



Concept Paper

Partnership dialogue 5: Increasing economic benefits to small islands developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

Concept paper for the Partnership dialogue 5, prepared in response to the General Assembly resolution 70/303, on increasing economic benefits to small islands developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, is covering SDG targets 14.7 and 14.b. The concept paper for this partnership dialogue is based on inputs received from Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders. Given the word limit for the concept paper, not all inputs have been included in their entirety, but they can be accessed under: <https://oceanconference.un.org/documents>.

I. Introduction

Partnership Dialogue 5 addresses two distinct but interrelated targets of SDG 14: increasing the economic benefits to small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism (14.7); and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets (14.b). A discussion on these topics must include consideration of a range of linked but distinct issues. Oceans provide a wide array of benefits to LDCs and SIDS including—but not limited to—small-scale, artisanal fisheries. Likewise, small-scale artisanal fishers are a fundamental part of SIDS and coastal LDC societies, but they can also be found in developed and other developing countries.¹ Estimates suggest that workers involved in small-scale fisheries comprise over 90 percent of people employed globally in capture fisheries and related activities, and produce approximately half of the global catch.²

An effective examination of these issues will require a holistic, integrated approach that takes into account not only the diversity inherent in the topics but also the close links to other SDGs. The unifying theme is livelihoods—primarily from fishing but also from aquaculture, tourism and other ecosystem services. The livelihoods focus of the dialogue

¹ FAO defines small-scale or artisanal fisheries as ‘traditional fisheries involving fishing households (as opposed to commercial companies), using relatively small amount of capital and energy, relatively small fishing vessels (if any), making short fishing trips, close to shore, mainly for local consumption’

² Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, FAO, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e.pdf>

means that the discussion can be informed by other SDGs, in particular SDG 1 (eradicate poverty), SDG 2 (end hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), and SDG 13 (combat climate change). There are also close links to the other targets of SDG 14.

II. Status and trends

LDCs and SIDS

SIDS face unique sustainable development challenges, including small populations, limited resources, vulnerability to natural disasters and external shocks, and high dependence on foreign imports. Their growth and development is often hampered by high transportation and communication costs, disproportionately expensive public administration and infrastructure due to their small size, and little or no opportunity to create economies of scale. SIDS are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts such as sea-level rise, droughts, floods, coastal surges, and typhoons (also known as hurricanes and cyclones). Climate impacts also affect SIDS marine ecosystems, which are vital in their own right and also integral to economic sectors such as fisheries and tourism.

Many SIDS have maritime zones that are exponentially larger than their land territory (in Tuvalu, for instance, the size of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is more than 26,000 times that of the land mass). Economic development and livelihoods in SIDS are therefore highly dependent on healthy and productive oceans. Currently, fisheries—not only through direct exports but also via fees from fish license agreements for access—and tourism are the predominant ocean-dependent industries in SIDS. Other ocean-related industries with increasing potential to deliver benefits are aquaculture, offshore renewable energy, deep-sea mineral activities, and marine biotechnology and bioprospecting. Types of sustainable energy showing promise include tidal stream, wave, offshore solar, ocean currents, and liquid biofuels (for shipping).

Coastal LDCs often share many of the SIDS challenges, and LDCs in general are characterized by insufficient human and institutional capacities, low and unequally distributed income, and scarcity of domestic financial resources. Their largely agrarian economies are affected by mutually reinforcing low productivity and low investment, and they rely on the export of few primary commodities, which makes them highly vulnerable to external terms-of-trade shocks. But like SIDS, LDCs can potentially access significant opportunities in the fisheries and other ocean-related sectors. For 14 out of the 48 LDCs, fish are one of their top five export products. Additionally, six of the top 16 producers of fish from inland waters are LDCs—including one that is also a landlocked developing country (LLDC), Uganda.³

Fisheries management and the economic value derived from fisheries for SIDS and LDCs continue to improve. In the Pacific, for instance, conventional fisheries management is shifting from single-species maximization to more holistic approaches encompassing

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5555e.pdf>

biological, environmental, economic and social objectives. Other fisheries measures to enhance the economic prosperity of LDCs and SIDS include policy and governance support programmes; coastal fisheries assessment and census programmes; sustainable aquaculture support programmes; protected area management programmes; threatened species provisions (e.g. implementation of CITES listings); biosecurity and introduced species programmes; integrated land and ocean management programmes; climate change adaptation and resilience programmes; disaster risk management and emergency assistance for the re-establishment of fisheries affected by natural disasters; fisher safety at sea programmes; programmes to combat IUU fishing; and other capacity development activities. In addition, SIDS and LDCs are incorporating traditional knowledge into resource use practices and plans.

Nonetheless, LDCs and SIDS often lack the technical, institutional, technological and financial support to benefit fully from their marine resources. The relationship between SIDS (and coastal LDCs) and the foreign countries that fish their waters, for instance, is often complex. The licensing of foreign fishing vessels in EEZs can provide significant national income, but in cases where fees are linked to current world fish prices, the instability of this revenue can increase vulnerability in LDCs and SIDS. In addition, these countries often lack the institutional and human capacity to develop their own fishing industries. LDCs and SIDS—including LDCs that are also LLDCs—also suffer from a lack of capacity to fully take advantage of the opportunities presented by the growing aquaculture sector.

In addition to fisheries, SIDS also derive significant economic benefit from their tourism industry, which is overwhelmingly based on their ocean, coasts and marine resources. The number of international tourists visiting SIDS destinations increased from 28 million in 2000 to 41 million in 2013. Tourism accounts for over one quarter of the GDP in many SIDS and represents nine per cent of the overall exports. Depending on the development of the tourism industry, it provides jobs for SIDS communities. In SIDS and in other countries around the world, recreational fisheries are an important element of the tourism sector, and underwater cultural heritage and the outstanding aesthetic quality of coral reef ecosystems also have high tourism development potential and can help to create income and employment. Studies show that 37 per cent of world tourism is culture related and that there is a strong link between the protection of cultural heritage and ecosystems and an increase in tourism.⁴

The tourism industry is taking steps toward enhanced sustainability—improving waste management and energy efficiency, increasing local employment, building and maintaining local supply chains, managing informal local trading and fostering community-based initiatives and protecting underwater cultural heritage.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, and it is

⁴ UNWTO estimate

of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector. It stipulates the limits of the various maritime zones and provides for the rights and duties of States, including SIDS and LDCs, in these zones⁵.

Small-scale artisanal fisheries

The small-scale, artisanal fishery sector—encompassing all activities along the value chain including pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest—employs men and women in almost equal measure, with high female participation in fish processing and small-scale fish trading operations.⁶ Some 90 to 95 per cent of the catch produced by small-scale landings is destined for local human consumption.⁷ In some developing countries, including SIDS, small-scale fisheries provide more than 60 per cent of protein intake. Many indigenous peoples and their communities also rely on small-scale fisheries, and recent estimates show that coastal indigenous peoples eat, on average, 15 times more seafood per person than non-indigenous people in the same country.⁸ The role of small-scale artisanal fisheries in food security and nutrition is often underestimated or ignored, and their product is rarely reported separately in national catch statistics.

In 2014, after a long participatory consultation process, the members of the FAO Committee on Fisheries endorsed a new internationally negotiated and agreed instrument dedicated specifically to small-scale fisheries that complements the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) set out principles and guidance for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development. The SSF Guidelines seek to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security and economic growth. In addition, the SSF Guidelines contain direct links to the 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security of the Committee on World Food Security, which support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

Complementing the global status and trends, some regional SIDS-specific developments include the following:

- Caribbean: An FAO/CRFM/WECAFC Caribbean Regional Consultation on the Development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries held in 2012 confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and economic development in the Caribbean region.

⁵ See also Concept Paper for Partnership Dialogue 7

⁶ Committee on World Food Security (2014), *Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition*, a report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

⁷ The Hidden Harvest. 2012. World Bank, World Fish Centre, FAO

⁸ Cisneros-Montemayor, A, Pauly, D., Weatherdon, L. and Ota, Y. et al. (2016) A global estimate of seafood consumption by coastal Indigenous peoples (In press) Plos One.

- Indian Ocean region: the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Ministers Council recently adopted a new Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy for the period 2015-2025. Its overarching objective is to allow the fisheries and aquaculture sector in IOC Member States to fully realize its potential contribution to sustainable and equitable growth in the region.
- Pacific: the 9th Pacific Community Heads of Fisheries Meeting endorsed *A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy* in 2015, acknowledging the need to dedicate more attention to this sector. In addition, a Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) is currently being implemented by the eight Pacific Islands countries who are parties to the Nauru Agreement.⁹

In all regions, there is a growing recognition that small-scale fishers can be important actors in the implementation and monitoring of fish management systems, and that a participatory approach is most effective. And, increasingly, many of these systems incorporate traditional practices within a tenure-based governance framework, which helps to relieve some of the pressures from overfishing and overcapacity.

UNCLOS, together with the Fish Stocks Agreement, provides the legal regime for fisheries, including small-scale artisanal fisheries. Specifically, UNCLOS and the Fish Stocks Agreement contain several provisions particularly relevant to small-scale and artisanal fishers, including the duty to take into account the interests of artisanal and subsistence fishers, as well as the need to avoid adverse impacts on, and ensure access to fisheries by, subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers.

UNGA has also addressed both the challenges faced by LDCs and SIDS and issues related to small-scale fisheries in its resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and sustainable fisheries. For example, it has urged States and relevant international and national organizations to provide for the participation of small-scale fishery stakeholders in related policy development and fisheries management strategies in order to achieve long-term sustainability for such fisheries, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources.¹⁰

III. Challenges and opportunities

Many of the issues facing LDCs and SIDS, and also those facing small-scale fishers, are linked to the mega trends affecting the world at large. Globalization, the realities of trade flows, climate change and other forms of environmental degradation, and inequality all make it more difficult for the people of LDCs and SIDS, and small-scale artisanal fishers, to reap benefits from the ocean. The vulnerabilities specific to LDCs and SIDS and LDCs—including their small scale, remoteness from market hubs, vulnerability to climate change impacts, inadequate infrastructure, gaps in data and statistics capacity and weak

⁹ See <http://www.pnatuna.com/VDS>. Parties to the Nauru Agreement control the waters that yield 50% of the world's tuna. See also Partnership Dialogue 4 concept note for further information.

¹⁰ A/RES/71/123, para. 27.

governance structures and a lack of recognition of their tenure and rights—exacerbate these global challenges.

Accessing and benefitting from marine resources

As noted above, the vulnerabilities of SIDS and LDCs are well known and significant. In terms of fisheries, the long-term sustainability of these resources in SIDS has been threatened by overexploitation, land-based pollution, climate change and natural disasters, and inadequate fisheries monitoring and control systems. Inshore capture fisheries adjacent to centers of urban population are heavily fished, if not over-fished.

Small-scale artisanal fishermen and women tend to fish in areas close to the coast and within the EEZ of a country, and their access to marine resources is compromised in a number of ways, including competition with large-scale fishing operations and persistent gaps in essential infrastructure. There is often competition within the small fisheries sector, and also from other sectors like tourism, aquaculture, agriculture, energy, mining, industry and infrastructure developments. Small-scale artisanal fisheries also suffer from high post-harvest losses because of low investment, low-level technology, variability in supply, and contamination from land-based pollution, especially during rainy periods.

Coastal tourism, especially in SIDS, the growth of the industry brings with it a host of challenges, including loss of fragile habitat and biodiversity, marine and land-based pollution, inadequate waste management, resource consumption and competition, and limited community engagement and benefit. The tourism industry in SIDS and coastal LDCs faces a specific challenge arising from the fact that warm-water corals represent a major component of the attractiveness of many tourist resorts in the Caribbean, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, and are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Experts predict that most of the world's tropical and subtropical coral reefs, particularly those in shallow waters, will suffer from annual bleaching by 2050, and will eventually become functionally extinct as sources of goods and services. The severity of impact from coral bleaching events will no doubt be exacerbated by the pollution influx from land-based sources. In addition, LDCs and SIDS often lack the capacity to protect and facilitate responsible public access to their underwater cultural heritage when it is threatened by pillage and commercial treasure-hunting, as well as by the negative impact of some industrial activities.

High-impact weather events can critically affect both the fisheries and tourism industries. Thus, long-term sustainable development needs tailored tools to prevent disasters and to make SIDS communities more resilient. Multi-early warning systems provide a useful management tool in this regard.¹¹

Accessing markets

¹¹ WMO is developing all elements of a multi-early warning system along the value chain, including research (WWRP and his HIWeather project), operations (GDPFS) and communication (PWS).

For small-scale artisanal fishers able to access marine resources, the next step in the process—access to markets—presents additional challenges. Their tenure and rights of access to their resources are not necessarily recognized or respected, making the capture of fish problematic and subject to direct competition from the large-scale sector. Moreover, although tariffs on fish and fish products are relatively low, with an average of 11.6 per cent in the most-favoured nation tariff, it is extremely difficult for small-scale operators to ensure homogeneity in quality, safety and handling practices, transport and packaging. Agricultural and fish products are generally more exposed to Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) than industrial manufactures, due in part to the sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS). For instance, by September 2015, 732 SPS and 524 technical barriers to trade (TBT) applicable to fish and fish products were notified by WTO Members, representing a significant annual growth since 2010.¹²

The predominantly artisanal or traditional nature of fishing in LDCs and SIDS, which coexists side by side with emerging industrial fishing, makes it more difficult for these countries to enforce international standards imposed by major importing markets. For this reason, some SIDS exclusively rely on fees from fish license agreements as an alternative to complying with international standards in importing countries.

Market access for small-scale artisanal fisheries is further restricted by gaps in infrastructure, lack of investment or credit to small operators, a lack of common fishery policies among countries that share water resources, and a shortfall in the technology and professional skills needed to meet global safety and quality standards. This is often compounded by power imbalances that favour middle persons with better access to financial services and market information. Poor countries also lack capacity to implement international regulations such as vessel enrolment, catch documentation schemes and catch reporting systems. Non-compliance can lead to a vicious cycle of restricted access to foreign markets leading to stagnation of the development of the fisheries industry, which then makes it still harder to access the markets.

Shipping trends and practices erect yet another barrier for LDCs and SIDS, and for small-scale artisanal fishers generally, trying to access global markets.¹³ As shipping networks make use of ever larger vessels and transshipment in hub-and-spoke systems, the remote locations and less developed port infrastructure of many LDCs and SIDS becomes a significant handicap. A number of LDCs and SIDS are served by a very small number of regular container shipping services, leading potentially to oligopolistic or even monopolistic markets. The Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI), published by UNCTAD since 2004, measures a country's access to international shipping services, and in 2016, all ten countries with the lowest LSCI were SIDS.

¹² UNCTAD, "Trade in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture," http://unctad.org/en/PublicationChapters/ditcted2016d3_part2_en.pdf

¹³ According to the International Maritime Organization, over 90 per cent of the volume of international trade in goods is carried by sea.

Opportunities

In spite of the various challenges, as noted above, LDCs and SIDS have significant opportunities to reap economic benefits from an ocean-based economy that reconciles economic development with improved livelihoods and social equity, while strengthening sustainable, transparent, reliable and more secure food systems. Maximizing these opportunities from an ocean-based economy will require a multi-stakeholder approach, with tourism, environment, fisheries, transport and trade, finance, and other ministries working together to promote sustainable development and economic growth. Fisherfolk and fisheries workers are key stakeholders and can be provided with an important voice from civil society in the development of the ocean-based economy.

Important actions include implementing policies that promote business activity without increasing pressure on fisheries, and improving access to education to foster community development and empowerment and the protection of natural and cultural heritage sites. Fishing technology transfer and dissemination, as well as recognizing rights and granting preferential access to coastal fishing grounds and improving market infrastructure can also help communities derive maximum benefits from marine resources in their area. In addition, stakeholders point to the importance of expanding the availability of high-quality data as a prerequisite to effective decision making. SIDS-SIDS and other South-South collaboration will be crucial as well.

Voluntary sustainability standards, eco-labelling, and traceability systems for wild catch and aquaculture are increasingly significant in the fisheries sector, as the consumer demand for sustainability, fair trade, organic and BioTrade products continues to grow. Seafood production certified under global sustainability initiatives grew 40-fold from 2003 to 2015 and now represents more than 14 per cent of global production.¹⁴ Indeed, these standards are becoming an entry requirement for some developed country markets. As noted above, small-scale artisanal fishers often lack capacity to implement global regulation programs, but developing countries and their partners can encourage uptake of these certification schemes by lowering the barriers to entry, including, for instance, by clustering several small fishers in one application.

In terms of shipping, there are opportunities to overcome challenges by investing in trade facilitation and port performance, including possibly through public-private partnerships. Redesigning routes and using feeder and transshipment services, for instance, may also help to increase cargo volumes and strengthen the business case for servicing SIDS.

The following areas represent additional opportunities:

- Aquaculture will be an important element of an ocean-based economy. In the Caribbean, aquaculture development can increase total fish production in the CARICOM States by 30 percent within 10 years if essential investments are made

¹⁴ *ibid*

in enabling aquaculture policy and legal frameworks, applied research, capacity building and information.¹⁵

- Use of marine living resources such as algae for pharmaceuticals and chemicals will be significant, including trade of non-edible seafood products for use in cosmetics.
- Marine renewable energy sources—including wave and tidal and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC)—have been identified as priority areas for SIDS, including in the recent Martinique Action Plan for Renewable Energy Development on Islands, which calls for concrete action to support energy transition into renewables in SIDS, including ocean energy.
- Deep-sea exploration of minerals and resources has been of particular interest to many Pacific SIDS, some of which have granted permits for deep-sea minerals exploration. So far only Papua New Guinea has issued a mining license for ocean floor mining. The International Seabed Authority offers capacity building and knowledge transfer service to ensure that SIDS and LDCs benefit from any deep-sea minerals activities that they undertake while safeguarding against damage to their marine environments and underwater cultural heritage sites.
- Marine biotechnology could provide an environmentally sustainable opportunity for SIDS and coastal LDCs to grow their ocean-based economies.
- Marine spatial planning enables governments and companies to identify the most suitable geographic area for an activity, promoting the efficient use of maritime space, increasing efficiency of decision making, reducing conflicts, creating a better investment climate, and reducing costs.
- The inventory of underwater cultural heritage sites and their research for educational and recreational purposes holds much potential for LDCs and SIDS.
- Maritime transport, ports and related services, shipping and shipbuilding provide additional opportunities for growth.

IV. Existing partnerships

The theme of the Third International Conference on SIDS was “the sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships,” and the 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of partnerships, particularly for LDCs and other countries in special situations. The international community has initiated numerous partnerships addressing the sustainable use and development of oceans for LDCs and SIDS. Of the 308 partnerships registered to the SIDS Conference, more than a third—109—were related to oceans. In many cases, the private sector is an essential partner in improving economic benefits to SIDS.

Current partnership priorities include strengthening public institutions’ capacity to promote small-scale fisheries, empowerment of small-scale fishing communities to take an active role in fisheries management decisions and marketing of their products, ensuring food security in connection with best practice fisheries and land management, building a

¹⁵ FAO, “Global Blue Growth Initiative and SIDS,” <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3958e.pdf>

bottom-up approach through community engagement and participation while developing requisite land use and fisheries management policies, upholding principles of decent work, and applying a human rights-based approach to small-scale fisheries.

A large number of regional organizations have specifically included small-scale and coastal fisheries in their policies, strategies and initiatives. Regional organizations play an important role as catalysts for change at the national level, and there are also a number of important partnerships and initiatives around coastal fisheries and small-scale fisheries at the regional and sub-regional levels. Many of these refer to the SSF Guidelines as the global reference framework, which provides common ground for action.

Many current partnerships also focus on areas such as investing in and developing stronger weather and climate services for reducing disaster risk, strengthening climate resilience and adaptation, advancing multi-hazard early warning systems, bridging the science-policy gap, and increasing North-South and South-South knowledge sharing and capacity building.

A full listing of relevant partnerships can be found at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>.

V. Possible areas for new partnerships

It will be vitally important to continue to implement existing partnerships, looking for opportunities to strengthen and expand whenever possible and appropriate. In addition, new partnerships can complement existing efforts in a range of areas.

Given the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, and the complexity of the challenges to achieving SDG 14, it is important that governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders approach partnerships with a holistic mind-set. Member States have emphasized the need to link ocean- and fisheries-related partnerships, with, for instance, education and infrastructure assistance to help ensure an enabling environment. Interventions in fisheries will be more effective also if they are coordinated with efforts to advance sustainable agriculture, wherever synergies can be found.

Areas for new partnerships are outlined below, but the list is far from exhaustive.

Governance and regulatory frameworks

The full and effective implementation of the international legal framework for oceans is essential for the maximization of the economic, as well as non-economic, benefits to SIDS and LDCs, as well as for the effective regulation of the fishing sector, including small-scale fisheries (see concept notes for dialogues 4 and 7). Moreover, the policy framework contained in the outcomes of major conferences on sustainable development, including the

SAMOA pathway, sets out concrete actions which can be taken to increase benefits to SIDS and LDCs, including through partnerships.

Institutions at the subnational, national, regional, and global levels will be most effective in managing ocean resources if they work in a complementary and coordinated manner. This requires improving cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination at all levels and ensuring consistency and coherence between regulatory approaches at different levels, including through international institutions, as appropriate. Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), for instance, which can serve as links between the various levels, are critical players and should be supported. Partnerships can strengthen regional and global networks of institutions to advance coherence in their work

Partnerships can also address governance of tenure for small-scale fisheries, and improve legal frameworks on the national and sub-national levels to better reflect regional and international instruments and guidelines, in particular the SSF Guidelines and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The partnerships will be effective only if fishers and fish workers, through their organizations, are involved in every stage of the process to ensure that regulatory frameworks, policies and strategies are realistic, appropriate and implemented. Member States have recognized this and have pointed out that regulations should be functional and goal based in order to make compliance and success universal.

Partnerships could also address institutions working for the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of SIDS and LDCs, in order to improve capacities and policies and make this heritage better usable for educational and recreational purposes.

Data

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole will be measured by, and depend upon, the availability of extensive, reliable, disaggregated data, and SDG 14 is no exception. In SIDS, LDCs, and other countries around the world, small-scale artisanal fisheries are currently undervalued. More data is needed on fish stocks, and the revenue generated by these artisanal producers.

Capacity building

As the backbone of the fisheries sector, fishing communities will benefit from capacity development partnerships, including those involving managerial, participatory and other related skill training for fisherfolk and their communities. Capacity building can also address the structural, legal, management and cultural barriers that prevent women from fully accessing fisheries and resources. In parallel, building capacity in science and research as well as cultural heritage preservation in SIDS and LDCs is also crucial.

Other areas for capacity building partnerships include:

- Implementation of the SSF guidelines, including through activities addressing safety at sea and support to stakeholders seeking to make legal changes to benefit small-scale fisheries and improved governance of tenure.
- Aquaculture technology, including technology that reduces emissions in the sector.
- Raising awareness of fishery mutual insurance and aquaculture insurance.
- Advancing development of underwater cultural heritage sites, which can yield significant benefits to SIDS. Raising the profile of these invaluable sites can improve “ocean literacy” of communities and governments, and ultimately increase economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs through tourism.¹⁶
- Building capacity in conservation-focused measures like MPAs to complement fisheries management measures while acknowledging that these efforts can at times be challenging for small-scale fisheries livelihoods, and that conservation efforts can disproportionately burden SIDS themselves.

VI. Guiding questions for the dialogue

- What measures are needed for SIDS and LDCs to enhance productivity, diversify export of ocean and marine resources, capitalize on marine biotechnology, advance marine energy, increase global competitiveness, and make other related progress?
- How can SIDS and LDCs deepen their engagement in the tourism sector including through the promotion of natural and cultural heritage?
- How can we empower small-scale artisanal fishing communities to ensure secure access to marine resources and markets, the responsible use of marine resources and equal distribution of benefits derived from the use of these resources?
- How can we accelerate multi-level implementation of the SSF Guidelines and directly linked instruments such as the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests?

¹⁶ UNESCO and its Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage offer to link their wide network of experts, universities and NGOs working in the research and protection for underwater cultural heritage to other ocean initiatives.