This information paper highlights critical IU

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

Marine and coastal ecosystems provide a vital basis for the livelihoods of many coastal communities and all island communities. The recognition of the need for a combination of conservation, sustainable development and resilience is not yet formalized, even though the relationship between resilience and sustainable development is mentioned. Further integration between the UN conventions is needed.

The restoration of mangroves not only supports climate change adaptation but also generates nature-based solutions to climate mitigation. As does the restoration and conservation of other blue carbon ecosystems such as saltmarshes and seagrasses. IUCN is partnering with several governments, NGOs and other stakeholders through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, The Blue Carbon Initiative (with Conservation International and IOC-UNESCO) and the UNEP/GEF Blue Forest project. Coastal "blue" carbon – this revised guide discussed climate finance and other financial mechanisms to support coastal wetland programs and projects. Another report highlights the need and opportunities to include coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Nationally Determined Contributions as part of the UNFCCC. The National Blue Carbon Policy Assessment Framework helps countries identify which policy and financing mechanisms most suit their national context.

Holistic approaches to management of marine environments from the coastal zone to the outer boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are key. IUCN provides technical support towards more integrated ocean management through the MACBIO project in partnership with GIZ, SPREP and the governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The latter launched their first Ocean Policy in August 2016 and is now initiating its implementation. The Solomon Islands Cabinet decided (April 2016) to pursue integrated ocean governance, including marine spatial planning, to address the threats to their marine environment.

The European Commission' BEST initiative, supported by IUCN, promotes the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services as a basis for sustainable development in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). Increasing the visibility of OCTs as key contributors to the achievement of EU and global biodiversity targets (e.g. EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the CBD Aichi Targets) is achieved through the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services. They also act as demonstration sites for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as low-carbon econom

Recommendations for the Call for Action

Systematically integrate knowledge concerning blue natural assets and their contributions to sustainable development in the decision-making process; including

- scenarios and insights on projected coastal and marine ecosystem development, highlighting vulnerabilities;
- ecosystem and ecosystem services mapping

Fast-track the implementation of integrated and holistic ocean management actions through area-based tools such as marine spatial planning, to address the multiple and conflicting uses;

Include, in a synergistic and programmatic approach, coastal and marine nature-based mitigation and adaptation efforts into national strategies for blue sustainable development;

Define a Blue Strategy of Investment, covering *inter alia* the Green Climate Fund (GCF), for better supporting resilience strategies and actions in SIDS and islands territories;

Build on existing dialogues, such as the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative, that allow High-Level dialogues between States, the UN CBD Convention and UN Bodies., Build capacity to achieve better coordination of frameworks at national level,

Fill gaps in protective regimes under a new Implementing Agreement under the Law of the Sea, as well as expand global conventions to be truly 'global';

Re-evaluate the risks that impacts from ocean warming and other stressors pose to humanity, species and ecosystems and their goods and services;

Update economic analysis on the scale, nature and effects of ocean warming impacts.

Put forward rapid and substantial reductions of greenhouse gases, and consider ocean impacts in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Paris Agreement);

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and

Combine different MPA categories and better coordinate conservation efforts with other area-based management measures to ensure an integrated approach and supporting effectiveness of diverse MPAs (size, governance and regulation);

Set up common surveillance tools for supporting enforcement both at the national and regional level, avoiding duplication of efforts and enabling SIDS to better access to remote sensing technology;

Complete legal frameworks for supporting investigation and enforcement on the basis of remote sensing technology highly needed for fighting illegal activities in national waters en thus enforcing conservation efforts;

Improve the connectivity based of the national and regional networks of MPA;

Develop climate proofing of MPA networks in order to support resilience and adaptive management;

Foster intra and interregional cooperation between