

Progress Report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 - 2020



Date of submission: 12th Aug.2019 Name of the Region: South Asian Seas (SAS) Region

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Guidance: Please provide any updates since the 18th GMRS held in 2016 up to date

I. Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 -2020 since 2017 up to date

1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
1.1	Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment at national and regional level through development of guidelines, baselines, regional indicators, and monitoring programmes as well as identification of region-specific emerging issues through research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the risk of degradation of the Kayankerni and Pasikuda coral reef ecosystems in Sri Lanka by addressing nutrient, wastewater and other land-based sources of marine pollution within the Maduru Oya watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed and lesson learned from this project Will be scaling up to a regional level for SAS broader prospective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2019
1.2	Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues at all levels and facilitate science-policy interactions emphasizing socio-economic impacts and promoting relevant practices, tools, technologies and measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Regional Marine Litter Action plan Development of National Marine Litter action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Yet to receive funds from UN Environment, Nairobi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018
1.3	Raise issues at global level and facilitate regionalization of outcomes of the GPA IGR4 and mandated global partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted the Nitrogen Resolution at UNEA-4 Developing the science-based policy for South Asian Region in partnering with International Nitrogen Managements System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted successfully On going 	<p>2019</p> <p>2023</p>

2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
2.1	Support mainstreaming of climate change into regional and national policies and institutional frameworks	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) jointly working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in organizing a Sub Regional Workshop on Advancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in South Asia, 26-27 September 2019, Hotel Courtyard by Marriot, Bangkok, Thailand	The objective of the workshop is to understand current challenges facing SACEP countries for NDC implementation and to explore possible modalities of support, and opportunities for collaboration, at regional and country levels.	SACEP is in close contact with IMO and also INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION to extend the opportunities for more technical and financial assistance to the member countries.
2.2	Assess the impacts of climate change and the resilience of people, society and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas to propose adaptation strategies			
2.3	Create or support climate research, policy networks and inter-regional knowledge exchange towards a better understanding of climate impacts on the marine and coastal environment			
2.4	Facilitate access to instruments for climate financing at national and regional levels			

3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
3.1	Promote application of guidelines, rules and regulations for exploitation and exploration of living and non-living resources within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and develop such instruments, where necessary, based on the ecosystem approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity strategy • Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia • Endorsement for the Formal Adoption of the London Protocol for South Asia Seas Region • BOBLME 2nd part 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed and yet to be endorsed by SACEP Governing Council and IMM for necessary Implementation by the member state • Completed and yet to be endorsed by SACEP Governing Council and IMM for necessary Implementation by the member state • Completed and yet to be endorsed by SACEP Governing Council and IMM for necessary Implementation by the member state • Yet to be implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2019 • November 2019 • November 2019 • 2020

4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
4.1	Support science-policy dialogue, science-based decisions and provision of regional guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional meeting on ballast water management convention on the importance of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) and the Regional Strategy for the full implementation of the Convention and the processes & requirements for CME process. Ratification of London Protocol to manage and control dumping activity Dumping Activities and Legislative Framework in SAS region. Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Strategy is developed which addresses marine biodiversity protection in an integrated manner. Regional Marine Litter Action Plan is developed and now we are working with member countries on developing national marine litter action plans During UNEA 4 in a side event on interregional cooperation, SACEP emphasized on the importance of improved coordination and cooperation among regional organization and asked UNEP to facilitate this coordination. Establishment of science based policy platform for sustainable nitrogen management in South Asia region. Under South Asia Nitrogen Hub, which is established in 2019, more than 50 research institutions and academia are working together to develop a regional science based policy on sustainable nitrogen management. 	<p>Result and Delivery date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both activities are Completed successfully and yet to be endorsed by SACEP Governing Council and IMM for necessary Implementation by the member state. SACEP Secretariat is committed and actively engaged in supporting the member countries in implementing the Conventions and Action plans 	
4.2	Support member states with developing integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation to enhance chronological consistency and coherency across sectors			
4.3	Enhance information exchange and interregional cooperation towards common goals			
4.4	Encourage multi-stakeholder participation including NGOs and the private sector to promote compliance with Regional Seas instruments, existing guidelines and regulations of ocean management			
4.5	Ensure the highest standards of Secretariat performance in support in administration of the Conventions and Action plan			

II. Challenges with the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020

- Inadequate fund support from donors
- Low technical capacity

III. Lessons learnt (2017 – up to date)

- More technical supports is needed
- Interregional cooperation and coordination is much important and need to be strengthened
- Increasing public awareness and engaging local communities in policy making process and marine environment protection towards the implementation of Conventions and Action plans is necessary
- Importance of knowledge sharing among ocean scientists

IV. Any other issues / decisions / case studies / experiences to be shared

V Emerging issues that have not been covered in the RSSD 2017-2020 but are proposed to be covered during the next RSSD

- Sustainable nitrogen management to be included
- Network among ocean scientists for knowledge sharing
- Need for an ocean observing system to monitor the changing climate
- Blue Economy Business opportunities in the context of climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

*Please submit this report to Nancy Soi at Nancy.soi@un.org by **12th September 2019**