



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



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**Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for
the State of Regional Seas
Geneva, 30 June – 2 July 2014**

Provisional Programme – Revision 1

Background

UNEP Regional Seas Programme was launched in 1974. In each of the 18 regional seas (Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Africa, East Asia, ROPME sea area, Mediterranean, Northeast Pacific, Northwest Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South Asia, South East Pacific and West and Central Africa), a regional seas programme was established and is under implementation. Antarctic, Arctic, Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea and Northeast Atlantic are regional seas associated with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. For each of these regional seas, an action plan serves as the basis for regional cooperation and regionally coordinated action to address the issues related to and prioritized in the marine and coastal environments of these seas. Many of the regional seas programmes continue to assess the state of the marine environment on a regular basis, and recently more effort has been made to connect the regional state of the marine environment reporting with the Global Ocean Assessment processes. Different regional seas carried out the state of the marine environment reporting based on different methodologies, and introduction of key indicators for the purpose of assessing the state of the marine environment is observed in some of the regional seas programmes.

A limited number of regional seas programmes clearly set the ecosystem-based objectives or in a limited number of cases regional targets, which the member countries collectively endeavor to achieve. In relation to the proposed approach: Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas, UNEP is proposing to establish a set of indicators, from which the regional seas programmes can withdraw and decide in order to track down the chronological changes of the status of marine and coastal environment. The regional seas programmes are also urged to set their own regional ecosystem based management objectives or even targets to achieve through their collective efforts. In order to measure the progress in the achievements in the ecosystem-based objectives and targets, another set or the similar set of indicators may be used.

On a global scale, the UN member states are proceeding with the World Ocean Assessment (also referred to as the regular process), but the currently developed assessment is narrative-based assessment based on the existing and emerging literature. It is expected that chronological changes will be monitored based on the indicators in the follow-up Regular Process. UNEP has developed a set of indicators for the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme, targeting Large Marine Ecosystems and Open Ocean, but there are difficulties for the Regional Seas programmes to take them up in their own assessment and management efforts. Based on the Rio+20 Outcome document: The Future We Want, the international community started discussing the Sustainable Development Goals and how to measure their achievements through possible application of indicators. Many of the indicators already developed through some of the regional seas programmes would contribute to the discussion of the marine and ocean related SDGs development and indicators associated with them.

Based on the UNEP Regional Seas Strategic Directions, following the Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas programme, UNEP is proposing that the Regional Seas programmes agree on a set of core indicators and another set of supplementary indicators, so that each of the regional seas programmes can mainstream these indicators within their assessment and monitoring programmes and they can report on the indicators regularly to the UNEP Regional Seas Programme for its central compilation. Such a mechanism should be closely linked with the UNEP-Live, which is UNEP's flagship data and information management programme.

As the starting point, UNEP already prepared a report reviewing the ecosystem-based indicators and index for regional seas by: (i) collecting and collating information on the ecosystem-based

indicators and index used for the state of the marine environment reporting and tracking down the achievements of regionally agreed, ecosystem-based objectives and targets; (ii) analyzing these indicators to find common elements to be used for continuing regional state of the marine environment reporting in order to formulate recommendations to the ongoing discussion on the global state of the marine environment reporting, such as Transboundary Water Assessment and Global Ocean Assessment; and (iii) proposing a set of indicators and the scientific background to use such indicators, from which each of the regional seas programme can adapt and adopt its subset as the indicators for their own state of the marine environment and tacking down the achievement of their management objectives/targets. The report is being finalized for publication and to be used as background paper for the proposed workshop.

The results of the review and recommended indicators will be used as input to the Sustainable Development Goals discussion as well as the technical discussion on the future direction of the Global Ocean Assessment to form a basis for regionally-based target monitoring and assessment. Any global assessment framework will also be proposed to monitoring the overall achievement of the Global Partnership for Ocean, which the World Bank is spearheading.

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- (1) To have an overview of existing and planned indicators for regional seas (regional seas programmes under UNEP coordination, GEF International Waters LME projects, regional components of global ocean assessments, and other thematic regional ocean assessments); and
- (2) To preliminarily discuss a core set of indicators and supplementary set of indicators together with their scientific background and possible data sources and future monitoring.

Provisional Programme

Timing	Activities	Responsible
Day 1: 30 June 1994		
0930-0945	Opening of the workshop	UNEP Regional Director for Europe
0945 - 1000	Workshop objectives	UNEP
1000-1020	Coffee/tea break	
1020 – 1050	Presentation of the UNEP indicator report	UNEP
1050-1230	Presentation of regional seas indicators by regional seas	UNEP/CEP, PERSGA, Black Sea, NOWPAP, CPPS, SACEP, South Pacific
1230-1400	Lunch break	
1400 – 1545	Presentation of regional seas indicators by regional seas	East Africa, Baltic, West and Central Africa, OSPAR, ROPME, Mediterranean
1545-1600	Coffee/lunch break	
1600-1715	Other regional indicator initiatives	Gulf of Mexico, CLME, ICES, PICES
1715-1730	Organisation of break-out groups	UNEP

1730-1800	Conclusion of Day 1	UNEP
Day 2: 1 July 2014		
0930-1000	Issues from Day 1, organization of break-out groups	UNEP
1000-1230	Group discussion: (1) ecosystems including fishery; (2) pollution and water quality; (3) impacts of global changes; and (4) socio-economic issues	Group leaders to be selected.
1230-1400	Lunch break	
1400-1540	Reporting back to plenary and discussion	
1540-1600	Coffee/tea break	
1600-1730	Global indicator initiative	UNEP-Live, WOA, FAO, TWAP, WCMC, GRID-Geneva
1730-1800	Conclusion of Day 2	
Day 3: 2 July 2014		
0930-1000	Issues from Day 2, re-constitution of the break-out groups	UNEP
1000-1050	Break-out groups	Selected facilitator
1050-1110	Coffee/tea break	
1110-1230	Break-out groups	Selected facilitator
1230-1400	Lunch break	
1400-1600	Final reports from break-out groups	Selected facilitator
1600-1700	Coffee/tea break	
1700-1750	Adoption of the report of the workshop	UNEP
1750-1800	Closing of the workshop	UNEP