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Blue Economy-Wave 17

(Series on "Blue Economy" By Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar)



Global Integrated Marine Assessment, or World Ocean Assessment, found that the sustainable use of the oceans cannot be achieved unless the management of all sectors of human activities affecting the oceans is coherent.

The SDG 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", with its seven targets and three provisions on means of implementation lends a credible hand to decades of work that articulated the need for special focus on this issue.

The Target 14.7 "By 2030 increase the economic benefits to small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism" emphasis that enhanced benefits to SIDS and LDCs are long-overdue and will cause a profound shift in consideration of ocean management decisions

FICCI has considered multiple goals, with Goal 14 (oceans and seas) as the primary goal and has connected 12 other SDGs to Goal 14 (oceans and seas) as supplementary goals.

These goals are SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 2 (food security), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 8 (economic growth), SDG 9 (infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduction of inequality), SDG 11 (cities and human settlements),

SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (on climate change), SDG 15 (biodiversity), and SDG 17 (means of implementation and partnerships)

Narula has identified 15 out of 17 SDGs (barring Goals 4 and 5) that are relevant to the Blue Economy. Both, Narula and FICCI, have considered Goal 6 which relate to water and sanitation and pertains to conservation of inland waters as an element of the Blue Economy.

The Summary of the First

to highlight their economic and social impacts.

While there has been a lot of emphasis to focus on ecosystem services that support human well-being, it has to be understood that sustainable management of oceans and seas shall deal with both resources that are a part of market economy (fish, hydrocarbons or minerals) or the non-marketed ecosystem services that the ocean provides to the planet. Consideration has to be given for scientific understanding of those ecosystem services and the Earth's hydrological cycle, interactions between air and sea, primary production and ocean-based carbonate production and the aesthetic, cultural, religious and spiritual ecosystem services (including some cultural objects that are in trade).

Indian Outlook to Goal 14:

Indian Action Historically, India's focus on oceans and marine resources management has been forward looking. With close to 129 institutions in the country working on marine and ocean related issues, largely supported by four ministries of Government of India, the challenge is the lack of

coordination and cooperation among many of these institutions and programmes. Case in point is the lack of one single dataset of information on marine resources, ocean management actions and status and trends in national and state level resource availability and use issues.

Examples of these include, Target 14.c where there is no single institution to deal with regional and global ocean governance and management issue. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is the focal point ministry in the country to provide input on regional and global science based issues for policy making while the Ministry of External Affairs represent the country at the international meetings and negotiations. There is need for enhanced cooperation amongst these Ministries along with Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and state level counterparts to effectively realise the Goal and targets on oceans and seas. The following table highlights some options for India to realise the Oceans Goal. (Table: courtesy – IRIS Report)

(To be continued...)

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