

Template for IPWG 8 inputs

Theme: Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The co-conveners of the IPWG 8 kindly request its members to provide information relevant to the drafting of the concept paper on “**Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**” including suggested key questions for the interactive dialogue on this topic and some key recommendations on how build on these interlinkages. Please use the following template for your input(s).

In preparing your responses, please keep in mind that the overarching theme of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference is: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”. It is suggested that your input should accordingly highlight the theme of the Conference in its various aspects as necessary.

Kindly also note that issues related to means of implementation, in particular capacity-building and financial resources, are considered cross-cutting and therefore should also be discussed in your response to the extent possible.

Name of Member	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Agency/organization	United Nations Secretariat
1. Give an analysis on what are some of the interlinkages between SDG 14 and other SDGs?	<p>- SDG14/SDG13 Ocean and Climate action The interest in the relationship between ocean and climate has risen recently, as it was one of the focus areas of COP25 and especially considering the recent findings of the IPCC’s Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. Member States in the region have urged ESCAP to continue the work in this interlinkage. In particular, member States from the Pacific are concerned about the impacts of climate change on the ocean and the related disasters that affect peoples, economies, and livelihoods. Noting these concerns, ESCAP has prepared a policy brief on ocean accounting for disaster resilience in the Pacific SIDS.</p> <p>- SDG14/SDG8/SDG1 Jobs in the ocean economy. In particular, 8.3 and 8.7. Given the number of jobs in ocean-related activities, the interlinkage of ocean and decent work and economic growth stands out as a priority for many States in the region. Efforts to combat IUU fishing can potentially impact jobs, which in turn can affect poverty (SDG1) among fishermen in the fisheries sector.¹</p>

¹ Sandaruwan and Weerasooriya (2019) Non-tariff measures and sustainable development: The case of the European Union import ban on seafood from Sri Lanka. ARTNeT Working Paper No. 185,

Likewise, it is important to assess measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, which sometimes take place in the ocean.

- SDG14/SDG2/SDG3 Sustainable fisheries (2.1 and 3.9)

Sustainable fisheries are relevant to food security, and to the health and well-being of billions in our region. Marine protein is a staple in many diets in Asia-Pacific, reaching up to 37% of the total protein consumption and up to 110.7 kg of fish and fish products consumed annually per capita (FAO)¹. This is being jeopardized by pollution in the ocean which may have implications for food security, as well as human and animal health. Furthermore, oceanogenic disasters are a major risk to the sustainability of fisheries.

- SDG14/SDG11 Resilient ocean communities

As the effects of climate change are evidenced through extreme weather events and rising sea-levels, adequate solutions are needed to address the interlinkage between SDG 11.5 and SDG14, to guarantee resilient and sustainable ocean communities. Tropical cyclones have caused almost USD 10 billion in damage to coastal communities in the region. In addition, efforts to combat plastic pollution can have positive externalities on both SDG 14 Target 14. (plastic debris) as well as reducing water-related disasters (SDG Target 11.5), since plastic debris clogs up storm drainage.² Building resilience to oceanogenic disasters through multi-hazard early warning systems can support acceleration of the solutions.

-SDG14/SDG9 Sustainable shipping and port operations (9.1, 9.4, 9.A)

Greening the shipping industry and ports, while preserving the role of the maritime transport in supporting the future growth, is crucial for the protection of the ocean. Likewise, safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable shipping is an integral part of the quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, envisaged under SDG9. In addition to being a backbone for a global trade, the shipping services also provides a lifeline to small island developing States and other communities, where other modes of transport connectivity are not easily available.

-SDG14/SDG7 Energy transition and oceans

Offshore oil wells are a major cause for environmental concern. Oil spills and drilling accidents can have catastrophic effects on coral reefs, marine life and birds. Transitioning away from fossil fuels can improve this situation and reduce risks. Recent technologies including large-scale offshore wind farms and submarine power cables can also impact

Available at <https://artnet.unescap.org/publications/working-papers/non-tariff-measures-and-sustainable-development-case-european-union>

² see Chapter 1, Box 1.3, Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019: Navigating Non-tariff Measures towards Sustainable Development

	<p>ocean life – positively or negatively; continuing to monitor environmental impact can help ensure a sustainable future for the ocean.</p> <p>-SDG14/SDG17 Ocean Data and Statistics</p> <p>Collecting, updating, monitoring and sharing ocean data continues to be a challenge in the region. In line with target 17.18, efforts to enhance the availability and quality of data should be promoted. Whereas the delivery date for this target is 2020, the region needs further support and resources in this area.</p>
<p>2.What are some ways in which these synergies/interlinkages that can be leveraged?</p>	<p>Though the effective implementation of policies that catalyze action, offering one set of solutions for one set of problems. For example, through the SDG14 accelerator methodology. ESCAP developed a methodology to accelerate the delivery of SDG 14. This is a country-led process, the methodology includes coordination with expert review teams to assess policy and SDG tracking. Through this process, specific pivotal actions for SDG14 are identified, along with their multiplier effect with other SDGs. Based on this information, scenarios are developed, and they result in selected accelerator action plans with specific transformative interventions to accelerate delivery. In addition, ESCAP holds a yearly regional learning platform on policy coherence for disasters risk reduction where building resilience to climate-related disasters has been identified as a key entry point to leverage synergies among a number of SDGs including SDG 14.³</p>
<p>3.What are some of the ways in which your organization has taken steps to leverage these interlinkages? What was the impact?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCAP has institutionalized the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean bringing together active participation from all stakeholders, including government, academia, the private sector, NGOs, individual citizens and the youth; and with delegates, participants and speakers from different sub-regions in Asia, including the Pacific. Marine pollution, especially in the form of plastic, stood out as one of the main issues. The sustainable maritime connectivity was also one of the highlights of the event last year. Civil society (especially the youth) voiced their enthusiasm to transition towards a plastic-free circular economy. The private sector showed evidence of their innovation and incorporation of science to provide sustainable alternatives to plastic. Academics, civil society and governmental organizations presented factual case studies exposing the problems related to marine pollution and highlighting solutions. - CS76 Commission Session – ESCAP is committed to the protection of the ocean. Member States have ratified this by choosing the theme for the upcoming Commission Session as “Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development”. In preparation for the

³ ESCAP, Regional learning platform on policy coherence for disaster risk reduction and resilience (2018). Available at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/regional-learning-platform-policy-coherence-disaster-risk-reduction-and-resilience-27-31>

theme of the 76th Commission session, ESCAP is developing a theme study to inform and guide the dialogue sessions of member States. After identifying the priorities for the Asia-Pacific region, the study was structured around three main focus areas: sustainable shipping, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution in the marine environment, highlighting cross-cutting challenges such as data availability. The upcoming resolution will define the Secretariat's mandate and scope of work for the near future including in the SIDS, whose leadership proposed the ocean theme at the CS75.

- ESCAP member States adopted resolution 75/6 on Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), enhancing geospatial information applications to contribute to achieve Targets: 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, and 14.7. (<https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-plan-action-space-applications-sustainable-development-2018-2030>)
- Capacity building and technical cooperation: Supporting member States through workshops, capacity building and other forms of technical cooperation. This includes the development of a publication and related workshops on a “Policy Brief - SDG 14 In Asia and the Pacific: An Accelerator Approach For Implementation”. (https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP_SDG14_Policy%20Brief_Final.pdf)
- Building technical capacity in Pacific SIDS: In response to request from the Pacific SIDS, ESCAP has prepared a technical policy brief on ways to integrate climate parameters into traditional accounting methods (such as the System of Environmental Economic Accounting) to better guide decision support systems to protect ocean resources and build resilience to oceanogenic disasters. The brief, while analyzing the ecosystem accounting framework, also presents a comprehensive overview of the linkages between SDG 14 and others with regards to risk reduction. (<https://www.unescap.org/resources/ocean-accounting-disaster-resilience-pacific-sids-brief-note-policymakers>)
- ESCAP has enhanced its support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all of the SDGs, including SDG14. Throughout 2019, ESCAP supported national plans to address data gaps with SDG14 through Ocean Account pilots.
- In developing countries, ESCAP has enhanced its capacity-building support to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data in support of SDG14 relevant to national contexts. For example, in Thailand, Viet Nam and Samoa, the national context reflected the importance of the ocean to tourism and in China and Malaysia, the national

	<p>context reflected marine spatial planning. Also, in the context of complementary measures to GDP through the development of technical guidance on measurements of progress on ocean condition and use using a global statistical standard for environmental-economic accounts, and the piloting of the application of these standards in five developing countries.</p>
<p>4. What gaps have you identified in the area relevant to the topic of this IPWG under your respective mandate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of capacity and disaggregated data to determine relevance and impact of interlinkages - Siloed approach and line specialization in the member States - Siloed approach in the implementation of policies, and in the mandate of some UN agencies - Isolated National Legislations, in need of region-wide regulations - Gap between regulation, implementation and enforcement of policies - Lack of capacity on integrated geospatial information and innovative applications
<p>5. Please describe concrete examples where ocean action is scaled up based on science and innovation in to leverage these synergies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the shipping industry “greener” and more resource-efficient by optimizing the transport and logistic chain, modernizing the fleet and upgrading port infrastructure, as this reduces the CO2 footprint, other environmental impacts and resource intensity. - Developing technologies to find alternatives to fossil-fuel based plastic, consequently reducing plastic debris in the ocean - Improving waste management and recycling systems on land, which would prevent leakages of solid waste into the ocean. - Developing and using sources of renewable energy accessible for all, in order to mitigate climate change. This would reduce the consequences of the changing climate on the ocean. - Offering biodegradable and trackable fishing nets and gear to eradicate Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). - Implementing the actions in Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) related to ocean ecosystem and combating ocean pollution. Whereas prior to May 2019 countries unilaterally imposed trade regulations to restrict trade in plastic waste (resulting in reduced plastic debris in the ocean), amendment of the Basel Convention made regulations in trade of plastic waste more transparent, requiring exporting countries to obtain prior approval before exporting contaminated, mixed or unrecyclable plastic waste.⁴ - Noting the strong linkages between the ocean, climate change, disaster risk and sustainable development, build ecosystem services that are risk informed; this can be scaled up through the increased use of Geospatial information and services which are

⁴ See Chapter 1, Box 1.3, Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019: Navigating Non-tariff Measures towards Sustainable Development

	<p>cost- and time-effective to deepen the quantification of disaster risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving data collection, data monitoring and data sharing in a resource-, time- and cost-efficient manner, supported by technological developments and telecommunications.
6.What kind of measures/interventions should be promoted to fill existing gaps and to assist Member States in scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation in relation to the topic of this theme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote comprehensive ocean governance - Collective action on the regional issues of immediate priority - Technical and financial assistance in the negotiation and implementation of the global sustainability targets - Knowledge partnerships and Investment in Research and Development - Collecting, updating and monitoring ocean data, a high priority for the SIDS where capacity to collect, share, analyze and apply ocean data is weak - Implementing the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)
7.What kind of new partnerships/opportunities have you identified which could be showcased at the 2020 UN Ocean Conference in relation to this theme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships with the private sector - Cooperation with regional and subregional intergovernmental mechanisms, i.e. ASEAN, the Pacific Community, etc. - Partnerships with Development Banks (such as the Asian Development Bank) and International cooperation agencies (JICA, KOICA) - Partnerships with development partners e.g. between UN Statistical Commission and regional Statistical Committees, between UN statistical bodies and UN policy bodies (e.g. IOC-UNESCO and UNEP and FAO)
Also, please articulate good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of partnerships relevant to the topic of this IPWG that you may wish to share?	<p>Example of good practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCAP’s Sustainable Business Network Taskforce on Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction (ESBN) is working on three ways in which the private sector can help augment ocean data. It has engaged commercial ships, operating in Pacific waters around South-East Asia. Moreover, the task force is studying the possibility of using stationary oil and gas platforms as “passive” markers for vertical sea-surface motions, once again vital information for tsunami monitoring.
8.Please outline key questions you consider relevant to the panel discussions to be held at the interactive dialogue on the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can ocean-protection policies be designed to mitigate climate change simultaneously? - Which steps can be taken to secure the alignment of the UNFCCC COP, the Convention on Biological Diversity, Sustainable Development Goals and Ocean Policies? - What kind of resources can be mobilized to accelerate ocean actions in its synergy with climate? - How can we benefit from a blue economy in a sustainable way while promoting decent work?

topic of this IPWG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we have internationally comparable and harmonized data on the ocean?
10. Please identify any additional recommendations that should be put forward for consideration by the 2020 UN Ocean Conference relevant to the topic of this IPWG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A regional approach to ocean governance embracing ocean-related issues and corresponding synergies - Enhanced collaboration of UN agencies for the work on the ocean - Enforcement and effective implementation of regulations, for instance, those related to safe and environmentally friendly shipping and the regulations aiming to combat IUU fishing. - Integrated geospatial information and innovative applications for ocean ecosystem and combating marine pollution.

ⁱ FAO (2015). Steve Needham & Simon Funge-Smith. "The consumption of fish and fish products in the Asia-Pacific region based on household surveys." RAP Publication 2015/12