STATUS AND TRENDS	CHALLENGES
	Briefly enumerate main challenges facing progress, and possible ways to address them
Goal 14.5 states that coastal and marine areas should be conserved "based on the best available scientific information". A recent study (Gill et al 2017 Nature) found that only 13% of MPAs are using scientific monitoring (biological, social or management) data to inform management.	While some monitoring data exist on the MPA management, social, and ecological conditions, these data exist in disaggregated datasets and in multiple formats. This inhibits our ability to monitor and evaluate MPAs globally. Significant knowledge gaps exist regarding the outcomes of MPAs, particularly social outcomes and equity.

Despite much progress on the MPA coverage targets in Goal 14.5, it is not clear whether many MPAs are being "effectively and equitably" managed in accordance to Aichi Target 11, and their ability to "sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts" (Goal 14.2) varies greatly. According to a recent study (Gill et al 2017 Nature), many MPAs fail to meet thresholds for effective and equitable management processes, with widespread shortfalls in staff and financial resources. While most (71%) MPAs are conserving marine populations, conservation impacts are strongly linked to available staff and financial capacity. See Gill et al 2017 for more details	Existing capacity gaps appear to be preventing MPAs from achieving their full potential. While the global community focuses on expanding the current MPA network, these results emphasize the importance of meeting capacity needs in current and future MPAs to ensure the effective conservation of marine species.

Goal 14.5 states that coastal and marine areas should be conserved "based on the best available scientific information". Goal 14.2 calls to sustainably manage and protect coastal ecosystems to avoid significant negative impacts. Mangroves ecosystems provide some of the most cost effective, multi-benefit and sustainable approaches to achieve simultaneous climate adaptation, mitigation, food security, biodiversity and human health benefits. However, mangroves are being lost at a rate of 1% year (more than the rainforest) and we have lost 67% of the global extent of mangroves in the last century.	1) lack of awareness of the multiple benefits and cost effectiveness of conserving and restoring mangroves for climate adaptation, mitigation, and human wellbeing; 2) mangroves often fall under the jurisdiction of more than one government agency which do not communicate or align priorities 3) the technical capacity to integrate mangroves and their ecosystem services in to national level strategies are under-developed; 4) there are very limited examples of integrating mangroves into national climate adaptation and mitigation policies, disaster risk reduction plans, carbon crediting schemes, or coastal management plans. 5) current financing mechanisms are not diverse enough and are currently insufficient for taking mangrove ecosystem conservation and restoration to

Goal 14.2 calls to sustainably manage and protect coastal ecosystems to avoid significant negative impacts. Mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses sequester and store carbon (coastal blue carbon) but these systems are being lost at 1-2% per year, mostly due to coastal development, unsustainable aquaculture practices and pollution.	GHG emissions are driving climate change and the current commitments under the Paris Agreement are not enough to keep the earth below the 2C increase. Therefore countries need to be looking to increase their ambition.
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OPPORTUNITIES	SOLUTIONS
Briefly explore on untapped solutions	*Briefly explore possible solutions for the challenges*
Standardisation and centralisation of MPA management, social, and ecological data, along with submission of metadata in order to evaluate MPA impacts	Strengthen partnerships to better assess marine conservation management and their outcomes; the contemporaneous collection of social, ecological and management data in order to fill knowledge gaps and explore synergies, trade-offs and equity in MPA impacts

Global partnership for MPA funding and capacity-building; Reprogramming fisheries subsidies into marine resource governance	Potential solutions include: capacity development programs; development of portfolios of sustainable financing options; including local stakeholders in management to foster ownership and fill capacity gaps

Global partnership for mangrove conservation and restoration to reverse the alarming and ongoing loss of critically important mangrove habitats through policy reform, new technologies, improved land use management, and investment in on-the-ground conservation, restoration and sustainable use of mangroves. Additionally, a partnership can push for commitments from international to local scales to halt and reverse mangrove loss globally.	1. Raise global awareness and promote action from a range of stakeholders towards global targets and outcomes. 2. Support the monitoring and tracking of progress against the global targets and facilitate regional and local actors to establish their complementary targets that could be reflected in national or regional policy. This could include acting as a global repository to capture and aggregate national and local progress and action. 3. Establish a capacity building platform to support the efforts of existing regional and national initiatives. 4. Act as a global knowledge platform, including strengthening research and helping to package it for local actors in policy relevant formats. 5. Facilitate enhanced resource mobilization for mangrove conservation and restoration that support existing regional and local initiatives and, as appropriate, to expand mangrove restoration activities to other areas that may currently lack the capacity, resourcing or policy support. 6. Create regionally adapted methodologies and tools for the wise use of mangroves to benefit local communities and contribute to global

Blue carbon ecosystems sequester up to 4x more carbon than terrestrial systems and store up to 10x more carbon, mostly in their soils.	Mitigation of GHG emissions, including using coastal carbon management approaches (Blue Carbon)
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EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS		
Are there existing partnerships on this topic?	*If so, enumerate their actors, gaps in coverage, challenges, success factors, and recommendations on how to enhance them*	*Explain if they are holistic or have a narrow scope*
Yes	The "Solving the Mystery of MPA Performance" initiative is a research project that brings together academic and non-acaedemic researchers and practioners to compile, integrate, and analyze governance, biophysical, and social data from MPAs across the globe. This interdisciplinary working group aims to advance science regarding the linkages between MPA governance and ecosystem structure, function, and services. (www.mpamystery.org)	

Big Ocean network of Large Scale Marine Managed Areas CI has supported several regional initiatives/Seascapes designed to strengthen integrated management of MPA networks and the areas that surround/connect them, among other objectives: Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape, Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, Bird's Head Seascape, Abrolhos Seascape, Coral Triangle Initiative.	Big Ocean is the only peer-learning network created 'by managers for managers' (and managers in the making) of large-scale marine areas. Its focus is management and best practice, with the goal of supporting each other and the growing field of large-scale MPAs. Each of the regional initiatives mentioned boasts its own suite of partners including other NGOs, governments from local to national scales, private sector and community organizations, too long to list here.	Big Ocean is focused on the unique management challenges and opportunities for very large scale marine managed areas. The Seascapes and CTI initiatives are holistic in approach, but limited in geographic scope.

Global Mangrove Alliance. A new Alliance that was just announced at the World Oceans Summit hosted by the Economist in February 2017 in Bali, Indonesia	Global Mangrove Alliance, a partnership between Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and the World Wildlife Fund.	The Alliance has a global and wholistic view. The Alliance will develop a set of global priorities and actions which will provide a foundation on which Alliance members will leverage funding, strengthen scientific research, increase our network of experts and practitioners, improve coastal management, education, climate mitigation and adaptation related policies, and accelerate conservation and restoration of mangroves at a scale above and beyond the capacity of any individual organization.

Blue Carbon Initiative (BCI)	Co-lead by IUCN, IOC-UNESCO and Conservation International. The BCI, and the members of the International Scientific Working Group, have be instrumental of bringing the scientific understanding on this topic to the policy making stage and keeps informing about the increasing scientificand technical knowledge. The BCI has also worked with many experts to provide policy advice on international climate processes, including the UNFCCC, as well as on the national level. The BCI has been successful due to its international set-up and its large outreach network. The BCI is now working very closely with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (see below).	The BCI takes a very holistic approach, covering both science and policy aspects of blue carbon
International Blue Carbon Partnership	The Partnership, a government lead initiative, is seeking to protect and conserve coastal blue carbon ecosystems – mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses – for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It seeks to build awareness, exchange knowledge and accelerate practical actions.	The Partnership also takes an holistic approach, being able to gather political support for policy changes and fast-tracking national implementation

POSSIBLE AREAS FOR NEW PARTNERSHIPS	PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	
Given challenges, opportunities and gaps, how could new partnerships help with implementation? What actors would be needed and what would success factors be?	*Mention Partnerships, relevant entities and commitments of the partneships (no individual commitments)*	*Provide a timeframe for the partnership*
To inform future policy and strengthen adaptive management, ongoing assessments of MPA performance require continued funding of regional or bilateral organisations that link management, biological, and social data to assess outcomes; Better coordination between the NGO and academic community to develop monitoring frameworks and platforms for the collection, management, and analysis of MPA monitoring data.		

A new global partnership for sustainable financing and capacity building for smaller and/or community based marine management efforts.		

The Alliance is currently engaging with mangrove stakeholders worldwide, and is actively seeking additional partners to help with the development of a strategy and implementation plan for maximum impact.		

There is a need for better mapping of key blue carbon ecosystems (specifically seagrass), as well as identification of restoration potential and the national scale and the emmissions reductions related to that.		
There is a need for guidance on how sub-national carbon projects can feed into national level programs (i.e., REDD+)		

GUIDING QUESTIONS
Provide three or four questions which could structure the dialogue
How do we strengthen existing partnerships to better assess marine conservation interventions and their outcomes, in order to inform future policy and strengthen adaptive management? How can we maximise on existing monitoring initiatives to develop standardised and centralised datasets for MPA monitoring and evaluation? How can we build capacity for improved MPA monitoring and evaluation? How can we fill existing gaps in social monitoring of MPA conditions and impacts?

Given the large capacity gaps observed in MPAs globally, how can we ensure that current and future MPAs have enough staff and financial resources to carry out critical management activities?

Where do you see the biggest gaps in mangrove conservation efforts?
What are your most pressing science needs related to mangroves?
What are the policy priorities for mangroves?
Where do you see the greatest opportunities?
What is known about the link between mangroves and key fisheries?
What are key tools/skills/learning opportunities that would help to enhance mangrove conservation and restoration at scale?

How to strengthen existing partnerships to better assess climate adapation and mitigation through blue carbon ecosystems? What are the remaining policy relevant science questions that need to be answerd? How can we build capacity for blue carbon assessments and management?
What do countries need to start including blue carbon systems in their national GHG accounting? What tools and information is needed to start implementing blue carbon work at a national scale? How can we work more closely with countries to assist and encourage coastal ecosystems to be included in their NDCs?
