UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 includes a specific outcome area on the protection of ecological assets. It envisions cities that protect, conserve, restore and promote the ecosystems in and around them, whether land or water. Improving waste and water infrastructure is one way to achieve this; planning for reduced urban sprawl is another. For its part, UN-Habitat seeks to catalyze connections and action in the global environmental arena, linking global actors and policies to local and national contexts. Its policy advice, technical support, knowledge production, and practice sharing are in increasing demand in rapidly growing coastal cities around the world. As these cities seek to improve their interface with the ocean, UN-Habitat has responded through deeper collaboration with specialized agencies and MEAs to address their needs.

Under the framework of the Global Partnership for Marine Litter and in cooperation with UNEP, UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities programme and African Clean Cities Platform are addressing marine litter and plastic pollution by improving municipal solid waste management in coastal cities. In 2021, the programmes launched the *Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)*, a monitoring methodology of SDG indicator 11.6.1, which allows for rapid assessment and quantification of the solid waste generated, collected, and managed in controlled facilities. Furthermore, it allows for the estimation of the plastic leakage into the wider marine system and to identify sources of leakage in the municipal solid waste management chain. The tool has been applied and data was collected in almost 40 cities. GIS modelling was further used through the Spatio-temporal Quantification of Plastic Pollution Origins and Transportation (SPOT) model to generate global estimates on SDG indicator 11.6.1 and identify plastic pollution hotspot that need urgent interventions.

The initial estimated datasets were integrated into GPML Data Hub and also utilized for further modelling contributing to OECD's Global Plastic Outlook Policy Scenarios to 2060. The SPOT model's estimate currently being updated with newly collected SDG indicator 11.6.1 data and will be published in SDG 11 Synthesis report among others. The estimated data on plastic pollution has a potential to provide a baseline for plastic pollution inventory for parties to the prospected plastic treaty. In relation to this, UNEP and UN-Habitat collaborated to organize an Expert Group Meeting on harmonization of various plastic pollution monitoring and modelling methodologies that resulted in the creation of a Community of Practice, which works towards the harmonization of various plastic pollution monitoring and modelling methodologies.

UN-Habitat works with Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) to address their high exposure and vulnerability to climate change. While SIDS share unique features like their small size, remote geographic locations, particular urbanisation patterns, limited resource availability, and high reliance on natural assets for economic activities, their vulnerabilities are not uniform, and they have different experiences of climate change and solutions for adaptation. At the global level, UN-Habitat is implementing a UN DESA funded project to accelerate green, resilient, and pro-poor pandemic recovery towards sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific SIDS. Additionally, in partnership with UNDP, UN-Habitat is launching its global programme for "Integrated Urban Resilience in SIDS And Coastal Cities (IUR-SIDS)" that will support national and city entities in adopting multi-risk analysis and resilience diagnostics to identify resilience building needs at city/community levels and implement multidimensional and inclusive risk resilience actions.

In Africa, UN-Habitat has a special focus on SIDS and coastal cities, and fosters coordination, knowledge exchange and risk transfer among these high-risk countries and urban areas. UN-Habitat has applied its participatory urban resilience building tool, CityRAP, in a number of SIDS and coastal cities, including on all three islands of Comoros; in Morondava, Madagascar; and in numerous coastal cities of Mozambique. This process has led to the creation of Resilience Action plans for these cities, which are now being implemented and feature integrated resilience interventions including green and grey infrastructure such as roads and

drainage, nature-based solutions such as mangrove rehabilitation and rainwater harvesting, solid waste management, and disaster preparedness measures such as evacuation centres and flood early warning systems, complemented by awareness-raising and community mobilisation activities.

As part of the EU-funded Go Blue project, UN-Habitat and UNEP are jointly developing regional ecosystem-based land-sea planning guidelines for Kenya's coastal counties to leverage blue economy resources for livelihoods and job creation. This feeds into the national efforts for Marine Spatial Planning and the county-level efforts of integrating land and sea planning in their County Spatial Plans and other relevant planning documents and processes. Furthermore, the local blue economy is being strengthened by a baseline assessment of Kenya's marine and coastal ecosystems, establishment of regional data centres, support of solid waste management, as well as improvement of coastal public spaces and capacity building in Marine Protected Areas. Go Blue also pilots a 'Blue Carbon' project that will help restore thousands of hectares of coastal mangrove forest in Lamu County and generate resources for local communities through the generation of carbon credits. The project is implementing a constructed wetland in an informal settlement in Mombasa to address wastewater issues and prevent the dumping of raw sewage into the ocean. Beyond merely engaging its resident communities and local governments, the programme will create jobs for people in the waste recycling and other sectors.

UN-Habitat further is engaged on urban adaptation and coastal resilience on Cambodia's coastline, which is vulnerable to droughts, strong winds, floods and sea-level rise. Increases in sea levels are especially alarming for Cambodia's coastal areas which are already experiencing severe seawater intrusion, beach erosion, high tides, and frequent storm surges. UN-Habitat is implementing the *Climate Change Adaptation through Protective Small-scale Infrastructure Interventions in Coastal Settlements of Cambodia* project to increase the resilience of coastal communities and contributes to the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023. The main objective of the project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience of the most vulnerable coastal human settlements of Cambodia through resilience investment in small-scale protective and basic service infrastructure and natural assets, particularly in areas where ecotourism has the potential to sustain such interventions. To achieve this objective, the project deploys nature-based solutions and green/blue infrastructure approaches to strengthen coastal resilience, such as mangrove plantation, development of a coastal defence mechanism and strengthened coastal housing designs to reduce impacts of strong winds and storm surges, integrated water management and rehabilitation of canals and river channels to reduce floods and saltwater intrusion, as well as the refurbishment of water reservoir to encounter water scarcity. Additionally, UN-Habitat is installing tide gauges and automated weather stations to provide accurate data on sea-level rise in target locations and thereby improve flood warning capability for low-lying coastal communities. Based on these initiatives UN-Habitat is now formulating a scaled-up programme with the Government of Cambodia for wider reach of vulnerable communities and enhance resilient capacity in cities.