Global Gateway

Biodiversity for Life 2.0 Facility

Seascape approach

Guidance note for EU Delegations

This note is designed to clarify the concept of "**seascape approach**" in the context of conservation, to guide EU services and Delegations in shaping their actions, and align with the EU broader "landscape approach". This approach underpins the EU strategic direction for biodiversity conservation, as outlined in the "Larger than" publications.

By applying this approach, we aim to **enhance the consistency and synergy of our interventions,** delivering benefits for biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development.

I. Definition

Like the "landscape approach", the "seascape approach" is a people-centred, integrated strategy that promotes local economic development and improves livelihoods while preserving marine and coastal ecosystems and wildlife.

This approach begins with identifying marine and coastal areas with significant biodiversity concerns or opportunities. It also involves mapping stakeholders and activities affecting these areas, such as riparian communities dependent on fisheries, aquaculture, or tourism.

Actions are developed to address the entire "system" impacting these key conservation areas, rather than focusing exclusively on the areas themselves. As a result, the geographic scope of interventions is expanded to include a broader area, referred to as the "seascape", which surrounds one or more biodiversity areas of specific importance, depending on what is the most coherent system of biological, economical and governance features. A "seascape" can also be transboundary, and/or find itself partially in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

In some cases, it may be necessary to consider also stakeholders who are not within the immediate vicinity but whose activities, such as offshore fishing or maritime transport, significantly impact the key biodiversity areas. However, the core of the action should be organised around a geographically coherent area within the "seascape."

Consistently with the landscape approach (see insert below), **the seascape approach is structured around three pillars: conservation, sustainable blue economy and governance** (in particular through Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning approaches).

For more information contact:

INTPA.F2: Aymeric ROUSSEL aymeric.roussel@ec.europa.eu
NEAR.A3: Federica LA CHINA federica.la-china@ec.europa.eu
B4Life 2.0 Facility: Geraldo CARREIRO geraldo.carreiro@agreco.beo.be
Biodiversity for Life group on capacity4dev: https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/groups/b4life_en

Identification of priority marine and coastal biodiversity areas for conservation

Key biodiversity areas can be identified based on one or a combination of specific designation/recognition, including:

- **Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas** (EBSAs)[1], which are special areas that support the healthy functioning of ocean and the many services that it provides. To identify EBSAs, seven criteria are used: i) Uniqueness or Rarity; ii) Special importance for life history stages of species; iii) Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats, iv) Vulnerability, Fragility, Sensitivity, or Slow recovery; v) Biological Productivity; vi) Biological Diversity and vii) Naturalness[2]. EBSAs considered by the CBD CoP are available in this map.
- **Ramsar sites,** as wetlands designated to be of international importance under the Wetlands Convention (Ramsar, 1971), including coastal and marine wetlands (link to maps).
- **Key Biodiversity Areas** (KBAs) which are home to critical populations of the world's threatened species. KBAs are defined by specific criteria such as ecosystem integrity and irreplaceability (link to maps).
- **UNESCO Biosphere Reserves**, which integrate social and ecological system management. (link to list and map).
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** which are cultural and natural heritage sites of outstanding value to humanity. (link to list and map).

The landscape approach

The EU's "landscape approach" identifies key biodiversity areas and the actors and activities that impact them. It focuses on the entire "system" of interactions, broadening the scope of action to encompass a larger, geographically defined area referred to as the "landscape" around the key biodiversity areas. Landscapes can be transboundary and are structured around three pillars: **conservation**, **green economy**, and **territorial governance**.

Other references include:

- **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas** (IBAs), focusing on the international conservation of bird populations (link to maps)
- **Important Marine Mammal Areas** (IMMAs), as discrete portions of habitat, important to marine mammal species, that have the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation (link to maps)
- **Important Marine Turtle Areas** (IMTAs, link to guidelines)
- **Important Shark and Ray Areas** (ISRAs, link to definition and maps)

Areas identified for conservation may be granted special status, such as marine protected areas (MPAs), including through different names or forms (marine parks, marine conservation zones, marine reserves, marine sanctuaries), but also no-take zones, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), fisheries closures, Areas To Be Avoided (ATBAs), Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)…

II. How can a seascape approach be implemented? Examples of activities

Below are examples of activities across the three pillars of the seascape approach:

Pillar 1: Conservation and restoration

- **Identification of priority areas for conservation**: utilising existing statutes (MPAs, etc.) and designations for biodiversity-related criteria (KBAs, IMMAs, Ramsar site, etc.).
- Identifying stakeholders and activities that impact or could impact the health of these priority areas for conservation.
- **Financing and Investment Framework**: Establish cross-border, cross-industry, and multi-annual funding opportunities that are stable, diverse, and adequately sized to support all priority marine conservation activities.
- **Research and Ecological monitoring**: Using advanced technologies to study habitat changes, inform fisheries management, and improve seascape connectivity conservation.
- **MPA Management**: Strengthening MPA management institutions through designing inclusive and transparent governance structures, developing skills of MPA staff, developing management plans, elaborating and operationalising surveillance and monitoring protocols, developing programmes of work and budgets, operationalising sanctions and penalties, designing strategies for stakeholder engagement, for education and awareness, for long-term financing, for communication...ensuring long-term financing, law enforcement, and community engagement.
- **Designation of Reserves**: Establishing no-take zones and reserves in consultation with scientists and coastal communities.
- **Blue Carbon Habitat Preservation**: Restoring habitats like seagrasses for carbon sequestration and natural defences against climate impacts.
- **Transition Area Restoration**: Preserving areas between ecosystems, such as mangroves, to support adjacent ecosystems.
- **Sea Corridor Design**: Considering marine ecoregions and large marine ecosystems to design sea corridors and improve protection.
- **Enhance Environmental Awareness and Education**: Educate communities on the importance of ocean resources, the threats to marine ecosystems, highlighting their socio-economic value, the opportunities for sustainable practices, and the benefits of conservation for coastal communities. Involve communities in the management and scientific monitoring of key areas.
- **Enhance seafarers' conservation capacities**: Build the skills of seafarers in conservation practices, particularly those related to maritime transport and operational solutions that protect marine ecosystems (underwater noise reduction, reduction of risks of collision with marine mammals, eco-mooring practices, waste management practices…).
- **Promote nature-based solutions**: implement living shorelines, oyster reefs, seagrass beds, and wetlands to provide habitats for marine species, reduce erosion, filter pollutants, and protect coastlines from storms and sea level rise. These solutions should be incorporated into coastal development projects, including ports.

Pillar 2: Sustainable blue economy

Build the economic case for a seascape approach: gather input on the values, needs, and priorities of different stakeholders related to the seascape. Identify economic opportunities

linked to healthy marine ecosystems and reduced impacts to those ecosystems through active engagement of the private sector. Determine how fisheries, tourism, and other activities can ensure long-term health of the seascape, e.g. by integrating multiple industries such as marine cultivation of seaweed, shellfish, finfish, and renewable energy production.

Identify and support sustainable practices at sector level, e.g.:

Fisheries:

- Enhance Management Plans: Strengthen the implementation of spatial and fisheries management plans with a focus on more effective enforcement.
- Ecosystem-Based Management: Promote Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) to maintain ecosystem health and productivity while meeting the needs of fisheries.
- Catch Limits: Technical measures for fisheries management: setting of catch limits/quotas, gear restrictions or regulations, seasonal closures, rotating harvest areas.
- Gear Replacement Programs: Implement programs that offer interest-free loans for fishermen to replace harmful gear with sustainable alternatives or provide training for alternative livelihoods.
- Emphasise training in non-destructive techniques, particularly for women and youth, such as sustainable shellfish harvesting.
- Capacity Building: Strengthen the organisational and business capacities of local fishermen's associations to reduce ecosystem degradation.
- Support Sustainable Value Chains: Assist MSMEs and local fishing associations in developing sustainable fish value chains. Encourage the marketing of sustainably caught fish by offering incentives like price premiums, secure markets, or larger market shares (e.g., through certification standards).
- Promote Sustainable Consumption: Encourage the use of underutilised local species that are less environmentally pressured, reducing the strain on overfished populations.
- Research & Development: Back market-driven scientific research and technological advancements, such as low-impact fishing gear, and smart trawling methods.

Aquaculture:

- Develop Sustainable Aquaculture Practices: Support the creation of regulatory frameworks, zoning tools, and demonstration projects that improve aquaculture techniques with a focus on minimising environmental impact.
- Advance Sustainable Feed Management: Promote the use of sustainably sourced feed ingredients, such as insects or algae, and implement practices that reduce feed waste.
- Encourage Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA): Implement systems where multiple marine species from different trophic levels are farmed in close proximity, allowing the waste from one species to serve as input for another, enhancing overall sustainability.
- Incorporate Habitat Restoration: Enhance aquaculture environments by integrating habitat restoration efforts, such as installing artificial reefs or creating oyster beds, to support ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Marine Renewable Energies:

- Promote the development of offshore wind farms and tidal turbines, ensuring that their siting and design minimise impacts on marine biodiversity. Where possible, these structures should also serve as artificial reefs to support marine life.

Tourism:

- Develop and implement sustainable tourism plans supported by adequate infrastructure, equipment, and policies that ensure financial sustainability.

- **Promote eco-friendly tourism activities that create decent jobs for local communities:** pescatourism, underwater trails, marine mammal and bird observation, participatory science initiatives.
- **Develop sustainable coastal touristic infrastructures:** ensure sustainable design principles are integrated from the start, including minimising energy and water use, incorporating renewable energy sources, and implementing pollution control measures.

Financial Access

- **Improve financial access for small-scale local businesses:** Develop and expand access to tailored financial products and services, such as microfinances. Link these financial services to alternative livelihood programs, enabling the establishment of sustainable, community-based enterprises.

Pillar 3: Governance

- **Enabling Frameworks:** Establish and enforce regulations at local, national, and regional levels that promote marine conservation. This includes combating marine pollution, reducing single-use plastics, supporting governments in tackling Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing... Reinforce the role and networking of coordination bodies, such as regional fisheries bodies and marine protected area (MPA) networks.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Engage local communities, government agencies, environmental organisations, and businesses in the planning and implementation process. Inclusive participation is key to successful governance and long-term sustainability.
- **Support for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs):** Enhance their efforts to sustainably manage fish stocks across large marine areas, considering both ecosystem health and the impact on local communities.
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM):** Implement ICZM as a coordinated management of coastal areas to balance environmental, economic, social, cultural, and recreational objectives. ICZM emphasises the ridge-to-reef approach, addressing threats to marine ecosystems originating from land-based sources.
- **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP):** Utilise MSP at regional and national levels to map and allocate the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implement robust monitoring systems to track changes in the seascape over time.
- **Support for Knowledge and Information Management Systems:** Strengthen knowledge and information management systems to support decision-making and enhance the effectiveness of governance measures.

Cross-cutting activities

- **Comprehensive Seascape Assessment**: Conduct a thorough assessment of the seascape, identifying stakeholders and activities that impact or could impact its health.

- **Enhance Environmental Awareness and Education**: Educate communities on the importance of ocean resources, the threats to marine ecosystems, highlighting their socio-economic value, the opportunities for sustainable practices, and the benefits of conservation for coastal communities. Emphasise the importance of diversifying local production and involve communities in the management and scientific monitoring of key areas.

III. Background

In December 2022, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Global Biodiversity Framework targeting the conservation and sustainable management of 30% of the planet's land and ocean surfaces by 2030 (30x30 target). Currently, only about 8% of the ocean is designated as marine protected areas (MPAs), most of which do not meet effective protection standards. The global coverage of Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) is less documented, but they are increasingly recognised for their potential to help achieve the 30x30 target.

Urgent action is needed to scale up conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas to meet these objectives. This is also crucial for climate goals, given the vital role of marine ecosystems in carbon sequestration and climate regulation, as highlighted at Climate COP 28 in Dubai.

Through the Green Deal, the EU committed not only to meet these biodiversity and climate objectives but to **lead towards their achievement at global level**. This involves providing financial and technical support to developing partners.

The EU Green Deal mandates a strengthened integration of environmental and climate objectives, particularly concerning biodiversity, forests, ocean, and soil, into EU-supported policies, plans, and investments across all sectors of cooperation.

In the report of their first joint workshop (2021), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) emphasise that integrated management of landscapes and seascapes can significantly minimise and even reverse the negative impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. These multifunctional areas enhance ecosystem resilience, support biodiversity, and provide essential services to human communities.

Annex

Guidelines to support EU Delegations in the choice of indicators for monitoring actions of the ocean component of the NaturAfrica flagship initiative

The European Union (EU) is funding four regional programmes focusing on ecosystem conservation (including coastal areas and high seas), good governance and a sustainable blue economy in the marine and coastal areas of sub-Saharan Africa[1]. The programmes are:

- West African Sustainable Ocean Programme (WASOP)
- Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programmes (SWIOP)
- Océan Durable et Économie Bleue en Afrique centrale (ODEBAC)
- Blue Benguela Current - Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) for a Sustainable Blue Economy

These programmes aim to align with an integrated 'seascape' approach deriving from the 'landscape' approach conceived in the NaturAfrica initiative, based on three pillars: (i) **biodiversity conservation**, (ii) **green/blue economy** and (iii) **territorial governance**. These initiatives include EU regional and bilateral actions in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as actions funded by its Member States.

As in a landscape approach, working through a seascape involves adopting an integrated perspective to manage marine and coastal ecosystems, focusing on conservation and governance regulating human activities.

A seascape approach also uses ecology concepts such as habitat size and quality, habitat diversity and representation, ecological connectivity, fragmentation.

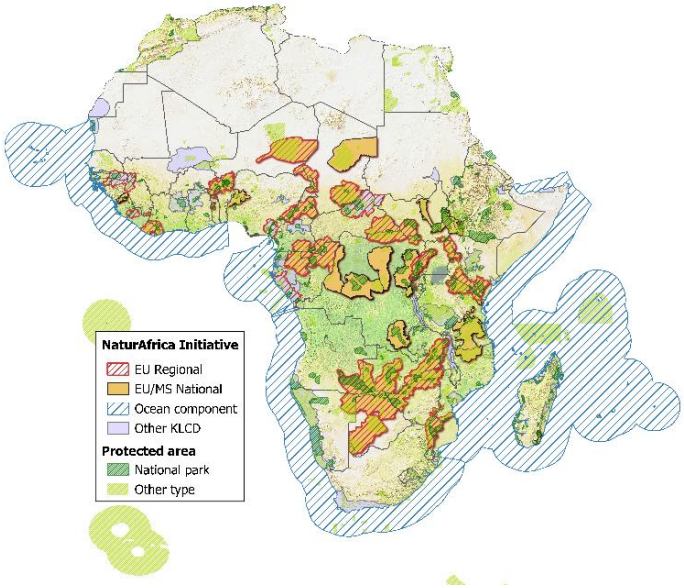

Figure 1 : geographical coverage of the NaturAfrica initiative, including the four regional ocean programmes.

Given the variety of references on how to define a seascape, and the wide range of geographical and thematic areas covered by the projects under the "NaturAfrica" umbrella, and the need for coherent evaluation at programme-, national- and continental-level, INTPA-F2

[1] These programmes also intend to support High Seas Marine Protected Areas and the early implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

developed a set of guidelines and core indicators to be integrated in all logical frameworks at the outcome-level[2].

The set of common indicators focused on outcome level have been selected based on a thorough analysis of (i) the lessons learned from previous similar programmes, (ii) existing tools for data collection and reporting, (iii) existing indicators in the Global Europe Results Framework, the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other external one relevant into each of the pillar, and their usability (see next section). This guidance note is also based on a thorough analysis of the logical frameworks and indicators found within the four action documents associated with these programmes. By reviewing these existing frameworks, the present note aims to ensure that the proposed harmonised indicators align with the current structures while providing a standardised approach across all programmes.

Role of the different stakeholders

The different stakeholders involved in the reporting mechanism of the ocean component of the NaturAfrica flagship initiative, and their respective roles are:

1. **EU Delegations:** EUDs must ensure that the harmonised indicators are integrated into the logical framework of the actions in all seascapes and Implementing Partners (IPs) have budgeted the resources that are needed to ensure the required information is collected.

2. **Implementing partners (IP):** IPs are responsible for the implementation of the data collection, reporting for harmonised indicators and encoding on progress in OPSYS.

3. **Centres of excellence (CoE)**: Regional observatories (OBAPAO[3], OFAC[4], and RCMRD[5]) supported by the Centre of Excellence initiative (CoE) managed by CIFOR-ICRAF, will be responsible to compute the NaturAfrica core indicators and all other relevant indicator based on Copernicus data and remote sensing applications, to develop the NaturAfrica continental platform (to be developed by OFAC) that will constitute the hub to access all data available to monitor the impact of the NaturAfrica initiative, and to provide technical assistance for the use of satellite imagery and Copernicus products to NaturAfrica stakeholders.

4. **B4life 2.0 and B4Life-Crisis facilities**: these two facilities managed by Headquarters will ensure linkage between INTPA services and EU Delegations/regional Technical Assistance/Implementing Partners, ensure coordination between different programmes (e.g. CoE-NaturAfrica), provide technical assistance for the contractualisation, the implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of projects when there is no regional Technical Assistance or when additional support is needed.

[2] NaturAfrica monitoring & evaluation guidelines: https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/guidelines-naturafrica-indicators-lignes-directrices-des-indicateurs-pour-naturafrica_en?listing=group_library&refgid=935
Methodological sheets of the NaturAfrica indicators: https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/methodological-sheets-naturafrica-core-indicators_en
[3] Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity in Western Africa, https://www.obapao.org/fr
[4] Central African Forest Observatory, https://www.observatoire-comifac.net/
[5] Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, https://rcoe-geoportal.rcmrd.org/

Core indicators for NaturAfrica marine and coastal areas actions

This document provides guidance to EU delegations in Sub-Saharan Africa on developing a harmonised monitoring framework for four regional programmes focusing on marine and coastal areas. Each programme is based on three key pillars – **governance, blue economy, and biodiversity conservation** – mirroring the approach of the NaturAfrica initiative on land. Harmonising monitoring across programmes is crucial to ensure coherence, comparability, and effectiveness in measuring outcomes, and this document outlines a set of common indicators for each pillar.

Systematic field data collection on marine and coastal landscapes remains challenging. The open nature of the ocean, the cost of setting up measurement infrastructures, and the informal nature of many of the related economic sectors are all difficulties to be overcome. The harmonised indicators for Ocean programmes listed below provide an opportunity to strengthen programme convergence and identify pilot areas and initiatives to be replicated and scaled up.

The objective is to create a **standardised, outcome-level** monitoring framework for these programmes to:

- Enable comparison across regions.
- Ensure alignment with broader EU and global frameworks, notably the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Facilitate the assessment of program effectiveness in improving governance, promoting a sustainable blue economy, and conserving biodiversity in marine and coastal areas.

Biodiversity Conservation indicators

1. **Marine protected and conserved areas**
    - **Indicator**: Marine areas under (a) protection, or (b) sustainable management with EU support (km²).
    - **Measurement**: Area (km²) of MPAs and/or OECMs, and progress towards the 30x30 target using an annually updated tracking tool that would be managed by the Regional Centres of Excellence, mandated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as regional technical support centres. Where feasible, please add information on the area of strict protection (IUCN category 2).
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 1, GBF Target 3, SDG 14.5.1. EU indicator: GERF 2.8.
2. **Habitat Quality and Extent**
    - **Indicator**: Improvement of size and condition of key habitats (e.g., coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds) in the seascapes with EU support.

- **Measurement**: Hectares restored and percentage of habitats in good condition; seagrass bed mapping will require further baseline development. Where relevant, please add information on area suitable for fish spawning and nursery grounds.
- **Global indicators**: GBF Target 4.

3. **Climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration in marine and coastal habitats**
    - **Indicator**: Amount of carbon sequestered by marine habitats (e.g., seagrasses, mangroves) with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: Tons of CO2 sequestered, calculated from area replanted / restored with EU support.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 11.
4. **(OPTIONAL) Species Population Trends**
    - **Indicator**: Improvement in population metrics (individual counts, population growth rate, reproductive success) of key species in EU-supported areas.
    - **Measurement**: Aggregated for selected target species showing conservation improvement, using tailored methods per species/ecological group.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 12.
5. **(OPTIONAL) Marine pollution**
    - **Indicator**: (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density decreased with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: (a) Coastal nutrient loads (N, P, Si ratios) via remote sensing; (b) plastic debris density (micro/macro).
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 8, SDG 14.1.1.

Blue Economy indicators

1. **Sustainable Fisheries Management**
    - **Indicator**: Adoption of sustainable fishing practices and their effectiveness in the fishing areas of the seascapes supported by the EU.
    - **Measurement**: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (SDG 14.4.1), compliance with fishing quotas, and where feasible bycatch reduction, and fishing gear selectivity.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 10, GBF Target 15, SDG 14.4.1
2. **Added value of sustainable fisheries**
    - **Indicator**: Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP.

- **Measurement**: The indicator measures the value added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as a percentage of GDP.
- **Global indicators**: SDG 14.7.1

3. **Employment in sustainable blue economy sectors**
   - **Indicator**: Number of jobs created in sustainable fisheries or other sustainable blue economy sectors in the seascapes with EU support.
   - **Measurement**: Employment rates and number of new jobs in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, coastal ecotourism, renewable energy and related industries, distinguishing between direct employment (fishers) and indirect employment (processing, logistics) when relevant.
   - **Global indicators:** GBF Target 15 (consider SDG 14.7.1, SDG 8.3)
4. **Diversification of Blue Economy Sectors**
   - **Indicator:** Number and diversity of economic activities contributing to the blue economy in seascapes with EU support.
   - **Measurement:** The number of activities or practices promoting environmental sustainability in blue economy sectors (e.g., related to renewable energy, blue biotechnology, coastal ecotourism, new sustainable blue value chains, etc.), supported by EU initiatives.
   - **Global indicators:** GBF Target 15 (consider SDG 14.7.1)
5. **Making Tourism Practices more sustainable**
   - **Indicator**: Adoption of sustainable tourism practices in the seascapes with EU support.
   - **Measurement**: Number of tourism businesses that have adopted clean practices, on the basis with EU support
   - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 18
6. **Aquaculture Sustainability**
   - **Indicator**: Adoption of sustainable and regenerative aquaculture practices in supported areas.
   - **Measurement**: the indicator measures the adoption of IUCN standards and other criteria such as sustainable practices, resource efficiency, ecosystem impacts, and compliance with environmental standards within (regenerative) aquaculture operations, including feed sustainability (e.g., reduction in wild fish feed inputs).
   - **Global indicators**: SDG 14.7.1.

Governance indicators

1. **Effectiveness of Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management and spatial planning**
    - **Indicator**: Governance and management effectiveness of MPAs in the seascapes with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: IMET MPAs, METT, R-SAT tool for resilience, and self-assessment tools for community-inclusive governance, such as DAMCP's co-management guide.
    - **Global indicators**: SDG 14.2.1, SDG 14.5.1
2. **Illegal, unreported unregulated fishing**
    - **Indicator**: Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: Ratio of "vessels boarded per thousand hours of surveillance" as a practical measure of enforcement and effectiveness.
    - **Global indicators**: SDG 14.6.1
3. **Policy Implementation and Compliance**
    - **Indicator**: Progress by country/ies in adopting and implementing a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries, with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: Number of policies implemented, compliance rates, enforcement actions.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 14, SDG 14.b.1
4. **Stakeholder Participation and Inclusiveness**
    - **Indicator**: Level of involvement of fishers and fishing communities in decision-making processes in the seascapes with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: Natural Resources Governance Tool (NRGT) score.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Target 22
5. **Institutional Capacity Building and Training**
    - **Indicator**: Improvement in institutional capacity and governance effectiveness following capacity-building initiatives, with EU support.
    - **Measurement**: Number of training sessions conducted, participants trained, changes in knowledge and skills.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Targets 20, 21
6. **Subsidies related to biodiversity**

- **Indicator**: Amount of subsidies or financial support that positively/negatively impact marine ecosystems.
- **Measurement**: Number of subsidies put in place to support marine ecosystems / Number of harmful subsidies eliminated or replaced with sustainable alternatives./ proportion of fisheries subsidies redirected toward sustainable practices.
- **Global indicators**: GBF Target 18

7. **(OPTIONAL) Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:**
    - **Indicator**: Effectiveness of mechanisms to resolve conflicts over marine and coastal resource use, with a focus on safeguarding human rights and equitable access to natural resources.
    - **Measurement**: Evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of mechanisms addressing resource-based conflicts, including the protection of community rights, equitable resource-sharing agreements, and adherence to international human rights standards.
    - **Global indicators**: GBF Targets 1, 22, 23.