

UNEP-MEAs Coordination

17th Global Meeting for the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans

Istanbul, Turkey 20 October - 22 October 2015



United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention



The Need for Cooperation and Coordination

- Outcome document of Rio+20, “The future we want” (para. 89): calls for enhancing coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, as well as between those agreements and the United Nations system in the field.
- Common interest would increase coherence, coordination, cooperation, and synergies, avoid duplication and unnecessary overlap and ultimately reduce burden by increasing coherence of reporting by countries to numerous governing bodies.
- Many examples of one-to-one cooperation.



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UNEP's Response

- 2014: UNEP Task Team on the Effectiveness of Administrative Arrangements and Programmatic Cooperation between UNEP and UNEP-administered Convention Secretariats.
- Two objectives:
 - To review the administrative arrangements
 - To strengthen programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the convention secretariats and synergy
- Two Working Groups, on Administration and on Programmatic Cooperation respectively
- The final report will be submitted to UNEA-2 in May 2016.
- The Executive Director informed the MMT of his decision to establish focal points within UNEP to facilitate communications with MEA Secretariats, in the following manner: Establish a focal point to strengthen the programmatic cooperation with MEAs in DELC; provide a single entry for Secretariats on administrative matters through the establishment of a focal point in OfO.



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Task Team's Findings

- A significant amount of fruitful programmatic cooperation already exists between UNEP and the Secretariats.
- Possible areas for renewed and strengthened cooperation include: timely coordination on programmatic matters, including preparation of work programs, support to governments and technical assistance at the national level, regional delivery as well as communications and outreach.
- Programmatic cooperation: UNEP to incorporate the priorities of the Conventions into its own programme, in so far as they relate to the mandate of UNEP.
- Administrative improvements: to consult on a regular basis with the Secretariats, develop agreed administrative arrangements with the relevant governing bodies, and review delegations of authority.



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Task Team's Recommendations

1. Changing the processes for consultation and interaction between UNEP and the Secretariats
2. A clear process to bring Convention priorities into the programmatic planning processes of UNEP
3. Strengthening regional and sub-regional support for programmatic cooperation
4. Assisting in the implementation of Umoja
5. Continuation of a UNEP-MEA Consultative Mechanism



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