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Inputs by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to the background note for the 2020 United Nations Conference on SDG 14

Coastal and marine resources provide significant opportunities for livelihood and socio-economic development in Africa, particularly for coastal communities, including small-scale fishers. According to FAO estimates, the fishing sector in Africa employed 12.3 million in 2014, comprising 2.1 per cent of Africa's population between the ages of 15 and 64 years.

However, challenges remain in meeting growing challenges such as pollution, declining fish stocks and illegal fisheries, climate change and biodiversity loss as well as weak governance frameworks. These challenges among others continue to hinder progress towards SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

Aspiration 1 of the African Union Agenda 2063 and its first ten year implementation plan aiming at achieving "a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development" places significant emphasis on blue economy and sustainable use of marine resources, with indicative strategies for implementation by African countries at the continental, regional and national levels, including by African small island developing states (SIDS).

Aspiration 1 and its priority areas cover critical topics

