

GREEN DEAL GUIDANCE NOTE

OCEANS¹

1. WHY OCEANS MATTER?

Oceans cover 71% of our planet, are vital for life on earth, human health, wellbeing, biodiversity, climate and weather patterns, and hold strong potential for sustainable development if they are more sustainably managed:

- In 2016, the value of the global ocean-based economy was estimated between USD 3-6 trillion/year and more than 3 billion people rely on the oceans for their livelihoods².
- About **40 % of the world's population lives within 100 km of the coast**, and there is a continuing trend towards more concentration in those regions. Sustainable patterns of human activity in coastal areas depend upon a healthy marine environment, and vice versa.
- Fisheries and aquaculture provide about 3.2 billion people with almost 20 % of their average per capita intake of animal protein at global level and more than 50 % in many Least Developed Countries (LDCs), contributing significantly to food and nutrition security. Seafood is the most globally traded food commodity; around 37 % of all fisheries and aquaculture production enter international markets.
- Oceans play a critical role in regulating our global weather patterns and the climate system; they store and distribute large amounts of heat around the globe via ocean currents; they generate 50% of the Earth's oxygen; and they have absorbed around 25% of the anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and more than 90% of the planet's extra heat resulting from the greenhouse gas (GHG) effect.³ Ocean based climate action, the protection of the remaining carbon rich ecosystems, especially in tropical and subtropical areas, and the restoration of degraded areas, could contribute up to a fifth of the emissions reductions needed by 2050 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C⁴.
- Oceans provide habitats for rich, largely unexplored, marine and coastal biodiversity and are home to 50-80% of all life on Earth including unique ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, etc.). Coral reefs, sometimes called the "tropical rainforests of the ocean", provide livelihoods to 100 million people and provide the basis for industries such as tourism and fishing, worth an annual net benefit of USD 30 billion.
- Healthy marine stocks could increase annual profits of the seafood industry by more than €49 billion, while protecting coastal wetlands could save the insurance industry around €50 billion annually through reducing flood damage losses. Enlarging marine protected areas is also an economic imperative. Studies on marine systems estimate that every euro invested in marine protected areas would generate a return of at least €3.
- Nearly two-thirds of the world's ocean is beyond national jurisdiction – where no single state has authority. This area reaches depths of over 10 km and represents 95% of the Earth's total habitat by

¹ This note serves as guidance to inform the work of EU Delegations in coastal and island countries endowed with marine and coastal resources, who already work on ocean-related issues or could be interested in doing so. In line with the EU policy on International Ocean Governance, it aims to provide support in the design and development of actions that go beyond the sectoral cooperation and adopt a holistic approach to protect, restore and increase the productive uses of oceans and coastal resources in a sustainable way.

² Chapter 3: The oceans, seas, marine resources and human well-being nexus – SDG Knowledge platform

³ This has very negative consequences for marine biodiversity, ecosystems and their functions in the planetary systems and services to society. The CO₂ and extra heat absorption has resulted in unprecedented sea level rise, acidification, extreme weather conditions, marine heatwaves, coral bleaching, dead zones (anoxic zones), coastal erosion, coastal flooding and changes in biological productivity shifts in species distribution. These cumulative effects amplify the effects of unprecedented pressures on the rapidly evolving ocean economy, driven by human needs for food, energy, transportation and recreation (IPBES: GA, 2019).

⁴ High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (2018) - The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change - Five Opportunities for Action.

volume. Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) are home to significant biodiversity, including unique species that have evolved to survive extreme heat, cold, salinity, pressure and darkness.

- Many coastal ecosystem components provide significant coastal protection and thus contribute substantially to the resilience of coastal ecosystems and populations. Because of sea level rise, coastal cities around the world may suffer \$1 trillion losses a year by 2050⁵. Coastal adaptation and natural defences are paramount to cater for both biodiversity and climate objectives of the Green Deal.
- About **97 % of the fisherfolk live in developing countries** and fishing is their major source of food and income. Women account for most of the workers in secondary marine-related activities such as fish processing and marketing.
- By mid-century, we will likely have two billion more mouths to feed and oceans might help meet global demands for food, jobs, energy, raw materials and economic growth. Realising the full potential of the oceans will require more responsible and sustainable approaches to its economic development and ecological protection than in recent decades.
- Maritime transport is essential to the world's economy as over 90% of the world's trade is carried by sea and it is, by far, the most cost-effective way to move goods and raw materials around the world⁶. Better ocean governance will help to increase international maritime security, including safer routes for shipping, and reduction of illicit trafficking, illicit waste disposal and IUU fishing. Better maritime security will also increase economic output of developing countries, especially the SIDS.

Policy context

Oceans are imperative for achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and for enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change. The environmental ambition of the **European Green Deal (EGD)**⁷ foresees a strong ocean component under which the blue economy has a central role in tackling climate change while making the best use of marine resources.

Ocean cooperation can deliver on the following elements of the EGD:

- Climate Change: by protecting, restoring and managing marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems to restore their capacity for resilience and adaption, and promoting low-carbon and nature-based solutions (e.g. protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems and corals⁸, developing coastal defences).
- Clean and secure energy: by exploring the potential for offshore renewables⁹.
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy: by addressing the drivers of marine biodiversity loss and promoting the conservation, restoration and holistic ecosystem-based use of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services; and by prioritising sustainable ecosystem-based management of oceanic and coastal fisheries based on stock assessments and ecological knowledge, scientific research and the establishment of well connected and effectively managed Marine Protected Areas.
- The 'Farm to Fork Strategy': by enabling, a transformation to healthy, fair and environmentally friendly marine and aquatic food systems that can ensure the sustainable and science-based management of fish stocks, based on a precautionary approach and, through sustainable aquaculture, less resource-intensive and low carbon food and feed production.

⁵ Global Commission on Adaptation 2019 Report.

⁶ <https://www.ics-shipping.org/shipping-facts/shipping-and-world-trade>

⁷ COM (2019) 640 final The European Green Deal

⁸ Blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds, tidal marshes are among the most intense carbon sinks on the planet.

⁹ See also the Green Deal Guidance Note on "Green Energy Transition"

- Clean and circular economy: by supporting better waste management as part of the fight against marine pollution (including plastics and fishing gear); and by promoting integrated approaches to ecosystem management that provide income opportunities.
- The Zero Pollution Action plan¹⁰ for air, water and soil as well as the EU Chemicals strategy¹¹ by addressing the key sources of ocean pollution, which come mostly from land (e.g. plastics, hazardous waste, nutrient runoff or wastewater, etc.) and pollution from maritime activities.

Together with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, a plethora of **key multilateral agreements**, to which the EU is a signatory, call for the integrity and protection of oceans specifically in developing countries and form the basis for any proposed “oceans related” intervention. The most important agreements among these are: the Agenda 2030 (including but not limited to SDG 14)¹², the Paris Climate Agreement, the MARPOL Convention¹³, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species - CMS), and the various Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans established under UN Environment Regional Seas Programmes). Moreover, flag State responsibility over high seas fishing (FAO Compliance Agreement), straddling and highly migratory fish stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement), the role of port states in reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing - IUU (FAO Port State Measures Agreement) and the role of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations –RFMOs- (most of which the EU is a member of), in managing fish stocks, further complement this picture.

The EU’s commitment to oceans in development and international cooperation is well established:

- It is firmly enshrined in the 2017 European Consensus on Development.
- The 2016 Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance (IOG) constitutes the policy framework of our cooperation with third countries on the oceans. This policy has triggered international cooperation across all continents, strengthening the EU’s role as a reliable partner in strengthening and improving the international governance framework. The EU IOG policy contributes to "Europe Stronger in the world" and the external dimension of the “European Green Deal”.
- As a deliverable of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, under the European Strategy for Plastics, the EU commits to support international actions to promote a circular plastics economy in non-EU countries.
- In the fisheries sector, the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy includes partnerships with third countries, and the IUU Action Plan¹⁴.
- More recently, the EU Council Conclusions on Oceans and Seas (2019) and the European Parliament resolution on the EGD (2020) called for fostering the role of the EU as a global leader in ocean governance.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 calls for supporting partner countries and regional organisation to protect and sustainably use sensitive marine ecosystems and species, focusing on marine biodiversity hotspots, and cooperation with Small Island Developing States. In Africa, the EU will launch the NaturAfrica initiative to protect wildlife and key ecosystems while offering opportunities in green sectors for local populations.

Challenges and opportunities

¹⁰ The Commission will adopt in 2021 a zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil.

¹¹ The Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability is a key element of the Commission’s Green Deal ambition to tackle all sources of pollution

¹² SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

¹³ The MARPOL Convention addresses pollution from ships by oil; by noxious liquid substances carried in bulk; harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form; sewage, garbage; and the prevention of air pollution from ships - <http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Pages/Default.aspx>

¹⁴ Community action plan to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

The substantial potential of oceans to help meet the global challenges facing our planet is substantially thwarted by over-exploitation of its resources, illegal activities, pollution, declining biodiversity and climate change. Globally, there is a lack of progress in the implementation of the ocean-specific targets under the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on Biological Diversity (SDG 14, Aichi biodiversity targets).

Key oceans related **challenges** consist in reducing threats and pressures on the ocean, while creating the conditions for the development of a truly sustainable, inclusive and equitable blue economy. They include in particular:

- Restoring, conserving and sustainably using living marine resources to end overfishing and illegal fishing, and improve the health and the status of marine biodiversity and the functioning of marine ecosystems.
- Addressing land-based pollution, (especially marine litter-including plastics, nutrient and wastewater pollution¹⁵) and pollution caused by the shipping industry and ports¹⁶.
- Mitigating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the harmful effects of climate change, such as acidification, de-oxygenation, dead zones, ocean stratification, warming, changes in currents, sea level rise, extreme weather events, flooding, etc., which negatively affect the abundance, diversity and distribution of marine species, the health of ocean ecosystems and threaten the livelihoods of coastal populations and beyond. Ocean warming has been linked to extreme weather events that push more than 20 million people into poverty every year, as well as contributing to climatic migration. Deploying nature-based solutions in coastal and marine areas can provide multiple benefits, such as for climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Increasing the abundance of key species and improving the ecological connectivity of effectively managed Marine Protected Areas¹⁷ and sustainably restoring and managing marine and coastal ecosystems, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, to secure coastal economies, livelihoods and food security.
- Overcoming fragmented institutional and legal governance framework of ocean-related sectors. Poor coordination between sectoral approaches, low institutional capacity, weak implementation of international conventions and lack of technical knowledge and financial resources for regional, cross-regional and national processes are common issues in partner countries, affecting heavily coastal communities in terms of food security and livelihoods (loss of jobs).
- Bridging the gaps in knowledge, innovation, technology, capacity and finance that prevent developing countries from harnessing the benefits of sustainable blue economy and healthy oceans.

Embracing sustainable oceans governance to develop and support a sustainable blue economy holds great **opportunities** for coastal countries and communities to promote a more sustainable economic growth, boost food security, employment, innovation and enhance coastal resilience. Such transition has to be based on circularity, holistic ecosystem-based approach, collaboration, integration of local and indigenous knowledge, solidarity, resilience and preservation of marine natural capital.

The development of Team Europe ocean initiatives can build on certain positive trends observed today:

- Increased interest among our partner countries as reflected in the post-Cotonou negotiations and international organisations (e.g. World Bank and the ProBlueBLUE Programme¹⁸). There is a general understanding that ocean degradation cannot be halted and reversed without international

¹⁵ More than 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans each year.

¹⁶ At EU level, a package of initiatives are being prepared to bring the sector in line with the EU's ambition of climate-neutrality by 2050: FuelEU Maritime initiative that aims to increase the use of sustainable alternative fuels in European shipping; Revision of the Directive 2014/94/EU on the Deployment of Alternative Fuel Infrastructure.

¹⁷ Currently 17 % of waters under national jurisdiction (0–200 nautical miles from a national border) are covered by protected areas. It is estimated that less than 5 % are effectively managed. The global mean percentage of each marine **key biodiversity** area covered by protected areas increased to 45.7 % in 2018.

¹⁸ It replaces the Profish trust fund supported by DEVCO. ProBlue is a new umbrella multi-donor trust fund, housed at the World Bank that supports the sustainable and integrated development of marine and coastal resources in healthy oceans.

cooperation, knowledge and technology sharing, and capacity building in the partner countries because the ocean has the nature of a global commons and its ecosystems and threats are interconnected.

- Enhanced interest in ocean stewardship that would provide a new business logic with the purpose of safeguarding the resilience and productivity of ocean ecosystems for current and future generations' wellbeing¹⁹. SDG 14 is a goal shared across many nations, cultures faiths and political systems, occupying a more prominent place than ever before on the agendas of governments, corporations, philanthropists, NGOs and individuals.
- New opportunities offered by the Blue Economy for the EU private sector outside de EU. Returns on investment in traditional – fossils fuel dependant – economic sectors are less certain than before and threatened by increased awareness of their real cost to the planet and long-term sustainability. Innovative financial instruments, such as blue bonds, have recently emerged as the latest financing model²⁰, and the EU is promoting sustainable blue economy finance principles globally.
- Co-benefits to the oceans of climate change mitigation, economic innovation (circular economy) and interventions in support of population wellbeing (waste and water treatment) are beginning to be understood. There is an opportunity to enhance positive synergies across these various policies and interventions in a more systemic and holistic way.
- While sustainably restoring and managing marine ecosystems and assuring sustainability of the global ocean economy will require significant efforts, coordination and financial support, economic returns for society and the planet from such commitment will be considerable, and the creation of millions of new, in many cases, well paid jobs.

EU background & experience

- Over the last five years, DEVCO's ocean portfolio has increased substantially, reaching more than EUR 720M. Priority areas for the intervention have been (i) fisheries and aquaculture (50 % of the portfolio), (ii) maritime security (27 %), (iii) marine biodiversity and conservation (16 %), (iv) climate change adaptation and mitigation (4,5 %), and (v) marine pollution (2,5 %). This is a simplified division since many projects are addressing several challenges. About 2/3 of programmes are regional or multi-country with ocean governance as the entry point. An important aspect is institutional capacity-building and good governance in regional economic organisations that are recognised as key partners in the management and protection of marine and coastal environments as well as regional fisheries organisations and research organisations. The involvement of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in these regional projects has improved regional fisheries governance and the fight against IUU fishing.
- Innovative partnerships have been tested to improve knowledge sharing and to develop a solid approach to support a sustainable blue economy including fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
- In conservation projects, we have started prioritizing biodiversity hotspot regions and involvement of local communities in the governance of protected areas.
- The EU is also funding more than 30 initiatives at national level in countries with fisheries and aquaculture as focal sector (Cambodia, Myanmar, Somalia and Liberia) and non-focal sector countries. Blue economy is also present in many jobs and growth compact analyses, in particular in Western Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). On top of regional and national programmes, the EU supports the implementation of the African Union's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and the implementation of Regional Seas Conventions in ACP countries.

¹⁹ UN Global Compact report <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/4570-05-31-2020>

²⁰ In Oct 2018, the Seychelles government launched the world's first sovereign blue bond, which is being used to help finance the island nation's transition to sustainable fisheries and the protection of marine areas.

2. THE PROPOSED APPROACH/ RESPONSE(WHAT)

Adopting a holistic approach to oceans, duly taking into account the multifunctional and interconnected nature of oceans as well as the cumulative and synergistic nature of impacts of human activities is a precondition to deliver on the overarching objectives of restoring, conserving, sustainably managing and benefitting from marine resources and their ecosystem services.

Main objectives

Delivering on the EGD priorities in terms of climate, biodiversity, food security and nutrition, energy, circular economy, pollution, and core development cooperation objectives of poverty alleviation, good governance and human rights is the main objective. Cooperation will need to adapt to the specificities and priorities of partners to ensure buy-in and impact, but the following three objectives apply broadly across most situations:

- Improving ocean governance to reduce pressures on oceans and help partner countries to develop integrated cross-sectoral and trans-boundary (including regional and cross-regional) approaches so as to ensure sustainable management of fisheries, conservation, protection and productivity of key marine ecosystems, including by creating a coherent global network of ocean sanctuaries and the deployment of systemic nature-based solutions in coastal and marine areas.
- Supporting the development of a sustainable, circular, inclusive and equitable blue economy to contribute to poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, fight against inequalities, and build economic and climate resilience in local communities.
- Restoring and conserving ocean ecosystems, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, to contribute to the fight against biodiversity loss and to combat climate change where oceans have an increasingly recognised role to play. This also includes fighting land-based pollution and waste carried down by major rivers to oceans.

Possible targets

Indicative indicators are presented in **Annex 1**.

Approach in terms of strands of intervention

Policy dialogue can usefully promote better oceans governance, the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, biodiversity and marine resources and should include discussions on the current threats to the oceans arising from climate change, maritime security and safety and environmental issues, including pollution, which pose serious risks to the health, viability, ecological sustainability and socio-economic value of the oceans and the ecosystem services they provide

It is crucial to build on the achievements of the EU international ocean governance policy, including the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, the IUU bilateral dialogues, the Sustainable Fisheries Partnerships Agreements (SFPAs) and the existing tools under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy²¹ particularly the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Specific capacity building actions at national and/or regional level to develop and integrate research capacity, scientific knowledge and technical skills and strengthen the science-policy nexus in the development and sustainable management of ocean resources and space to ensure their long- term sustainability.

There is high potential for technological cooperation and development of skills for all sectors and related investments in the sustainable blue economy. The European private sector has significant and valuable experience in sectors like offshore wind and ocean renewable energy, management of ports, maritime

²¹ The integrated maritime policy seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas: https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en

transport, fisheries management, sustainable aquaculture, use of Earth Observation data and information services (e.g. Copernicus for monitoring, control and surveillance systems (MCS), monitor and combat rivers and lakes pollution, marine supplies and other emerging ocean based sectors. Public sector and CSOs involved in the management of networks of Marine Protected Areas can also transfer their knowledge to partner countries. Promotion of South – South cooperation, sea basin approaches and strategies, and regional sharing of knowledge and investment are to be considered for support.

Integrated response

As the ocean is a complex set of interconnected ecosystems and dynamics, effective action requires a truly integrated approach across sectors, borders and actors that focuses on sustainability, multi-use (inclusive sharing of resources), and healthy oceans. The building up of integrated approaches is a major challenge and makes an integral part of the above-mentioned objective of improving ocean governance. To address ocean pressures and threats, an integrated cross-sectoral approach is necessary because measures must be taken both on land, especially in integrated freshwater resources management, and on seas (see Annex 2). We also need an integrated approach across borders, which requires effective global and sea-basin level governance, including better international coordination and fostering synergies between initiatives at different scales, and an integrated approach between actors due to the fragmented nature of legal and institutional framework in ocean-related sectors.

Team Europe potential

The size of the required investments and the diversity of political and economic interests justify that any ocean initiative can count on financial as well as political buy-in from the EU Member States and the concerned EU and national agencies.

Team Europe ocean initiatives will contribute to European soft power on oceans by building on acquired experience in developing and implementing a common fisheries policy and international ocean governance (including combating IUU fishing), restoring and protecting marine ecosystems and habitats, marine scientific research, ocean observation and monitoring systems, and developing sustainable business practices, compatible with the principles of the circular economy.

EU private sector potential:

Investment potential of sustainable economic sectors has significantly increased over the recent years and is foreseen to continue to increase in the coming years. Besides the pure investment potential, ocean governance sectors share global interest and potential for international cooperation in research and innovation, for the sustainable development of coasts and oceans, with participation of private sector.

Complementarity

Geographic levels of implementation. A large share of the implementation of the ocean initiatives will need to take place at regional level or sea-basin level (multi-country level) following a well-coordinated, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, ecosystem and rules-based approach. This is mainly relevant for ocean governance issues, the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and areas beyond national jurisdiction and the support to regional fisheries bodies, regional seas conventions and other regional organisations in improving cooperation between countries on issues such as IUU fishing, pollution, biodiversity conservation, and global marine protected areas network and pollution. Actions at national and global level will complement regional initiatives. Complementarity should be also built in those countries with SFPAs, since its implementation is closely linked to improving ocean governance, sustainable blue economy development, improving living conditions in coastal areas, etc.

3. What does this mean in practice? (HOW)

Delivering on the EGD priorities: Policy dialogue with partner countries should be a starting point to address the following three objectives (see Annex 3). It aims to ascertain the partners' interest and then

ownership of actions on oceans, and to ensure an integrated and holistic approach across actions, modalities and partners.

Improving ocean governance:

- This objective should be addressed through support to regional and national governance frameworks to enhance coordination and cooperation, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and rules-based approach, as well as the effective policy implementation. Main tools should be capacity building, research cooperation, technological cooperation, blue finances and investments to strengthen monitoring, and management of ocean natural resources. Budget support will be relevant where governance, policy reform, regulatory frameworks or administrative requirements are included amongst the actions.

Supporting the development of a sustainable, inclusive and equitable blue economy includes:

- Development and improvement of sustainable and climate resilient blue economy value chains (VC) and supply chains, with focus on investments that generate decent jobs, improve incomes and livelihoods of the VCs actors, improve VC efficiency (e.g. reducing waste and losses, reducing carbon footprint and promoting resource efficiency), ensure food security and nutrition (improving access to diversified and healthy diets), strengthen fisheries management, improve food safety and quality and access to markets, upgrade VC governance (e.g. through fishers cooperatives),
- Supporting the development of sustainable blue economy activities, with focus on creation of decent jobs and diversification of coastal economies. Maritime Spatial Planning, holistic ecosystem-based management, and Integrated Coastal Zone management and environmental impact assessments are important tools in this context.

Restoring and conserving marine ecosystems will include:

- Development and implementation of area based management tools (with multiple objectives: food security, economic development, biodiversity and climate action), tools for economic valuation of blue natural capital, management of activities on land-ocean interface, namely land-based and rivers and lakes pollution and urban policies, promoting nature-based solutions. Enlarging networks of effectively managed, climate-proof, ecologically representative and connected Marine Protected Areas is an imperative.

These actions should be based on regional but also national programmes, and on the following funding mechanisms: i) grants empowering local communities and authorities and small businesses, ii) coaching programmes, iii) investments in the form of loans from European Development Banks, iv) blending operations and European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+) guarantees can support funding for large-scale ocean landscape investments (e.g. marine/coastal ecosystems rehabilitation, ecotourism infrastructure, water treatment plants, rivers depolluting activities) as well as investments into processing and adding-value.

Research and innovation, education and technical capacity building are key parts of the cooperation. Integrated ocean management must be based on sound scientific research and knowledge. Actions will aim at supporting governments, regional organisations, transboundary river/lakes authorities, research organisations, private sector and civil society to enable all stakeholders to design and implement actions towards the objectives of the ocean initiatives. Actions will develop marine research partnerships/frameworks with key European research organisations and international research institutes. Implementation modalities could be technical assistance, twinning, grants, etc.²²

²²The full range of instruments available under the Horizon Europe programme might also support the research and innovation efforts needed. Four 'Green Deal Missions' will help deliver large-scale changes in areas such as Climate Adaptation, Soil, Cities, and notably Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters. https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/missions-horizon-europe_en

4. Communication and outreach

Overall communication objectives should promote the ocean initiatives as a solution, emphasizing its results and the value it creates for communities and the planet.

More specifically, communication and outreach will help highlight how the ocean initiatives are delivering against specific objectives and targets (such as those identified in this note).

Communication and outreach will help highlight how Team Europe is uniquely structured to stand out, thanks to its focus on integrated response to sustainability, governance and healthy oceans. What sets Team Europe apart is the combination of: experience, access to and leveraging of capital, a reach across all seas and oceans, a learning feedback-loop, a gender lens, and convening power.

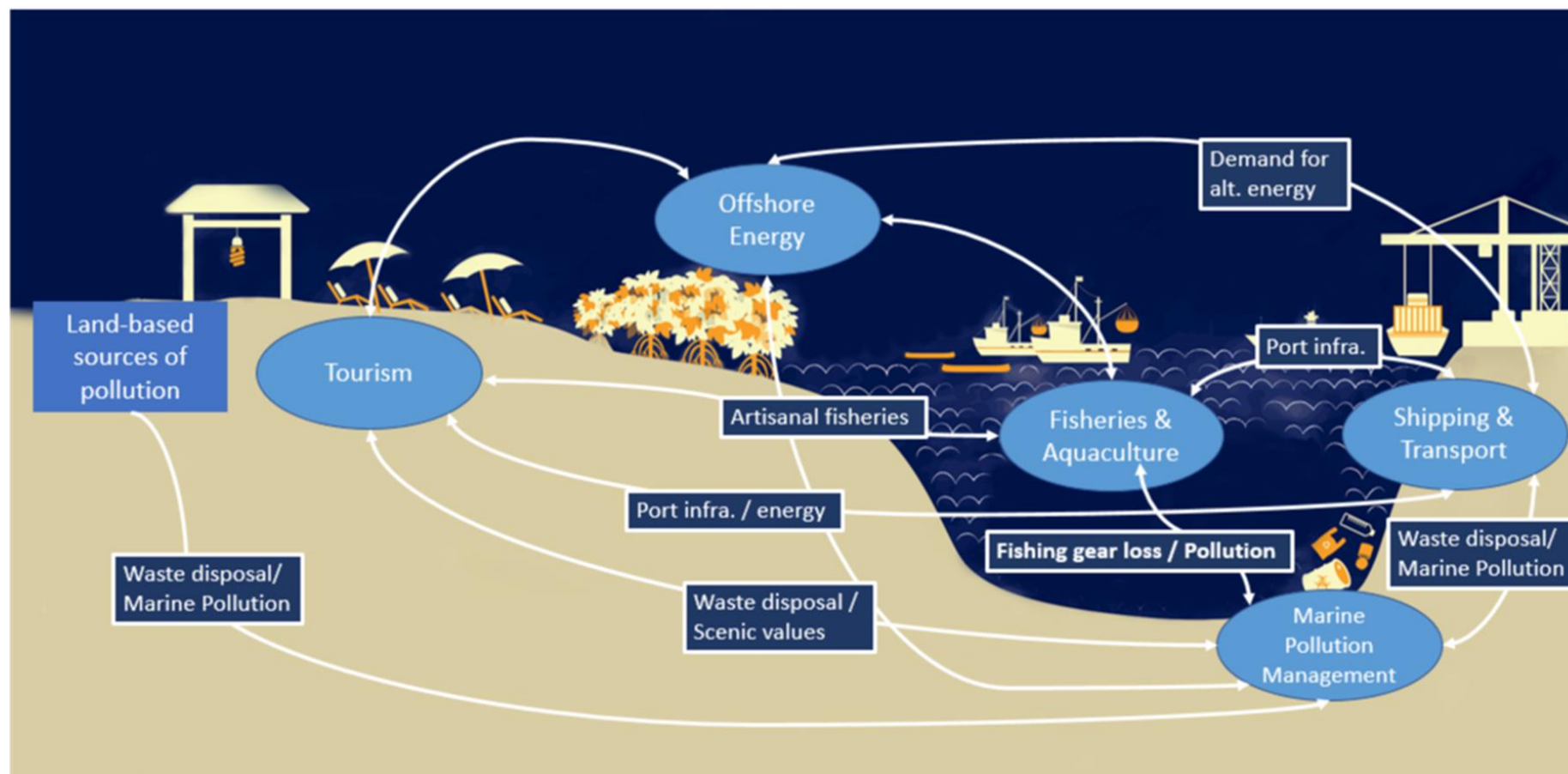
Annex 1 – Indicative indicators

Indicative Outputs and Activities	Suggested indicators (indicative)
<p><u>Strengthening Ocean Governance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support transboundary, cross-sectoral initiatives, improved governance frameworks, implementation of international agreements. - Address illegal activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Number of countries/regions that have improved their ocean governance framework (adoption, ratification and implementation of key instruments)</i> - <i>Number of national authorities that have updated their management instruments or replaced them to ensure conservation and sustainable use, for example by incorporating ecosystem-based approaches in fisheries management.</i> - <i>Number of countries that have improved national cross-sector coordination (for example by defining integrated ocean governance strategies and/or coordination mechanisms).</i> - <i>Number of countries supported to participate in multilateral (global and regional) ocean governance processes.</i> - - <i>Number of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) or regional sea conventions or programmes supported to strengthen conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources.</i> - <i>Number of countries supported to implement international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.</i> - <i>Number of MCS, VMS²³ and digital technologies implemented to combat IUU fishing and other illegal activities.</i>
<p><u>Building a more efficient and sustainable seafood value chain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective actions can improve the process, diminish losses and waste, and minimize the carbon footprint, while simultaneously improving food safety, quality standards and adding value to the product. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Number of more efficient and sustainable value chains improved/developed</i>
<p><u>Sustainable and decent jobs are created</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Number of decent and sustainable jobs created</i>

²³ MONITORING CONTROL SURVEILLANCE (MCS) and VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

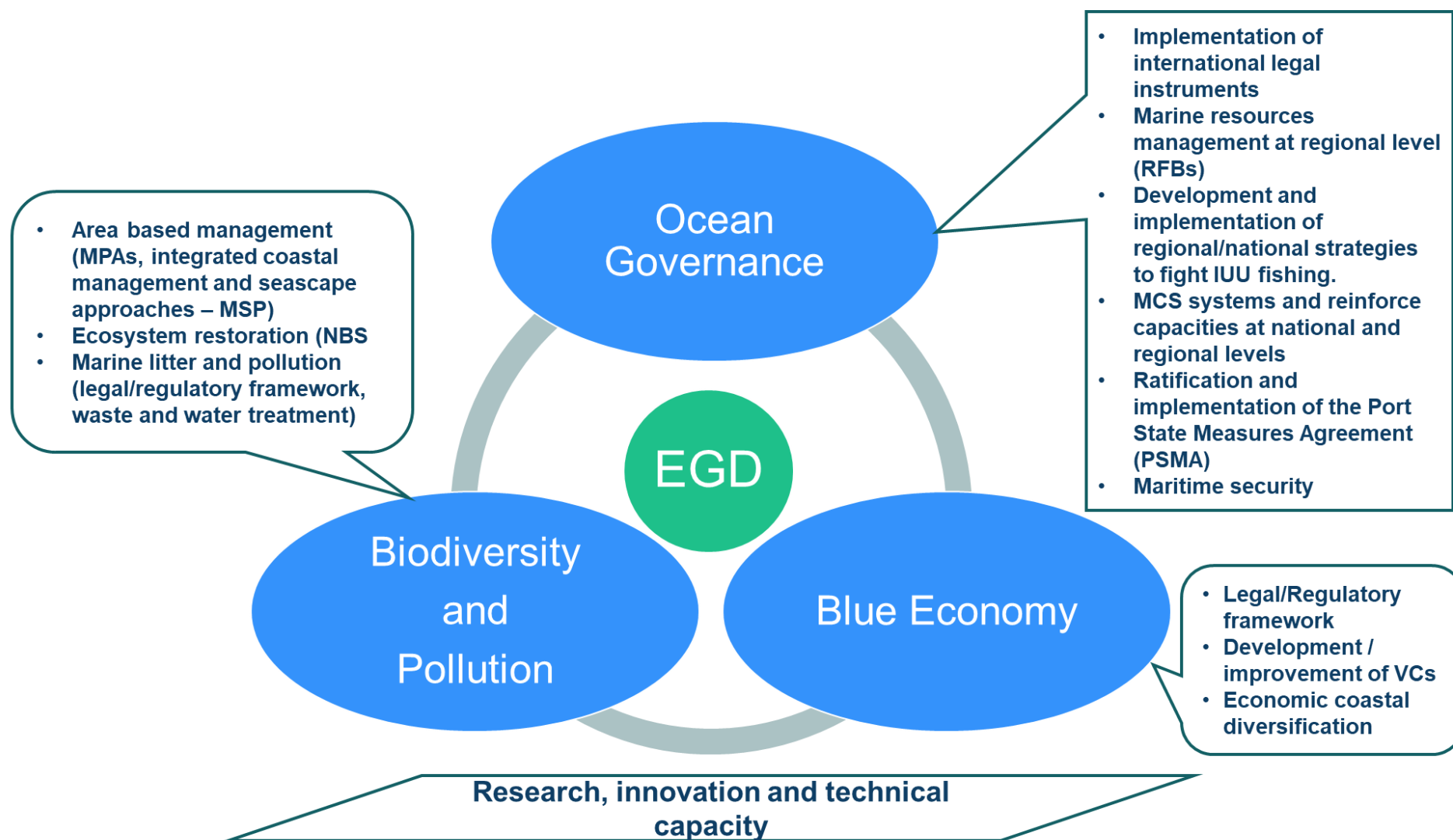
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Particular attention should be devoted to emerging ocean-based activities (i.e. ecotourism, coastal protection and restoration, shipping and port industry, marine supplies, offshore wind and tidal energy, waste management) in light of their particularly high potential of growth, job creation, innovation and contribution to addressing global challenges such as environment, climate change and food security in its broader sense. - Improve working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture sectors. 	
<p><u>Restoration and conservation of aquatic ecosystems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting and restoring habitats and preserving biodiversity, in particular through networks of well-managed marine protected areas, can help to improve ecosystems services, contribute to carbon sequestration and provide numerous benefits in terms of food security, health, revenue and green jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Number of Ha of aquatic/coastal/marine habitat restored/conserved and sustainably managed</i> - <i>Number of supported countries that achieve target 14.5 of SDG 14 (Protect at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law)/ post 2020 targets relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity protection</i>
<p><u>Climate change adaptation and mitigation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoring and protecting carbon-rich ecosystems (oceans, mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes), promoting nature-based solutions, exploring ocean-based renewable energy, reducing harmful impact of climate change on coastal ecosystems and communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Number of Ha of blue carbon habitat restored/conserved</i> - <i>Number of supported countries that achieve target 14.5 of SDG 14 (Protect at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law).</i>
<p><u>Marine pollution, in particular from land-based activities, including marine litter and nutrient pollution is prevented and significantly reduced</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions should aim to reduce/ban the use of plastic, improve solid waste management, diminish discharge of untreated sewage, control and reduce chemical and nutrient inflows (e.g. preserve and restore natural ecosystems that capture and cycle nutrients, strengthen transboundary freshwater cooperation to combat inter-states pollution, develop waste-to-energy solutions), integrate prevention and control policies into national policy, etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Reduction of plastic waste pollution in MT (as a %)</i> - <i>Reduction of inflows of chemical waste (fertilizer, liquid household and industrial waste)</i> - <i>Number of supported countries that develop, implement and enforce strategies, policies and rules towards the sound management of chemicals and solid waste, or implement river and lakes freshwater treatment policies.</i>

Annex 2 - Integrated cross-sectoral approach



Oceans interventions must take a multi-sectoral approach to fully address cross-cutting issues affecting ocean sustainable development, at country and region level. This does not necessarily means that activities supported should cover all sectors, but as the graphic shows operations in a single sector have cascading impact on other sectors in the Blue Economy. Interventions in one sector should be planned to have co-benefits in multiple sectors and for the broader goal of achieving integrated and sustainable development in healthy oceans.

Annex 3 – How? - Holistic approach addressing the three main objectives²⁴



²⁴ Activities are indicative.