

## List of Conclusions 2017

### Financing of Marine Conservation and the Blue Economy

1. **Extending protection:** The international targets of protecting 10 percent of coastal and marine areas are the absolute minimum. Tripling this amount based on scientific evidence and existing conventions should be aimed at.
2. **Enhancing protected area management and long term financing:** For the establishment and the effective management of marine protected areas (MPA) it is imperative to provide broad investment and long term financing mechanisms, including conservation trust funds, user fees and governmental subsidies.
3. **Establishing representative MPA networks:** Available instruments like “locally managed MPA” or “larger scale MPA” need upscaling and they need to be part of connected and representative MPA networks. These networks should be built in cooperation with the public and the private sector within marine spatial frameworks. Donors and Development Finance Institutions (DFI) need to support governments, the private sector and NGOs in the preparation of projects to enhance MPA networks.
4. **Improving governance, including the participation of local population:** For the long term success of all conservation efforts and in order to achieve sustainability, it is crucial that the local population participates in protected area management. This is to be reached by improved governance and enabling conditions, including equitable local user rights. The respective FAO voluntary guidelines on small scale fisheries as well as the FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries constitute the respective framework.
5. **Investing in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture:** A lot more investment is needed in an effective management of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, to leverage their part in food production and to reduce the pressure on marine and coastal ecosystems. Supporting local communities and sustainable small-scale fisheries is an essential component of an inclusive Blue Economy. That should include facilitated access to financial and social services for small-scale fisheries. Market driven incentives like certification schemes play a vital role in this context.
6. **Enhancing the value chain:** Value chains both in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture have to be improved and more investment in reducing post-harvest losses is urgently needed to increase local value addition and to ensure fair distribution of benefits.
7. **Increasing surveillance:** Investment in control and surveillance to combat illegal fishing is indispensable.
8. **Conserving the High Seas:** The conservation of the High Seas needs governance systems and new instruments, beyond classical ODA support programs. The negotiations on “Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction”, starting in 2018, provide a good opportunity to move conservation and sustainable use in this field. The governance of the High Seas depends on effective Regional Ocean Management Organisations addressing sustainable use and conservation of maritime resources.

## Financing the Combat against Marine Litter

9. **Scaling up waste management on land:** To avoid waste entering the oceans comprehensive waste management programmes at land, including sound project financing, are needed.
10. **Supporting municipalities:** Municipal entities require enhanced capacities to set up waste collection facilities and safe disposals to 100 percent. Access to financial resources, including governmental funds, is needed for the establishment and operations of sound solid waste management systems.
11. **Convincing decision makers:** Political buy-in at all levels, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally is imperative. Cost effective solutions are within reach for all countries and should be strived for everywhere. In addition they contribute to the creation of sustainable local employment.
12. **Improving governance:** Effective solid waste management needs appropriate legislation, strong institutions, clear responsibilities and adequate cost recovery systems based on reliable data records.
13. **Increasing producer responsibility:** Producers have to be held accountable for the waste resulting from their products. An extended producer responsibility is an opportunity for a change in production, marketing and use of products. It should also contribute to raise additional financial resources for the waste management system.
14. **Reaching higher recycling rates:** Higher recycling rates must be accomplished quickly; segregation at the source is required – at least for organic and non-organic waste. Behavioural changes needed can best be achieved in working with young people and schools.
15. **Focussing on priority areas:** Priority action is required in those countries with the highest marine litter pollution rates as well as in locations close to sensitive water ways, lakes and rivers.
16. **Creating new products and designs:** The reduction of micro plastics is imperative for healthy oceans. Product development and the change of consumer behaviour have to be promoted.