

Note on Partnership Dialogue No.2
Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
Targets 14.2 and 14.5, by 2020

Introduction

It was recognized in the Samoa PATHWAY that genuine and durable partnerships play an important role in advancing sustainable development by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. As it has already been demonstrated in practice partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare. In approving the Agenda 2030 member states went even further and declared their determination to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda and its Goals through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, which, in view of the multidimensional and multifaceted character of the Agenda will have to have as many shapes as the multitude of efforts that will be required if the spirit of global solidarity, focused on the many needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, will have to be strengthened and maintained . We therefore stress that the notion of partnership encompasses the regional, the trans-regional and the multistakeholder dimensions.

The health of the oceans concern all people on the Planet in equal measure. They are a source of food, wealth and culture for all the Earth inhabitants; they are providers of material and spiritual nourishment for all humans; they are the guardians of the climate of the Earth. The social and economic situation of countries and communities and their differentiated capabilities determine the nature of the reaction of each community and country to the poor health of the oceans, and make the true partnership approach to cooperation and problem solving and remedy seeking an imperative. We therefore believe that the holistic approach inherent to partnerships is a powerful tool for international cooperation to address the protection and conservation of ecosystems, reducing and ending pressures, including those from land-based sources, implementing an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, achieving sustainable fisheries, ensuring integrated ocean and coastal management and creating conditions for sustainable development and sustainable oceans-related economy by focusing on implementation and action at all levels.

We therefore see the Partnership Dialogues as a major opportunity for attaining robust involvement and full participation of stakeholders to the task of achieving the Agenda's goals and targets, from the identification of concrete actions and best practices, to the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt, to mobilizing resources and achieving results.

Constructing Partnerships

In order to guide the discussion at the Conference, and in particular to provide substantial inputs for the preparation of the Conference Outcome – the Call to Action – it is suggested that the UNDESA Briefing Notes on the Ocean Conference themes concentrate on recommending the tools needed for setting up cooperative efforts – Partnerships – aiming at the achievement of the targets, i.a.:

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

Tools adaptable to all contexts may be needed for:

- Defining the boundaries of the ecosystem to be managed;
- Assessing ecosystems – species, habitats, integrity – using all available sources including local and traditional knowledge;
- Identify the major ecological services to be conserved - carrying capacity, potential thresholds and tipping points;
- Measuring the ability of ecosystems to tolerate and respond and accommodate to a variety of stressors, natural and man-made;
- Measuring the ability of ecosystems to recover from disturbance or withstand ongoing pressures (resilience);
- Identifying the natural resources to be restored and ensuring the measurability of the process of restoration;
- Identifying socioeconomic, political and cultural impacts that conservation and restoration will have on society and its economy;
- Identifying stakeholders;
- Defining management goals and the collaborative/negotiation processes that involve all stakeholders;
- Defining and measuring indicators of achievement of the management goals;
- Defining and measuring desired social benefits;
- Clearly defining the term “sustainability” for the specific context and specifically the time frame of concern;
- Defining costs and benefits with relative priority;
- Identifying and using important scientific information.

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

Through a dialogue between policy makers and scientists, the 10x20 Initiative launched and led by Italy has recognized that the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits deriving from Marine Protected Areas, that include increased food security,

provision of livelihood options, better economic returns from marine resources, and greater resilience and disaster risk reduction in the face of climate change, are among the basic building blocks on which to advance sustainable development. On this basis, in the Rome Call to Action (Rome, March 2016) has identified a number of basic tools that will assist in the identification, design, finance and governance of MPAs and MPA networks in a multiplicity of contexts.

In general, **tools** adaptable to all contexts may be needed for:

- Making use of the best available science as well as institutional and operational experience worldwide;
- Mapping and describing areas where MPAs are especially needed and prioritizing protection of vulnerable species and habitats;
- Giving highest consideration to biodiversity distribution and ecosystem functioning ;
- Identifying potential conflicts between use and conservation of marine resources;
- Developing MPA governance frameworks that are appropriate to the specific context;
- Identifying economic, knowledge, legal and participative incentives;
- Identifying approaches to consistently involve all stakeholders, including local communities, at all stages of MPAs;
- Identifying the economic issues related to MPAs and the cost-benefit analysis that take into account the existing gap between the short term nature of investments and the long term character of MPA benefits;
- Identifying approaches to measure MPAs sustainability in the long term;
- Identifying and managing transitional challenges inherent to the establishment of MPAs;
- Identifying sources of investment in the establishment and maintenance of MPAs.

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