

## **Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, ocean and seas.**

Oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustainable development. International law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. This Focus Area on marine resources, oceans and seas integrates the three pillars of sustainable development and has also many interlinkages to the other Focus Areas. It can contribute to: food security and nutrition, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, energy, sustainable cities and human settlements, disaster risk reduction, sustainable agriculture, land desertification, forests, ecosystems and biodiversity, women's empowerment, employment and sustainable tourism.

This Focus area could be considered as a future stand – alone SDG and also due to its numerous interlinkages could be integrated into the framework as a cross-cutting issue.

Action areas in this regard could include the following proposals from the Focus Areas Document:

- Reducing marine pollution and debris including from land-based activities.
- Promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources.
- Halting the destruction of marine resources especially through acidification.
- Eliminating harmful subsidies that promote fishing overcapacity.
- Ensuring full implementation of regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas.
- Protecting marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction, [including](#) by establishing Marine Protected Areas.
- Encouraging sustainable small-scale fisheries

## Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Many economic sectors depend on biodiversity and ecosystems. The conservation, restoration, more equitable sharing of benefits and sustainable use of biodiversity is necessary to ensure the development and poverty eradication, in particular while we experience negative impacts of its loss and degradation.

The importance of biodiversity is undoubted and it should be reflected in the catalogue of SDGs with its interlinkages to: poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, agriculture, water, energy, health, education, equality, gender equity, governance, participation and human rights.

In this context we would like to highlight the following focus and action areas:

- promoting sustainable management of ecosystems, including land, forests, oceans and mountains,
- slowing, halting and reversing deforestation,
- restoring degraded forest ecosystems and increasing area of protected forests,
- achieving a land -degradation-neutral world,
- protection of threatened species and ceasing poaching and trafficking of endangered species,
- protecting of the rights of indigenous and local communities as well as their inclusion in decision making as regards forests and other cultural and natural assets.

Thank you very much.