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**Marine and coastal biodiversity**

### **Strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework\*\***

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. In its decision 15/24, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop strategic reviews and analyses of both the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity, in the context of supporting the implementation of the Framework, and to prepare draft updates to those programmes on that basis.
2. In November 2023, pursuant to recommendation 25/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Secretariat issued notification No. 2023-120 to invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant intergovernmental bodies, organizations and stakeholders to submit: (a) information on existing tools and guidance to enhance those identified under each target; 1 (b) views regarding gaps and redundancies; and (c) views regarding the adjustment of work undertaken under the Convention, including its programmes of work. The Secretariat received 49 responses to the notification, 10 from Parties<sup>1</sup> and 39 from relevant organizations and stakeholders; however, only a small number contained specific views regarding updates to the programmes of work.
3. With the support of an expert consultant, the Secretariat has undertaken a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, on the basis of responses to the aforementioned notification and additional information available from other sources. The review and analysis covered the programme of work, as well as subsequent relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties in the context of the targets of the Framework. It was also conducted taking into consideration key priorities identified for marine and coastal and island biodiversity in other global multilateral forums and by other competent intergovernmental organizations. The results of the review and analysis are contained in the present note.

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\* CBD/SBSTTA/26/1.

\*\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

<sup>1</sup> Australia, Belarus, Canada, European Union, Finland, Gabon, Japan, State of Palestine, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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## List of acronyms

|           |                                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABNJ      | Areas beyond national jurisdiction                                              |
| ABS       | Access and benefit sharing                                                      |
| BBNJ      | Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction                                       |
| CBD       | UN Convention on Biological Diversity                                           |
| CBTMT     | Capacity building and transfer of marine technology                             |
| CITES     | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| CMS       | Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals                                 |
| COP       | Conference of the Parties                                                       |
| DSI       | Digital sequence information                                                    |
| EAF       | Ecosystem approach to fisheries                                                 |
| EBSA      | Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas                           |
| EIA       | Environmental impact assessment                                                 |
| FAO       | Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN                                     |
| GBF       | Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework                                  |
| ICRI      | International Coral Reef Initiative                                             |
| IMO       | International Maritime Organization                                             |
| IPBES     | Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services               |
| IPCC      | Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change                                    |
| IPLC      | Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities                                        |
| ISA       | International Seabed Authority                                                  |
| IUU       | illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing                                     |
| IWC       | International Whaling Commission                                                |
| MGR       | Marine genetic resource                                                         |
| MoU       | Memorandum of Understanding                                                     |
| MPA       | Marine Protected Area                                                           |
| MSP       | Marine Spatial Planning                                                         |
| NbS       | Nature-based solutions                                                          |
| NBSAPs    | National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans                               |
| NDCs      | Nationally determined contributions                                             |
| OECM      | Other effective area-based conservation measure                                 |
| PoW       | Programme of Work                                                               |
| RFB       | Regional Fisheries Bodies                                                       |
| RFMO      | Regional fisheries management organisation                                      |
| RSO       | Regional seas organisation                                                      |
| SEA       | Strategic environmental assessment                                              |
| SOI       | Sustainable Ocean Initiative                                                    |
| UNCLOS    | UN Convention on the Law of the Sea                                             |
| UNEA      | United Nations Environment Assembly                                             |
| UNEP-WCMC | United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre       |
| UNGA      | United Nations General Assembly                                                 |
| WTO       | World Trade Organization                                                        |

## Introduction

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has established various Programmes of Work (PoW) corresponding to the major biomes, including marine and coastal, and several cross-cutting issues covering substantive topics.<sup>2</sup> The programmes of work under the Convention are a valuable tool to support the implementation the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted by CBD COP in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

As such the CBD COP decision 15/24 (2022) requested the Executive Secretary to develop a strategic review and analysis of the programme of work (PoW) on marine and coastal biodiversity in the context of supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).<sup>4</sup>

Further to this, SBSTTA's [recommendation 25/3](#) (2023) recalled para 8 of CBD decision 15/4 (2022) on alignment between the GBF and the work under the Convention. In the same recommendation, SBSTTA-25 requested the Executive Secretary to build on the initial results of the rapid analysis of the Programmes of Work and related guidance of document CBD/SBSTTA/25/4, by:<sup>5</sup>

- Undertaking a comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that can support the implementation of the targets and other elements of the GBF (e.g. IPBES assessments, tools and guidance under other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), intergovernmental organisations, UN agencies, including FAO, etc);
- Compiling views and information from Parties, other Governments, IPLCs, women and youth, MEAs secretariats, relevant intergovernmental bodies, organisations, and stakeholders, and others (see <https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2023-120>);
- Identifying gaps and redundancies to support the implementation of the goals and targets of the GBF for consideration of SBSTTA-26.

In light of the analysis described above, the Secretariat was also requested, *inter alia*, to prepare technical advice/recommendations for the adjustment of the PoWs for consideration by SBSTTA at its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>6</sup> Pursuant to these requests, this document provides a review and gap analysis of the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity PoW vis-à-vis its alignment with the GBF, in particular the 2030 action targets. Annex I of the current document contains a summary table of the alignment between the GBF and the current PoW also in the light of relevant decisions of the CBD COP relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity, other tools and guidance and identified gaps.

### **A brief history of the marine and coastal biodiversity programme of work for background context**

In 1998, the CBD COP in its decision IV/5 adopted the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Programme of Work under the Convention for three years.<sup>7</sup> The PoW contained five programme areas, namely:

- (i) integrated marine and coastal marine and coastal area management;
- (ii) marine and coastal living resources;
- (iii) marine and coastal protected areas;
- (iv) mariculture; and
- (v) alien species and genotypes.

<sup>2</sup> CBD, Thematic Programmes and Cross-Cutting Issues, online: <https://www.cbd.int/programmes> (accessed on 4 Feb 2024).

<sup>3</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022).

<sup>4</sup> CBD decision 15/24 (2022), para 4.

<sup>5</sup> SBSTTA recommendation 25/3 (2023), para 2 (a) to (c).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, para 2 (d).

<sup>7</sup> CBD decision IV/4 (1998), para 1. The PoW is contained in the annex to this decision.

It is important to note that CBD decision VI/26 (2002) adopted the text of the 2002-2010 Strategic Plan for the CBD (contained in its Annex) with the target to achieve by 2010 “a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss”. The Strategic Plan noted that its implementation was to be done through the CBD programmes of work, as well as through the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other national, regional and international activities.<sup>8</sup>

Further to this, COP decision VII/30 (2004) decided to develop a framework for the evaluation of achievement and progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including by establishing complementary goals of the Strategic Plan, as well as sub-targets for the focal areas of the Strategic Plan<sup>9</sup>. The intent was to help assess progress towards the biodiversity target adopted by decision VI/26 (2002) and to promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention.<sup>10</sup> To achieve this, COP 7 requested SBSTTA to, *inter alia*, “refine proposals for the integration of outcome-oriented targets proposals for the integration of outcome-oriented targets into the programmes of work of (...) marine and coastal biodiversity (...) identifying more precise targets (...)”<sup>11</sup> As such, COP 7 requested the Executive Secretary to prepare proposals for the integration of goals and targets into programmes of work once these were due for review.<sup>12</sup>

With respect to the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW, in light of a review of the PoW, COP also decided, at its seventh meeting, that the programme elements still corresponded to global priorities that have not been fully implemented<sup>13</sup> and refined the PoW in light of recent developments and priorities, including climate change considerations,<sup>14</sup> and endorsed the Elaborated PoW as contained in Annex I of decision VII/5 for the guidance of Parties and relevant organisations.<sup>15</sup>

Further to this, CBD decision VIII/15 (2006) provided information on the application of the provisional goals and targets of the 2002-2010 Strategic Plan (adopted in decision VII/30 (2004)) to the marine and coastal PoW (among other PoWs) and endorsed the goals and targets integrated into the PoW as contained in Annex IV of the decision.<sup>16</sup> CBD decision VIII/15 also emphasised that the targets as applied to the PoWs, including the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW should be viewed as “a flexible framework within which national and /or regional targets may be developed (...)”<sup>17</sup>

In 2010, COP 10 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as contained in the Annex to decision X/2.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, the COP conducted an in-depth review of the progress made in the implementation of the Elaborated Marine and Coastal Biodiversity PoW.<sup>19</sup> In response to the in-depth review, CBD decision X/29 (2010) reaffirmed that the PoW still corresponded to global priorities, and that it had been strengthened by decisions VIII/21 (2006), VIII/22 (2006), VIII/24 (2006), and IX/20 (2008).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>8</sup> CBD decision VI/26 (2002), annex, para 12.

<sup>9</sup> Namely: “(a) Reducing the rate of loss of the components of biodiversity, including: (i) biomes, habitats and ecosystems; (ii) species and populations; and (iii) genetic diversity; (b) Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity; (c) Addressing the major threats to biodiversity, including those arising from invasive alien species, climate change, pollution, and habitat change; (d) Maintaining ecosystem integrity, and the provision of goods and services provided by biodiversity in ecosystems, in support of human well-being; (e) Protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices; (f) Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources; and (g) Mobilizing financial and technical resources, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, for implementing the Convention and the Strategic Plan.” (CBD decision VII/30 (2004), para 1). See also para 11.

<sup>10</sup> CBD decision VII/30 (2004), para 11.

<sup>11</sup> CBD decision VII/30 (2004), para 12 (c).

<sup>12</sup> CBD decision VII/30 (2004), para 13 (a).

<sup>13</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), para 4.

<sup>14</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), para 8.

<sup>15</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), para 5.

<sup>16</sup> CBD decision VIII/15 (2006), para 9.

<sup>17</sup> CBD decision VIII/15 (2006), para 10.

<sup>18</sup> CBD decision X/2 (2010), para 1.

<sup>19</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010).

<sup>20</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 13.

However, COP also concluded that the PoW had not been fully implemented.<sup>21</sup> In light of this, decision X/29 then encouraged Parties to continue to implement the programme elements, and endorsed further guidance for enhanced implementation, including on, *inter alia*:<sup>22</sup>

i. Further efforts to improve coverage, ecological representativity and other MPA network design properties as per Annex II of decision IX/20 (2008) as well as effective management of MPAs;

ii. Further efforts to promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs);

iii. Cooperation with the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), including with respect to discussions on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction,<sup>23</sup> as well as with competent organisations with respect to scientific and technical issues regarding the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs);

iv. Addressing climate change aspects related to marine and coastal biodiversity, including potential adverse impacts of ocean acidification as a consequence of increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;

v. Avoiding to the extent possible potential adverse impacts of human responses to climate change on marine and coastal biodiversity;

vi. Further efforts in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and relevant international and regional organisations (such as regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), to ensure the sustainability of fisheries, by *inter alia*, managing the impacts of fisheries on species and broader ecosystem to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 6<sup>24</sup> by implementing the ecosystem approach, eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, minimising the detrimental impacts of fishing practices, mitigating and managing by-catch and reducing discards;

vii. further efforts to minimise individual and cumulative impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity including from shipping, extraction of resources, infrastructure, waste disposal, tourism among others, and emphasise the contribution of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction;

viii. Valuation of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems and its integration into national accounting;

ix. Further efforts in coastal and sea areas affected by multiple anthropogenic influences from watersheds;

x. Carrying out assessments on the status and trends of cold-water coral reef ecosystems, seamounts and hydrothermal vents.

Furthermore, an indicative list of activities were included in the annex of decision X/29 to support operational objective 2.4 of the PoW on the conservation and sustainable use in areas beyond

<sup>21</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 13.

<sup>22</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 13.

<sup>23</sup> In 2010, when decision X/29 was adopted, the BBNJ process in place under the auspices of the UNGA was the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction. After this Working Group concluded its work, a Preparatory Committee was established tasked to negotiate an international legally binding agreement on BBNJ, which was followed by an Intergovernmental Conference which finalized negotiations of the Agreement in March 2023. Subsequently, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) was adopted in June 2023, and opened for signature in September 2023. The Agreement is not yet into force at the time of writing.

<sup>24</sup> Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 as per CBD decision X/2, Annex, read: “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.”

national jurisdiction. CBD decision X/29 also aligned the targets of the PoW with specific indicators and timelines of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets,<sup>25</sup> inviting Parties to link these indicators and timelines to their national targets.<sup>26</sup>

## 1. Alignment of the programme of work with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

This section focuses on the identification of areas of alignment between the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with a focus on the targets of the Framework, and the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (including COP decisions adopted under this stream of work), also considering the work of other competent intergovernmental organizations. This assessment aims to identify relevant instruments through the PoW and beyond (based primarily on the submissions received by the Secretariat, but also from other relevant sources) that can support the implementation of the GBF with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity. In doing so, respective gaps are henceforth identified.

This assessment primarily focuses on the operational objectives of the programme of work and key suggested activities as contained in decisions VII/5 (2004) and X/29 (2010). Prior to assessing the alignment of GBF targets with the PoW, it is important to quickly look at the alignment between some of the overarching elements such as the visions, missions and goals contained in both instruments, among others.

### Overarching elements

#### **Policy Coherence: Cooperation with other competent organizations and frameworks**

Facilitating cooperation between relevant organisations and frameworks for policy coherence and complementarity is highlighted in the GBF in a number of its sections, including Section A on background,<sup>27</sup> Section B on purpose,<sup>28</sup> and C on considerations for the GBF implementation.<sup>29</sup>

The GBF builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including on its achievements, gaps and lessons learnt, as well as the experience and achievements of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) other than the CBD, and it is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, Section D of the GBF is dedicated to its relationship with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which notes the reciprocal reinforcing roles between these two policy instruments.<sup>31</sup> In the context of the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW, it is important to take into consideration SDG 14 on oceans and coasts (which should be interpreted and implemented in a holistic/indivisible manner alongside all the other SDGs)<sup>32</sup> and, *inter alia*, the outcome documents of the UN Ocean Conferences (2017, 2022, as well as the upcoming 2025 Conference), as reflected in UN General Assembly resolutions.

The PoW and relevant COP decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity also build on experiences and synergies across instruments and frameworks including with respect to the experiences accrued in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For instance, decision VII/5 (2004) which endorsed the Elaborated PoW clearly states that the PoW serves as a guidance for Parties and any other relevant organisations.<sup>33</sup> This decision also makes express reference to several competent organisations (e.g. the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Intergovernmental

<sup>25</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 16.

<sup>26</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 17.

<sup>27</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 3.

<sup>28</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 6.

<sup>29</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 7 (q).

<sup>30</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 3.

<sup>31</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 8.

<sup>32</sup> See UNGA resolution 70/1 (2015), 3<sup>rd</sup> preambular paragraph; paras 5, 18, 55, 71.

<sup>33</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), para 5.

Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (IOC-UNESCO), among others, including regional organisations), by *inter alia* requesting the Executive Secretary to collaborate with these on specific matters of common interest that are included in the PoW. The decision also expressly refers to relevant treaties that can contribute to the implementation of the PoW, including the IMO International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, encouraging CBD Parties to ratify those treaties.

More specifically, the Elaborated PoW, in its “basic principles” section, also states that the programme of work may be implemented at the national and local, regional (through regional organisations, arrangements and bodies), and global (through international organisations and appropriate bodies) levels.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, the “ways and means” of implementation for all of the operational objectives of the PoW note in some shape or form that activities under these operational objectives should be carried out by Parties, individually or through regional and global organisations and agreements, in collaboration with the CBD Executive Secretary.<sup>35</sup>

Moreover, in addition to the PoW itself, it is common practice for CBD COP decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity to also refer to relevant organisations, policy and legal instruments by, *inter alia*, urging, encouraging or inviting Parties and other Governments to ratify or implement specific frameworks, as well as inviting competent bodies to apply guidance developed by the CBD COP, or to make use of relevant information contained in the respective decision.<sup>36</sup>

This interplay between the CBD and other relevant frameworks is important for the implementation of the Convention and also for the implementation of the GBF given the multitude of actors competent for regulating the marine and coastal environments, as well as the abundance of relevant policy and legal instruments that also support such implementation. By ensuring this mutual supportiveness and coherence across policy instruments, treaties and regimes, more effective measures can be developed and applied, while avoiding duplication.<sup>37</sup> As noted above, this notion is also contained in paragraph 6 of the GBF which notes that:

“The Framework promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity related conventions, and other relevant multilateral agreements and international institutions, respecting their mandates, and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships among diverse actors to enhance implementation of the Framework”<sup>38</sup>

Furthermore, GBF paragraphs 7 (q), and 9 also reinforce the importance of international cooperation and synergies. More specifically, paragraph 7 (q) on considerations for the implementation of the GBF expressly states that enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the CBD, its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, and other relevant MEAs and international organisations and processes would contribute to the implementation of the GBF in a more efficient and effective manner. Therefore, there is strong alignment between the GBF and the PoW and relevant COP decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity and EBSAs.

<sup>34</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, para 5.

<sup>35</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex.

<sup>36</sup> For instance, decision 15/24 (2022), para 2 “*Encourages Parties and invites other Governments, subnational governments and relevant organizations to use the information referred to in paragraph 1 above in their efforts to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity, taking into account national and subnational priorities and circumstances, where appropriate*”. And paragraph 1 is about the compilation by the Executive Secretary and synthesis of information on: impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and means to minimise and mitigate these impacts; impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and means to minimise and mitigate these impacts; experiences with the application of marine spatial planning; efforts to implement the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems; and efforts to implement the Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention.

<sup>37</sup> On the “principle of systemic integration” of international law see section F of the International Law Commission (ILC), United Nations General Assembly A/CN.4/L.682 (13 April 2006) *Fragmentation of International Law: Difficulties Arising from the Diversification and Expansion of International Law. Report of the Study Group of the International Law Commission. Finalized by Martti Koskenniemi*. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/574810?ln=en&v=pdf>

<sup>38</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 6.

## Considerations for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Section C of the GBF focuses on important cross-cutting issues that are key to the implementation of the framework, namely:

- (a) Contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (b) Different value systems;
- (c) Whole of government and whole of society approach;
- (d) National circumstances, priorities and capabilities;
- (e) Collective effort towards the targets;
- (f) Right to development;
- (g) Human rights-based approach;
- (h) Gender;
- (i) Fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation;
- (j) Consistency with international agreements or instruments;
- (k) Principles of the Rio Declaration;
- (l) Science and innovation;
- (m) Ecosystem approach;
- (n) Intergenerational equity;
- (o) Formal and informal education;
- (p) Access to financial resources;
- (q) Cooperation and synergies (see previous sub-section);
- (r) Biodiversity and health.

Most of these considerations are explicitly addressed under the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW and relevant marine and coastal biodiversity decisions. These include: the contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities; national circumstances, priorities and capabilities

different value systems, which the IPBES has been providing valuable contributions towards; fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and their balanced implementation; consistency with international agreements or instruments; science and innovation; ecosystem approach; education; and cooperation and synergies.

Some of the cross-cutting elements that have received less attention in the PoW or in the specific context of the marine and coastal biodiversity decisions include: whole of government and whole of society approach; right to development; human rights-based approach; gender; intergenerational equity; access to financial resources; and biodiversity and health. Biodiversity and health in particular has been the object of several studies and is at the heart of the World Health Organization (WHO) One Health Approach,<sup>39</sup> and CBD decisions on biodiversity and health. However, it is noticeable that more information and guidance exist on the biodiversity-health nexus regarding terrestrial ecosystems than with regards to marine ecosystems, including marine-related microorganisms.<sup>40</sup> Furthermore, it is important to note that while pathogens can jump from wildlife to humans due to, *inter alia*, drivers of biodiversity loss, including habitat loss, the reverse is also true – pathogens can jump from humans to wildlife – like it has been

<sup>39</sup> WHO, [https://www.who.int/health-topics/one-health#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/one-health#tab=tab_1).

<sup>40</sup> R Cavicchioli, WJ Ripple, KN Timmis, *et al.* Scientists' warning to humanity: microorganisms and climate change. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 17, 569–586 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41579-019-0222-5>.

evidenced in some coral diseases caused by human pathogens.<sup>41</sup> Hence, there is indeed a need for a holist approach to fully understand and address these connections in a comprehensive manner with respect to marine and coastal ecosystems.

With respect to the ecosystem approach as a consideration for the implementation of the GBF, it is important to note that the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW embraces the ecosystem approach, as well as the precautionary approach,<sup>42</sup> and decision-making based on best scientific information/knowledge,<sup>43</sup> all of which are consistent with some of the GBF considerations referred to above.<sup>44</sup> The ecosystem approach and guidance for its implementation is contained in CBD decisions V/6 (2000) and VII/11 (2004) respectively. There has been also technical guidance developed by the FAO on the ecosystem approach to fisheries,<sup>45</sup> as recognised by CBD decision XIII/3 (2016), and further recommendations and practice in the application of the ecosystem approach.<sup>46</sup>

The precautionary approach is part of the Principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Principle 15)<sup>47</sup> as reflected in paragraph 7 (k) of the GBF. However, other Rio Declarations Principles are less explicitly emphasised in the PoW or in marine and coastal biodiversity decisions. Nevertheless, the actions that have been recommended in CBD COP decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity most likely support the operationalisation of most of the Rio Declaration Principles.

## GBF Vision

The vision of the GBF is “a world of living in harmony with nature where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”.<sup>48</sup>

The overall vision of the PoW Elaborated Programme of work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity as per Annex I of decision VII/5 (2004) is that “effective implementation of the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity strives to attain is to halt the loss of marine and coastal biological diversity nationally, regionally and globally and secure its capacity to provide goods and services”.<sup>49</sup> The vision of the PoW generally aligns with the GBF’s, however, the GBF’s vision seem to be more ambitious than the PoW’s. Ideally, the PoW’s effective implementation would directly contribute to the GBF’s vision of a world living in harmony with nature where marine and coastal biodiversity is valued (at its multiple forms), restored and wisely/sustainably used, in a manner that maintains ecosystems’ functions and services, sustaining a healthy planet where essential benefits are delivered to all people.

<sup>41</sup> KP Sutherland, S Shaban, JL Joyner, JW Porter, EK Lipp. “Human pathogen shown to cause disease in the threatened elkhorn coral *Acropora palmata*.” PLoS One. 2011;6(8):e23468. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0023468. Epub 2011 Aug 17. PMID: 21858132; PMCID: PMC3157384.

<sup>42</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, para 4.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), annex, paras 7 (k) and (m).

<sup>45</sup> FAO Fisheries Department. The ecosystem approach to fisheries. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 4, Suppl. 2. (Rome: FAO, 2003). 112 p.

<sup>46</sup> See SM Garcia, J Rice (2020). *Assessing Progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on Sustainable Marine Fisheries*. Technical Series No. 87. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, 103 pages; ICES, Ecosystem Approach, online: <https://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Ecosystem-approach.aspx>; A Kenny, “How Cefas science is supporting sustainable fisheries management in the high seas”. Blog, Cefas, UK, 2023. Online:

<https://marinescience.blog.gov.uk/2023/03/14/how-cefas-science-is-supporting-sustainable-fisheries-management-in-the-high-seas/>; M Koen-Alonso, P Pepin, MJ Fogarty, A Kenny, E Kenchington, “The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Roadmap for the development and implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries: structure, state of development, and challenges”, (2019) 100 Marine Policy 342-352, ISSN 0308-597X, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2018.11.025>.

<sup>47</sup> UN, Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, Vol I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (1993). A/CONF151/26/Rev1 (Vol. I). Online:

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n92/836/55/pdf/n9283655.pdf?token=97gN7rgzxSmAmCpfz1&fe=true>

<sup>48</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 10.

<sup>49</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, para 1.

## GBF Mission

The mission of the GBF for the period up to 2030 for the achievement of the 2050 vision is:

“To take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, while providing the necessary means of implementation”<sup>50</sup>

The mission of the PoW is to “promote the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and achieve significant reduction of the current rate of marine and coastal biological diversity loss by the year 2010.”<sup>51</sup> The GBF’s mission presents a more action-oriented and ambitious tone, since it includes language on ‘halting’ and ‘reversing’ biodiversity loss through ‘urgent action’ instead of ‘promoting’ and ‘significant reduction’ of the rate of biodiversity loss.

## GBF Goals

The GBF contains four outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050 towards the 2050 Vision.<sup>52</sup> The first three goals are aligned with the three objectives of the Convention, and the fourth goal is a cross-cutting goal focused on means of implementation, including with respect to resource mobilisation.

Goal A reads:

“The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050;

Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;

The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.”<sup>53</sup>

Goal B reads:

“Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.”<sup>54</sup>

Goal C reads:

“The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.”<sup>55</sup>

Goal D reads:

“Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively

<sup>50</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 11.

<sup>51</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, para 2.

<sup>52</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex.

<sup>53</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 12.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.”<sup>56</sup>

In contrast, the goals of the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW are more specific as they are associated with each one of the programme elements, as follows:

- For programme element 1 on the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM), the goal is “to promote and improve the implementation of IMCAM at the local, national and regional level”.<sup>57</sup>
- For programme element 2 on marine and coastal living resources, the goal is “to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources”.<sup>58</sup>
- For programme element 3 on MPAs, the goal is:  
 “The establishment and maintenance of marine and coastal protected areas that are effectively managed, ecologically based and contribute to a global network of marine and coastal protected areas, building upon national and regional systems, including a range of levels of protection, where human activities are managed, particularly through national legislation, regional programmes and policies, traditional and cultural practices and international agreements, to maintain the structure and functioning of the full range of marine and coastal ecosystems, in order to provide benefits to both present and future generations.”<sup>59</sup>
- For programme element 4 on mariculture, the goal is “to prevent or minimize the negative impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity and to enhance any positive effects of mariculture using native species.”<sup>60</sup>
- For programme element 5 on invasive alien species, the goal is “to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species into the marine and coastal environment, and to eradicate to the extent possible those invasive alien species that have already been introduced”.<sup>61</sup>

Programme element 6 on general issues is a cross-cutting element which does not have a specific goal, but contains two operational objectives targeted in particular at the Executive Secretary with a view to facilitate information sharing on initiatives and activities relevant to the implementation of the PoW and cooperation among competent organisations. As highlighted above on the role of other competent organisations and frameworks, this programme element remains relevant to the implementation of the GBF.

## GBF Targets

The GBF contains 23 action-oriented targets that should be achieved by 2030, contributing to the achievement of the outcome-oriented goals for 2050 referred to above.<sup>62</sup> Some of these targets are cross-cutting by nature. This section addresses the alignment between the GBF targets with the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW and relevant COP decisions with a view to identify potential gaps. Such analysis also builds on the table contained in Annex I of this document which lists additional existing tools and guidance that are relevant to the implementation of these targets.

### (i) Target 1

*Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.*

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<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, Section III.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> CBD decision 15/4 (2022), Annex, para 13.

Programme element 1 of the PoW on implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management and its operational objectives 1.1 (to apply appropriate policy instruments and strategies, including building of capacity, for the effective implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)) and 1.2 (to undertake direct action to protect the marine environment from negative impacts) are aligned with the GBF target 1. Furthermore, more recently, several CBD COP decisions have addressed marine spatial planning (MSP) more specifically, CBD decision XIII/9 (2016) on marine spatial planning and training activities, among other things, welcomed the report of the Expert Workshop to Provide Consolidated Practical Guidance and a Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/6) in its paragraph 1. Paragraph 3 of this decision contains several recommendations for Parties and other Governments on the application of MSP.

This decision also recognized MSP as a participatory tool to facilitate the application of the ecosystem approach and support biodiversity mainstreaming into public policies, and that long-term investment in human and institutional capacity for MSP is essential for its success (para 2). Guidance on the implementation of the ecosystem approach is contained in CBD decisions V/6 (2000) and VII/11 (2004).

Other relevant decisions include Decision XIII/11 on the Voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention, which adopted this voluntary workplan (Annex II of the decision) as an addendum to the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW (para 3), as well as COP decision XI/18 (2012) with respect to the voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive EIAs/SEAs in marine and coastal areas. Other relevant COP decisions include decision 14/10 (2018), and 15/24 (2022). The latter welcomed the compilation and synthesis of information on MSP and encouraged Parties and invited other Governments, subnational governments and relevant organisations to make use of this information in their efforts to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity.<sup>63</sup> Relevant CBD documents/guidance/synthesis of experiences, include:

- CBD Report of the Expert Workshop to Provide Consolidated Practical Guidance and a Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/6);
- CBD Technical Series 68: Marine Spatial Planning in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Compilation of information to support the discussions of the Expert Workshop to Provide Consolidated Practical Guidance and a Toolkit for Marine Spatial Planning (UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/4/INF/1);
- using scientific information related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) to implement marine spatial planning and ecosystem based management (UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/4/INF/2);
- Marine spatial planning in practice—transitioning from planning to implementation (UNEP/CBD/MCB/EM/2014/4; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/23);
- Compilation of submissions on experiences with the application of marine spatial planning (CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/14).

See table in annex I for other tools and guidance, including from other fora/organisations.

Moreover, biodiversity-inclusive MSP and integrated coastal and ocean management are long-standing issues aligned with policy commitments already made under the Convention and other UN processes, such as the 1992 Agenda 21, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation, the 2012 Rio+20 outcome document (The Future We Want), and the 2017 UN Ocean Conference on the Sustainable Development Goal 14 declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA). This latter instrument explicitly called upon States and stakeholders to support the use of marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management based on best available science, and in this respect to apply the ecosystem approach, recognising that these are integrated cross-sectoral approaches.<sup>64</sup> Cross-sectoral collaboration is

<sup>63</sup> CBD decision 15/24 (2022), paras 1 and 2.

<sup>64</sup> UNGA Resolution 71/312 (2017), para 13(j).

essential for the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD, and more specifically, for ensuring marine and coastal ecosystems' health. The latest UN Ocean Conference on SDG 14 Declaration also emphasised the need for science-based "integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making" and "enhanced understanding of the impact of cumulative human activities on the ocean and anticipating the impacts of planned activities and eliminating or minimizing their negative effects, as well as the effectiveness of adopted measures".<sup>65</sup> Moreover, the 2022 Declaration also stressed that SDG 14 could be achieved through, "effectively planning and implementing area-based management tools, including ... integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, through, *inter alia*, assessing their multiple ecological, socioeconomic and cultural value and applying the precautionary and ecosystem-based approach ...".<sup>66</sup>

MSP as a cross-sectoral tool requires enhanced cooperation across sectors, such as regional seas organisations (RSOs) and regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), including regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and other competent organisations (e.g. IMO, ISA). Collaboration among these has been informally and successfully promoted by the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue.<sup>67</sup> Furthermore, the SOI capacity building workshops (at the regional and national levels) have also focused extensively on MSP.<sup>68</sup>

Increased cooperation with other Conventions (e.g. Ramsar Convention, CMS, BBNJ Agreement (once it enters into force) adds further value in increasing the synergies across conventions for the implementation of GBF target 1 in light of the PoW programme element 1, among others. Such cooperation could also contribute to the effective implementation of the ecosystem approach, which has been incorporated as a principle or objective of an increasingly growing number of regional conventions,<sup>69</sup> and global agreements.<sup>70</sup> Such an approach can create the enabling conditions for more effective conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems, while also contributing to other targets such as targets 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8, among others). Furthermore, EBSA information can help identify areas important for marine biodiversity to inform MSP, as noted in several CBD decisions.<sup>71</sup>

### *Gaps in guidance and tools*

No major gaps have been identified considering existing COP decisions and other instruments and guidance from other fora (see Annex I). It is important to note, however, that with respect to potential additional assessments for the inclusion in the rolling work programme of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the IPBES was requested by COP to consider a fast-track assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity considering elements such as land and sea-use change and restoration.<sup>72</sup>

Furthermore, as noted in the COP decision XIII/9, institutional and human capacity investment is needed to implement MSP, especially in the context of the ecosystem approach. Moreover, as part of the submissions received by the Secretariat on this topic in response to notification 2023-120, one Party recommended the possibility of updating the Programme Element 1 of the Elaborated PoW based on more recent developments and experiences on MSP; while another Party noted a lack of definition of biodiversity-inclusive planning and guidance on "participatory planning".

<sup>65</sup> A/CONF.230/2022/12, para 13 (a).

<sup>66</sup> A/CONF.230/2022/12, para 13 (f).

<sup>67</sup> SOI, <https://www.cbd.int/soi/> (accessed on 15 Nov 2021).

<sup>68</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2022) The Sustainable Ocean Initiative: 10 years of building capacity and catalyzing partnerships to achieve global ocean goals. 46 pages.

<sup>69</sup> D Diz (2019). "The Ecosystem Approach as a Frame for SDG 14 Implementation" (2019) 33 (1) Ocean Yearbook 187–206. [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004395633\\_008](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004395633_008)

<sup>70</sup> See e.g. BBNJ Agreement, Art. 7 (f).

<sup>71</sup> See CBD decisions IX/20 (2008), X/29 (2010), XI/17 (2012), XII/22 (2014), XIII/12 (2016), 14/9 (2018), and 15/26 (2022).

<sup>72</sup> CBD decision 15/19 (2022), Annex, Section B (a).

*(ii) Target 2*

*Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.*

Under the PoW Operational objective 1.2 (to undertake direct action to protect the marine environment from negative impacts, the following activity is relevant) the following activity is relevant: “to promote adequate protection of areas important for reproduction such as spawning and nursery areas and restoration of such areas and other important habitats for marine living resources”.<sup>73</sup>

Under Operational Objective 1.3 (to develop guidelines for ecosystem evaluation and assessment, paying attention to the need to identify and select indicators, including social and abiotic indicators that distinguish between natural and human-induced effects), the activity listed in paragraph (c) is also relevant, namely: “To promote the identification of key habitats for marine living resources on a regional basis, with a view to further develop policies for action to prevent physical alteration and destruction of these habitats, and pursue restoration of degraded habitats, including, *inter alia*, coral reef systems.”

Furthermore, operational objective 2.3 also covers certain elements of this targets as it recommends the gathering and assimilation of information on, and building capacity to mitigate the effects of, and to promote policy development, implementation strategies and actions to address: (i) the biological and socio-economic consequences of physical degradation and destruction of key marine and coastal habitats including mangrove ecosystems, tropical and cold-water coral-reef ecosystems, seamount ecosystems and seagrass ecosystems including identification and promotion of management practices, methodologies and policies to reduce and mitigate impacts upon marine and coastal biological diversity and to restore mangrove forests and rehabilitate damaged coral reef; and in particular (ii) the impacts of mangrove forest destruction, coral bleaching and related mortality on coral-reef ecosystems and the human communities which depend upon coral-reef services, including through financial and technical assistance.<sup>74</sup>

Other CBD decisions also contain relevant recommendations. For instance, CBD decision X/29 (2010) urged Parties to stop the degradation and loss of ecologically important ecosystems and habitats, including estuaries, coastal sand dunes, mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrass beds, and biogenic reefs to support their recovery through the management of impacts and restoration where appropriate.<sup>75</sup>

More specifically, CBD decision XIII/5 (2016) adopted the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration,<sup>76</sup> and it applies to all habitats, biomes and ecosystems, including wetlands and marine and coastal ecosystems.<sup>77</sup> The 2019 CBD thematic workshop on marine and coastal biodiversity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework emphasised that marine ecosystems are able to rebuild if proper measures are in place and pressures are reduced or eliminated.<sup>78</sup> For instance, with regards to coral reefs, it has been noted that the “removal of the direct local pressures, which currently threaten 60% of reefs globally, would give the ecosystems the time and space to be able to respond and adapt to the projections for changing climatic conditions”.<sup>79</sup> Restoration under target 2 with respect to marine and coastal ecosystems could include both passive (natural regeneration through removal of stressors) and active (through physical intervention for restoration) modalities and contribute to biodiversity and livelihoods. It is important to note that any restoration activity needs to take potential future climate change and ocean acidification impacts into account. The links with the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (as well as Ocean Science) could be further strengthened in this regard. Furthermore, there is significant work in

<sup>73</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, Operational objective 1.2 (a).

<sup>74</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, Operational objective 2.3.

<sup>75</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 72.

<sup>76</sup> CBD decision XIII/5 (2016), para 1.

<sup>77</sup> CBD decision XIII/5 (2016), Annex, para 5.

<sup>78</sup> CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2

<sup>79</sup> CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2 at 19.

this field at the national, subnational and local levels, and it would be useful to synthesise such experiences for broader discussion under the CBD.

The current marine and coastal PoW does not directly address ecological restoration per se apart from the activities highlighted above, and despite existing and extensive external guidance, especially under the Ramsar Convention (see Annex I below), Parties to the CBD could most likely benefit from more focus in this area. As above, this could include, at least as a first step, a synthesis of existing experiences where the unique nuances and considerations of marine restoration, including offshore ecosystems, could be addressed.

### *Gaps in guidance and tools*

Despite existing guidance on ecosystem restoration, most examples focus on specific coastal ecosystems. It could be beneficial to develop a more focused expert guidance or at least a synthesis of existing experience regarding ecological restoration of marine (including offshore) and coastal ecosystems. Experiences regarding ecological restoration and to poverty alleviation would also be beneficial. One Party recommended (potentially) adding a PoW Programme Element on restoration in marine and coastal areas; and another noted that abundant tools and guidance exist to support Party implementation of Target 2, in particular from external, non-CBD sources, and that in this regard, some additional work could be needed on restoration of degraded marine and coastal ecosystems.

### *(iii) Target 3*

*Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.*

The programme of work programme elements 1.2 (under decision VII/5 (2004) and 2.4 (decision X/29 (2010) and 3 (decision VII/5) address MPAs comprehensively, and make reference to guidance developed by decision IX/20 (2008) on ecologically representative MPA networks. Under the Operational objective 1.2 to undertake direct action to protect the marine environment from negative impacts, the following activity is relevant: “to promote adequate protection of areas important for reproduction such as spawning and nursery areas and restoration of such areas and other important habitats for marine living resources”<sup>80</sup>

In light of the 2010 review of the PoW, an indicative list of activities was added by decision X/29 (2010) to

Operational Objective 2.4 on enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of marine living resources in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. These suggested activities include identification of important areas for biodiversity and compilation of available information relevant to the design of representative networks of MPAs, building on Annexes II and III of decision IX/20 (2008).

Furthermore, programme element 3 is dedicated to MPAs, as follows:

- Operational Objective 3.1: To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas integrated into a global network and as a contribution to globally agreed goals.
- Operational Objective 3.3: To achieve effective management of existing marine and coastal protected areas.

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<sup>80</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, Operational objective 1.2 (a).

- Operational Objective 3.4: To provide support for and facilitate monitoring of national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas.
- Operational Objective 3.5: To facilitate research and monitoring activities that reflect identified global knowledge gaps and priority information needs of management of marine and coastal protected areas.

Further COP decisions supplemented the PoW by providing guidance on the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, which are also relevant for the implementation of GBF target 3. These include those decisions related to cold water areas, coral reefs, anthropogenic underwater noise, among others. Importantly, CBD decision IX/20 (2008), annex II provides Scientific Guidance for Selecting Areas to Establish a Representative Network of Marine Protected Areas, including in Open Ocean Waters and Deep-Sea Habitats. The Guidance identifies properties and components of MPAs networks, namely: EBSAs; representativity; connectivity; replicated ecological features; and adequate and viable sites.

Annex III of decision IX/20 recommends Four Initial Steps to be Considered in the Development of Representative Networks of MPAs, as follows:

1. Scientific identification of an initial set of ecologically or biologically significant areas;
2. Develop/choose a biogeographic, habitat, and/or community classification system;
3. Iteratively use qualitative and/or quantitative techniques to identify sites to include in a network;
4. Assess the adequacy and viability of the selected sites.

CBD decision XII/23 on marine and coastal biodiversity on the impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of anthropogenic underwater noise and ocean acidification, priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, and marine spatial planning and training activities contains several references to MPAs. These include recommendations such as: integrating noise considerations in the establishment and development of management plans for MPAs; increase the spatial coverage and effectiveness of MPAs in coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems; prioritize full protection of existing healthy, resilient and resistant coral reefs through the development and effective management of MPAs or locally managed marine areas (LMMAs); improve the design of coral reef related MPA networks to enhance resilience to climate change effects, as well as adaptation plans for MPAs for the same purpose.

Decision XIII/11 (2016) adopted the Voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention (Annex II of the decision) as an addendum to the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW (para 3). The decision encourages Parties, other Governments and competent organisations to identify and protect cold water areas refugia sites and areas that could act as refugia sites to enhance their adaptive capacity (para 4). Furthermore, CBD EBSA decisions are also relevant to this target as well as most GBF targets since for conservation and sustainable use of marine and biodiversity to occur, there is a need to know where areas important for biodiversity are.

Not only marine and coastal biodiversity and EBSA decisions are relevant in this context. In this regard, the programme of work on protected areas and respective COP decisions on protected areas are also very relevant, as these have provided valuable guidance also applicable to MPAs. For instance, CBD decision 14/8 (2018) on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) adopts a definition for OECMs (para 2), as well as contains scientific and technical advice on OECMs (Annex III); voluntary guidance on integration of protected areas and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and on mainstreaming these into sectors (Annex I); voluntary guidance on governance and equity (Annex II); and considerations in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in marine and coastal areas (Annex IV).

Beyond the CBD, it is important to note, that the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) will contribute to the operationalisation of this target and of PoW Operative Objective 2.4 in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), once it enters into force. Enhanced

cooperation with the CBD will be beneficial and mutually supportive to both treaties, as indicated by several UN General Assembly resolutions, which acknowledge the role of the CBD in providing, inter alia, scientific and technical information on areas important for biodiversity (e.g. through the EBSA process).<sup>81</sup> In line with this, COP 15, through its decision 15/26 (2022) encouraged Parties and invited other Governments to take into consideration the outcomes of the EBSA description process in the deliberations of the BBNJ Agreement<sup>82</sup> (which at the time was still under negotiations). Since then, the BBNJ Agreement has been adopted but it is not yet into force. The BBNJ Agreement does not have a process to describe areas important for biodiversity in its Part III. The proponent(s) of an area-based management tool, including an MPA, will have to substantiate their proposal through a set of indicative criteria contained in the Annex I of the Agreement, which, among others, contain the EBSA and the MPA network criteria contained in CBD decision IX/20 (2008), annexes I and II respectively. The EBSA descriptions under the CBD will also be helpful for the implementation of the EIA provisions of the BBNJ Agreement (Part IV of the Agreement). Furthermore, the role of the CBD in fostering enhanced ocean governance coherence and in promoting mutual supportiveness across conventions and organisations in the context of the BBNJ Agreement is reflected in paragraph 12 of CBD decision 15/24 (2022), which requests the Secretariat, upon the adoption of the Agreement, “to identify potential options for modalities for collaboration and cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations in the context of this instrument”.

Other relevant and competent organisations have also developed MPA-related, and increasingly OECM-related, guidance that can contribute to the implementation of target 3 (see table in Annex I for some examples).

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

While the current PoW and subsequent COP decisions (including on protected areas) comprehensively address MPA networks, OECMs could be incorporated more explicitly into the PoW and guidance could be developed for sectors other than fisheries (where FAO has been taking extensive work to guide member states in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and other partners). One Party recommended updating the PoW to incorporate OECM issues and the area target. Another Party, however, noted that “Parties likely have sufficient tools and guidance on Target 3 to be able to implement their commitments.”

#### **(iv) Target 4**

*Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.*

Programme element 2 focuses on marine living resources, and several subsequent COP decisions have provided recommendations on sustainable fisheries. PoW operational objective 2.1 to promote ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources contains relevant suggested activities for achieving Target 4, including:

- a. to develop collaboration with relevant organisations to protect biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- b. to promote the development of ecosystem approaches for the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources;
- to promote the identification of ecosystem components that are essential to ecosystem functioning, and to identify threats to these;

<sup>81</sup> E.g. UNGA resolution 78/69 (2023), paras 271, 261, among others. Previous UNGA resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea also contain multiple references to the CBD and the EBSA process.

<sup>82</sup> CBD decision 15/26 (2022), para 7.

- c. to carry out study on the effects of fish and invertebrate stock enhancement on marine and coastal biodiversity at species and genetic levels;
- d. to implement the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and relevant technical guidelines and international plans of action;
- e. to promote the strengthening of taxonomic expertise at regional and national levels in collaboration with the Global Taxonomic Initiative.

However, target 4 is broader than fisheries, and the identification of other threats and cumulative pressures on species, also considering their trophic interaction is important in this context. Several COP decisions can support implementation of this target especially with regards to fishing (see commentary on Target 5 below), as well as other instruments developed by other organisations, such as CITES, CMS, among others (see table in Annex I below).

An area that has been less explored in the international marine policy context has been human-wildlife conflict avoidance,<sup>83</sup> which could perhaps benefit from further consideration under the CBD.

### Gaps in guidance and tools

Human-wildlife conflict in marine and coastal areas may benefit from further attention under the CBD/Marine and Coastal Biodiversity PoW. Similarly, the relationship between Conventions especially with CITES, WTO instruments, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and CMS regarding marine and coastal species would be beneficial for the implementation of this target. In this regard, one Party suggested perhaps enhancing cooperation with other Agreements such as CMS and its Agreements and MoUs, CITES and IWC. Another Party noted that “further guidance and tools to monitor genetic diversity are likely needed. Some have expressed the view that the proxy for genetic diversity put forward in the headline indicators might not be reflecting well the state of genetic diversity for population of concern (Effective pop size  $N_e > 500$  individuals, guidance is also needed for countries to measure the effective pop size, and what constitutes “distinct populations” of a species).”

#### (v) Target 5

*Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.*

This target is especially relevant to sustainable fisheries, including through the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and with a view to ensure sustainable catch at the ecosystem and individual stocks' levels, avoidance or minimisation of bycatch and other impacts on non-target species, elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and avoidance or minimisation of impacts on habitats and ecosystems. Avoiding or addressing fisheries impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems was specifically highlighted in the CBD thematic workshop on marine and coastal biodiversity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It was noted that there is a need to “address fishing in the context of broader impacts on the ecosystem, and as fish as part of the ecosystem, not only on fish stock management.”<sup>84</sup> This is particularly important in the context of vulnerable ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs, cold water corals and sponges.

The current PoW addresses fisheries in its Programme Element 2 and subsequent COP decisions have also provided recommendations on sustainable fisheries. More specifically, Operational Objective 2.1 on the promotion of ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources is of particular relevance. Furthermore, decision VII/5 (2004) which endorsed the elaborated PoW, in its paragraph 45(f) recommended the use of selective methods in industrial fisheries to avoid or minimise bycatch.

<sup>83</sup> SBSTTA-25-inf-01; see also AS Guerra, “Wolves of the Sea: Managing human-wildlife conflict in an increasingly tense ocean” (2019) 99 Marine Policy 369-373, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2018.11.002>.

<sup>84</sup> CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2, at 21.

Several CBD COP decisions address sustainable fisheries providing recommendations and guidance that support the implementation of Target 5. These include:

- Decision X/29 (2010), which *inter alia*, encourages Parties and other Governments to fully and effectively to implement relevant paragraphs of UNGA resolution addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and to conduct impact assessments as per the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas, and to identify VME areas and adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on those;
- Decision XI/18 (2012), which *inter alia*: noted the need for further improvement and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries; encouraged collaboration between biodiversity and fisheries bodies to ensure that biodiversity considerations are part of their work.
- Decision XI also took note of the Voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments annotated specifically for biodiversity in marine and coastal areas, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction (para 1). The voluntary biodiversity inclusive EIA and SEAs are contained in the annex to the document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23.
- Decision XII/23 (2014) with respect to the Priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, recognised the synergistic effects of multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and urged Parties, invited other Governments and relevant organisations to manage coral reefs as socio-ecological systems and reduce impacts of multiple stressors, including overfishing, and destructive fishing practices (paras 4 and 5). Parties were also encouraged to address local stressors such as overfishing and destructive fishing practices, by sustainably managing fisheries for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, providing a series of more specific recommendations to achieve this goal (para 8.1).
- CBD decision XIII/3 (2016) with respect to strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity in sector-specific mainstreaming has a section dedicated to fisheries and aquaculture recommendations (paras 59-76).
- CBD decision XIII/11 (2016) on the Voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention requested the Executive Secretary, Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations to facilitate, promote and support the implementation of the workplan, including by facilitating capacity building, the sharing of information on experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the workplan, including in collaboration with FAO, IMO, the ISA, regional seas conventions and action plans, regional fisheries bodies and others (para 6). The workplan (contained in Annex II of this decision) encourages Parties to strengthen sectoral and cross-sectoral management to address stressors on cold-water biodiversity including from overfishing and destructive fishing practices through several activities listed in paragraph 5.2.
- Importantly, CBD decisions V/6 (2000) and VII/11 (2004) provide guidance on the implementation of the ecosystem approach more broadly (cross-sectorally) – but also applicable to fisheries.

Several policy and legal instruments under the FAO and other Conventions address sustainable fisheries (see table in Annex I for a list of some of these guidance instruments). This has been recognised by CBD COP decisions, which have also stressed the importance of collaboration with fisheries entities.

## Gaps in guidance and tools

Considering the increasing attention on mesopelagic fishing<sup>85</sup> an improved understanding of mesopelagic ecosystems, in particular species' role in benthic-pelagic coupling in marine ecosystems would benefit from focused attention, as this has not been discussed in the POW and COP decisions. This is also relevant to target 3 and 5 of the GBF. Furthermore, while there has been extensive guidance on the ecosystem approach to fisheries<sup>86</sup> and the ecosystem approach more broadly,<sup>87</sup> given the various challenges in operationalising the concept in practice it may be helpful to compile best practices from States and RFMOs (e.g. the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization's EAF Roadmap and its Total Catch Index at the ecosystem level to avoid ecosystem-level overfishing (in addition to stocks' level overfishing)). Furthermore, one Party noted that "Appendix 2 of the IPBES Assessment on Sustainable Use of Wild Species identified a list of knowledge gaps that may be relevant to explore in the context of target 5. Guidance and tools are likely needed to address illegal harvesting, trade and use of wild species, including IUU fishing."

### (vi) Target 6

*Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.*

Invasive alien species (IAS) is addressed under Programme Elements 4 and 5 of the PoW. Under programme element 4 on mariculture, operational objective 4.1 (to promote use of techniques, which minimise adverse impact of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity), the following suggested activities are relevant:

- Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture (4.1.a.viii);
- To undertake regional and international collaboration to address transboundary impacts of mariculture on biodiversity, such as the spread of disease and invasive alien species (4.1 (b)).

Furthermore, programme element 5 is dedicated to invasive alien species, with operational objective 5.1 focusing on the better understanding of the pathways and the causes of the introduction of alien species and the impact of such introductions on biological diversity. Operational objective 5.2 focuses on putting in place mechanisms to control all pathways, including shipping, trade and mariculture, for potential invasive alien species in marine and coastal environment. Operational objective 5.3 recommends maintaining an incident list on introductions of alien species.

Furthermore, the Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention contained in Annex II of CBD decision XIII/11 (2016) recommends avoiding, minimising and mitigating the introduction of invasive alien species through ballast water and biofouling.

It is important to note that in addition to marine and coastal biodiversity decisions' recommendations on this topic, a significant amount of CBD COP decisions over the years have been addressing invasive alien species in-depth and providing policy and technical guidance on this issue.

<sup>85</sup> See ICES, Opportunities and risks in the mesopelagic zone (2019) <https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Mesopelagic-resources-IJMS.aspx>, ICES Journal of Marine Science, Volume 76, Issue 3, May-June 2019. <https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/issue/76/3?login=false>

<sup>86</sup> FAO Fisheries Department. The ecosystem approach to fisheries. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 4, Suppl. 2. Rome, FAO. 2003. 112 p; C De Young, A Charles, A Hjort, Human dimensions of the ecosystem approach to fisheries: an overview of context, concepts, tools and methods. *FAO Fisheries Technical Paper*. No. 489. Rome, FAO. 2008. 152 p.

<sup>87</sup> CBD decisions V/6 (2000) and VII/11 (2004).

Other instruments, including those developed and adopted by IMO are also relevant in this regard, such as the 2004 IMO International Convention for the Control and Management of ships' Ballast Water and Sediments to halt invasive aquatic species, and IMO Technical Guidelines adopted by IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) that support the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention. Promoting ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Convention as well as avoiding ballast water exchange in areas important for biodiversity could contribute to the achievement of this target in the marine environment. See also Annex I below on other guidance and tools.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

In light of the above (see also Annex I below), no specific gaps have been identified in relation to this issue.

#### **(vii) Target 7**

*Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.*

Pollution of the marine environment is a broad concept and all sources should be considered<sup>88</sup> as per the definition provided under the Law of the Sea Convention.<sup>89</sup> Some of these sources include: marine debris/litter (more broadly, but including plastics); underwater noise; land-based pollution (including from excess nutrients); aquaculture runoff; and oil spills. Eutrophication continues to be a serious problem<sup>90</sup> that contributes to ocean de-oxygenation, and a number of other threats to marine ecosystems including mangroves, and human health.

The marine and coastal biodiversity programme of work has addressed pollution of the marine environment to some degree. Programme element 1 on the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management and its operational objective 1.2 to undertake direct action to protect the marine environment from negative impacts, suggested activity (b) is to promote action to reduce and control sea-based sources of pollution. Operational Objective 1.2, suggested activity (c) suggests achieving 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 (GPA) and other appropriate instruments, including proper coastal land use, watershed planning, and integration of integrated marine and coastal area management into key sectors.

Several CBD decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity have focused on different sources of marine and coastal pollution to date, providing further guidance on this issue, including:

- Decision XI/18 (2012) took note of the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments annotated specifically for biodiversity in marine and coastal areas (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23) and encouraged Parties, other Governments and competent organisations to make use of them (paras 1 and 3). In the EIA screening phase, the voluntary guidelines recommends considering whether the activity would cause substantial pollution to an EBSA (table 1). In para 10, it recommends that “any activity with the potential to

<sup>88</sup> The need to address all sources of pollution to the marine environment was also highlighted in the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Thematic Workshop (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2), at 27.

<sup>89</sup> UNCLOS defines pollution of the marine environment as follows: “the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment, including estuaries, which results or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities” (UNCLOS, Art 1 (4)).

<sup>90</sup> CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2, at 27.

cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes” to an EBSA or VME “should be subject to some form of initial screening and initial environmental evaluation”.

- Decision XIII/11 with respect to the Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention (Annex II of the decision). The workplan recommends addressing local stressors including pollution through sectoral regulations, as well as strengthening sectoral and cross-sectoral management to address stressors, including from pollution.
- CBD decision XIII/10 (2016): Its Annex contains the Voluntary Practical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats. Among other things it recommends the prevention and mitigation of the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats, including by preventing the discard, disposal, loss or abandonment of solid materials. With respect to land-based sources of marine debris, it recommends, *inter alia*: reducing the production and consumption of plastics by developing alternative materials, and increasing recycling and reuse; promoting and disseminating best practices in resource-efficient and closed product-to-waste cycles; and improving waste management systems.

With regards to sea-based sources of marine debris, it recommends, *inter alia*: proper handling and disposal of waste on ships; and addressing key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture that could contribute to marine debris.

- Decision XII/23 also contains Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems, which *inter alia*, recommends managing land-based and sea-based sources of pollution, including through: the identification of all sources of significant pollutants affecting coral reefs; the implementation of comprehensive watershed and coastal water quality management plans; and the management of pollution hotspots. It also recommends implementing best practice standards for marinas, docks, mariculture, tourism or recreational operations conducted in coral reefs or adjacent environments.
- Decision XII/23 also addresses impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise, and in this respect it recommends avoiding, minimising and mitigating the impacts of such pressure on marine and coastal biodiversity including by: developing and transferring quieter technologies; combining acoustic mapping and habitat mapping of sound-sensitive species; mitigating and managing anthropogenic underwater noise through the use of spatio-temporal management of activities; and making use of impact assessments for activities that may have significant adverse impacts on noise-sensitive species.

It is also important to note that with the emergence of deep seabed mining (DSM), as well as coastal mining, pollution from plumes and other sources (e.g. sedimentation, particulates)<sup>91</sup> should also be encompassed under this target. An important point that the updated PoW could emphasise is on the assessment of cumulative impacts<sup>92</sup> to marine and coastal ecosystems and that these assessments should also consider impacts from climate change<sup>93</sup> and ocean acidification since the ability of these ecosystems to cope with other impacts are likely to be affected. Underwater light pollution is another issue that has not been addressed by COP decisions.<sup>94</sup>

### Gaps in guidance and tools

Underwater light pollution has not received attention under the CBD. A Party noted the need to take into account different threats and pressures and enhance cooperation with RFMOs, CMS,

<sup>91</sup> CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2, at 27.

<sup>92</sup> CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2, at 27.

<sup>93</sup> The Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Thematic workshop also emphasized that heat (ocean warming) is a form of pollution (see CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2, at 27). This is supported by UNCLOS definition of pollution as inclusive of introduction of energy. See also A Boyle, “Litigating Climate Change under Part XII of the LOSC” (2019) 34 The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law 458-481.

<sup>94</sup> See TJ Smyth, et al. (2021). “A global atlas of artificial light at night under the sea”, Elem Sci Anth, 9: 1. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.2021.00049>

ISA, IMO on underwater noise and UNEA on marine litter. Another Party noted that an IPBES assessment on biodiversity and pollution would be very useful.

#### (viii) Target 8

*Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.*

The role of the ocean in climate regulation is extremely important since it covers 71% of the Earth's surface, and it is known to generate 50 percent of the oxygen on the planet, absorb 25 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions and to capture 90 percent of the excess heat generated by these emissions.<sup>95</sup> However, marine and coastal ecosystems are suffering the pressures of human-induced climate change and ocean acidification at unprecedented rates, which in turn affect marine and coastal ecosystem functioning and services, including food security and carbon cycle regulation. As highlighted in the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere, "In addition to their role within the climate system, such as the uptake and redistribution of natural and anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and heat, as well as ecosystem support, services provided to people by the ocean and/or cryosphere include food and water supply, renewable energy, and benefits for health and well-being, cultural values, tourism, trade, and transport. The state of the ocean and cryosphere interacts with each aspect of sustainability reflected in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."<sup>96</sup>

The marine and coastal biodiversity PoW covers some elements of climate change, and further work by COP decisions have focused on ocean acidification. In light of the 2010 in-depth review of the progress made in the implementation of the elaborated PoW (of decision VII/5 (2004)), the COP through its decision X/29 noted with concern the:

"adverse impact of climate change on marine and coastal biodiversity (e.g., sea level rise, ocean acidification, coral bleaching), and recognizing that the ocean is one of the largest natural reservoirs of carbon, which can significantly affect the rate and scale of global climate change, invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to further integrate climate change-related aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity into relevant national strategies, action plans and programmes, including, inter alia, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national adaptation programmes of action, national integrated marine and coastal management programmes, the design and management of marine and coastal protected areas, including the selection of areas in need of protection to ensure maximum adaptive capacity of biodiversity, and other marine environment and resource management-related strategies".<sup>97</sup>

Thus, decision X/29 stressed the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity to climate mitigation and adaptation, and invited all relevant actors to address the issues in line with the in-depth review of the work on biodiversity and climate change as per decision X/33 (2010) on biodiversity and climate change, by undertaking four main cluster of activities, namely:<sup>98</sup>

- Highlighting the role and potential of marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats, including coral reefs, estuaries, salt marshes, mangroves and seagrasses;<sup>99</sup>

<sup>95</sup> United Nations, The Ocean – the world's greatest ally against climate change.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/ocean#:~:text=The%20ocean%20generates%2050%20percent,heat%20generated%20by%20these%20emissions.>

<sup>96</sup> IPCC, 2019: Summary for Policymakers. In: IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 3–35, at 5. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157964.001>.

<sup>97</sup> CBD decision X/29 (2010), para 7.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid, para 8.

<sup>99</sup> For instance, these ecosystems can provide nature-based solutions (NbS) contributing to the achievement of Target 8. In this context, the definition of NbS adopted by UNEA resolution 5/5 (2022) is relevant, namely:

- Identifying science and policy gaps for marine and coastal biodiversity sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of natural carbon sequestration;
- Identifying and addressing underlying drivers of marine and coastal ecosystem loss, and improving sustainable management;
- Enhancing efforts to increase coastal and marine ecosystems' resilience, including through the establishment of MPAs, and representative MPA networks.

Several COP decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity are relevant to the implementation of this target. Decision VII/5 (2004), Appendix 1 on the Specific Workplan on Coral Bleaching, recommends, *inter alia*, management interventions to increase reef resilience to bleaching in both the short and long-term and/or strengthen reef recovery post-bleaching, and the integration of bleaching resilience principles into the design and management of networks of MPAs.

Decision XI/18 reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching and recognised the need for managers of coral ecosystems to, *inter alia*: understand the vulnerability of corals to multiple stressors; plan proactively for climate risks and associated secondary effects, applying ecosystem-based adaptation measures; formulate adaptation strategies aiming to enhance the resilience of ecosystems to enable the continued provision of goods and services (para 11).

CBD decision XI/18 (2012) took note of the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments annotated specifically for biodiversity in marine and coastal areas (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23) and encouraged their use. The voluntary guidelines recommends that assessments should take into account the cumulative effects of environmental changes such as climate change and ocean acidification that may shift the location or timing of key ecological processes and features, and impose increased stresses on organisms. The voluntary guidelines also recommends incorporating the latest work on ecosystem services and values into the assessment and evaluation of impacts and the development of alternatives (para 5(c)). Marine ecosystem services listed in the guidelines, include carbon sequestration.

CBD decision XIII/11 (2016) on the voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention (see also T1 above) contains several recommendations for Parties, other Governments and competent intergovernmental organisations to implement the activities contained in the workplan to, *inter alia*: avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts of global and local stressors, especially cumulative effects; enhance international and regional cooperation in support of national implementation; identify and protect cold water areas refugia sites and areas that could act as refugia sites to enhance their adaptive capacity (para 4). Annex I of decision XIII/11, on Key messages from the scientific compilation and synthesis on biodiversity and ocean acidification in cold-water areas, notes that "There is an urgent need to identify refugia sites nationally, regionally and globally. Efforts to describe and

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"nature based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits, and recognizes that nature-based solutions:

- (a) Respect social and environmental safeguards, in line with the three "Rio conventions" (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), including such safeguards for local communities and indigenous peoples;
- (b) Can be implemented in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and can be managed adaptively;
- (c) Are among the actions that play an essential role in the overall global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including by effectively and efficiently addressing major social, economic and environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, desertification, food security, disaster risks, urban development, water availability, poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment, as well as social development, sustainable economic development, human health and a broad range of ecosystem services;
- (d) Can help to stimulate sustainable innovation and scientific research" (para 1). Furthermore, in paragraph 4, the resolution acknowledged that "the concept of nature-based solutions is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches identified under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other management and conservation approaches carried out under existing national policy and legislative frameworks and established under relevant multilateral environmental agreements".

identify ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), including through the work on EBSAs under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the work on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, may help regional and global efforts to identify the location of habitats that may be resilient to the impacts of acidification and ocean warming, or that may help in maintaining gene flow and connectivity” (para 27). The workplan contained in Annex II of the decision recommends, *inter alia*: integrating long-term climate related impacts on cold-water biodiversity into the assessment of local stressors; and expanding and improving monitoring and research on biodiversity in cold water areas to improve knowledge of impacts of climate change and other human induced stressors.

Decision XII/23 (2014), with respect to the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems, recommended, *inter alia*, integrating climate considerations into coastal development and land-use and sea-use planning; and improving the adaptive capacity of coral reef-based systems at the local level.

COP, through its decision 14/5 (2018), adopted the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (contained in the Annex of the decision). The guidelines are applicable to terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Several guidance documents have emerged in recent years with respect to blue carbon ecosystems, which are also gaining attention under the Paris Agreement given their important role in mitigation (e.g. through carbon regulation, including carbon syncs<sup>100</sup>) as well as in adaptation (e.g. coastal protection) to climate change. Increased cooperation between the IPBES and IPCC is also taking place,<sup>101</sup> demonstrating the inter-linkages between (marine) biodiversity and climate. Although several COP decisions complement the recommendations contained in decision X/29 referred to above, including with respect to the identification and conservation of refugia sites (voluntary cold water workplan); voluntary biodiversity-inclusive EIA guidelines on assessing impacts on ecosystem functions and services (e.g. carbon cycle, etc), it could be beneficial to reflect some of these latest developments more explicitly in the updated PoW.

### Gaps in guidance and tools

Given the latest knowledge and developments on climate-ocean interface, including on blue carbon ecosystems, it could be useful to consolidate guidance under the CBD marine and coastal PoW on these diverse aspects, taking into consideration existing guidance and tools from within and outside the CBD for incorporation into the PoW.

Furthermore, it could be useful to invite the IPBES and the IPCC to jointly develop standardised guidance/methodology on sinks and sources/carbon accounting from other blue carbon ecosystems apart from mangroves, seagrasses and saltmarshes (for which IPCC methodology already exists)<sup>102</sup> so that this accounting could be integrated into the Paris Agreement NDCs in a synergistic manner with the NBSAPs<sup>103</sup> with respect to T8.

One Party recommended further integration into the PoW of ocean acidification, ice coverage and associated biodiversity. Another Party noted that: “There is a lack of CBD Guidance on how the UNEA 5/5 Resolution on Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development can be applied to deliver on Target 8 of the KMGBF. There is also a lack of guidance on how outcomes of the UNFCCC can contribute towards achievement of the KMGBF, and likewise on how implementation of Target 8 can contribute towards achievement of outcomes of the UNFCCC.” Although this is something that could be considered more broadly, certain aspects of these

<sup>100</sup> UNFCCC, Art 4(1)(d); Paris Agreement, Art. 5(1).

<sup>101</sup> HO Pörtner, et al (2021) IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change; IPBES and IPCC, DOI:10.5281/zenodo.4782538

<sup>102</sup> IPCC (2014), 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands, Hiraishi, T., Krug, T., Tanabe, K., Srivastava, N., Baasansuren, J., Fukuda, M. and Troxler, T.G. (eds). Published: IPCC, Switzerland.

<sup>103</sup> D Diz, P Merriman, K de Vos, M Sommerkorn, S Walmsley (2021) *Blueprint for a Living Planet: Four Principles for Integrated Ocean-Climate Strategies*. WWF International, Gland, Switzerland.

questions could perhaps be investigated in relation to marine and coastal biodiversity context, especially as they relate to blue carbon.

**(ix) Target 9**

*Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.*

PoW Programme Element 2 covers this target with respect to fisheries, especially if complemented by relevant COP decisions and instruments and guidance from other bodies (e.g. FAO Small Scale Guidelines) with respect to the enabling conditions for sustainable livelihoods.

PoW Operational objective 2.1 on the promotion of ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring, first, components of biological diversity; second, the sustainable use of such components; and, third, ecosystem effects is of relevance. In particular, suggested activities on: the identification and development of ecosystem approaches compatible with the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources; the promotion of the identification both of components of the ecosystems which are critical to the functioning of the ecosystem and of key threats; the promotion of capacity-building at local, national and regional levels, including local and traditional knowledge; to implement the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO international plans of action and technical guidelines; the elimination of destructive fishing practices, restoring and maintaining fisheries stocks to sustainable levels, including through financial assistance to developing countries, in particular SIDS, for improved enforcement, surveillance and patrolling, and recognising the importance of use of sustainable fishing practices, including traditional fishing practices; maintaining the productivity and biodiversity of important and vulnerable marine and coastal areas.

In addition to the relevant COP decisions mentioned under target 5 above, given the emphasis of target 9 on enhancing the benefits of sustainable use, CBD decision VII/16 F which adopted the voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessment regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities (Akwé: Kon guidelines) is particularly relevant in the context of this target.

**Gaps in guidance and tools**

In addition to the comments made under Target 5, practical guidance in applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries in data poor situations could be beneficial in this Target's context. Furthermore, one Party noted that: "Implementation of Target 9 by Parties would be facilitated by sharing case studies on sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services, as well as some guidance on social sustainability in fisheries value chains."

**(x) Target 10**

*Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.*

Programme element 4, operational objective 4.1 on promoting the use of techniques, which minimize adverse impact of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity is applicable to T10. The selection of sites for aquaculture and the choice of technique used (closed containment vs open pans) can prevent some of the impacts, by for instance, avoiding placement of the aquaculture sites in migratory corridors for wild species. In relation to mangroves more

specifically, shrimp aquaculture has been identified in certain places around the globe as a key driver of deforestation.<sup>104</sup> The PoW could further elaborate on these issues by providing guidance on how to avoid such negative impacts to marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, including from a gender perspective.<sup>105</sup>

As well, the inclusion of fisheries in the GBF target is noteworthy, as fisheries are not mentioned in Aichi Biodiversity Target 7, which is generally considered to be the predecessor of this target. The fact that fisheries is included signals the importance of fisheries stakeholders, authorities and communities as important stewards of biodiversity in the areas in which they operate. This is important both in the context of small-scale community-based fisheries, as well as larger spaces in which industrial fishing activity is managed by fisheries management authorities, such as RFMOs.

Furthermore, several COP decisions on Article 8(j) are relevant to the implementation of this target, in addition to marine and coastal biodiversity decisions that refer to the importance of traditional knowledge in conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and the role of IPLCs.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

While sustainable aquaculture is mentioned in the POW, greater focus may be needed with respect to approaches to minimizing impacts on habitats and ecologically-important species, especially as there has been comparatively little focus on aquaculture in subsequent decisions of the COP.

A Party noted that: “There are various tools and guidance developed by the FAO to support the implementation of Target 10. Enhanced collaboration between the SCBD and FAO may be useful to further promote these tools.”

### **(xi) Target 11**

*Restore, maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.*

Programme Element 2 on marine and coastal living resources, operational objective 2.1 on promoting ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions is applicable herein applies to this target. Several CBD marine and coastal biodiversity decisions also contribute to the achievement of this target. The voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments in marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23) considered by COP under decision XI/18 (2012) recommends that in the EIA assessment and evaluation phase, efforts should be made to incorporate the latest work on ecosystem services and values.

Decision XII/23 (2014), Annex, on the Priority Actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems recommends identifying and applying measures to improve the adaptive capacity of coral reef-based socio-ecological systems within the local context which will ensure sustainable livelihoods of reef-dependent coastal communities, including IPLCs, and provide for viable alternative livelihoods.

The Voluntary Specific Workplan on Biodiversity in Cold-water Areas within the Jurisdictional Scope of the Convention, contained in Annex II of decision XIII/11 (2016) recommends expanding and improving monitoring and research on biodiversity in cold-water areas to improve fundamental knowledge of how, and over what time scales, climate change and other human-

<sup>104</sup> See M Trevino, PJ Murillo-Sandoval, “Uneven consequences: Gendered impacts of shrimp aquaculture development on mangrove dependent communities” (2021) 210 Ocean & Coastal Management 105688.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2021.105688>

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

induced stressors will impact the long-term viability of, and ecosystem services provided by, cold-water biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems.

The voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction adopted by Decision 14/5 on biodiversity and climate change is also relevant in this context.

Furthermore, the EBSA descriptions can provide important scientific and technical information on some aspects of these contributions/ecosystem functions and services.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

There is a gap in the PoW in explicitly addressing nature's contributions to people with respect to the marine environment in a targeted manner. One Party noted that "there is a lack of CBD Guidance on how the UNEA 5/5 Resolution on Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development can be applied to deliver on Target 11 of the KMGBF. Parties will likely need further practical guidance on how to address Target 11 elements related to air, water, and reduction of disease risk, as climate, soil health, and pollination have been discussed at previous CBD meetings and guidance material has been developed."

#### **(xii) Target 12**

*Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.*

Marine and coastal components of this target relate to access to clean and healthy blue spaces in urban areas, including sea, coastline, canals. In addition to access to and the quantitative element (increase the area), this target also relates to the quality of these spaces – water quality. Therefore, the link to the pollution target (Target 7 above) is essential, because of the associated risks of health hazards from contaminated waters and disease transmission.<sup>106</sup>

On the other hand, when water quality is monitored and controlled, and access to blue spaces is available, benefits are accrued. The links between blue spaces and increased health and wellbeing has been demonstrated by several studies.<sup>107</sup> Such benefits are also considered to be ecosystem services (cultural, aesthetic, as well as regulating services, etc.).<sup>108</sup> As such, governance questions can arise regarding access to those spaces to all groups of the population.<sup>109</sup>

Blue spaces are gaining momentum in literature, research projects and in national policies, but it is not currently explicitly part of the PoW or has it been the object of previous marine and coastal COP decisions. See table in Annex I for further information.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

While there are several academic studies, projects and national examples (e.g. Finland, Australia) on the benefits of blue spaces, there has been minimal attention on this issue at the global level (some work has been done under the Ramsar Convention). Further attention from the CBD could be beneficial.

#### **(xiii) Target 13**

*Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of*

<sup>106</sup> J Grellier, MP White, M Albin, et al, "BlueHealth: A study programme protocol for mapping and quantifying the potential benefits to public health and well-being from Europe's blue spaces" *BMJ Open* (2017), 7, 16188

<sup>107</sup> WHO *Assessing the value of urban green and blue spaces for health and well-being*. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2023. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

<sup>108</sup> M Georgiou, G Morison, N Smith, Z Tieges, S Chastin, "Mechanisms of Impact of Blue Spaces on Human Health: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* (2021), 18(5), 2486; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18052486>

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

*genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.*

Target 13 directly relates to programme element 2.2 of the current PoW, which focuses on the marine and coastal genetic resources. PoW operational objective 2.2 on making available to the Parties information on marine genetic resources (MGRs) in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and, as appropriate, on coastal and marine genetic resources under national jurisdiction from publicly available information sources, contains the following suggested activities:

(a) To compile and synthesize information on the methods for the identification, assessment and monitoring of genetic resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and information on their status and trends including identification of threats to such genetic resources and the technical options for their protection and report on the progress made to SBSTTA.

(b) To identify activities and processes under national jurisdiction or control which may have significant adverse impact on deep seabed ecosystems and species beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in order to address Article 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

CBD marine and coastal biodiversity decisions have not addressed MGRs or digital sequence information (DSI) per se. Other COP decisions on DSI on genetic resources have deliberated on this matter more broadly (e.g. decision XIII/16 (2016), 14/20 (2018), and 15/9 (2022)), and this issue continues to be the object of negotiations under the CBD. Exploring alignments and linkages to the BBNJ Agreement with respect to MGRs of ABNJ and DSI would be advisable for policy coherence. With respect to MGRs' access and benefit sharing (ABS) within areas of national jurisdiction, these are addressed by the Nagoya Protocol, which was not assessed in this analysis. With respect to MGRs and DSI of ABNJ, modalities for ABS under the BBNJ Agreement, adopted in June 2023, but not yet into force, will be mutually supportive of and adaptable to other ABS instruments (BBNJ Agreement, Art 14(9)).

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

As this issue is addressed under a separate stream of work under the CBD, it may not be useful to consider any gaps with respect to the POW.

#### **(xiv) Target 14**

*Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.*

All PoW programme elements are relevant to this target. Furthermore, several policy instruments developed and adopted or acknowledged by CBD COP can contribute to the implementation of this target in the context of the marine and coastal PoW. For instance, the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments in marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23) considered by COP under decision XI/18 (2012) directly relates to T14 reference to the integration of biodiversity into EIAs and SEAs. These are complemented by the Akwé Kon Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities (Akwé: Kon Guidelines) adopted by CBD decision VII/16 F. The biodiversity-inclusive EIA guidelines recommend the potential impacts of a given activity be assessed against different levels of diversity, namely, ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. Areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services, should also be mapped as part of the process, and the potential impacts of the proposed activity on such areas

should be well-understood in accordance with the voluntary guidelines. Examples of areas important for ecosystem services under the guidelines include: EBSAs; vulnerable marine ecosystems; protected areas; areas containing threatened ecosystems outside the protected areas; areas important for the maintenance of key ecological or evolutionary processes; areas known to be habitat for threatened species; areas important for regulating services for maintaining natural processes; areas important for provisioning services (e.g. areas occupied by IPLCs, as well as breeding, nursery, feeding, spawning grounds, migratory routes, etc); areas with important cultural services (e.g. scenic seascapes and landscapes, heritage sites, sacred sites). Appendix 2 of the guidelines contain an indicative list of ecosystem services, which includes explicit reference to regulating services, including maintenance of (natural) pH levels and geochemical gradients in sediments and the water column, carbon sequestration, among others.<sup>110</sup>

Decision 14/8 (2018), Annex I contains voluntary guidance on integration of protected areas and other effective area- based conservation measures into the wider land- and seascapes and on mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Decision 15/24 (2022) recommends strengthening national, subregional, and regional efforts toward ocean accounting and economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal biodiversity and using this information to support decision-making for conservation and sustainable use.

CBD decisions XIII/3 (2016) and 14/3 (2018) address mainstreaming into and across a several marine sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, and infrastructure. However, other marine sectors (e.g. shipping, marine renewables, underwater cabling, etc) have not been the object of specific biodiversity mainstreaming guidance/recommendations.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

Guidance in mainstreaming biodiversity into marine sectors not covered by previous COP decisions XIII/3 and 14/3 may be helpful. Other sectors would include, inter alia, marine renewables, cabling, shipping, among others. One Party noted lack of guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity within “all levels of government”/governance scales.

#### **(xv) Target 15**

*Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:*

*(a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;*

*(b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;*

*(c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;*

*in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.*

Corporate accountability in marine sectors and value chains have not been addressed by the marine and coastal biodiversity PoW per se. However, this is a cross-cutting target applied to all sectors, and these issues are more appropriately addressed under other streams of work under the CBD (i.e., business and biodiversity, economics and incentives) where marine-specific content can be integrated accordingly.

<sup>110</sup> See UNEP/CBD/COP/11/23, paras 9, 15 and 16, and D Diz et al (2021) supra.

### Gaps in guidance and tools

Given the cross-cutting nature of the target, no specific gaps have been identified as such, and marine-specific considerations can be integrated into the relevant streams of work under the Convention, as appropriate.

#### (xvi) Target 16

*Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.*

This is also a cross-cutting target (also linked to SDG 12 on sustainable production and consumption). With respect to marine and coastal biodiversity, this target relates to ocean literacy, which is a big focus of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its implementation plan, as well as the work of UNESCO-IOC.<sup>111</sup>

### Gaps in guidance and tools

Similar to target 11, given the cross-cutting nature of target 12, and the worried being carried out by other competent organisations in the realm of ocean literacy, a gap under the PoW has not been identified.

#### (xvii) Target 17

*Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.*

Biosafety is not included in the marine and coastal PoW, as this issue is more appropriately addressed under other streams of work under the Convention, including through the Cartagena Protocol. There are also several external instruments, including FAO guidance on biosafety and aquaculture, that contribute to the implementation of this target.

### Gaps in guidance and tools

No gaps have been identified considering the above points.

#### (xviii) Target 18

*Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.*

Several components of the PoW and other marine and coastal biodiversity decisions address harmful incentives and re-direction of resources to conservation and sustainable use. PoW programme element 3 on marine and coastal protected areas, operational objective 3.4 (to provide support for and facilitate monitoring of national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas) contains the following suggested activity:

“to provide active financial, technical and other support for the establishment of a global system of MPA networks and the identification and removal of barriers to the creation of MPAs, and removal of perverse incentives for unsustainable activities in the marine and coastal environment”<sup>112</sup>

Furthermore, CBD decision XII/23 (2014), Annex on the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems recommends

<sup>111</sup> UNESCO-IOC, Ocean Literacy, <https://www.ioc.unesco.org/en/ocean-literacy>

<sup>112</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, 3.4 (a).

developing and implementing socioeconomic incentives to encourage coastal communities, including IPLCs to play a central role in conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems.

CBD decision XIII/10 (2016), Annex on the voluntary Practical Guidance on Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats recommends developing and implementing socioeconomic incentives to prevent the introduction of waste into the environment.

CBD decision XIII/3 (2016) encourages Parties and invites other Governments to use an appropriate mix of regulatory and incentive measures aligned with national biodiversity objectives, including the elimination, phasing out and reform of incentives harmful to biodiversity (para 32). With respect to fisheries and aquaculture, this decision recognised SDG 14.6 on the prohibition of incentives harmful to biodiversity in fisheries (para 61).

The elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies has been in the international agenda for decades, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) has adopted the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.<sup>113</sup> See other guidance and tools in Annex I below.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

This issue is addressed under a separate stream of work under the CBD. However, given the significant attention on harmful fisheries subsidies, as well as the unique aspects of this specific issue, it may be worth considering further attention on harmful fisheries subsidies in the context of the POW.

#### **(xix) Target 19**

*Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by:*

*(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030;*

*(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;*

*(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;*

*(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;*

*(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;*

*(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions<sup>13</sup> and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;*

*(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.*

<sup>113</sup> WTO, Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, Ministerial Decision of 17 June 2022.

Target 19 is cross-cutting and applies to the entire GBF. Several marine and coastal biodiversity decisions have addressed the need for financial support for the implementation of specific recommendations, as well as of the PoW itself. PoW programme element 3, operational objective 3.4 to provide support for and facilitate monitoring of national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas contains the following relevant suggested activities: (a) to provide active financial, technical and other support for the establishment of a global system of MPA networks; (c) promote transfer of technology and collaborate with regional initiatives to fund activities such as monitoring for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The following enabling activities of the PoW are also relevant:<sup>114</sup>

- Urgent mobilisation of financial resources and identification of additional funding mechanisms for implementation of this PoW, including provision of information about creative arrangements and tools for financing conservation and sustainable use and through the establishment of additional mechanisms, such as small grants funds (section IV para (i)).
- Provision of financial and technical support by the international community including by distant water fishing nations to developing countries in particular SIDS for sustainable management and use of marine and coastal resources (Section IV para (j)).

CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Appendix I, on the Specific Workplan on Coral Bleaching recommended to mobilise international programmes and mechanisms for financial and technical development assistance, as well as national and private sources to support implementation; and the identification of financial and technical assistance mechanisms of national and private sources to assistance communities impacted by coral bleaching.

With respect to sustainable financing, the Annex to CBD decision XII/23 (2014) containing the Priority Actions to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for Coral Reefs and Closely Associated Ecosystems recommends in its para 11.2:

- “a. Secure, through national sectoral budget systems (e.g., fisheries, environment, climate-change adaptation fund, coastal development, tourism, etc.), the necessary financial resources to implement national coral reef action strategies;
- b. Apply comprehensive and diverse financing schemes for coral reef management, and explore opportunities for innovative financing to support local implementation;
- c. Remove key bottlenecks and improve access to funding through capacity-building and streamlining of funding processes;
- d. Demonstrate and increase awareness of the socioeconomic importance of coral reefs and associated ecosystems to local and national economies.”

#### (xx) Target 20

*Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.*

The PoW contains capacity building recommendations. PoW Programme Element 1 on integrated marine and coastal area management; Operational Objective 1.1: To apply appropriate policy instruments and strategies, including building of capacity, for the effective implementation of integrated marine and coastal management, including through assistance in the development of national and regional capacity building.

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<sup>114</sup> CBD decision VII/5 (2004), Annex I, Part IV.

Programme Element 2: Marine and coastal living resources: Operational Objective 2.1 on the promotion of ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring, first, components of biodiversity; second, the sustainable use of such components; and third, ecosystem effects; suggested activity (e): to promote capacity building at local, national and regional levels, including local and traditional knowledge.

Operational Objective 2.3 To gather and assimilate information on, build capacity to mitigate the effects of, and to promote policy development, implementation strategies and actions to address: (i) the biological and socio-economic consequences of physical degradation and destruction of key marine and coastal habitats including mangrove ecosystems, tropical and cold-water coral-reef ecosystems, seamount ecosystems and seagrass ecosystems including identification and promotion of management practices, methodologies and policies to reduce and mitigate impacts upon marine and coastal biological diversity and to restore mangrove forests and rehabilitate damaged coral reef; and in particular (ii) the impacts of mangrove forest destruction, coral bleaching and related mortality on coral-reef ecosystems and the human communities which depend upon coral-reef services, including through financial and technical assistance.

Operational Objective 3.3: To achieve effective management of existing marine and coastal protected areas; activity (a): to achieve effective management of marine and coastal protected areas through good governance, clear legal or customary frameworks to prevent damaging activities, effective compliance and enforcement, ability to control external activities that affect the marine and coastal protected area, strategic planning, capacity building and sustainable financing.

Operational objective 5.2: To put in place mechanisms to control all pathways, including shipping, trade and mariculture for potential invasive alien species in the marine and coastal environment; suggested activity (e) to identify means to support capacity-building in developing countries to strengthen their ability to conduct work related to alien species.

In part IV of the PoW on enabling activities, paragraph (b) suggests: Strengthening capacity of SIDS, through training and other appropriate means to enable their effective participation in all elements of the Convention's research priorities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including conducting new research and compiling information from past research on marine and coastal biodiversity within and beyond national jurisdiction. Paragraph (e) focuses on the formation of cooperative partnerships between countries or between international and/or regional organisations to enhance capacity for implementation, taking into account the special needs and difficulties experienced by stakeholders in developing countries and by IPLCs. While paragraph (g) suggests building capacity in marine science, information and management, through, inter alia, promoting the use of environmental impact assessments and environmental evaluation and reporting techniques for projects or activities that are potential harmful to the coastal and marine environments and their living and non-living resources.

Paragraph (h) focuses on undertaking capacity-building, technology transfer, public education and awareness, and training to improve the implementation of the PoW.

All marine and coastal biodiversity decisions, including on EBSAs, have also identified capacity building needs and opportunities (e.g. SOI). For instance, CBD decision XIII/11 (2016) on the Voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention requested the Executive Secretary, Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations to facilitate, promote and support the implementation of the workplan, including by facilitating capacity building. Annex III of the same decision focuses on monitoring and research needs for supporting the implementation of the workplan. CBD decision XIII/9 (2016) on marine spatial planning recognized that that long-term investment in human and institutional capacity for MSP is essential for its success (para 2). Decision 15/24 (2022) requested the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to support the implementation of MSP and integrated coastal zone management, including through capacity-building, technical assistance, including through the SOI and other relevant initiatives (para 15). Paragraph 19 of the same decision welcomed the capacity-building, experience sharing and partnership activities facilitated by the Secretariat through the SOI in collaboration with partners. Thus, it would be

ideal that the SOI continues to provide a platform for enhanced collaboration in capacity-building and training initiatives regarding ocean-related implementation of the GBF.

Furthermore, and importantly in this context, COP 15 adopted the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support priorities determined by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the implementation of the GBF.<sup>115</sup>

Other sources of capacity building and technology transfer can supplement those provided under the Convention. With respect to ABNJ, it is expected that once the BBNJ Agreement enters into force, international cooperation for CBTMT would be operationalised for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

No specific gaps have been identified with respect to this target, although significant action to implement existing guidance and approaches on capacity building is still needed.

#### *(xxi) Target 21*

*Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.*

The PoW includes scientific and traditional knowledge amongst its principles, alongside the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach (decision VII/5 (2004), Annex, para 4) The PoW recognises that its success relies on scientific research aimed at providing understanding of the functioning of the broader ecosystem in terms of its component parts and their connectivity (para 4). It also recognises that “research efforts oriented towards the information needs of management ensure that management decisions are based on best available science in the context of the precautionary approach” (para 4). Furthermore, the PoW also uses and draws upon “scientific, technical and technological knowledge” of IPLCs “in keeping with the contents of Article 8(j) of the Convention as well as community and user-based approaches” (para 4).

Relevant Enabling Activities of the Elaborated Pow (part IV) on this issue are the following:

- Increase of scientific, technical and technological collaboration, including integrated assessment at the global and regional levels, including the appropriate transfer of marine science and marine technologies and techniques for the conservation and management of living marine resources and expanding ocean-observing capabilities for timely prediction and assessment of the state of the marine environment (para (f)); and
- Build capacity in marine science, information and management, through, *inter alia*, promoting the use of environmental impact assessments and environmental evaluation and reporting techniques for projects or activities that are potential harmful to the coastal and marine environments and their living and non-living resources (para (g)).

With regards to awareness raising, the following is relevant: Programme Element 1 on the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management; Operational Objective 1.1 to apply appropriate policy instruments and strategies, including building of capacity, for effective implementation of IMCAM; suggested activity (h) to assist the development of appropriate education and public awareness programmes at all levels.

The PoW is complemented by several marine and coastal biodiversity decisions, including on EBSAs, which highlight the need for science-based decision making and the importance of scientific information for conservation and sustainable use.

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<sup>115</sup> CBD decision 15/8 (2022), para 1. The long-term strategy is contained in Annex I of the decision.

In relation to marine ecosystems, scientific knowledge is often incomplete, especially with regards to the deep-sea areas where data can be sparse, increasing scientific uncertainties. Scientific and technical support for research and monitoring of cold water areas (areas below 200m) ecosystems as highlighted in Annex III of Decision XIII/11 (2016) would help fill this gap in knowledge. These include, inter alia:

- Improving knowledge of biodiversity in cold-water areas to provide baseline information used for assessing the effects of climate change and other human induced stressors;
- Assessing the socio-economic implications of current and predicted future pressures on cold-water biodiversity;
- Conducting research to assess how climate change and other stressors will impact the physiology, health and long-term viability of cold-water organisms, habitats and ecosystems;
- Improving monitoring of environmental conditions in cold-water habitats to understand variability in carbonate chemistry; and
- Developing or expanding predictive model research to determine how projected climate change will impact cold-water biodiversity over different time scales.

More details for each point are contained in Annex III of decision XIII/11 (2016).

Decision XI/17 (2012) welcomed the report Identifying specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the application of scientific criteria for identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas.<sup>116</sup>

The same decision invited Parties, other Governments, competent organisations and relevant IPLCs to consider the use of the guidance on integration of TK with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, where applicable, in any future description of areas that meet the EBSA criteria (para 24). This decision also requested the Secretariat to produce a training manual on the incorporation of traditional knowledge into the description and identification of EBSAs, which has been elaborated.<sup>117</sup>

Furthermore, identified opportunities and needs for science to support ocean governance in the Atlantic Ocean, include: long-term research programmes that track ecosystem dynamics and changes in the Atlantic Ocean, including legal and governance aspects; assessment of research and knowledge gaps associated to the Atlantic basin and the GBF and its targets; capacity development programmes and initiatives, including research programmes and initiatives to enhance skills and knowledge of researchers and stakeholders; capacity development programmes that include short-term training and long-term educational initiatives; mechanisms for open data sharing and accessibility and standardisation to foster collaboration; assessment of biodiversity status (and loss) in described EBSAs; and science-policy interface.<sup>118</sup>

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

No identified gaps in relation to the PoW and CBD decisions.

#### **(xxii) Target 22**

*Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.*

<sup>116</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/10, para 23.

<sup>117</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/21

<sup>118</sup> Boteler B., Johnson D.E. & Gunn V.K. (2023) Science for the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the Atlantic Ocean region: An iAtlantic perspective. iAtlantic Policy Brief, November 2023. DOI10.5281/zenodo.10203890

This target is cross-cutting by nature and COP decisions on Article 8(j) are extremely relevant as well as all COP decisions and guidance and obligations contained other international policy and legal instruments.

The PoW and marine and coastal biodiversity decisions, including on EBSAs, refer to the need for full, equitable, inclusive participation of IPLCs in decision making processes related to marine and coastal biodiversity. Other CBD decisions and instruments outside the Convention are also relevant to the implementation of this target in the marine and coastal context (see Annex I).

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

No gaps identified in relation to the PoW and marine COP decisions.

#### **(xxiii) Target 23**

*Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.*

This target is also a cross-cutting one. While the PoW has not explicitly included gender considerations, marine and coastal decisions more recently have started to incorporate language to address this issue. For instance decision 15/24 (2022), para 15: “Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support the implementation of marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, including through capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and partnership activities under, inter alia, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and other relevant initiatives, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders, in accordance with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, including women and youth;” Paragraph 21 of the same decision:

“Requests the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation and synergies with other global and regional organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities as rights holders in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law, women and youth, and other stakeholders with respect to various thematic issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to enhance cooperation and synergies with efforts under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”.

Importantly, decision 15/11 (2022) adopted the Gender Plan of Action (para 1), urging Parties and inviting where appropriate, relevant organisations to incorporate the Plan in NBSAPs, and to include gender-specific national indicators, collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and other demographic factors where possible (para 4). This will also contribute to a better understanding of trade-offs among stakeholders and in decision-making related to marine and coastal governance towards a more equitable governance and management system.<sup>119</sup>

### **Gaps in guidance and tools**

As one Party noted: “It is likely that the updated CBD Gender Plan of Action provides a fulsome guide for Parties to implement most of the key elements of Target 23. However, some additional work to share practical case studies and practical experiences would also be useful.”

<sup>119</sup> T Daw et al, “Applying the ecosystem services concept to poverty alleviation: the need to disaggregate human well-being”(2011) 38(4) Environmental Conservation 370-379; M Szymkowiak, M Rhodes-Reese, “Addressing the gender gap: Using quantitative and qualitative methods to illuminate women’s fisheries participation” (2020) Frontiers in Marine Science vol 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2020.00299>

## General conclusions

In light of the adoption of the GBF, CBD COP with further guidance from SBSTTA-25 requested the Secretariat to conduct a review of the alignment of the new Framework and the marine and coastal biodiversity programme of work. The review aimed at also assessing relevant CBD COP decisions that could assist with the implementation of the GBF, while also considering external guidance and tools.

This assessment concludes that the PoW continues to be relevant for the implementation of the GBF. In most cases there is sufficient guidance contained in the PoW and/or in marine and coastal biodiversity decisions, including on EBSAs, for the implementation of the GBF with respect to the marine and coastal environments (e.g. T1), or the topic has been or is being extensively addressed by marine decisions and by other decisions/PoWs (Ts 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 14, 20, 22, 23). However, even in cases where a topic has been extensively addressed, in light of the GBF, emerging aspects would merit further attention, either through the development of a synthesis of experiences and lessons learnt or through the development of specific guidance. In other cases, given the topic is more appropriately addressed through other streams of work under the Convention (e.g. Ts 13, 17). Some targets are more cross-cutting by nature (e.g. T19) than others, which demands a more holistic approach in addressing it through the CBD as a whole. In all instances, external guidance by relevant organisations has been identified (see Annex I) complementing the PoW in its contribution to the achievement of the purpose of the GBF.

The main areas identified as meriting further attention in the context of the PoW include:

- Target 2, where it is recommended that a synthesis of existing experience regarding ecological restoration of marine (including offshore) and coastal ecosystems be compiled, including experiences regarding ecological restoration and poverty alleviation nexus;
- Target 3, where it is recommended that greater focus be placed on the use of OECMs in sectors other than fisheries (while acknowledging that all threats (from all sectors) in a given area should be considered in accordance with the identification criteria contained in Annex III of decision 14/8 (2018);
- Target 4, where it is recommended that guidance/tools be developed to monitor genetic diversity, as well as a synthesis of experiences (including from other fora, such as IWC, CMS, CITES) on human-wildlife conflict management in the marine environment;
- On target 5, improving the understanding of mesopelagic species and ecosystems with a view to ensure sustainable management of living marine resources;
- On target 7, further understanding of cumulative impacts from multiple marine ecosystems' stressors, as well as light pollution would be recommended;
- On target 8, more focus on blue carbon ecosystems and their roles in mitigation and adaptation, including those less studied (e.g. sediments, bryozons, off shore ecosystems), as well as of sea ice ecosystems (this is also relevant to targets 2, 3 and 4);
- On target 10, greater focus is needed with respect to sustainable management of aquaculture in marine and coastal areas, with a focus on minimizing impacts on habitats and ecologically-important species;
- On target 12, better understanding the benefits and sustainable, equitable and inclusive management of blue spaces would be beneficial;
- On target 14, further guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity in marine sectors that haven't been already covered would be beneficial;
- On target 18, greater focus on the unique aspects of harmful fisheries subsidies, complementing ongoing work on incentives in other parts of the CBD, would be beneficial;
- On target 23, more work may be needed to integrate gender considerations in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including through the

implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)<sup>120</sup> in the context of specific marine sectors and ecosystems

In all cases, enhancing implementation of existing COP decisions will contribute to the implementation of the GBF, and given the nature of marine ecosystems where ecological connectivity plays a very important role, international cooperation among States, as well as across different Conventions and competent bodies is imperative.

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<sup>120</sup> Decision 15/11, annex.

## Annex

### Summary table of tools and guidance produced by other entities that are relevant to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

(Non-comprehensive list developed drawn from submissions provided in response to notification 2023-120 and other resources identified in the course of the development of this analyses)

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>T1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IOC (2005). A handbook for measuring the progress and outcomes of integrated coastal and ocean management – Preliminary version. IOC Manuals and Guides 46. International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris</li> <li>• UNEP/GPA (2006). Ecosystem-based management: Markers for assessing progress. UNEP/GPA, The Hague.</li> </ul> <p><b>From the submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU <a href="#">Maritime Spatial Planning Directive</a></li> <li>• EU, <a href="#">The European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform</a></li> <li>• HELCOM <a href="#">Baltic Sea Action Plan</a> (see MSP related actions: B13; HT12-14, HT 17)</li> <li>• Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), <a href="#">the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group</a></li> <li>• Helcom recommendation 28E-9 on <a href="#">the development of broad-scale MSP principles in the Baltic Sea area</a></li> <li>• Helcom recommendation 24-10 <a href="#">Implementation of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Area</a></li> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area</a> (will be updated in 2024)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ramsar Guidance: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Upscaling wetland conservation and wise use through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)</a><sup>121</sup></li> <li>• Guidance document: <a href="#">Impacts on birds from offshore wind farms in Australia</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21 Industry guidelines for avoiding, assessing and mitigating impacts on EPBC Act listed migratory shorebird species</a> Guidance on avoiding, assessing and mitigating significant impacts on migratory shorebirds listed under the Australia's EPBC Act.</li> </ul> |

<sup>121</sup> Also applicable to Targets 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21.

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ramsar Briefing Note: Avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for loss and degradation of wetlands in national laws and policies</a></li> <li>• The Future of the World Heritage Convention for Marine Conservation <a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/series/45/">https://whc.unesco.org/en/series/45/</a> (also relevant to targets 2-8).</li> <li>• Sustainable Ocean Initiative Training Module: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): A strategic thinking framework for achieving sustainable development <a href="https://www.cbd.int/marine/soi/soi-training-modules/SOI-SEA_Training-Guide-en.pdf">https://www.cbd.int/marine/soi/soi-training-modules/SOI-SEA_Training-Guide-en.pdf</a></li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 76: Integrated Coastal Management for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Practical Guidance for Implementation based on Experience and Lessons Learned from Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia (2015).</li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 14: Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) Approaches for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Information on CBD's Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)</a></li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 68: Marine Spatial Planning in the Context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2012).</li> <li>• Key Biodiversity Areas:<br/><a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/927c/d66b/23ecec3f75385fd4786ed104?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708473590&amp;response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22World%2520Database%2520of%2520Key%2520Biodiversity%2520Areas.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=N4n7z7eNFy%2F0R6wz2wBCznyBaS0%3D">https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/927c/d66b/23ecec3f75385fd4786ed104?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708473590&amp;response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22World%2520Database%2520of%2520Key%2520Biodiversity%2520Areas.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=N4n7z7eNFy%2F0R6wz2wBCznyBaS0%3D</a></li> <li>• COBSEA, <a href="#">Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone of the East Asian Seas Region: Integrating Emerging Issues and Modern Management Approaches</a> (2013)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Information on the regional environmental management plans (REMPs) established by ISA</a></li> <li>• ISA Environmental Management Plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone - <a href="#">ISBA/17/LTC/7</a>, and the Decision of the Council relating to an environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone – <a href="#">ISBA/18/C/22</a></li> <li>• ISA Regional environmental management plan for the Area of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge with a focus on polymetallic sulphide deposits – <a href="#">ISBA/27/C/38</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>T2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS Resolution 12.25 on promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species</li> <li>• Ramsar Resolution XIII.20 on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats.</li> <li>• Ramsar Resolution XIV.16 (2022) on Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration: A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030</a> (FAO, Society for Ecological Restoration, IUCN, 2024)</li> <li>• Save Our Mangroves Now initiative: <a href="#">Tools and resources</a> including on mangrove restoration</li> </ul> <p><b>From the submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Habitats and Birds Directive</li> <li>• EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> <li>• EU <a href="#">Biodiversity Strategy for 2030</a> e.g. improving the state of habitats in and outside protected areas and to halt the decline of species and habitats listed in the annexes to the Habitats and Birds Directives by 2030 and to improve the conservation status of 30% of them.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Nature Restoration Law</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries</a></li> <li>• Helcom, <a href="#">Baltic Sea Action Plan</a> (BSAP) see actions B16, B26 and B27 in particular</li> <li>• <a href="#">Task Forces   UN Decade on Restoration</a> UNDER Task Force (FAO and UNEP)</li> <li>• Helcom Recommendation 40-1 (2019) on conservation and protection of marine and coastal biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes categorised as threatened according to the HELCOM Red Lists</li> <li>• <a href="#">Protect Baltic</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Restoring blue carbon ecosystems: a best practice guideline for hydrologic assessments - DCCEEW</a> Developed to support blue carbon coastal wetland projects</li> <li>• <a href="#">A guide to measuring and accounting for the benefits of restoring coastal blue carbon ecosystems - DCCEEW</a> Guide provides advice on the impacts of various restoration activities and how to report impacts using environmental accounting principles.</li> <li>• <a href="#">From the Silo to the Landscape: The Role of Law in Landscape-scale Restoration of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</a>   Journal of Environmental Law   Oxford Academic (oup.com) Describes Australia's Blue Carbon methodology</li> <li>• <a href="#">Land Tenure, Ownership and Use as Barriers to Coastal Wetland Restoration Projects in Australia: Recommendations and Solutions   Environmental Management (springer.com)</a> Provides recommendations, solutions, and levers to facilitate marine restoration.</li> <li>• <a href="#">The permitting process for marine and coastal restoration: A barrier to achieving global restoration targets? (researchgate.net)</a> Australian restoration practitioner perspectives on how permitting systems can impact outcomes.</li> </ul> |

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overcoming legal barriers to coastal wetland restoration: lessons from Australia's Blue Carbon methodology. Australia's Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative - Tidal Restoration of Blue Carbon Ecosystems) Methodology Determination 2022. <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rec.13780">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rec.13780</a></li> <li>Ramsar resolution VIII/16 (2002). Principles, and guidelines for wetland restoration.</li> <li>Hein MY, McLeod, I.M., Shaver, E.C., Vardi, T., Pioch, S., Boström-Einarsson, L., Ahmed, M., &amp; Grimsditch, G. (2020) Coral Reef Restoration as a strategy to improve ecosystem services. United Nations Environment Program, Nairobi, Kenya, <a href="https://www.icriforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hein-et-al.-2020_UNEP-report-1.pdf">https://www.icriforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hein-et-al.-2020_UNEP-report-1.pdf</a></li> <li>Global Wetland Outlook: Special Edition 2021: <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/gwo_2021_e.pdf">https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/gwo_2021_e.pdf</a></li> <li>Ramsar COP11 DOC. 29: The benefits of wetland restoration <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop11-doc-29-benefits-wetland-restoration">https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop11-doc-29-benefits-wetland-restoration</a></li> <li>Wetland Restoration for Climate Change Resilience <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-10-wetland-restoration-climate-change-resilience">https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-10-wetland-restoration-climate-change-resilience</a></li> <li>Briefing Note 12: The contribution of blue carbon ecosystems to climate change mitigation <a href="https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-12-contribution-blue-carbon-ecosystems-climate-change-mitigation">https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-12-contribution-blue-carbon-ecosystems-climate-change-mitigation</a></li> <li>IUCN. Using ecosystem risk assessment science in ecosystem restoration: a guide to applying the Red List of Ecosystems to ecosystem restoration (2021) <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49846">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49846</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>T3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO Handbook for Identifying, Evaluating and Reporting Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in Marine Fisheries (2022).</li> <li>ICES. 2021. ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:42. 195 pp. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8135">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8135</a></li> <li>Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (A/71/229).</li> <li>Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the issues of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John Knox (A/HRC/34/49).</li> </ul> <p><b>From the submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU Habitat and Birds Directive – <a href="#">Natura 2000 network (SPA and SCI sites)</a></li> <li>Natura 2000 <a href="#">viewer</a></li> <li>Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">BSAP</a> especially actions: B1-B7</li> <li>• Helcom Recommendation 35/1 System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (<a href="#">HELCOM MPAs1</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Protect Baltic</a></li> <li>• Helcom, <a href="#">Regional common understanding of the CBD criteria for OECMs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Evaluation, Gap Analysis and Potential Expansion of the Finnish MPA Network</a> (scientific publication)</li> <li>• From EBSA to EMMA: <a href="#">Identifying ecologically valuable marine areas to support conservation and spatial planning at scales relevant for decision making</a> (scientific publication)</li> <li>• High Ambition Coalition (HAC) <a href="#">30x30 Solutions Tool Kit</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HAC Nature and people</a> matches requests for support for T3 implementation in HAC Nature and People member countries with possible funding sources.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">International Partnership for Blue Carbon</a> guidance document: <a href="#">Best Practice Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration</a>, Resources link provides many guidance documents on blue carbon restoration crediting projects and implementing projects in Marine Protected Areas.</li> <li>• Resources on global Marine Protected Areas: <a href="#">EBM Help</a> – Knowledge sharing for managing marine ecosystems; <a href="#">MPA Help</a> – Knowledge sharing for marine protected area (MPA) planning and management</li> <li>• <a href="#">A Guide to Inclusive, Equitable and Effective Implementation of KMGBF Target 3</a> (WWF and IUCN WCPA 2023)</li> <li>• <a href="#">IUCN Guidance for recognising and reporting OECMs</a> (IUCN-WCPA 2019)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Comprehensive view of area-based management tools and fisheries: History, definitions, roles, typologies, tensions, synergies, trade-offs, and effectiveness.</a> (Garcia et al., IUCN-CEM-FEG, 2023)</li> <li>• <a href="#">OECMs in marine capture fisheries: Key implementation issues of governance, management, and biodiversity.</a> (Garcia et al, <i>Frontiers in Marine Science</i>. Volume 9:920051, 2022)</li> <li>• Garcia, S.M.; Rice, J.; Charles, A. &amp; Diz, D. 2021. OECMs in Marine Capture Fisheries: Systematic approach to identification, use and performance assessment in marine capture fisheries (Version 2). Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Gland, Switzerland. European Bureau of Conservation and Development, Brussels, Belgium: 87 p. Available at <a href="http://www.ebcd.org/feg">www.ebcd.org/feg</a> - <a href="https://ebcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Garcia-et-al-Systematic-approach-WKTOPS-ver-2.1.pdf">https://ebcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Garcia-et-al-Systematic-approach-WKTOPS-ver-2.1.pdf</a></li> <li>• Key Biodiversity Areas: <a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/927c/d66b/23ecec3f75385fd4786ed104?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708473590&amp;response-content-">https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/927c/d66b/23ecec3f75385fd4786ed104?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708473590&amp;response-content-</a></li> </ul> |

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|           | <p><a href="#">disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22World%2520Database%2520of%2520Key%2520Biodiversity%2520Areas.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=N4n7z7eNFy%2F0R6wz2wBCznyBaS0%3D</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) – <a href="http://www.marine-mammals.info/self-assessment-tool/">www.marine-mammals.info/self-assessment-tool/</a></li> <li>• IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs): <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/PSSAs.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/PSSAs.aspx</a></li> <li>• IMO MARPOL Special Areas: - <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Special-Areas-Marpol.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Special-Areas-Marpol.aspx</a> (information on Special Areas)</li> <li>• IMO Polar Code: <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Pages/polar-code.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Pages/polar-code.aspx</a></li> <li>• IUCN/UNEP Protected Planet <a href="https://www.protectedplanet.net/en">https://www.protectedplanet.net/en</a></li> <li>• The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas <a href="https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas">https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/iucn-green-list-protected-and-conserved-areas</a></li> <li>• The IUCN World Heritage Outlook: <a href="https://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/">https://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/</a></li> <li>• IUCN <i>Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (2023)</i> <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51296">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51296</a></li> <li>• IUCN Recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures (2019) <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48773">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48773</a></li> <li>• A 30x30 Guide to Inclusive, equitable and effective implementation of Target 3 <a href="https://www.iucn.org/resources/grey-literature/30x30-guide-inclusive-equitable-and-effective-implementation-target-3">https://www.iucn.org/resources/grey-literature/30x30-guide-inclusive-equitable-and-effective-implementation-target-3</a></li> <li>• MPA Guide: <a href="https://mpa-guide.protectedplanet.net/">https://mpa-guide.protectedplanet.net/</a></li> <li>• WWF: An Arctic Ocean Network of priority Areas for Conservation (ArcNet): <a href="https://www.arcticwwf.org/our-priorities/nature/arcnet/">https://www.arcticwwf.org/our-priorities/nature/arcnet/</a></li> <li>• WWF Protecting Blue Corridors: <a href="https://wwfwhales.org/protecting-blue-corridors">https://wwfwhales.org/protecting-blue-corridors</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>T4</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CBD Technical Series 96</a>. The Global Taxonomy Initiative in Support of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2021).</li> <li>• The State of the <a href="#">UNEP-WCMC World's Migratory Species report</a><sup>122</sup> prepared for the CMS Secretariat assesses the status of CMS listed species, including marine and coastal species, and contains recommendations for responses and priority actions that are directly relevant to Target 4, as well as Targets 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, among others.</li> <li>• <a href="#">IUCN Global Species Action Plan</a> (2023) Supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

<sup>122</sup> UNEP-WCMC, 2024. State of the World's Migratory Species. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several sustainable fisheries obligations, standards and guidelines exist. See T5 below.</li> <li>• IPBES, <a href="#">Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species</a> (2022).</li> </ul> <p><b>From the submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive</li> <li>• EU Action Plan: <a href="#">Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries</a></li> <li>• Helcom BSAP, especially actions B22-B30</li> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">Recommendation 37/2 on conservation of Baltic Sea species categorised as threatened according to the 2013 Helcom Red List</a></li> <li>• Helcom Recommendation 40/1 Conservation and protection of marine and coastal biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes categorised as threatened according to the Helcom red lists.</li> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">Recommendation 17/2 Protection of Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area</a>.</li> <li>• Protect Baltic</li> <li>• <a href="#">CITES and Livelihoods</a><sup>123</sup></li> <li>• CITES and Livelihoods Handbook (<a href="#">Part I</a> and <a href="#">Part II</a>) contains some case studies on marine species. Also applicable to target 9.</li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 20. (2005). Patterns of Species Richness in the High Seas</li> <li>• IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</li> <li>• IUCN Regional Red List Guidelines</li> <li>• IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group Guidelines and Tools: <a href="https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/guidelines-and-tools.html">https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/guidelines-and-tools.html</a></li> <li>• USAID biodiversity monitoring guidelines</li> <li>• IUCN Species Planning Guidelines (IUCN, 2017)</li> <li>• IUCN SSC CPSG Species Planning Principles and Steps</li> <li>• International Whaling Commission (IWC) Conservation Management Plans and Task Teams: <a href="https://iwc.int/conservation-management-plans">https://iwc.int/conservation-management-plans</a></li> </ul> |

<sup>123</sup> Guidance is provided on the topic. Although most of the species under consideration are terrestrial, there are resources on marine species such as sharks and vaquita.

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds: International Single and Multi-Species Action Plans: <a href="https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa_mop8_23_species_action_plan_format.pdf">https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa_mop8_23_species_action_plan_format.pdf</a></li> <li>• IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (pilot): <a href="https://iwc.int/bycatch">https://iwc.int/bycatch</a></li> <li>• IUCN guidelines: Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development (2021): <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2021-004-En.pdf">https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2021-004-En.pdf</a></li> <li>• IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife conflict and Coexistence (2023): <a href="https://www.hwctf.org/guidelines">https://www.hwctf.org/guidelines</a></li> <li>• UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.20, <i>Atlas on Animal Migration</i>, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals: <a href="https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop14_doc.20_atlas-on-animal-migration_e_0.pdf">https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop14_doc.20_atlas-on-animal-migration_e_0.pdf</a></li> <li>• IUCN Green Status of Species: a global standard for measuring species recovery and assessing conservation impact (2021) <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49511">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49511</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| T5      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UN Fish Stocks Agreement contains obligations concerning the conservation and sustainable management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including an obligation to protect biodiversity (Art 5(d), and to apply the precautionary approach to fisheries (Art 6 and Annex II), and the ecosystem approach (Art 5).</li> <li>• Other relevant treaties include: The FAO Agreement on Port States Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas; WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.</li> <li>• Several other FAO policy instruments and technical guidelines provide guidance and standards for sustainable and responsible fisheries, international plans of action on IUU fishing, sharks and overcapacity, protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from deep sea fishing, ecosystem approach to fisheries, precautionary approach to fisheries, bycatch and discards in general, as well as in regards to sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals, flag State performance, among several other issues.</li> <li>• Pavitt <i>et al.</i> 2021. <i>CITES and the sea: Trade in commercially exploited CITES-listed marine species</i>. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 666. Rome, FAO. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2971en">https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2971en</a></li> <li>• CITES <a href="#">World Wildlife Trade Report</a> (pilot)</li> <li>• Specific guidance/experience from RFMOs could also be relevant (e.g. on ecosystem approach to fisheries, protection of VMEs, catch documentation schemes, etc).</li> </ul> <p><b>From the submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)</li> </ul> |

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Action Plan: <a href="#">Protecting and Restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2022/303 of 15 December 2021</a> amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 as regards measures to reduce incidental catches of the resident population of the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) in the Baltic Sea</li> <li>• Helcom BSAP, sea-based activities 36-47 which includes actions related to fisheries</li> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">Recommendation 19/2</a> Protection and improvement of the wild salmon populations in the Baltic Sea area</li> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">Recommendation 27-28/2</a> Conservation of Seals in the Baltic Sea Area</li> <li>• Protect Baltic (see above)</li> <li>• The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime's (ICCWC) tools and services <a href="#">Tools and Services   ICCWC (iccwc-wildlifecrime.org)</a></li> <li>• CITES: Guidance for Scientific Authorities: Checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix II exports (2002): <a href="https://cites.unia.es/cites/file.php/1/files/03.pdf">https://cites.unia.es/cites/file.php/1/files/03.pdf</a></li> <li>• FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade (2009): <a href="https://www.fao.org/3/i0590e/i0590e.pdf">https://www.fao.org/3/i0590e/i0590e.pdf</a></li> <li>• FAO. 2021. Checklists and technical guidelines to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Volume II: a legal checklist of the main duties and responsibilities of coastal, flag and port States, and internationally agreed market-related measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Rome. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6186en">https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6186en</a></li> <li>• Rice, J.; Garcia, S.M.; Charles, A.T.; Kirkegaard, E. (2023). <i>The Challenge of Reporting on Fisheries Performance in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Guiding Fisheries Towards the Implementation of Biodiversity Targets</i>. EBCD &amp; IUCN-CEM FEG, Brussels, Belgium<br/><a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/0b0a/2e08/7b0819cbbc58d46959bcbf50?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708480845&amp;response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22IUCN-FISHERIESEXPERTGROUP-submission-tools-targets-MKGBF-10Jan.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=snE4PYuSx8jCUHH4gxH81goEa1c%3D">https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/0b0a/2e08/7b0819cbbc58d46959bcbf50?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708480845&amp;response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22IUCN-FISHERIESEXPERTGROUP-submission-tools-targets-MKGBF-10Jan.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=snE4PYuSx8jCUHH4gxH81goEa1c%3D</a> (also applicable to all GBF targets)</li> </ul> |
| <b>T6</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments</li> <li>• IMO's Complying with the Ballast Water Management Convention: Stopping the spread of invasive aquatic species <a href="#">infographic</a></li> <li>• IPBES, <a href="#">Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control</a> (2023).</li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Harrower, C., Scalera, R., Pagad, S. et al., Guidance for interpretation of the CBD categories of pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, Publications Office, 2020, <a href="https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/6172">https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/6172</a></li> <li>• Aquatic Species Invasiveness Screening Kit (AS-ISK) (<a href="#">Copp et al 2016a</a>) replaces previous taxon-specific IAS toolkits and can be applied to all aquatic plants and animals in marine, brackish and freshwater systems. See also <a href="#">Copp, Vilizzi et al 2021</a>; and <a href="#">Vilizzi, Copp et al, 2021</a>.</li> <li>• EU <a href="#">Policy on invasive species</a></li> <li>• Helcom BSAP, especially actions S7, S10</li> <li>• IUCN, Global Invasive Species Database: <a href="https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/">https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/</a></li> <li>• IUCN, Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species: <a href="https://griis.org">https://griis.org</a></li> <li>• IUCN The Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) <a href="https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/environmental-impact-classification-alien-taxa">https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/environmental-impact-classification-alien-taxa</a></li> <li>• CABI Compendium Invasive Species and horizon Scanning Tool: <a href="https://www.cabi.org/HorizonScanningTool/">https://www.cabi.org/HorizonScanningTool/</a></li> <li>• Set of IMO guidance documents related to the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention: <a href="https://www.wcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Environment/Documents/Biofouling%20pages/Compilation%20of%20relevant%20Guidelines%20and%20guidance%20documents%20-%20August%202023.pdf">https://www.wcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Environment/Documents/Biofouling%20pages/Compilation%20of%20relevant%20Guidelines%20and%20guidance%20documents%20-%20August%202023.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">IMO Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (2023 Biofouling Guidelines)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guide to Developing National Status Assessments of Biofouling Management to Minimize the Introduction of Invasive Aquatic Species (2022)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Biofouling Management for Recreational Boating: Recommendations to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Aquatic Species (2022)</a></li> <li>• Webinar “The role of biofouling in recreational sailing, yachting and marinas as a pathway for non-indigenous species” (Feb 20, 2020, GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project)</li> <li>• IMO Guidance for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational crafts (2012)</li> <li>• Special issue of Biology Journal “Aquatic Alien Invasions and their Impact on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2023) <a href="https://www.mdpi.com/journal/biology/special_issues/aquatic_invasions_biodiversity">https://www.mdpi.com/journal/biology/special_issues/aquatic_invasions_biodiversity</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">World Register of Introduced Marine Species (WRIMS)</a></li> </ul> |

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Information system on aquatic non-indigenous and cryptogenic species (AquaNIS)</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>T7</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNCLOS, Part XII obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment applies to all sources of marine pollution, including from land-based sources.</li> <li>• UNEP/GPA Global Partnership on Nutrient Management <a href="#">Toolbox</a></li> <li>• United Nations Environment Programme (2021). <i>From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution</i>. Nairobi.</li> <li>• CMS <a href="#">Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities</a></li> <li>• Plastics Treaty ongoing negotiations under the auspices of UNEA.</li> <li>• Several IMO Conventions, including MARPOL, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention and Protocol), International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC Convention) and Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships; and policy instruments, including the Guidelines for the Reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life.</li> <li>• UNFCCC and Paris Agreement (with respect to atmospheric sources of pollution (in relation to UNCLOS Part XII). On this point, the upcoming ITLOS Advisory Opinion could be relevant.</li> <li>• Regional Seas Programmes/Organisations and respective Action Plans, guidance and tools.</li> <li>• UNEA <a href="#">Resolution 5/2</a> (2022) on Sustainable nitrogen management</li> <li>• <a href="#">UNEA Resolution 14</a>: end plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument</li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU MSFD and WFD</li> <li>• Helcom BSAP Eutrophication pages 18-26; hazardous substances and litter pages 28-35</li> <li>• Helcom BSAP Sea-based activities 36-47</li> <li>• Helcom several <a href="#">valid recommendations</a> on this issue</li> <li>• Protect Baltic</li> <li>• On seabed mining:</li> </ul> |

| Targets   | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|           | <p><a href="#">-Kaikkonen, L. &amp; Virtanen, E.. Shallow-water mining undermines global sustainability goals. Trends in Ecology and Evolution.</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Kaikkonen, L., Virtanen, E., Kostamo, K., Lappalainen J. ja Kotilainen A.: Extensive Coverage of Marine Mineral Concretions Revealed in Shallow Shelf Sea Areas, Front. Mar. Sci., 04 September 2019 Sec. Coastal Ocean Processes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife</a> Managing artificial light to protect marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds.</li> <li>• <a href="#">OEWG/INF/3 relevant information from MEAs on plastic pollution</a></li> <li>• Basal Convention</li> <li>• Stockholm Convention</li> <li>• Rotterdam Convention</li> <li>• Gothenburg Protocol</li> <li>• UNECE Protocol</li> <li>• London Protocol (marine pollution)</li> <li>• 1973 Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1978 Protocol)</li> <li>• Minamata Convention on Mercury</li> <li>• <a href="#">gpa_igr4_inf11_our_nutrient_world.pdf (unep.org)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Interim-Findings-Towards-Eliminating-Plastic- Pollution-by-2040-Policy-Scenario- Analysis.pdf (oecd.org)</a> (full report containing a more in-depth analysis and detailed policy guidance is expected to be published in the first half of 2024)</li> <li>• IUCN The marine plastic footprint (2020) <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48957">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48957</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Legal and Technical Commission: Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>T8</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching. <a href="#">UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/11</a></li> <li>• Voluntary specific workplan for biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention (CBD decision XIII/11, Annex II (2016))</li> <li>• Scientific compilation and synthesis on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/25)</li> <li>• Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/6)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICCRI <a href="#">Action Plan 2021-2024</a></li> <li>• Save Our Mangroves Now initiative: <a href="#">Tools and resources</a></li> <li>• IPBES/IPCC <a href="#">Scientific outcome of the IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change</a> (2021)</li> <li>• CBD <a href="#">Technical Series No. 85</a>. Synthesis Report on Experiences with Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (2016)</li> <li>• Guidance on Enhancing Positive and Minimizing Negative Impacts on Biodiversity of Climate Change Adaptation Activities (2016). <a href="#">UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/1</a></li> <li>• UNEA Resolution 5/5 (2022) on Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, which adopted a definition of NbS.<sup>124</sup></li> <li>• Schindler Murray, L., Milligan, B. et al. 2023. <a href="#">"The blue carbon handbook: Blue carbon as a nature-based solution for climate action and sustainable development."</a> Report. London: High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.</li> <li>• IPCC <a href="#">Wetlands Supplement</a> (2013) on methodologies for carbon accounting from tidal marshes, mangroves and seagrass meadows.</li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 85 Synthesis report on ecosystem-based adaptation, October 2016 <a href="https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-85-en.pdf">https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-85-en.pdf</a></li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 84 Update on Climate Geoengineering in Relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Potential Impacts and Regulatory Framework <a href="https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-84-en.pdf">https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-84-en.pdf</a></li> <li>• CBD Technical Series No. 93 Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Supplementary Information <a href="https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-primer-en.pdf">https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-primer-en.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> |

<sup>124</sup> UNEA Resolution 5/5 (2022), para 1 defines NbS as: “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits, and recognizes that nature-based solutions:

(a) Respect social and environmental safeguards, in line with the three “Rio conventions” (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), including such safeguards for local communities and indigenous peoples;

(b) Can be implemented in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and can be managed adaptively;

(c) Are among the actions that play an essential role in the overall global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including by effectively and efficiently addressing major social, economic and environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, desertification, food security, disaster risks, urban development, water availability, poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment, as well as social development, sustainable economic development, human health and a broad range of ecosystem services;

(d) Can help to stimulate sustainable innovation and scientific research”.

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">EU Climate policies</a></li> <li>• Helcom BSAP (see above)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Joint Helcom/Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change</a></li> <li>• Finland's work on minimising the impact of offshore wind developments, including through spatial prioritisation where wind farms would do less harm for biodiversity.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Australian guidelines for the implementation of nature based methods for coastal hazard risk reduction</a>.</li> <li>• IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. Provides a framework for implementing Nature based solutions policy and procedures for on ground management <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-En.pdf">https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-En.pdf</a></li> <li>• Climate Change Adaptation for Natural World Heritage Sites – A Practical Guide <a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/series/37/">https://whc.unesco.org/en/series/37/</a></li> <li>• Climate action toolkit and guidance (under development) <a href="https://www.iccrom.org/news/government-australia-pledges-510000-aud-joint-capacity-development-project-climate-action">https://www.iccrom.org/news/government-australia-pledges-510000-aud-joint-capacity-development-project-climate-action</a></li> <li>• Climate Vulnerability Index (James Cook University). Rapid assessment tool and framework for assessing climate change impacts on World Heritage areas. <a href="https://www.jcu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/867054/Climate-Vulnerability-Index-flyer_web2.pdf">https://www.jcu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/867054/Climate-Vulnerability-Index-flyer_web2.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Restoring blue carbon ecosystems: a best practice guideline for hydrologic assessments - DCCCEEW</a> Developed to support blue carbon coastal wetland projects</li> <li>• <a href="#">A guide to measuring and accounting for the benefits of restoring coastal blue carbon ecosystems - DCCCEEW</a> Guide provides advice on the impacts of various restoration activities and how to report impacts using environmental accounting principles.</li> <li>• UNEP. 2023. Outcomes of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature- Based Solutions. <a href="https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/intergovernmental-consultations-nbs/outcome-documents">https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/intergovernmental-consultations-nbs/outcome-documents</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guidelines for Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions</a> (Blue Carbon Initiative 2023)</li> <li>• High-Quality Blue Carbon Principles and Guidance (World Economic Forum's Friends of Ocean Action, Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), The Nature Conservancy &amp; Conservation International 2022): <a href="https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_HC_Blue_Carbon_2022.pdf">https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_HC_Blue_Carbon_2022.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The ocean as a solution to climate change: Updated opportunities for action</a>. Special Report. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Northrop, E. et al. (2023).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ocean-Based Climate Action in New and Updated Nationally Determined Contributions</a> (WRI Working Paper, Khan et al. 2022)</li> </ul> |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Coastal and marine ecosystems as Nature-based Solutions in new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions</a> (Ocean &amp; Climate Platform, Conservation International, IUCN, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, Wetlands International and WWF. Lecerf et al. 2021)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Climate change and marine spatial planning: policy brief</a> (UNESCO-IOC, 2021)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Constraints and opportunities for market-based finance for the restoration and protection of blue carbon ecosystems</a> (Vanderkluft et al., <i>Marine Policy</i>, 107, 2019)</li> <li>• Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 (disaster risk reduction) (2015) <a href="http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf">http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf</a></li> <li>• International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) Annex VI and the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy: <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Decarbonization%20of%20shipping.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Decarbonization%20of%20shipping.aspx</a> (information on decarbonization of shipping)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/2023-IMO-Strategy-on-Reduction-of-GHG-Emissions-from-Ships.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/2023-IMO-Strategy-on-Reduction-of-GHG-Emissions-from-Ships.aspx</a> (information on the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx</a> (information on the MARPOL Convention)</li> <li>• <a href="https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=667">https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=667</a> (authentic text of MARPOL Annex VI)</li> <li>• Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention and Protocol): addressing the regulation of climate change mitigation technologies such as carbon capture and sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations and marine geoengineering: <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/EmergingIssues-default.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/EmergingIssues-default.aspx</a> (information on marine geoengineering and carbon capture and sequestration)</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/London-Convention-Protocol.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/London-Convention-Protocol.aspx</a> (information on the London Convention and Protocol)</p> <p><a href="https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=661">https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=661</a> (authentic text of the London Convention)</p> <p><a href="https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=662">https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=662</a> (authentic text of the London Protocol)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species (Biofouling Guidelines – policy instrument): Biofouling management has additional benefits on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships: <a href="https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Biofouling.aspx">https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/Biofouling.aspx</a> (information on biofouling management)</li> <li>• IUCN The EbA Tools Navigator <a href="https://toolsnavigator.friendsofeba.com/">https://toolsnavigator.friendsofeba.com/</a></li> <li>• IUCN SSC guidelines for assessing species' vulnerability to climate change (2016)</li> </ul> |

| Targets    | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|            | <p><a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46241">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46241</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWF Blueprint for a Living Planet: Four Principles for Ocean-Climate Strategies:<br/><a href="https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/blueprint_for_a_living_planet_final_june_2021_spreads.pdf">https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/blueprint_for_a_living_planet_final_june_2021_spreads.pdf</a></li> <li>• IAEA, Ocean Acidification Coordination Centre, OA-ICC:<br/><a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/b077/b329/8460e6d8dcf5de1031e7129b?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708480610&amp;response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22INT-COORD-CENTRE-OCEANACIDIFATION-sbmission-tools-guidanceKMGBF.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=dMOBawN6RJ67UY24j1DNtvmUMAQ%3D">https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/b077/b329/8460e6d8dcf5de1031e7129b?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAT3JJQDEDLXMBJAHR&amp;Expires=1708480610&amp;response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22INT-COORD-CENTRE-OCEANACIDIFATION-sbmission-tools-guidanceKMGBF.pdf%22&amp;response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&amp;Signature=dMOBawN6RJ67UY24j1DNtvmUMAQ%3D</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>T9</b>  | <p>See comments for T5 above, as well, as appropriate, for T4.</p> <p>In addition to those, the following tools and guidance are of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">FAO Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related tools and guidance</a></li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Habitats and Birds Directive</li> <li>• MSFD</li> <li>• Helcom <a href="#">Recommendation 27-28/2</a> Conservation of Seals in the Baltic Sea Area</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>T10</b> | <p>The comments above under T5 and T9 apply herein as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Economic Forum/the Blue Food Partnership: <a href="#">Global Sustainable Aquaculture Roadmap</a></li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Common Fisheries Policy</li> <li>• <a href="#">Aquaculture in the EU</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">EU Guidance on aquaculture and Natura 2000</a></li> <li>• Helcom BSAP</li> <li>• <a href="#">Helcom Recommendation 37/3</a> Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region</li> <li>• Finland has guidance on location management of fish farming to avoid negative effects on good water status and voluntary guidelines for environmental protection in fish farming.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Targets    | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO is currently developing the guidelines for sustainable aquaculture. It will be published in 2024. <a href="https://www.fao.org/in-action/gsa/background/en/">https://www.fao.org/in-action/gsa/background/en/</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CBD Technical Series No. 12</a>: Solutions for sustainable mariculture - avoiding the adverse effects of mariculture on biological diversity (2004)</li> <li>• FAO Committee on World Food Security <a href="#">Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security</a> (CFS VGGT)</li> <li>• <a href="#">FAO Governance of Tenure Technical Guides</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>T11</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEA Resolution 5/5 (2022) on Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development</li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helcom BSAP, in particular actions B1, B25, HT 18.</li> <li>• Protect Baltic</li> <li>• IPBES global and regional assessments, as well as thematic assessments.</li> <li>• IPCC assessments</li> <li>• <a href="#">Multi-habitat seascape restoration: optimising marine restoration for coastal repair and social benefit</a> (McAfee et al., Frontiers in Marine Science, volume 9, 2022)</li> <li>• 2019, European Commission, Commission Staff Working Document ‘EU guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making’, SWD(2019) 305 final (Available in English) <a href="https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/3f466d71-92a7-49eb-9c63-6cb0fadf29dc/library/e8e94f9b-320e-4afd-8221-3c94b9d80d99">https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/3f466d71-92a7-49eb-9c63-6cb0fadf29dc/library/e8e94f9b-320e-4afd-8221-3c94b9d80d99</a></li> <li>• 2022, Vallecillo Rodriguez, S., Maes, J., Teller, A., Babi Almenar, J., Barredo Cano, J.I., Trombetti, M., Abdul Malak, D., Paracchini, M., Carré, A., Addamo, A., Czucz, B., Zulian, G., Marando, F., Erhard, M., Lique Garcia, M.D.C., Romao, C., Polce, C., Pardo Valle, A., Jones, A., Zurbaran-Nucci, M., Nocita, M., Vysna, V., De Jesus Cardoso, A., Gervasini, E., Magliozzi, C., Baritz, R., Barbero, M., Andre, V., Kokkoris, I.P., Dimopoulos, P., Kovacevic, V. and Gumbert, A., <i>EU-wide methodology to map and assess ecosystem condition</i>, EUR 31226 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, ISBN 978-92-76-57029-5, doi:10.2760/13048, JRC130782.</li> </ul> |
| <b>T12</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO, <a href="#">Assessing the value of urban green and blue spaces for health and well-being</a> (2023)</li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions to the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Nature Restoration Law</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Targets    | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finland provided the following resources in relation to this target:</li> <li><a href="#">National urban parks protect the nature and landscape values of urban areas;</a></li> <li><a href="https://kansallisetkaupunkipuistot.fi/en/">https://kansallisetkaupunkipuistot.fi/en/</a></li> <li>Local adaptation of the EBSA process (PEMMA; report to be published in 2024)</li> <li>Evidence-based advice for maintaining and managing natural or artificial coastal wetlands to provide high tide roosting conditions for East Asian- Australasian Flyway shorebirds. <a href="#">Coastal high-tide shorebird management guidelines</a></li> <li>A guide for managers, policy makers and citizen scientists. <a href="#">Understanding coastal erosion on beaches (PDF)</a></li> <li>Handbook provides guidance on design, planning, management and/or construction of urban wetlands Ramsar: Good practices handbook - <a href="#">Integrating urban development and wetland conservation</a></li> <li><a href="#">Restoring blue carbon ecosystems: a best practice guideline for hydrologic assessments - DCCEEW</a> Developed to support blue carbon coastal wetland projects</li> </ul> |
| <b>T13</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO <a href="#">AquaGRIS</a> – A global information system for aquatic genetic resources</li> <li>FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture/<a href="#">Aquatic Genetic Resources</a>. See also <a href="#">FAO Aquatic biodiversity</a>: underpinning aquatic food security</li> <li><a href="#">WHO Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response accord</a> (under negotiations) – not specific to MGRs, but genomic sequence from MGRs could be encompassed in the scope of the Agreement.</li> <li>Blasiak, R., R. Wynberg, K. Grorud-Colvert, S. Thambisetty, et al. 2020. <i>The Ocean Genome: Conservation and the Fair, Equitable and Sustainable Use of Marine Genetic Resources</i>. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at <a href="http://www.oceanpanel.org/blue-papers/ocean-genome-conservation-and-fair-equitable-and-sustainable-use-marine-genetic">www.oceanpanel.org/blue-papers/ocean-genome-conservation-and-fair-equitable-and-sustainable-use-marine-genetic</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>T14</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMS <a href="#">Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities</a></li> <li>FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Guidelines contains guidance on deep-sea fisheries impact assessments to avoid significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.</li> <li>IUCN guidelines: Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development (2021): <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2021-004-En.pdf">https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2021-004-En.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions received in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance for wetland managers on assessment of multiple values of these ecosystems including monetary, intrinsic, regulatory, material and non- material values. <a href="#">Ramsar Policy Brief: Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making</a></li> <li>• Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. <a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/">https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/</a></li> <li>• UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit. <a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabletourismtoolkit/">https://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabletourismtoolkit/</a></li> <li>• IPBES (2022): Methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services.</li> <li>• <a href="#">CAFF - Mainstreaming</a> (Arctic Mining)</li> <li>• 2013, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, ‘Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects’, European Union, ISBN 978-92-79-29946-9, doi:10.2779/35899</li> <li>• 2013, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, ‘Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment’, European Union, ISBN 978-92-79-28969-9, doi:10.2779/11735</li> <li>• 2013, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, ‘Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment’, European Union, ISBN 978-92-79-29016-9, doi:10.2779/11869</li> <li>• OECD</li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Strategic Plan 2019-2025 and High-level Action Plan</a></li> <li>• ISA Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research (MSR)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA regulations on prospecting and exploration for mineral resources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA standards and guidelines on environmental management, baseline, monitoring, and impact assessment</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI)</a></li> </ul> |
| T15     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG 12 on sustainable production and consumption; and <a href="#">SDG 12 hub</a></li> <li>• UNEP Hotspot Analysis Tool for Sustainable consumption and Production: <a href="https://scp-hat.org">https://scp-hat.org</a></li> <li>• FAO <a href="#">Sustainable Value Chains</a></li> </ul> <p><b>From Submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Capital Handbook (CSIRO): frameworks, tools, and models to help the corporate sector with nature-based disclosures. <a href="https://www.csiro.au/en/research/natural-environment/natural-resources/natural-capital-accounting/handbook">https://www.csiro.au/en/research/natural-environment/natural-resources/natural-capital-accounting/handbook</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Targets    | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Integrating Biodiversity into Natural Capital Assessments: A series of Biodiversity Guidance to accompany the Natural Capital Protocol.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Business for Nature’s recommendations to governments on how to implement Target 15 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (complete with table that list tools and resources relevant to Target 15.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A Comprehensive Overview of Global Biodiversity Finance</a> (oecd.org)</li> <li>• OHCHR (2011): <i>Guiding principles on business and human rights</i> <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/reference-publications/guiding-principles-business-and-human-rights">https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/reference-publications/guiding-principles-business-and-human-rights</a></li> <li>• OECD: The OECD is currently undertaking a project on ‘Developing a Supervisory Framework for Financial Risks Stemming from Biodiversity-related Losses’<sup>1</sup>. The project aims to develop a supervisory framework to help the Hungarian central bank (MNB) and other central banks assess biodiversity-related financial risks in the financial system, including transmission channels for physical and transition risks. As part of this work, OECD released "<a href="#">Assessing biodiversity-related financial risks: Navigating the landscape of existing approaches</a>" (April, 2023). The report maps existing biodiversity risk management tools and practices, definitions, transmission channels, contexts and key metrics. Following on this, OECD released “<a href="#">A supervisory framework for assessing nature-related financial risks: Identifying and navigating biodiversity risks</a>” (October, 2023). This report provides technical guidance to central banks and financial supervisors to identify, prioritise, assess and monitor nature-related financial risks.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.businessfornature.org/news/target15-recommendations">https://www.businessfornature.org/news/target15-recommendations</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>T16</b> | <p>There are several eco-certification programmes on seafood products with a range of different standards.</p> <p><b>Other resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITES, Guidance for CITES Parties to develop and implement demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species (2021): <a href="https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/DR/CITES_Guidance_Demand_Reduction.pdf">https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/DR/CITES_Guidance_Demand_Reduction.pdf</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>T17</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO. <a href="#">The Progressive Management Pathway for Aquaculture Biosecurity: Guidelines for Application</a>. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper 689 (Rome: FAO, 2023).</li> <li>• FAO has several documents/instruments on biosafety.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>T18</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies</li> <li>• SDG 14.6 on fisheries subsidies.</li> <li>• ITF (2019), “<a href="#">Maritime Subsidies: Do They Provide Value for Money?</a>”, International Transport Forum Policy Papers, No. 70, OECD Publishing, Paris.</li> </ul> <p><b>From submissions in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Targets    | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OECD is currently undertaking work on <b>Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity</b>, for an updated release in 2024. Drawing on the data collected in the OECD Policy Instruments for Environment (PINE) database, to which more than 130 countries are contributing, this work tracks the use of the following biodiversity-positive incentives: biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges, biodiversity-relevant tradable permits, biodiversity offsets, biodiversity-relevant (environmentally-motivated) subsidies, and payments for ecosystem services; as well as the revenue generated or finance mobilised. The data is relevant to monitoring progress towards Target 18 of the KMGBF in the context of positive incentives, as well as Target 19 on resource mobilisation.</li> <li>• The OECD is currently undertaking work on <b>Scaling Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity</b>. The aim of the report is to identify opportunities and challenges in scaling up the use and ambition of positive incentives for biodiversity. Drawing insights and lessons from across a range of countries, the report will develop lessons learned and insights for good practice. The report is due to be released in early 2025.</li> <li>• The OECD is currently undertaking several work streams on <b>Quantifying and phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies and other forms of support</b>. An overview report is bringing together work and latest data from across the OECD on agriculture, fisheries, fossil fuels and industry. The report is due for release in 2024, and will be complemented by several more detailed analyses by dedicated sectoral teams across the organisation.</li> <li>• On fisheries, the OECD is currently updating its Fisheries Support Estimate database, which describes and quantifies government support to fisheries (including fisheries subsidies but also the public financing of services to the sector) for 40 countries that together represented 90% of global capture fisheries production by volume in the period</li> </ul> <p>The 2022 data is available <a href="#">here</a> and the next update is scheduled for Q1 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, the OECD has developed a framework to identify the policies that risk encouraging unsustainable fishing, depending on the type of support and the context in which it is disbursed. This framework is described in the <a href="#">OECD Review of Fisheries 2022</a>, and used in this report to show the evolution of the risk profile of support to fisheries in the 40 countries covered by the FSE database, over the last decade.</li> </ul> |
| <b>T19</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BBNJ Agreement financial mechanism may complement the CBD funds with respect to targets 3, 14, and possibly 13, and 20, if the agreement enters into force before 2030.</li> <li>• UNEP Finance Initiative (<a href="#">UNEP-FI</a>), in particular, UNEP <a href="#">Sustainable Blue Finance</a></li> <li>• The <a href="#">High Ambition Coalition for Nature &amp; People Tools</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>T20</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On species conservation: IUCN/SSC CPSG Species Conservation Planning online training: <a href="https://cpsg.org/our-approach/training">https://cpsg.org/our-approach/training</a></li> <li>• IUCN SSC CPSG Conservation Planning Specialist Group Webinar Series: <a href="https://cpsg.org/webinar-series">https://cpsg.org/webinar-series</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Targets | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.</li> <li>• The BBNJ Agreement could potentially provide another source of capacity building and transfer of marine technology and financing if it enters into force prior to 2030 and has its first COP held by then.</li> </ul> <p><b>Submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy <a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/capacity-building/">https://whc.unesco.org/en/capacity-building/</a></li> <li>• CITES/FAO: <a href="https://cites.org/eng/virtual-college/training">https://cites.org/eng/virtual-college/training</a></li> <li>• The IUCN Academy <a href="https://iucnacademy.org/">https://iucnacademy.org/</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Capacity Development Strategy</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Partnership Fund</a> in support of capacity development and marine scientific research</li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Contractors' Training Programme</a>, ISA National Expert Deployment, <a href="#">Internship Programmes</a>, <a href="#">the Abyssal Initiative for Blue Growth project</a>, the <a href="#">Africa Seabed Resources Project</a>, <a href="#">the ISA-China</a> and <a href="#">ISA-Egypt Joint Training and Research Centres</a>, <a href="#">the Women in Deep-sea Research project</a>, <a href="#">the launch of the e-learning platform DeepDive</a>, and <a href="#">the Secretary-General's Award for Excellence in Deep-Sea Research</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| T21     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development</li> <li>• EBSAs' descriptions also provide a source of scientific and technical information to inform competent authorities when/if they decide on the most appropriate conservation and sustainable management measures to put in place for the achievement of several GBF targets.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Integration of Traditional knowledge and socio-cultural information in applying the EBSA criteria</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Submissions received in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boteler B., Johnson D.E. &amp; Gunn V.K. (2023) Science for the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the Atlantic Ocean region: An iAtlantic perspective. iAtlantic Policy Brief, November 2023. DOI10.5281/zenodo.10203890 note opportunities and needs for science to support ocean governance in the Atlantic Ocean, including: long-term research programmes that track ecosystem dynamics and changes in the Atlantic Ocean, including legal and governance aspects; assessment of research and knowledge gaps associated to the Atlantic basin and the GBF and its targets; capacity development programmes and initiatives, including research programmes and initiatives to enhance skills and knowledge of researchers and stakeholders; capacity development programmes that include short-term training and long-term educational initiatives; mechanisms for open data sharing and accessibility and standardisation to foster collaboration; assessment of biodiversity status (and loss) in described EBSAs; and science-policy interface.</li> <li>• IUCN PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet</li> </ul> |

| Targets    | Tools and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECOLEX <a href="https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/ecolex">https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/ecolex</a></li> <li>• IUCN guidelines for gathering of fishers' knowledge for policy development and applied use (2020) <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49130">https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49130</a></li> <li>• UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and its World Ocean Assessments: (a) WOA II (<a href="https://www.un.org/regularprocess/woa2">https://www.un.org/regularprocess/woa2</a>) (b) WOA II Policy Brief on marine biodiversity (<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q8l9Afs6TEwkbLTWHHjU49PNlmwtrftL/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q8l9Afs6TEwkbLTWHHjU49PNlmwtrftL/view</a>) (c) WOA I (<a href="https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/first-world-ocean-assessment">https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/first-world-ocean-assessment</a>) (d) WOA I Technical Abstract on the conservation and sustainable use of marinebiological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (<a href="https://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/8th_adhoc_2017/Technical_Abstract_on_the_Conservation_and_Sustainable_Use_of_marine_Biological_Diversity_of_Areas_Beyond_National_Jurisdiction.pdf">https://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/8th_adhoc_2017/Technical_Abstract_on_the_Conservation_and_Sustainable_Use_of_marine_Biological_Diversity_of_Areas_Beyond_National_Jurisdiction.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Deep Seabed and Ocean Database (DeepData)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SSKI)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Area2030</a>: Facilitating the high-resolution mapping of the international seabed area by 2030</li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Wakatoo</a>n and <a href="#">"Life under water"</a> – materials to increase public deep-sea literacy</li> </ul> |
| <b>T22</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (A/71/229).</li> <li>• Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the issues of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John Knox (A/HRC/34/49).</li> <li>• Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage</li> <li>• UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNESCO Policy on engaging with indigenous peoples <a href="https://www.unesco.org/en/indigenous-peoples/policy">https://www.unesco.org/en/indigenous-peoples/policy</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>T23</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CITES Gender Action Plan</a></li> <li>• IUCN: Strategies for integrating gender in sustainable ecosystem management</li> <li>• Gender mainstreaming and biodiversity conservation: <a href="https://www.learningfornature.org/en/courses/gender-mainstreaming-and-biodiversity-conservation/#learndash-course-content">https://www.learningfornature.org/en/courses/gender-mainstreaming-and-biodiversity-conservation/#learndash-course-content</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <i>Targets</i> | <i>Tools and guidance</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages Center (GBV-ENV Center)</li> </ul> <p><b>Submissions received by the Secretariat in response to notification 2023-120:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ISA Women in Deep-sea Research project (WIDSR)</a>, and its deep-sea research mentoring programme called <a href="#">S.H.E.</a> (“See Her Exceed”)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ISA. 2022. Empowering women from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in deep-sea research</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Impact Group on Research and Oceans for Women (IGROW)</a></li> </ul> |

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