Achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals for Oceans and Coasts in the Western Indian Ocean

2nd Project Steering Committee for the WIOSAP Project, Nairobi Convention, 27 August 2018, Mombasa, Kenya

By: Yvonne Waweru (Private Consultant), yvonnewaweru@gmail.com

Why SDG 14?

- Source of food: Seafood is a primary protein source for about 1 billion people worldwide especially in low-income countries
- Supports 90% of international trade (shipping)
- Opportunities for sustainable economic growth, from fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, renewable energy, mining, e.t.c (blue economy)
- Recreational and cultural activities

Ocean Sustainability

Concept of Sustainability

History

- In 1713 in Germany Director of Mines in Saxony Hanns Carl von Carlowitz presented the concept of sustainability (continuous, permanent, and sustainable utilisation) as the rule for forestry.
- George Perkins Marsh in 1864 published ***Man and Nature: Or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action:*** nature is a bountiful stock of capital and man should live on interest but not encroach on capital.
- At end of 19th century **Karl August Möbius** applied sustainability to marine living resources (oysters) ecosystems as units that should be taken into account in sustainability research.
- 1987 Brundtland Report 'Our Common Future' had a different focus: fulfilling basic human needs
- Tension within the idea of sustainability: planetary boundaries vs basic human needs

Ocean Sustainability (2)

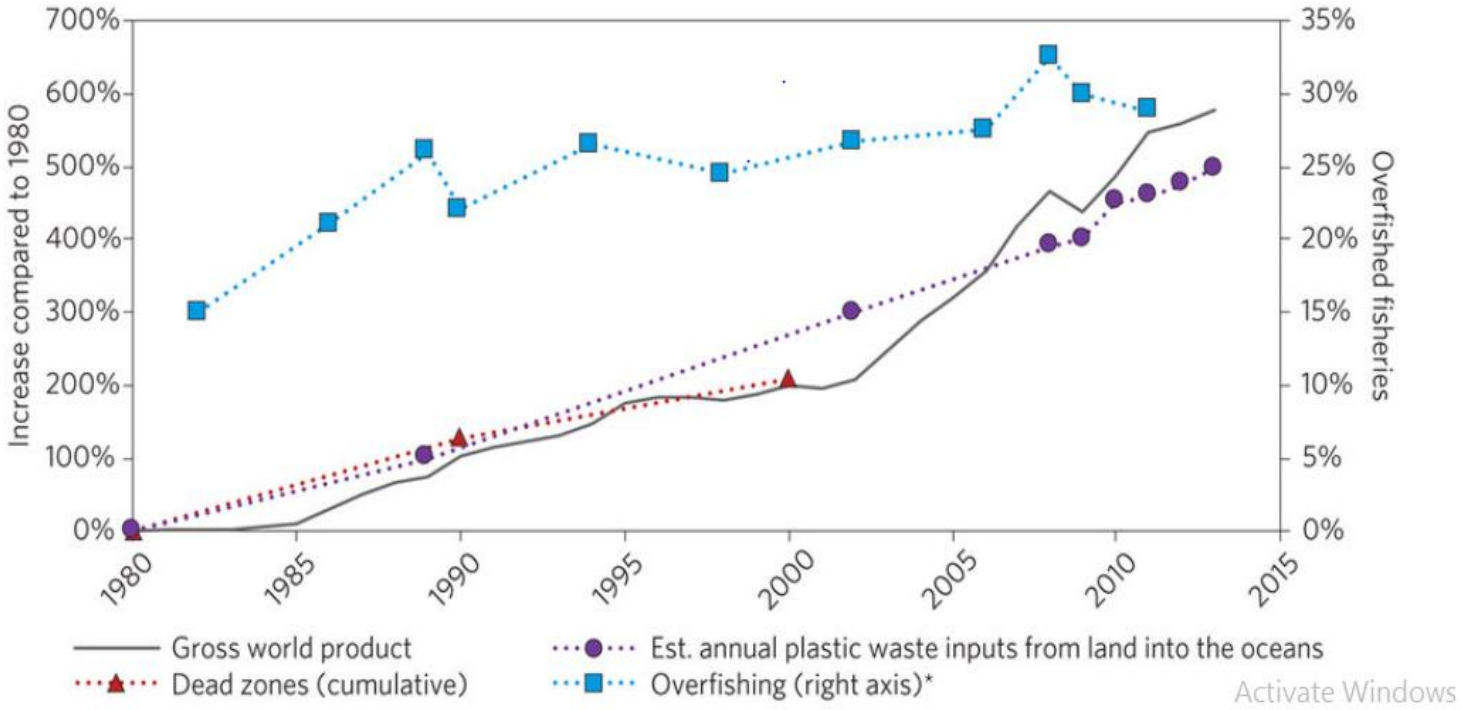
- Obligations, rules, norms, values, objectives
- Sustainability ethics
  - Theory of distributive justice: access of goods, services, to persons, groups, generations
  - Environmental ethics: values found in nature, culture, inherent moral values
- Economic theory: natural capital as a real type of capital, stock that yields different flows, in the form of ecosystem goods and services
  - Can it be substituted against social capital, man-made capital, knowledge?
- Weak vs strong sustainability: natural capital should be held constant at all times, should not be depleted, and should be restored

Challenges for Ocean Sustainability in the WIO

- WIO countries starting to develop ‘new’ ocean sectors (blue economy)
  - Traditional maritime activities such as shipping and fishing are intensifying and expanding
  - New activities have been developing, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) e.g offshore oil and gas exploration, deep sea bed mining exploration
- Intensive shift of societies and economic activities towards the ocean and coasts causing pollution and overexploitation of resources and destruction of habitats.
- Climate change and ocean acidification compounding these impacts
- What kind of governance is needed?

2030 Agenda as a Pathway for Ocean Sustainability

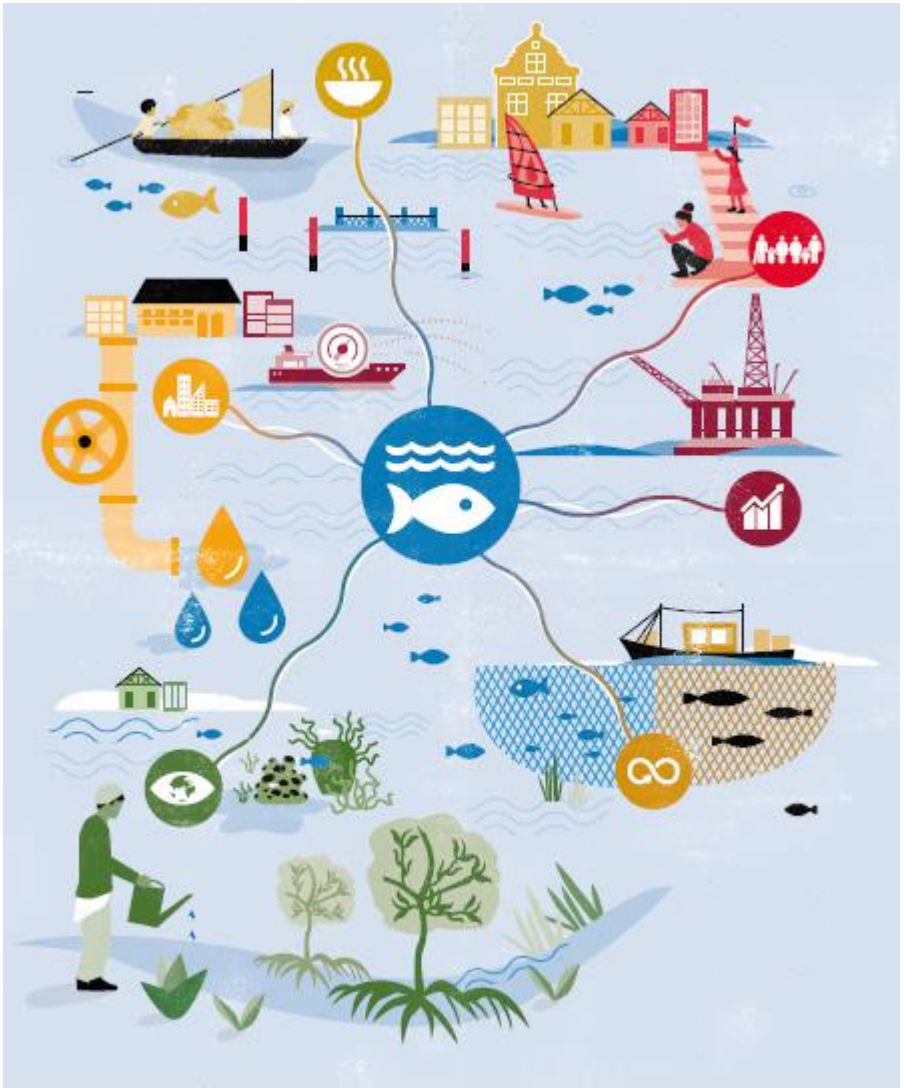
- SDG 14 “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.”
- Framework to address current and emerging threats



(Golden et al 2017)

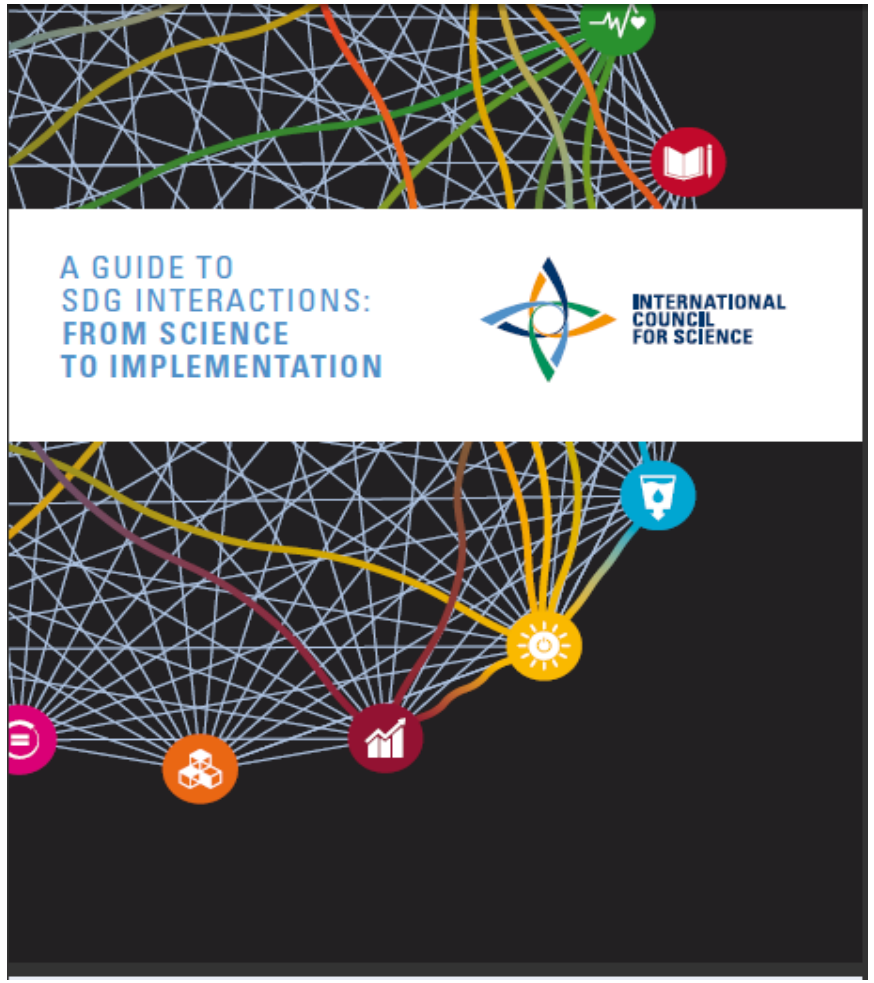
SDG 14 Interactions with other SDGs

(Unger et. al 2017)



(ICSU 2017)

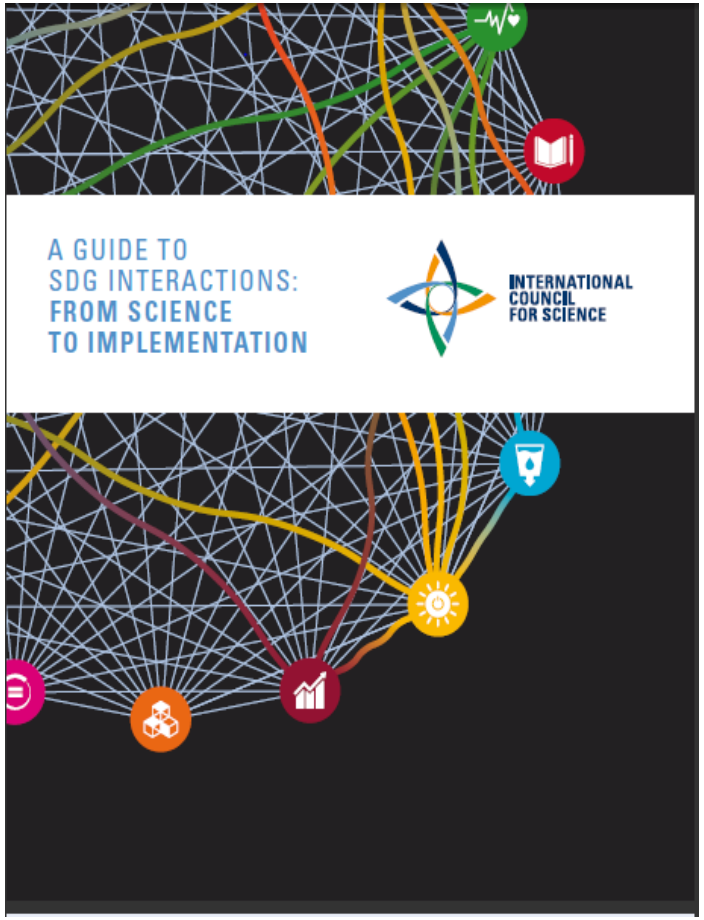
SDG 14 Interactions with other SDGs (ctd)



ICSU 2017

- SDG1 'end poverty in all its forms everywhere', directly in islands and coastal communities, and indirectly everywhere and indispensable for sustaining (subsistence) livelihoods;
- SDG2 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture', with seafood from the ocean being an important source of protein and micronutrients, and indispensable for sustaining (subsistence) livelihoods;
- SDG6 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all', Oceans and seas are major sources of water in the hydrological cycle. Concern over ocean health can drive improvements in land-based water supply and sanitation;
- SDG7 'ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all', with ocean and off-shore renewable energy a large potential source of sustainable energy;
- SDG8 'promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all', through the contribution the blue/ocean economy to innovation, and further growth and employment;
- SDG9 'build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation', where concerns about ocean health and its environmental integrity need to be integrated into the choice, design, location, and management of infrastructure and patterns of industrialisation;
- SDG10 'reduce inequality within and among countries', because a sustainable and equitable blue/ocean economy would, for example, ensure access for small-scale fishers, which constitute the largest employment category in the ocean economy and are among the bottom 40% of the population by income. This would benefit developing coastal and island populations, which are also part of the global bottom 40% by income.

SDG 14 Interactions with other SDGs (ctd)



(ICSU 2017)

- SDG11 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable', with coastal regions at risk of being damaged or even lost because of climate change-induced storms and sea-level rise ;
- SDG12 'ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns', support sustainable consumption and production patterns in ocean-based industries (fisheries, tourism, maritime transportation) and of (land-based) production and consumption affecting the ocean (e.g. plastic litter, sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle);
- SDG 15 'protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss' improves the resilience of ecosystems, halting biodiversity loss, invasive alien species, supports healthy and productive oceans.
- SDG 16 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels' with ocean governance being a key component of building effective, accountable and transparent institutions, that are responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making, essential to achieve SDG 14.
- SDG 17 'strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development' global partnerships for sustainable development are especially important in the context of oceans, seas and marine resources, owing to the global connectivity of marine ecosystems and will need mobilisation of financial aid, strengthened technology exchange, capacity building, better policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships

Interactions Between SDG 13 and 14

SDG13 ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’,

- Interface of 'ocean' and 'climate' perhaps the most important interaction between any two SDGs
- Ocean and coastal ecosystems are essential climate regulators, but are also directly affected by climate change
- Strengthening the resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems by reducing pollution (14.1), restoring their health (14.2), tackling ocean acidification (14.3), managing fish stocks sustainably (14.4, 14.6) and protecting coastal and marine areas and biodiversity (14.5) helps strengthen the overall resilience and adaptive capacity of natural and human systems to climate change

(Schmidt et al 2017)

Implementing SDG 13 and 14 in the WIO

1. SDG 13 as a Framework for Implementing the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development

- Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, saltmarshes, and seagrass meadows will help WIO countries to meet Paris Agreement objectives on climate adaptation (e.g. protection from coastal hazards), and climate mitigation (through carbon sequestration)

- Targets that aim at building resilience to climate-related hazards (13.1), integrating climate change measures into policies (13.2), improving education, awareness and institutional capacity (13.3), and addressing the needs of developing countries under the UNFCCC (13.a) with adaptation measures support sustainable ocean management and conservation targets under SDG 14 (14.2, 14.5)

- Co-benefits from reducing risks and vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to climate-related hazards promote poverty eradication, food security, and sustainable livelihoods

2. SDG 14 as a Framework for Blue/Ocean Economy

- Over 50% of coastal populations have low Human Development Index (HDI) values and live below the poverty line (except Seychelles, Mauritius and RSA)
- Value of Western Indian Ocean assets estimated at US$ 333.8 billion: enormous potential to create jobs, in marine and associated non-marine sectors to provide high revenues for WIO economies and benefit poor populations (goals 1.1, 1.2)
- Sustained incomes and economic benefits from fisheries, aquaculture and tourism sectors depend heavily on the health of oceans and coasts

SDG 14 as a Framework for Blue/Ocean Economy(ctd)

- Strengthening the resilience of oceans and coasts through conservation and protection of coastal wetlands, will help reduce shock exposure and enhance the resilience of poor coastal populations to extreme climate-related events
- MPAs can provide fishery benefits and remove pressure from key fishing areas such as spawning grounds and nurseries, and enable fish stocks in adjacent areas to rebound and conserve marine biodiversity
- Technology transfer and research capacity building in aquaculture can help enhance and income generation for artisanal fishers

Developing a Regional Approach for SDG 13 and 14 Implementation in the WIO from COP 9 and Beyond

- Responsibility to transpose the 2030 Agenda commitments and the SDGs into standards and policies, establish monitoring mechanisms, and provide regular reporting on actions undertaken is responsibility of the Contracting Parties

- Due to transboundary nature of the ocean, coasts, and marine resources, effective coordination between States at regional level is pre-requisite for ecosystem-based management

- Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties already registered a regional voluntary commitment at the Ocean Conference held in New York in June 2017 but there is opportunity for further regional engagement to implement SDG 13 and 14 and other related SDGs, supported by decisions of Contracting Parties at the COP 9:

Proposed Decisions

• Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- Contracting Parties to integrate ocean-related components in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) both under adaptation and/or mitigation

- The Nairobi Convention Climate Change Strategy to provide regional framework for activating and facilitating dialogue and peer to peer learning, policy coherence, and to increase collective ambition in future periods of NDC implementation and reformulation

- Adequate sharing of information, and data, and sustained capacity development and support to develop and implement sustainable projects for mitigation, adaptation and resilience building in the WIO

Blue/Ocean Economy

- Contracting Parties are encouraged to continue advancing blue/ocean economy approaches in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 14 as pathways for sustained incomes and economic benefits from natural blue capital including fisheries, tourism, oil and gas development, offshore renewable energy, and other maritime activities

- Contracting Parties encouraged to develop ocean/blue economy strategies based on ecosystem-based management according to their national circumstances and engagement with all relevant stakeholders: conservation, environment, private sector e.t.c. The strategies should ensure the environmental sustainability of all ocean activities and investment, broad access to opportunities, and fair sharing of benefits

Capacity Development for the 2030 Oceans Agenda

- Common and comprehensive capacity development for Contracting Parties that can support coordinated action for SDG 13, 14 and other ocean-related goals in an approach that links capacity needs with regional realities:
  - Capacity development on Marine Spatial Planning in context of the growth and development of the blue/ocean economy as there is limited technical capacity in the region
  - Knowledge and capacity building, and training and awareness programmes on climate change and technology transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the achievement of SDG 13 and 14 targets e.g on ocean acidification, and effective climate change planning and management

Science to Policy Dialogue

- A science to policy platform to bring together scientists, blue/ocean economy practitioners, civil society organisations and Contracting Parties to enhance regional cooperation and exchange on science and research that feeds into relevant policy processes to improve the knowledge base and scientific capacity for SDG 13, and 14 implementation, especially on sustainable blue/ocean economy in the context of climate change

- Science-policy platform to lead the process of developing regional indicators that could support follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and facilitate harmonised implementation across all SDG targets especially for issues that are subject to different legal regimes

Developing Partnerships for the 2030 Oceans Agenda

- Contracting Parties are encouraged to build broad-based strategic partnerships by enhancing existing partnerships and establishing additional partnerships
  - Broadened partnerships will leverage financial and technical resources from partners to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs for example from civil society and donors

- To address the impacts of ocean acidification, enhancement of scientific cooperation in partnership with research and academic institutions is needed to link regional acidification monitoring to global initiatives

Development of Critical Habitats and MPAs Outlooks

- regular and periodic assessments that map the state of the ocean and its ecosystems, and the ecosystem services it provides, including trends and the outlook, and impacts of the marine and coastal environment and their socio-economic impacts to enhance better decision and policy making for blue/ocean economy in the context of SDG 13, and 14
- thematic outlooks such as marine protected areas, critical habitats such as coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves can assist Contracting Parties to monitor progress on implementation of SDG 13, 14 and other ocean-related SDGs and reporting at the global level

Sustainable Financing

1. Catalytic Projects in the Region - WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE Projects
   - WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects can leverage the much needed financial resources to bridge the financial deficits at national levels.
   - Need to develop synergy between the two (2) projects to ensure continuity and sustainability of the Nairobi Convention Work Programme 2018-2022, and better integrated and coordinated delivery of the Oceans 2030 Agenda

2. Climate Finance
   - Contracting Parties with support from the Nairobi Convention can mobilize climate finance solutions at the regional level from Green Climate Fund, World Bank, the GEF e.t.c. to support regional and transboundary programmes on transition to resilient blue economy pathways in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation and to support implementation of the Nairobi Convention Climate Change Strategy and ocean SDGs

3. Other Innovative Financing

3. Other Innovative Financing(ctd)

a) Financial Innovation Platform

- announced by UN Secretary General in 2016 will provide a new multi-stakeholder forum to help finance progress toward the SDGs by developing innovative private financial instruments that have the potential to direct private finance towards critical sustainability solutions.
- platform will develop guidance on impact investment strategies that support the SDGs, map current and emerging financial instruments, and provide a laboratory for the development of new innovative instruments.

b) Financing mechanisms that draw on private sector sources e.g capital markets. The African Development Bank can play an important role in catalysing ocean and climate finance

c) Processes that help to standardise, verify and deliver specific SDG-compatible funding products, such as the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) , may offer a further opportunity for improving funding flows, including from the private sector. Bonds certified under this process provide private investors with predictable cash flows whilst delivering finance for climate projects

Thank you

Merci