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Executive Summary

Sustainable development can only become a reality when biodiversity and ecosystems are healthy and resilient. Without addressing the critical linkage between ecosystems and sustainable development, our collective efforts will be in vain. The importance of biodiversity as an integral part of sustainable development lies at the core of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Sustainable Development Goal 14 builds on and aligns with the commitments agreed to under the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As such, the experience gained in working towards the Aichi Targets provides a multitude of lessons that can benefit the implementation for SDG 14, as well as many other Sustainable Development Goals that rely so heavily on biodiversity and ecosystems, including SDG 2 on food security, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 15 on reversing biodiversity loss.

Addressing marine pollution:
Relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 8: "By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity"
The Convention provides, through the Programme of Work on marine and coastal biodiversity and subsequent COP decisions, guidance, guidelines, tools, and platform to share experiences and capacity development to address the impacts of both land-based and sea-based pollution on marine and coastal biodiversity, through the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach and the implementation of integrated, cross-sectoral area-based management tools and impact assessments.

Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
Relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11: "By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes"

As well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 12, 14 and 15

The Convention facilitates the global process of describing the ecologically or biologically significant marine areas around the world, which provides scientific foundation for the application of area-based conservation and management measures, including marine spatial planning and marine protected areas. Priority actions for protecting coral reefs and associated ecosystems as well as the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration, adopted by the COP, provide a framework for international cooperation and partnerships among Parties to accelerate national implementation.

Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification:
Relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 10: "By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity"

The Convention provides scientific synthesis on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as guidance for enhancing the resilience of ecosystems through a range of area-based or other management measures. The voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention, adopted by the COP, includes actions focused on better understanding, as well as avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the combined and cumulative effects of multiple stressors, including ocean acidification, on biodiversity in cold-water areas.

Making fisheries sustainable

Relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 6: "By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits"

As well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 3

Parties to the Convention expressed their commitments, through the adoption of the Cancun Declaration, to mainstream biodiversity in fisheries as well as other sectors. In close collaboration with FAO, Parties were provided with a framework of actions and indicators to accelerate, monitor and report on progress towards Target 6. The Convention Secretariat, together with FAO and UN Environment, also facilitates the regional-scale cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation to support national implementation for achieving Aichi Targets, through convening the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies.

Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology

Relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 19: "By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied"

As well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 18

The Convention provides a global partnership platform, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, to facilitate capacity building activities and sharing of experiences on cross-sectoral planning and management of marine and coastal biodiversity towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative also builds on scientific networking and collaborative partnerships that have been built around the world through the implementation of the Convention's global process on describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

1. Background

1.1. Marine biodiversity in support of well-being and sustainable development

Sustainable development can only become a reality when biodiversity and ecosystems are healthy and resilient. Without addressing the critical linkage between ecosystems and sustainable development, our collective efforts will be in vain.

The ecosystem services provided by the oceans include: (i) services that support marketable economic activities (e.g. fisheries, shipping, communications, tourism and recreation); (ii) the other tangible ecosystem services which are not often part of a market, but which are vital to human life. For examples, marine plants (mainly tiny floating diatoms) produce about 50 per cent of atmospheric oxygen. Mangroves, salt marshes and sea grasses are also natural carbon sinks. Coastal habitats, including coral reefs, protect homes, communities and businesses from storm surges and wave attack; and (iii) the intangible ecosystem services, such as aesthetic, cultural, religious and spiritual services derived from the marine environment.

Besides producing half the oxygen we breathe, and the ocean absorbs 30 per cent of the anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and approximately 93 per cent of the added heat arising from human-driven changes to the atmosphere.[1] Of the total annual oxygen production from photosynthesis on land and ocean, approximately half originates in marine plants. The plants involved in this process range from the microscopic phytoplankton to giant seaweeds.

Marine primary production, as the primary source of organic matter in the ocean, is the basis of nearly all life in the oceans, playing an important role in the global cycling of carbon. Phytoplankton absorbs about 50 billion tons of carbon a year, and large seaweeds and other marine plants (macrophytes) about 3 billion tons. At a global level, this ecological function plays an important role in removing CO_2 from the atmosphere. Total annual anthropogenic emissions of CO_2 are estimated at 49.5 billion tons, one-third of which is taken up by the ocean.

Many marine organisms secrete calcium carbonate to produce a hard skeleton. These vary in size from the microscopic plankton, through corals, to large mollusc shells. Carbonate production by corals is particularly important, because the reefs that they form are fundamental to the existence of many islands and some entire States. Sand beaches are also often formed by the fragmented shells of marine biota. Beaches are dynamic structures, under constant change from the effects of the oceans; hence a constant supply of new sand of this kind is needed to sustain them.

The global ecosystem services provided by primary production by marine plants, function as the base of nearly all food chains in the ocean (except the chemosynthetic ones), and provide the food for animal consumers that in turn sustain important provisioning ecosystem services from which humans benefit, such as fisheries.

Ocean means far more to us than just merely the functional or practical services that it provides. Humans value the ocean in many other ways: for aesthetic, cultural or religious reasons, and for just being there in all its diversity – giving us a "sense of place" (Halpern et al., 2012). Not surprisingly, given the resources that the ocean provides, human settlements have grown up very much near the shore: 38 per cent of the

[1] IPCC. 2013. Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA) 1535pp.

world's population lives within 100 km of the shore, 44 per cent within 150 km, 50 per cent within 200 km, and 67 per cent within 400 km (Small et al 2004).

Likewise, the development of human culture over the centuries has been influenced by the ocean, through transport of cultural aspects across the seas, the acquisition of cultural objects from the sea, the development of culture to manage human activities at sea, and the interaction of cultural activities with the sea. The ocean has been and continues to be the source of prized materials for cultural use, mostly originated from marine biodiversity. The intangible cultural heritage of human interaction with the sea is also important. Important cultural areas are derived from the need of humans to operate on the ocean, leading to skills such as navigation, hydrography, naval architecture, chronometry and many other techniques.[2]

1.2. Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals

The importance of biodiversity as an integral part of sustainable development lies at the core of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/). These targets, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010, lay out an ambitious agenda for achieving a future where ecosystems are able to provide critical services that underpin planetary well-being. Since 2010, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have provided an effective framework for cooperation to achieve a future in which the global community can sustainably and equitably benefit from biodiversity without impacting the ability of future generations to do so.

SDG 14 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

SDG 14 Targets	Highly Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets
14.1: "By 2025, prevent and reduce **marine pollution**.."	Aichi Target 8
14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems including by **strengthening their resilience**, and take action for their **restoration**..."	Aichi Target 10; Aichi Target 15
14.3: "Minimize and address the **impacts of ocean acidification**..."	Aichi Target 10
14.4: "By 2020, effectively re**gulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing** ..."	Aichi Target 6
14.5: "By 2020, **conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas**..."	Aichi Target 11
14.6: "By 2020, **prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies** which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing..."	Aichi Target 6; Aichi Target 3
14.7: "By 2030, **increase the economic benefits** to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources..."	Strategic Goal D
14.a: "**Increase scientific knowledge**, develop research capacity and **transfer marine technology**..."	Aichi Target 19
14.b: "**Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers** to marine resources and markets"	Aichi Target 18
14.c: "Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by **implementing international law**..."	Aichi Target 17

The same priorities are clearly reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 14, which builds on and aligns with the commitments agreed to under the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In fact, there are clear parallels between the Aichi Targets and specific SDG 14 targets, such as Aichi Target 8 and SDG 14 target 1 on pollution, Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14 target 5 on area-based conservation, and Aichi Target 15 and SDG 14 target 2 on ecosystem resilience and restoration. As such, the experience gained in working towards the Aichi Targets provides a multitude of lessons that can benefit the implementation for SDG 14, as well as many other Sustainable Development Goals that rely so heavily on biodiversity and ecosystems, including SDG 2 on food security, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 15 on reversing biodiversity loss.

[2] World Ocean Assessment 2016 Ch. 9 Bernal, P.

2. Challenges and Opportunities

The challenge and opportunities identified by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD regarding national efforts in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, could provide useful lessons learned for application in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14.

At its 12th meeting in 2014, the COP adopted decision XII/1, in which it noted the following general conclusions from the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, in the context of the mid-term review of progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:

(a) Meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would contribute significantly to broader global priorities addressed by current discussions on the post-2015 development agenda: namely, reducing hunger and poverty, improving human health, ensuring a sustainable supply of energy, food and clean water, contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification and land degradation, and reducing vulnerability to disasters;

(b) Actions to achieve the various Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be undertaken in a coherent and coordinated manner; the individual Aichi Biodiversity Targets should not be addressed in isolation. Actions towards certain targets, notably those that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the further development and sharing of information, and the mobilization of financial resources, will have an especially strong influence on the achievement of the other targets;

(c) Attaining most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will require the implementation of a package of actions, typically including: legal or policy frameworks; socioeconomic incentives aligned with such frameworks; public and stakeholder engagement; monitoring; and enforcement. Coherence of policies across sectors and the corresponding government ministries is necessary to deliver an effective package of actions;

(d) It will be necessary to broaden political and general support for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the objectives of the Convention. This will require working to ensure that all levels of government and stakeholders across society are aware of the multiple values of biodiversity and related ecosystem services;

(e) Partnerships at all levels are required for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to leverage broad-scale actions, to garner the ownership necessary to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors of government, society and the economy and to enable synergies in the national implementation of the various multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) There are opportunities to support implementation of the Strategic Plan through enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among Parties. Further capacity-building support will also be needed, especially for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition; and

(g) An overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding, is needed for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

These general conclusions are further supported by a range of reports related to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. These include: Technical series 78 - Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, policy scenarios and key actions, Technical series 79 - How Sectors Can Contribute to Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biodiversity and a series of regional state of biodiversity reports prepared for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and West Asia. CBD Technical Series 78 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-78-en.pdf. CBD Technical Series 79 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-79-en.pdf. The regional state of biodiversity reports are available at the following links (The State of Biodiversity in Africa - http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-Africa; The State of Biodiversity in West Asia - http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-

WestAsia; The State of Biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific - http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-AsiaPacific; The State of Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean - http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-LatinAmericaAndCaribbean)

The full text of decision XII/1 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/decisions/?id=13364

3. Existing Partnerships and Activities within the Convention relating to themes of the Partnership Dialogue of the Ocean Conference

In discussing and considering challenges and opportunities, as well as existing and potential future partnerships, to facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, the Ocean Conference should consider the relevant work and developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Under the CBD, there have been significant efforts aimed at facilitating progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas, which overlap and align very closely with the targets under SDG 14. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets represent a landmark political achievement, catalyzing an enormous amount of support, political will, and investment, thereby advancing the sustainable development paradigm. Likewise, efforts to achieve the Aichi Targets have advanced tools and approaches for conservation and sustainable use, and have demonstrated clear positive impacts. These efforts reflect the concerted political will of the 196 CBD Parties, other Governments and other relevant stakeholders, which has generated important experiences, lessons and partnerships and which the efforts towards SDG 14 should build on and leverage.

The following are brief summaries of relevant developments under the CBD with regards to each theme of the seven partnership dialogues.

1. ADDRESSING MARINE POLLUTION

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes the following target most relevant to this theme:
Aichi Biodiversity Target 8: *"By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity"*

Addressing the impacts of land- and sea-based pollution on marine and coastal biodiversity through the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (also relevant to theme 2 & 4)
The Convention's Programme of Work on marine and coastal biodiversity promotes action to reduce and control sea-based sources of pollution and achieve substantial progress in protecting the marine environment from land-based activities through effective application of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and other appropriate instruments, including proper coastal land use, watershed planning, and integration of integrated marine and coastal area management into key sectors.

The CBD Secretariat carries out capacity building activities through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative to support the application of integrated marine and coastal area management (further information available at: https://www.cbd.int/soi). In 2015, the CBD Secretariat produced CBD Technical Series 76: Integrated Coastal Management for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-76-en.pdf).

Preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats
At the UN Biodiversity Conference in December 2016, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD took note of voluntary practical guidance on means to prevent and mitigate impacts of marine debris on marine

and coastal biodiversity and habitats (CBD COP decision XIII/10). This practical guidance addresses priority actions in different areas, including, for example:

- Enhancing the knowledge base regarding sources, quantities and impacts of marine debris;
- Promoting structural economic changes to reduce the production and consumption of plastics, increase production of environmentally friendlier materials, and support the development of alternative materials;
- Improving the waste management systems and optimizing waste delivery to port reception facilities;
- Implementing socioeconomic incentives to prevent the introduction of waste into the environment; and
- Mainstreaming marine debris consideration into regulatory, legislative and institutional frameworks.

The voluntary practical guidance builds on the results of the CBD Expert Workshop to Prepare Practical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats, held in 2014, the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP). The workshop report is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/mcbem-2014-03/official/mcbem-2014-03-02-en.pdf

Also, CBD Technical Series No. 83: Marine Debris—Understanding, Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity was launched at the UN Biodiversity Conference (available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-83-en.pdf).

Preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats

The Conference of the Parties to the CBD has addressed the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity. At its 12th meeting in 2014, COP encouraged Parties and other Governments as well as indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, to take appropriate measures, as appropriate and within their competencies, and in accordance with national and international laws, to avoid, minimize and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, including actions addressing, for example:

- Defining and differentiating types or intensities of underwater noise where there are adverse impacts, and characterizing noise by source;
- Conducting further research on the remaining significant knowledge gaps;
- Developing and transferring quieter technologies, and applying the best available practice in all relevant activities;
- Combining acoustic mapping with habitat mapping of sound-sensitive species with regard to spatial risk assessments in order to identify areas where those species may be exposed to noise impacts;
- Mitigating and managing anthropogenic underwater noise through the use of spatio-temporal management of activities, relying on sufficiently detailed temporal and spatial knowledge of species or population distribution patterns combined with the ability to avoid generating noise in the area at those times;
- Conducting impact assessments, where appropriate, for activities that may have significant adverse impacts on noise-sensitive species, and carrying out monitoring, where appropriate.

CBD COP decision XII/23 available at: https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13386

This built on the outputs of the CBD Expert Workshop on Underwater Noise and its Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, held in 2014 in London, UK. The workshop report is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/mcbem-2014-01/official/mcbem-2014-01-02-en.pdf

2. MANAGING, PROTECTING, CONSERVING AND RESTORING MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes the following targets most relevant to this theme:

Aichi Biodiversity Target 10: *"By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning"*

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11: *"By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes"*

Aichi Biodiversity Target Target 12: *"By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained"*

Aichi Biodiversity Target Target 14: *"By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable"*

Aichi Biodiversity Target Target 15: *"By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification"*

Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) (also relevant to theme 6)

Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD in 2010, the CBD Secretariat has been coordinating a global process to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through regional workshops. Thus far, these regional workshops have covered more than 70% of the ocean and described more than 200 areas meeting the EBSA scientific criteria. The description of EBSAs is a scientific and technical process and the identification of EBSAs and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations. This work serves as an important foundation for conservation and management, and creates the enabling conditions to further enhance and utilize this knowledge by catalyzing scientific networking and partnerships at the regional level. It also helps to identify gaps in knowledge and to prioritize monitoring and research activities in support of the application of the ecosystem approach. Further information on the work on EBSAs under the CBD available at: https://www.cbd.int/ebsa.

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (Aichi Targets 11 and 12)

Establishment of comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively managed and financially secured protected area networks is a critical strategy not only for biodiversity conservation, but for securing ecosystem goods and services, enabling climate change adaptation and mitigation, and helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. By emphasizing the equitable sharing of costs and benefits, recognizing various governance types and by giving prominence to ecological representation, management effectiveness and multiple benefits, the Convention's Programme of Work on Protected areas provides a comprehensive global plan of action for effective development and management of protected areas, including marine and coastal protected areas.

Since May 2015, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partner organizations, has undertaken efforts to reach out to Parties to collect information on the status of each element of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and priority actions that Parties would undertake in the next five years to contribute to facilitating the achievement of the target at the global level. Detailed information on the status of implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 at the subregional, regional and global levels from publicly available information and from the outcomes of these three workshops is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-43-en.pdf.

An update on the status of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 is available at the following links, respectively: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-17-en.pdf, https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-18-en.pdf.

Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems (also relevant to theme 4)

At its 12th meeting in 2014, the COP adopted the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems. These actions focus on efforts at the local, national, regional and global levels to manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due to the interactive effects of multiple stressors, including both global stressors and local stressors. The Priority Actions are contained in the annex of COP decision XII/23 (available at: https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13386), and also available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-aichi-target-10-en.pdf.

Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration

The COP, at its 13th meeting, adopted the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration**.** The overall objective of this action plan is to promote restoration of degraded natural and semi-natural ecosystems as a contribution to reversing the loss of biodiversity, recovering connectivity, improving ecosystem resilience, enhancing the provision of ecosystem services, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and improving human well-being while reducing environmental risks and scarcities.

CBD COP decision XIII/5 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-05-en.pdf.

Marine spatial planning

The COP, at its 13th meeting, adopted decision on marine spatial planning and training initiatives, in which it encouraged Parties and invites other Governments, as appropriate and taking into account national circumstances, to apply marine spatial planning to marine and coastal areas within their jurisdiction or enhance existing marine spatial planning initiatives in these areas, and, *inter alia*:

- To promote the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the development and implementation of marine spatial planning, in accordance with national legislation;
- To link closely to existing efforts to implement integrated marine and coastal area management, marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, as well as strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments, pollution management, fisheries management and management of other economic activities, including tourism;
- To engage with relevant stakeholders and sectors as well as indigenous peoples and local communities in the development and implementation of marine spatial planning;
- To strengthen the application and further development of the ecosystem approach in marine spatial planning, including the use of ecological, economic and social spatial data and knowledge as well as regional cooperation;

CBD COP decision XIII/9 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-09-en.pdf.

Discussions on this decision were informed by the results of the CBD Expert Workshop to Provide Consolidated Practical Guidance and a Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning, held in September 2014. The workshop report is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-06-en.pdf.

In 2012, the CBD Secretariat, together with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, produced CBD Technical Series 68: Marine Spatial Planning in the Context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-68-en.pdf). The CBD Secretariat also carries out various capacity building activities through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative to support the application of marine spatial planning and other types of integrated approaches to conserving and sustainably using marine and coastal biodiversity (further information available at: https://www.cbd.int/soi).

Biodiversity and tourism development

In 2014, at its 12th meeting, the COP adopted decision XII/11, inviting Parties and other Governments to take a number of key actions for sustainable tourism management, including promoting communication, education and public awareness activities on sustainable travel choices, identifying areas where there are significant levels of biodiversity and pressure from tourism, and monitoring tourism activities in protected areas. COP also invited donors to provide funding to support developing countries in the demonstration of "tourism and conservation hotspots"

CBD COP decision XII/11 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-11-en.pdf

At its 13th meeting, COP adopted a decision on Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors. This includes specific actions to mainstreaming and the integrate biodiversity into the tourism sector, such as using information on the benefits and values of sustainable tourism in decision-making on the planning, operation and expansion of the tourism sector, and promoting capacity-building to support sustainable tourism.

CBD COP decision XIII/3 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-03-en.pdf

3. MINIMIZING AND ADDRESSING OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes the following target most relevant to this theme:

Aichi Biodiversity Target 10: *"By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning"*

Impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity

The CBD Secretariat published CBD Technical Series 75: An Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity (available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-75-en.pdf). This report was developed in collaboration in collaboration with researchers from around the world and provides a systematic review and synthesis of the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

The COP, at its 11th meeting, took note of guidance for practical responses to the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity, and encouraged Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to make use of this guidance, as appropriate, to reduce various threats from ocean acidification to vulnerable ecosystems and to enhance the resilience of ecosystems through a range of area-based or other management measures, in addition to measures to reduce CO2 emissions. Parties are also encouraged to incorporate emerging scientific knowledge on ocean acidification into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) as well as strategies and action plans for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, national and local plans on integrated marine and coastal area management, and the design and management of marine and coastal protected areas, and to include with NBSAPs, specific measures to deal with ocean acidification. Further details are available in annex III to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6 (https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-06-en.pdf)

Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-Water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention (also relevant to theme 2 and theme 6)

The COP, at its 13th meeting, adopted a voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention (CBD COP decision XIII/11). The workplan includes actions focused on avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the combined and cumulative effects of multiple stressors on biodiversity in cold-water areas, and maintaining and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems in cold-water areas.

CBD COP decision XIII/11 is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-11-en.pdf

4. MAKING FISHERIES SUSTAINABLE

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes the following targets most relevant to this theme:

Aichi Biodiversity Target 3: *"By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions"*

Aichi Biodiversity Target 6: *"By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits"*

Focus of CBD COP 13 on mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being, including in fisheries and aquaculture (also relevant to theme 2)

The UN Biodiversity Conference focused on the theme of "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-Being," in particular with regards to fisheries and aquaculture. In this vein, ministers and heads of delegations at the high-level segment of the Conference expressed their commitment, through the adoption of the Cancun Declaration, to work at all levels within governments and across sectors to mainstream biodiversity in sectoral development. Committed ministers and heads of delegation agreed to incorporate biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, strengthen institutional support and capacities for biodiversity mainstreaming, and ensure that sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes integrate the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Cancun Declaration, emanating from the high-level segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/official/cop-13-24-en.pdf

Facilitating the monitoring of progress in the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fisheries (also relevant to theme 2)

In 2016, the CBD Secretariat, FAO, the IUCN Fisheries Expert Group, and the European Bureau on Conservation and Development organized an expert meeting on improving progress reporting and working towards the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. The workshop developed a framework of actions and indicators to accelerate, monitor and report on progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. The results of the workshop were considered by the COP at its 13th meeting, where it welcomed this cooperation to improve reporting and support for the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6, and invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Committee on Fisheries to consider and further support the development and implementation of measures, guidance and management tools for promoting and supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as to consider further measures aimed at fostering the recovery of threatened and endangered marine species and preventing overfishing. The results of this workshop were also considered at the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 32nd meeting in 2016, where COFI welcomed the outcomes and recommendations of the expert meeting, invited FAO to strengthen cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and recommended that FAO make available suitable indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving relevant Aichi Targets.

The workshop report available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-27-en.pdf.

CBD COP decision XIII/3 available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-03-en.pdf

The report of FAO COFI 32 is available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr484e.pdf.

Modalities and milestones for Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 on incentives

At its 12th meeting in 2014, the COP took note of the modalities for the full operationalization of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 and adopted a set of milestones as a flexible framework for the full implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3. This includes actions and milestones to (i) identify those harmful incentives that are candidates for removal, phase-out, or reform; (ii) provide for a prioritized list of measures leading to their eventual removal, phase-out, or reform; (iii) provide for a prioritized list of measures leading to the introduction, or strengthening, of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (iv) provide for associated timelines and milestones for implementation. The milestones are annexed to COP decision XII/3, available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-03-en.pdf, and the modalities are available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-20-en.doc.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (also relevant to theme 1 & 2)

UN General Assembly, in its 2016 resolution on oceans and the law of the sea (A/71/L.26, para 258), noted with appreciation the work of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative under the CBD, and noted in this regard the global dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies on accelerating progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets held in Seoul from 26 to 29 September 2016.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was convened by the Secretariat in September 2016, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, the IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group, and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, and with the support of the Governments of the Republic of Korea and Japan, and the European Commission. The meeting brought together representatives of regional seas organizations, regional fishery bodies and relevant United Nations

/international organizations/initiatives as well as experts from national governments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations. This meeting, the first of its kind at the global level, aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences and discussing specific tools and guidelines in order to enhance science-based, cross-sectoral and ecosystem-based approaches for addressing biodiversity and fisheries issues, and identifying options and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies, with a view to further strengthening their complementary roles in supporting national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.
The outcome of this meeting is available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SOIOM-2016-01.

6. INCREASING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, AND DEVELOPING RESEARCH CAPACITY AND TRANSFER OF MARINE TECHNOLOGY

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes the following targets most relevant to this theme:

Aichi Biodiversity Target 18: *"By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels"*

Aichi Biodiversity Target 19: *"By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied"*

Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) (also relevant to theme 1, 2 & 4)

In the context of the CBD, there are various partnership initiatives aimed at facilitating the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Convention. Of particular relevant to SDG 14, is the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a global capacity building partnership coordinated by the CBD Secretariat which facilitates capacity building activities to support enhanced cross-sectoral planning and management of marine and coastal biodiversity to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. SOI focuses centrally on bringing together stakeholders from different ocean sectors (e.g., conservation, fisheries, tourism) to:

(a) Facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge, information, experience and best practices;
(b) Create partnerships that can provide targeted capacity-building and technical assistance in support of on-the-ground implementation;
(c) Enhance interactive communication among global policy, science and local stakeholders;
(d) Facilitate the monitoring of progress;
(e) Develop partnerships among different sectors and stakeholders on local, regional and global scales; and
(f) Work together to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and promoting flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.

SOI achieves this through activities such as global partnership dialogues, high-level events at CBD COPs, regular training of trainers workshops, regional capacity building workshops, national capacity building workshops and online information-sharing. In light of the close complementarities between SDG 14 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, this is an important partnership to facilitate achievement of SDG 14.

UNGA, in its 2016 resolution on oceans and the law of the sea (A/71/L.26, para 258), noted with appreciation the work of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative under the CBD.

Information on SOI is available at: https://www.cbd.int/soi.