable management of the marine environment. While each Regional Seas Convention and Action Plan tackles regionally specific issues, they have formulated common Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) to connect the regional activities to global processes.
- The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) has long been working to prevent, reduce and mitigate impacts by pollution from land-based activities through knowledge generation, pollution reduction policies and measures, assisting countries to develop their National Plan of Actions (NPAs), global partnerships.
- SDG 14 indicator methodology
UNEP and partners have prepared a re-

2. Challenges and opportunities

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- Sustainable Blue Economy decision-support and enabling environment

UNEP has initiated the development of a decision-support & enabling framework to support countries and regions identify and navigate policy pathways towards sustainable and inclusive blue economies. The Framework will consider economic, social and environmental dimensions and benefits of oceans. It seeks to enhance decision-making and enabling conditions to develop and implement sector/cross-sector policies and strategies that promotes sustainable, efficient and equitable use of coastal and marine resources and ecosystem services within planetary boundaries of oceans. The framework will connect ecosystem-based management principles and nature-based solutions with macro-economic analysis. It will consider barriers and enabling conditions for sustainable blue economy transition, informing key steps of decision-making and implementation processes.

The *Sustainable Blue Economy decision-support framework* is organised in four main components:

- (a) Mapping, evaluation and assessment of ecosystem distribution, status, human drivers, ecosystem services and vulnerabilities;
- (b) Integrated marine and coastal management, including strategic environmental assessment, trade-off analyses and scenario tools for cross-sector decision-making, spatial planning and integrated coastal management of overlapping sector interests and pressures in systematic and transparent ways;
- (c) Macro-economic models to support integrated blue economy policy-making and strategies that optimize economic circularity and resource efficiency in coastal development;
- (d) Equitable use and sharing of ocean benefits, including methods for effective engagement of local communities and relevant stakeholders in planning of ocean use and equitable sharing of ocean benefits, enhancing social and economic resilience to future change.

UNEP will be working with Regional Seas, countries, interested partners and experts to develop and pilot-test the decision framework in the coming two years.

- Evidence-based learning on marine and coastal management solutions

UNEP supports development of evidence-based learning that promotes ecosystem-based marine and coastal management to support sustainable oceans and coasts for people and nature through the *Blue Solutions* approach. *Blue Solutions* provides a range of different management tools and practical lessons from a range of marine and coastal issues, tools and approaches applied in real-life knowledge products, is part of the multi-thematic, multi-partner global learning online initiative '[PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#)'.

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V. possible themes for the interactive dialogues

On the basis of previous sections, UNEP would like to propose three themes for interactive dialogues within the overall focus on *science & innovation* of the 2020 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:

1. It is proposed to address the critical nexus of marine and coastal biodiversity and climate change through an interactive dialogue on "Nature-based Solutions for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability and Resilience".
2. It is proposed to address the essential role of healthy oceans as pre-requisite for long-term environmental, social and economic benefits within planetary boundaries through an interactive dialogue on "Strategies and Decision-support for Sustainable and Inclusive Blue economies".
3. It is proposed to address the complex issue of marine protected area effectiveness and equitable sharing of MPA costs and benefits through an interactive dialogue on "Marine Protected Area Performance".
4. It is proposed to address the issue of marine pollution through an interactive dialogue on "Prioritisation of actions, based on best available scientific knowledge and the most environmentally sound, risk-based and cost-effective measures, to prevent and reduce marine pollution".