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**Implementing the Global Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004-2007. Compilation of
Summary Reports of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans**

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Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>1. Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development, through the enhancement of local, national, regional and global partnerships with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders, and through the strengthened implementation of the mandates of the Regional Seas, as a major contribution to the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the goals and targets associated with the Millennium Declaration.</p>	<p>The work Programme for 2005-2007 was based on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions; first, the Programme addressed activities that were aimed at strengthening the Focal Points for the Abidjan Convention through capacity building activities, creating a database of institution, experts and their fields of competence as well as creating a coordination mechanism based on the Large Marine Ecosystems approach.</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes through increasing country ownership, incorporating Regional Seas conventions and protocols into national legislation, promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms, involving civil society and the private sector, building capacities, ensuring viable national and international financial arrangements, as well as developing assessment/evaluation procedures where appropriate.</p>	<p>Under a project entitled "<i>Strengthening the coordination mechanisms, management and assessment activities within the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions</i>" supported by Sida (2003-2007) the Secretariat implemented a series of activities to strengthen the institutions and coordination structures for the Abidjan Convention. Most activities have been undertaken in collaboration with NGOs e.g Wetlands International. The NGOs have enabled the Abidjan Convention to broaden its base of partners and to secure the support of civil society in the implementation of the Convention's work Programme.</p> <p>A focal points forum and specific terms of reference for the focal points have also been established. The focal points institutions have been supported to operationalise their offices and to initiate a reporting mechanism for the Convention by compiling national status reports on the coastal and marine environment. The support has also contributed to strengthening the national task forces.</p>
<p>2. Enhance Regional Seas' visibility and political impact in global, regional and national policy</p>	<p>The work Programme for the Abidjan convention promotes the establishment of regional centres in some participating countries within the Convention area so as to facilitate the implementation of action plans and to link up with ongoing activities and programmes of other agencies and organizations, such as</p>

<p>setting, through strengthening the Regional Seas Partnership, increasing political and public awareness on the economic, social, and environmental importance of coastal and marine resources, promoting concerted information and communication policies, and ensuring participation and promotion of Regional Seas in relevant national, regional and global <i>for a</i>.</p>	<p>the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA), the Interim Secretariat of the Environmental Component of NEPAD (SINEPAD), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), WWF, and Large Marine Ecosystems projects.</p>
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making, enhanced public participation, education, awareness, and improved reporting on the state of the coastal & marine environment, its resources, and possible threats to them, through amongst others, contributing to appropriate national and regional monitoring and assessment activities.</p>	<p>With the support of the Global Programme of action (GPA), and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystems project, over 11 countries have prepared National Action Plans, and have created a regional network and database for physical alteration and destruction of habitat, waste management, coastal erosion and cross-cutting issues. All the countries that have ratified the convention have been supported to enable the focal points to compile national status reports on the coastal and marine environment.</p>
<p>5. Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives, promoting synergies and co-ordinated regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives, and responsibilities of United Nations Agencies and other international actors, as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.</p>	<p>The Senegal-based Environmental Secretariat for NEPAD and the Abidjan Convention Regional Coordinating Unit, agreed that the Abidjan and the Nairobi Convention will take the lead in the implementation of the Environmental Component of NEPAD that includes the African Process and its Programme of Interventions. The Nairobi and Abidjan Convention were chosen as the suitable Implementation Mechanisms for the Environment component dealing with the Marine and coastal programmes for NEPAD. The two Conventions are therefore central instruments in the Implementation of the Environmental Component of NEPAD.</p>

<p>6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management, based on ecosystem approaches, of priorities and concerns related to the coastal and marine environment and its resources in Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, introducing amongst others proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks and effective communication strategies.</p>	<p>The Abidjan Convention area straddles three distinct ecosystems, namely; the Benguela current large marine ecosystem, the Guinea current large marine ecosystem and the Canary current large marine ecosystem. The countries bordering the Canary Current ecosystem in the northern region, such as Senegal, Mauritania and others, and those bordering the Benguela current ecosystem in the southern region, namely, Angola, Namibia and South Africa, are heavily influenced by the desert conditions of their respective hinterlands. The countries sharing the Guinea current ecosystem, on the other hand, are characterized by humid tropical conditions. The Regional Coordinating Unit has proposed a coordination structures that addressed the need to use the Large Marine Ecosystems as the basis for setting the priorities of the participating countries.</p>
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Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions

2004 -2007

Submitted by the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>1. Enhancement of local, national, regional and global partnerships as a contribution to the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation</p>	<p>The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution has actively promoted development of local partnerships, active involvement of key stakeholders in the process. BSC is working closely with several universities and government organizations in the region. It has developed partnerships and programs with international environmental institutions, including UNDP/GEF, UNEP RSP, ICPDR (International Commission on the Protection of the Danube River), EC DG-ENV, ACCOBAMS, HELCOM, SIDA, OSPRI, the DABLAS Task Force, IMO, FAO, GFCM, EMSA, JRC, GISP, WHO, London Convention, ESPOO and SIDA etc.</p> <p>The UNDP/GEF Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project continued to support during its Phase II (2004 - Oct 2007) operation of BSC; development of policy guidelines and other basic documents such as SAP, ICZM, TDA and SoE report;; development of operational systems for monitoring, information management and research under the Black Sea Convention; strengthening of public participation in environmental protection through access to information, stakeholder training and awareness raising and implementation of community actions (Small Grants Programme).</p>
<p>2. Increasing country ownership and incorporating Regional Seas conventions into national legislation, promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms</p>	<p>Based on the Strategic Action Plan there were National Action Plans developed for the countries whose implementation is monitored by the Commission. The Black Sea Commission works towards establishing common environmental objectives and assessment criteria, management targets and convergence of the European environmental policies and policies of the Black Sea coastal states. The new draft protocol on Land-Based Sources and Activities prepared with the support of UNEP/RSP is being negotiated among the Black Sea coastal states. It will absorb the best available practices from</p>
Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
	<p>other conventions and European policies.</p> <p>In this context the OSPRI (Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (Caspian Sea – Black Sea – Central Eurasia) is worth to mention. In September 2007, with the full commitment and enthusiasm of the Undersecretariat of Turkish Maritime Organisation, the Ministry of Environment & Forestry, the Navy, Coastal Safety Administration and other parts of the Government, successful preparation and execution of a major regional</p>

DELTA exercise named SULH took place on the Turkish Black Sea coast (Karadeniz Ereğli) with the support of OSPRI to the preparatory activities. Valuable lessons were learned in which will be beneficial to the further development of regional / national plans for oil spill preparedness, bringing increased protection of the Black Sea environment.

BSC also participated actively in DABLAS work, resulting in successful completion of several priority investment development projects for municipal wastewater treatment plants.

3. Increasing Regional Seas visibility and political impact, strengthening Regional Seas partnership, increasing political and public awareness of the importance of coastal and marine resources.

The first Biannual Scientific Conference “Black Sea Ecosystem 2005 and Beyond” brought together the Black Sea scientific community and served as a communication tool between scientists and the decision makers. We are hoping to realize the second of this conference in 2008.

The Commission has started to devote significant time and PR efforts to the promotion of the Black Sea Day (31 Oct) by launching a web site and organizing events with different stakeholders.

In facilitating the interaction between scientists and decision makers, the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission has been participating in an advisory capacity in a number of the international research projects funded by EC, including, IASON, ARENA, SESAME, SCENE and ASCOBAS.

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>4. Knowledge based policy making, enhanced public awareness, participation and education, improved reporting</p>	<p>In this respect the Commission has developed and implemented a system of national reporting, which is archived in several databases known as the Black Sea Information System which is in turn used by the Black Sea Commission in its work, as well as by national level decision and policy makers. The integrated monitoring programme, BSIMAP (Black Sea Integrated Monitoring Programme) has been set up and is regularly operating. Additionally quality assurance is being implemented through annual quality control exercises (QUASIMEME). In the last two years the Black Sea Commission is striving to make all information available on the web to improve both visibility and contribute to public awareness. Together with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) the Black Sea Commission is working towards development of indicators and indicator based reporting for the environmental status. A SoE report is being prepared by taking these indicators into account. The Commission publishes its findings in the State of Environment Report and Report on the Implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (published every 5 years).</p> <p>With the support of BSERP Project, a TDA has been finalized for the Black Sea region that will be an input to the SAP updating process. Another significant input for the updated SAP is the National and Regional GAP Analyses undertaken with collaboration with EC-DG ENV.</p> <p>An extensive report on Marine Litter from the Black Sea region has been prepared, thanks to the support of UNEP/RSP. ML has been highlighted as a significant problem in the region and hence the updated SAP will also include some actions on this issue. With the funding from the UNEP an Invasive Species Training was also carried out. More activities are being planned on this issue jointly with IMO.</p>
<p>5. Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform for development of common regional objectives and United Nations Agencies and other international actors as a contribution to the sustainable</p>	<p>The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution has attained a strong character to be a platform for regional objectives. A large scale SAR training exercise will be organized jointly with IMO with funding from SIDA. Another IMO related work will be the facilitation of the Ballast Water Management Convention implementation in the Black Sea region.</p> <p>A regional fisheries agreement is being negotiated within the BSC participated by the riparian countries. Another important activity has been on the Marine Protected Areas in cooperation with ACCOBAMS,</p>
Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>management of the coastal and marine environment.</p>	<p>BSERP, EU Topic Centre on Biodiversity, and MATRA Project. As a result of this activity, a list of eligible marine protected areas proposed for designation whilst a regional strategy for development of regional network set up.</p> <p>In recent years there has been a good cooperation between EMSA and regional seas of Europe in exchange of information on best available practices in oil spill preparedness and illegal discharges detection. Satellite monitoring activities are undertaken with EC-JRC for a better use of satellite imagery to detect oil pollution in the Black Sea.</p>

6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management, based on ecosystem approach, priorities and concerns related to the coastal and marine environment

Cetacean Conversation Plan together with ACCOBAMS highlighted the importance of dolphin protection within the framework of ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

BSC has undertaken steps to update its basic legal and strategic political documents. With the support provided by the GEF, EC, UNEP, etc. the new updated Strategic Action Plan for the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea is being prepared. LBS protocol is also being updated with significant support from UNEP/RSP.

At the Meeting of the Contracting Parties it is expected that the experience gathered and the emerging common vision on environmental management of the Black Sea coupled with the countries' increased commitment, shall culminate in the adoption of a new updated Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea, update of the Convention texts, and update and amendments to key documents of the Black Sea Commission.

Future Prospects

Despite to these achievements, there are several major difficulties encountered. The Institutional Review of the Black Sea Commission by independent experts, led to the conclusion that while the Convention is outdated and not consistent with current trends in international environmental law it still provides the foundation for more effective regional efforts in combating marine pollution and improving the environmental status of the Black Sea. Inadequate budget is mentioned not to meet the requirements of implementing the Convention. Shortage of personnel in the Permanent Secretariat is stated as one of the main deficiencies in the BSC structure. However, there are incentives to solve all these problems.

Monitoring Economic development of the Black Sea countries as well as their inadvertent participation in the globalization process, coupled with economic recovery and growth that the region is experiencing will pose new challenges to strategy and policy makers in the Black Sea. The consequences of global warming could not be quantified at present, but precautionary principle tells us that it could be devastating for the region. In this context the Strategic Decisions for the next period will provide a strategic framework for addressing these issues. It is clear that the Regional Seas' role as a platform, political process and finally instrument in addressing environmental challenges will increase.

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU)

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
1. Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEP has facilitated increased regional cooperation in serving as a forum for governments, NGOs, etc. during meetings and capacity building exercises while promoting information exchange with and between focal points. Scientific and technical advisory committees act as additional forum for scientific and technical exchange and provides further input into the CEP work programmes of 2004-2005 and 2006-2007; • Developing and implementing 04/05 and 06/07 work programme focusing on regional priority fields of action through activities at various levels (regional, sub-regional and national) while linking activities to global initiatives such as MDGs, JPOI, WSSD targets; • Development of CEP Strategy 2005-2009 and approval by the Contracting Parties; • Integrating sustainable financing into new CEP projects; • Increasing use of economic valuation methods through training, tools, etc. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of the wide range of activities/programme initiatives related to sustainable development; • Lack of coordination among regional agencies involved in sustainable development; • Lack of integrated development planning framework at national level; • Lack of mechanism for streamlining environmental issues;
2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful fundraising: e.g. GEF projects, Sida, France, MacArthur Foundation; • Increased contributions to trust fund from countries; • Ambitious work programmes and recognition from Contracting Parties; • Increased partnerships with agencies – NGOs, private sector; • Focus on projects and activities consistent with national and regional priorities;

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country implementation of the commitments under the Convention & its Protocols; • Funding & personnel – while contributions to trust fund are increasing, it is still not sufficient to cover office running costs; • Reporting of countries on progress; • Administrative requirements can slow down rate of implementation of projects thereby affecting relationships with partners and donors; • Technical capacity of both national/regional Focal Points vary; • Maintaining node of Regional Seas in context of increasing demands on much broader environmental issues
<p>3. Enhance Regional Seas visibility and political impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased coordination within relevant areas of the CEP mandate (biodiversity, land-based sources of pollution) through partnerships agreements with other organizations, programmes and conventions to carry out joint activities in fields of interest of mutual benefit. These included the IOC-UNESCO, IMO, CBD, Basel Convention, RAMSAR Convention, CMS, TAT, the Nature Conservancy, WWF; • Development of Communication and Outreach strategy to be presented for review to the contracting parties 2008; • “Add-on” coordination/meetings with Contracting Parties during missions; • Support to educational activities and public awareness in member countries and development of promotional and educational materials e.g. SPAW coloring book sponsored by Danone; • Media relations and media training with PANOS, regular press releases, press conferences; • Increased cooperation with private sector (tourism and fisheries) and civil society (fundraising and anchoring activities, mediation); • Upgrading website; <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective linkage to regional political fora of UNEP (ministers attend regional UNEP office meetings and GC);

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial, hydrological and oceanographic models in Mesoamerica for developing scenarios and predictions for land use planning and environmental policies; • Coral reef assessment: collection, analysis and dissemination of reliable and comparable data; • Support for GIS/IT based methods for monitoring and inventory taking; • Developing tools for valuation of ecosystem services (Coral reef valuation tool, Reef @ Risk); • Incorporate current and emerging issues into work programme –informing Parties; • Development of technical reports and regional/national action plans/guidelines for species (turtles, marine mammals, manatee), marine litter, sewage, protected areas etc. form the basis for knowledge-based policy making; <p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know Why network: Financial assistance to laboratories in the region to purchase analytical instruments ○ Support to RAC as GIS center for Contracting Parties ○ Training of Trainers, training in socioeconomic monitoring, GIS, etc. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective national mechanism for data compilation, management, and dissemination • Lack of appropriate “packaging” of data for decision making
<p>5. Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate GPA implementation • Regional mechanism/vehicle for promotion and implementation of global conventions, programmes, initiatives; • Regional Activity Centres coordinating specific areas of relevance; • Participation in steering committees of regional projects such as the CLME; • MOUs with OECS, TNC, Ramsar, BASEL, IAEA; • Participation in inter regional exchanges ICRI, GPA, GEF Waters; • Supporting regional activities relating to SIDS ocean governance, ecosystem management etc.; • Development of regional guidelines for species and protected areas listing under the SPAW Protocol; • Development of regional management plans for species (sea turtles, marine mammals, manatee);
<p>Strategic Directions</p>	<p>Achievements / progress</p>
	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of developing UNEP interests especially at the national level • Many issues are broader than CEP mandate –complex governance issues – effective coordination of regional

	<p>programme scaling out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) project and its activities;• Strengthening of Marine Protected Areas through small grants;• Training of Trainers course for Marine Protected Area Managers <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fulfill and complete the implementation of the 9 IWCAM pilot projects due to varying/lacking capacity in many governments

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions

2004 –2007

Submitted by the Caspian Environment Programme

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
1. Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development	In 2006/2007 CEP witnessed two major developments namely the <u>entry into force on August 12, 2006</u> of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) and holding of the First Conference of Parties to the Convention (<u>COPI in Baku on May 23/25 2007</u>). CEP including the UNEP/ROE have been an effective and efficient medium to promote, steward and facilitate the process towards these achievements. In 2007 CEP offered to the Convention its 'institutional structures, strategy and policy documents and its resource mobilizations idea'. This offer was welcomed by the still nascent body which is, for the time being, served by UNEP/ROE as its Interim Secretariat. .
2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes	COPI approved the Convention's Rules of Procedures, Financial Rules and the 2007/8 Work Programme aiming to approve by COPII four associated Protocols to the Convention as well as the Convention Action Plan. At the COPI the countries also agreed to fund the work of the Convention Secretariat. These events meant that for the first time there was a legal framework for the cooperation of the formality conscious Caspian littoral countries. Noting that the Convention and the institutional structures that it will bring about are the only legal and institutional arrangements at the state level in a region which is known for its political challenges where there is still no agreement on the legal regime of the sea one may claim these achievements as substantive steps towards Directions 2 and 5 of the RSSD, i.e. <u>Enhancing the Sustainability and Effectiveness of Regional Seas Programme and Regional Seas as a Platform for Developing Common Regional Objectives</u>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
3. Enhance Regional Seas visibility and political impact	<p>CEP has assisted in a substantive way the efforts of the region to develop a Caspian Strategic Programme (SAP) and five associated National Caspian Action Plans (NCAPs) in 2003 and then helped to ‘revisit and update’ these major strategy and policy documents in 2007. For the time being the SAP remains a ‘guidance ‘ document and the NCAPs lack ‘legal basis in most of the countries .With the Tehran Convention being in force it is expected that the SAP and NCAPs will obtain the required legal status in form of Convention Action Plan and the associated national implementation instruments. This will be very much in line with the first and sixth Directions of the RSSD, <u>namely the Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development and the Development and promotion of a Common Vision and Integrated Management Based on Ecosystem Approach.</u></p>
4. Support knowledge-based policy making	<p>Towards the fourth Direction that is the <u>Support Knowledge-based Policy Making</u> the CEP has produced – in addition to the SAP and the NCAPs- a number of regionally agreed analytical, policy and strategy documents which are all based on solid scientific work involving regional and international experts. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis Update ➤ POPs/PTS Regional Action Plan ➤ Seals Conservation Action Plan ➤ Regional Review of legislations Pertaining to Invasive Species ➤ Ballast Water Traffic Study ➤ Stakeholders Analysis Update and Public Participation Strategy ➤ GIWA/Rapid Assessment of Pollution Studies (five national studies) ➤ Climate Change Studies (five national reports and a regional study) ➤ Anomalous Algae Bloom Study in South Caspian ➤ Mnemiopsis Leidyi Monitoring in South Caspian ➤ Review of National and Regional Legal and Institutional Structures ➤ Caspian- wide Sediment Study ➤ Pollution Flux study in Volga , Kura, Ural and Sepidrood Rivers ➤ Marine Litter Studies (five national reports and a regional strategy) in collaboration with RS

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>We have tried, perhaps with less success than we desire, to work toward Directions 3, i.e. <u>Enhancing Regional Seas Visibility and Political Impact</u>. On the positive side CEP has been a visible participants in most of the regional and international event and processes dealing with the Caspian; has built constructive working relations with the donors, the international agencies and the governments, has published attractive booklets, posters, bulletins websites etc and in short has put its name on the map. On the less positive side the CEP efforts to turn its recommendations into government policies have always been impacted by the lack of political power of its traditional partners namely the ministries of environment combined with the perceived absence of legal charter for CEP. Same can be said about the efforts to enter into partnership with the Oils. These have resulted only into limited success, mostly due to lack of genuine will to collaborate on the side of the industry operational part.</p>
<p>5. Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives</p>	<p>Engaging public in environmental activities is a theme common to all the <u>Directions of the RSSD</u>. Our efforts towards this end have not been unsuccessful although we wished for much more. Through implementing a Sustainable Coastal Development Grants Programme, a Matched Small Grants Programme, and a Micro Environmental Grants Programme the CEP has tried to enable and entice public to become a partner to the programme. Benefiting from experiences of the Danube/Black Sea programme the CEP attempted to create a regional stakeholder network. The novelty of the idea of public engagement in a work that has been traditionally the domain of the governments and scientists has however not been very helpful towards prompting the idea.</p>
<p>6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management based on ecosystem approaches</p>	<p>During 2007 RS has helped CEP to participate in number of events/activities including GPAll Beijing Conference, Mnemiopsis Workshop in Istanbul and the Marine Litter Studies for which CEP is most grateful .</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
1. Development of local, national, regional and global alliances.	<p>The Southeast Pacific Plan of Action has fulfilled an important role in the improvement and strengthening of alliances with other international and regional organizations as well as nongovernmental organizations. Such alliances have represented concrete actions to the benefit of the countries of the region by means of studies, pilot projects, advanced training courses and publications, among others. Among these international agencies we find: United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Operative Network of Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities (ROCRAM, in Spanish), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The World Conservation Union (IUCN), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Conservation International (CI).</p> <p><i>The Southeast Pacific Plan of Action has also signed memorandums and agreements of cooperation with the following organizations: Basel Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Environmental Program for the South Pacific (SPREP), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Operative Network of Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities (ROCRAM, in Spanish), Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i></p>
2. Improvement of effectiveness and sustainable character of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action	<p>From the beginning of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action in 1981, its member countries have done their best to create a legally solid and financially sustainable mechanism of environmental cooperation. The institutional legal operation that has been developed includes four protocols and two agreements, which are related to different sources of marine contamination, protected marine and coastal areas, and biodiversity. Through these instruments, the countries have committed, individually or in cooperation with other countries, to undertake the necessary actions to preserve the coastal marine environment of the region and its natural resources.</p>
Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>The Southeast Pacific Plan of Action is incorporated into the budget of the member countries through a fiduciary fund. The Executive Secretariat of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action is the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific. The cooperation activities are made through the National Focal Points, which are supported by their national institutions. Each country has developed different procedures that give internal legal sustenance to this mechanism of cooperation.</p> <p>The performance of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action is evaluated each year during the Consultative Group and the General Authority meetings. Member countries present information about the activities that they have carried out in order to implement the commitments acquired, which are based on the different protocols and agreements.</p> <p>In recent times legal national consultancies have been called together with the UNEP to evaluate the level of implementation of</p>

	regional treaties and its agreement with other international legal instruments.
3. Improvement of perception and political weight within the framework of regional, national and world-wide policies.	<p>On several occasions the member countries of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action have requested to the Executive Secretariat to present in international forums political declarations and common positions to defend the interests of the region. This will happen once again next October, when the countries of the region will coordinate a regional position regarding the iron fertilization in Southeast Pacific waters, planned by a private company with the objective of consuming CO² and selling carbon bonds.</p> <p><i>The political weight of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific is also shown by its alliance with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in order to organize a seminar on Climate Change in the Southeast Pacific during the first trimester of 2008. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UNEP have declared their interest in participating in this initiative.</i></p> <p>The presence of Southeast Pacific Plan of Action on the international scene is reflected by the two new international projects for which it has been designated as regional coordination agency: Project IMO/GEF "Globalast Partnership", and the project IOC/Flanders- Integrated Coastal Area Management for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-ICAM)</p>
Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
4. Improvement of the knowledge of the state of the environment and participation of the civil society and education	<p>Under the coordination of the Southeast Pacific of Action, studies on the state of the environment have been developed within the framework of the Coordinated Program of Investigation, Monitoring and Control of the Contamination in the Southeast Pacific (CONPACSE, in Spanish), which is starting its third phase, focusing on the support to monitoring programs already developed in the countries.</p> <p>The Plan of Action was the Focal Point of two sub-regions of the Project GIWA (Global International Waters Assessment), whereby the high priority of environmental problems of the countries of the Pacific coast of Central and South America were identified as well as the policy options which will allow the mitigation of its impact.</p> <p>Moreover, the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action has promoted the incorporation of marine environmental issues into the school programs of elementary and high school level through the Program of Education for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The implementation of pilot projects about environmental education focusing on integrated management of marine litter will soon begin with a contribution from the UNEP Regional Seas Program.</p>
5. The Southeast Pacific of Action as a platform to reach regional objectives and to promote synergy	<p>The Southeast Pacific Plan of Action has promoted the incorporation of the principles of sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach into national legislations. Countries have adopted these commitments in different forums.</p> <p>The principles and guidelines established in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (PAM) have also been promoted by the Southeast Pacific of Action, encouraging the elaboration of National Plans of Action according to the necessities and characteristics of each specific country.</p>

	Synergy with the different departments of the IMO has also been promoted regarding the management of oil spills, control of ballast water and sea dumping.
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Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
<p>6. Promotion of common planning and integrated management</p>	<p>This topic has been very important for the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action considering the shared and regional scope of many natural resources of the region. Therefore, regional programs that contribute to a more effective management of these resources have been developed. The main regional programs are:</p> <p><i>i) Network of Protected Marine and Coastal Zones in the Southeast Pacific (Red de Áreas Marino-Costeras Protegidas en el Pacífico Sudeste).</i> This network intends to improve the management of the protected marine and coastal areas; promote the development and strengthening of national and regional capacities for the management of marine protected areas; promote the exchange of experiences and information about the state of the protected areas included in the network; and contribute to the global goal of establishing by 2012 representative protected areas based on scientific information and in accordance with international law.</p> <p>ii) Plan of Action for the Conservation of the Marine Mammals of the Southeast Pacific (Plan de Acción para la Conservación de los Mamíferos Marinos del Pacífico Sudeste). Its main target is to help the participant governments to improve the policies of conservation of marine mammals in the region. The Plan expects to provide an appropriate frame for the activities requiring regional and global cooperation, as well as respecting the sovereignty of the each participant government.</p> <p>iii) Regional Program for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Southeast Pacific (draft). This program intends to reduce the non sustainable practices in critical habitats of marine turtles and to mitigate the impacts of fishing interaction. Another objective of this program is to improve the biological, ecological and socioeconomic knowledge, based on the application of feasible alternatives of social and environmental management into the conservation and treatment of marine turtles.</p> <p>iv) Project IOC/ Flanders "Integrated Coastal Area Management for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC-ICAM) (in preparation). This project will offer an important opportunity to create an appropriate frame to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the processes of integrated management in the region through the improvement of capacities, knowledge, communication and creation of networks at the national and regional level. Another goal of this project is to improve the delivery of information regarding the state of the coastal resources and their management for the use of relevant actors of the coastal zone (decision-makers/civil society).</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 –2007

Submitted by the East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU)

Introduction

The period of implementation for the Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programme (2004-2007) has also been a period of redefining, refocusing and strengthening of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and its secretariat, the East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU).

At the 17th Meeting of COBSEA in March 2004, the member countries were informed that financial support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Environment Fund would be reduced. In addition, the results from an independent review of the East Asian Seas Action Plan were presented to the member countries that recommended a refocus of COBSEA.

The work on a White Paper outlining the new direction of COBSEA started in November 2004, in connection with the recruitment of a new team for EAS/RCU. The draft White Paper was presented to the 18th Meeting of COBSEA in January 2006 that recommended further revisions and requested an immediate focus on capacity building and information management. The work plan and budget for 2006-2007 that was adopted by the 18th Meeting of COBSEA were in line with these recommendations and, in large, with the proposed new direction of COBSEA.

After an intense period of country consultations, the “New Strategic Direction of COBSEA (2008-2012) – A White Paper” was presented to the Special Intergovernmental Session of COBSEA, Putrajaya, Malaysia, 5-6 September 2007. During the Special Intergovernmental Session, the White Paper was finalised. In January 2008, it will be tabled to the 19th Meeting of COBSEA for consideration and adoption.

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
1: Sustainable development through partnership	The need for strengthened partnerships has been taken into consideration during the development of the White Paper, which includes specific proposals for partnership arrangements between COBSEA and its main regional partners in order to maximise the effective implementation of COBSEA’s new strategic direction. In addition, substantial efforts have been invested in order to strengthen regional partnerships in the following areas:

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>Regional implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA): In preparation for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, COBSEA and the IMO/UNDP/GEF project “Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia” (PEMSEA) joined forces in organising the East Asian Seas IGR-2 Preparatory Workshop in Bangkok in September 2006. The workshop resulted in the jointly prepared policy brief “<i>Partnership Opportunities for Enhancing GPA Implementation in the East Asian Seas Region (2007-2011)</i>”, that was launched during the IGR-2 where COBSEA and PEMSEA also co-organized the “East Asian Seas Regional Consultation Forum” as a side-event</p> <p>Marine litter management: In 2006, COBSEA initiated a regional activity on marine litter. Throughout the implementation of the marine litter activities in the East Asian Seas region, a close partnership between COBSEA and the NorthWest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) has emerged. As a result, COBSEA is co-sponsoring the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) in Busan on 29 September 2007, where six COBSEA member countries will participate.</p>
<p><u>2: Enhanced sustainability and effectiveness</u></p>	<p>The main objective for the development of the “New Strategic Direction of COBSEA (2008-2012) – A White Paper” has been to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of COBSEA. This has been demonstrated through the increased willingness of the COBSEA member countries to pay their pledges. In 2004, the arrears in the member countries' payments to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund amounted to a total of over USD 230,000. Some countries had only paid their pledges partially and some countries had stopped their payments altogether. Three years later, all countries have resumed their payments to the trust fund and the total arrears have been reduced to only USD 63,000. However, although there is a need to further increase country contributions to the trust fund, this has not yet been possible for any member country.</p> <p>The White Paper now includes four strategies to implement the East Asian Seas Action Plan namely information management, national capacity building, strategic and emerging issues and regional cooperation. In addition, it includes a fine-tuned governance structure and guidance in order to resolve COBSEA's financial situation. The White Paper will be tabled to the 19th Meeting of COBSEA in January 2008 for consideration and adoption</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
<p><u>3: Enhanced visibility and political impact</u></p>	<p>During the period 2004-2007, the EAS/RCU has made various efforts in order to increase COBSEA's visibility in the East Asian Seas region. Some of these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New COBSEA website: In 2005, the old COBSEA website underwent a complete redesign and the new website, www.cobsea.org, was launched in August 2005. <p>Participation in regional and international fora: EAS/RCU organised side-events at the IGR-2 in Beijing, P.R. China, October 2006 and at the East Asian Seas Congress, Haikou, P.R. China in December 2006. In addition, the publication “<i>Case Studies of Coral Reef Monitoring and Management Projects</i>” was presented and distributed at the Third International Marine Tropical Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS), held by the International</p>

	<p>Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in Mexico in October 2006.</p> <p>Public awareness raising activities: The “Green Fins” project has been implemented since 2004, in Thailand and the Philippines. The project aims to develop a network of environmentally friendly dive operators. In May 2007, a regional workshop was held to launch the Green Fins project and to further expand the network. In addition, a media event was organised for youth and local journalists.</p>
<p>4: Knowledge-based policy making</p>	<p>One of the main components of COBSEA’s new strategic direction is its strategy on information management. Several activities have already been initiated in order to support this strategy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an East Asian Seas Knowledgebase: The First East Asian Seas Knowledgebase Workshop was held in Singapore, April 2007. The workshop provided recommendations for how COBSEA should proceed with its development of the East Asian Seas Knowledgebase from the presented pilot regional and national knowledgebases that had been developed during 2006. <p>State of marine environment reporting: The development of the first state of marine environment report for the East Asian Seas region: the “East Asian Environment Outlook” (EASEO) was initiated by EAS/RCU in 2007. It will be developed in collaboration with COBSEA National Focal Points, regional partner organisations, UNEP DEWA and the Regional Seas Coordinating Office.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coral reef monitoring and mapping: In 2006, the project “<i>Application of Remote Sensing and GIS Techniques for Mapping of Coastal Ecosystems and the Establishment of GIS-Database for Coral Management in the Coastal Waters of Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam</i>” was implemented in order to build capacities in mapping and database development. In addition, the projects involved map making to perfect the detected algorithms on coral reef, sea-grass bed, mangrove and Melaleuca forests, building GIS maps of their distribution. <p>Application of catchment modeling to determine nutrient pollution loading in the East Asian Seas region: The project was initiated in 2005 through the Southeast Asia START Regional Center (SEA START RC) in order to estimate nutrient loading from primary pollution sources in the East Asian Seas region and promote the use of modeling as a tool to manage land-based sources of pollution. Two training workshops were conducted in Bangkok in 2006.</p>
5: Platform for MEA implementation	<p>Another main component of COBSEA’s new strategic direction is its strategy on national capacity building. A number of activities have been initiated in this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building activity on marine pollution-related MEAs: A capacity building activity on the implementation of marine-related MEAs was initiated in 2006 with a review on the status of implementation among the COBSEA member countries regarding a few selected MEAs. The review will analyse the needs for national capacity building and a regional capacity building forum will be organised in collaboration with relevant MEAs Secretariats based on the outcomes. <p>Marine litter management: COBSEA’s marine litter activities are closely connected to the Global Marine Litter Initiative. The first COBSEA Marine Litter Workshop was organised in May 2007 in order to discuss the outcomes of a regional review on marine litter and to develop a draft Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP-MALI). The draft COBSEA RAP-MALI will be tabled to the 19th Meeting of COBSEA in January 2008 for its consideration</p>
6: Promotion of Integrated Management	<p>Integrated coastal zone planning: A project proposal has been developed together with the focal points of Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia entitled “<i>Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone: Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development</i>”. The proposal has a total budget of USD 1,100,000 and a project period of three years. The proposal was submitted to SIDA in the end of 2006 and is still under consideration.</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM actions pertaining to Regional Seas

In 2003 all the Baltic Coastal States and the EU decided, at HELCOM ministerial level, to implement an ecosystem approach to managing human activities impacting on the Baltic Sea.

In 2005 the same states and the EU decided to develop at Baltic Sea Action Plan to serve as the major tool for applying the ecosystem approach and agreed that HELCOM plays a leading role in this process.

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is currently being finalized. This new policy incorporates an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities and aims at such reduction of pollution to the Baltic Sea so as to achieve and maintain its good ecological status. This Plan is due to be adopted by the Baltic Sea coastal countries in November 2007.

The Action Plan covers all four priority areas of HELCOM: eutrophication, hazardous substances, biodiversity and maritime activities, and all HELCOM activities have been streamlined in order to develop the Plan.

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
1. Enhancement of local, national, regional and global partnerships with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders	<p>HELCOM is acting as the environmental focal point for the Baltic Sea region disseminating information on environmental issues with the aim to ensure public interest in and political commitment to protect the Baltic Sea area.</p> <p><u>Recent actions by HELCOM:</u></p> <p>The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is cross-sectoral and aims at integration of environmental objectives into other sector policies. To achieve public support for cross-sectoral actions two HELCOM Stakeholder Conferences were organized, in which a wide array of stakeholders participated, including governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, representatives of industries, and individual citizens. The aim was firstly to agree on common Baltic Sea environmental objectives and secondly, to agree on the most cost-effective actions in all four priority areas in the whole catchment area of the Baltic. In the course of the Action Plan development observers to HELCOM have also been invited to contribute.</p> <p>Additionally, "The Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP)" financed by the World Bank/GEF has recently been finalized. The project activities involved local communities and institutions, working together with the project partners and other international organisations.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>The main goal of the project was to strengthen the technical capacity of local and regional institutions to manage valuable marine resources and ensure that Baltic ecosystems are sustainable. Actions are being taken to continue this cooperation.</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of the Regional Seas Programmes</p>	<p>HELCOM on a regular basis monitors the status of implementation and the effectiveness of regulations for the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment, identifies gaps in implementation and possible needs for additional measures.</p> <p>All HELCOM Contracting Parties are implementing their financial obligations towards HELCOM.</p> <p>NGOs play an important part in HELCOM's work. Several NGOs are observers in HELCOM and act as partners in joint projects.</p> <p>HELCOM also cooperates with IFIs by exchanging information and as partners in joint projects.</p> <p><u>Recent actions by HELCOM:</u></p> <p>The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan has been developed under the leaderships of the countries, who have been responsible for respective priority segments of the Plan. By that, the ownership of the agreed actions is ensured.</p> <p>The BSAP will be instrumental in implementing obligations under other international legislative frameworks, such as the WSSD Plan of Implementation, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the proposed EU Marine Strategy Directive, and others, as it incorporates and in some cases strengthens these international obligations. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan will thus also assist HELCOM Contracting States to coordinate their positions within international forums in order to reach Baltic environmental objectives.</p> <p>A review mechanism is to be build in to the BSAP in order to monitor implementation of the actions and to assess relevance and robustness of the agreed measures as new scientific knowledge becomes available.</p> <p>HELCOM has also sought for financial support for implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, both on national and regional level, e.g. by addressing EU with regard to EU funds.</p>
<p>3. Enhance the Regional Seas' visibility and political impact</p>	<p>HELCOM acts as an environmental policy maker for the Baltic Sea area for developing common environmental objectives and actions. HELCOM is also an environmental focal point providing information about (i) the state of/trends in the marine environment; (ii) the efficiency of measures to protect it and (iii) common initiatives and positions which can form the basis for decision-making in other international fora. HELCOM disseminates information via targeted publications, newsletters, web-based information and press releases/conferences.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p><u>Recent actions by HELCOM:</u> The HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan has attained recognition and support by the major regional and European organizations and initiatives, including the Council of the Baltic Sea States, VASAB, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, and the European Commission.</p>
<p>4. Knowledge-based policy making</p>	<p>HELCOM has a history of providing information on the health status of the Baltic Sea area, trends and effectiveness of measures taken. This is possible because data obtained from the nine Baltic coastal countries is coordinated and comparable due to the monitoring programmes coordinated by HELCOM. Joint monitoring programmes comprise collection of data on inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances from land and airborne and their effects in all compartments of the Baltic marine environment (water, sediments and biota).</p> <p>These data are refined to scientific, targeted and timely advice on how to manage the human actions affecting the Baltic marine environment.</p> <p>HELCOM cooperates with other Regional Conventions and European Commission to get synergy and to harmonize the activities at the European level. For instance, HELCOM's indicator fact sheets are produced in a format comparable to indicator fact sheets by EEA and provide to the public timely and user friendly information on pressures and resulting impacts on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea.</p> <p>HELCOM closely cooperates with the scientific community (e.g. through the Baltic Sea Regional Project and the ICES) to further develop a sound, widely accepted scientific advice on fisheries and the marine environment.</p> <p><u>Recent HELCOM work</u> The Baltic Sea Action Plan has its start in determination of good environmental status for the Baltic marine environment through widely agreed ecological objectives. For each of the adopted ecological objectives environmental targets and associated indicators are established. The actions in the Action Plan are designed so as to - when implemented - ensure that the Baltic marine environment will achieve a good environmental status.</p>
<p>5. Enhance the use of Regional Seas as a platform for the co-ordinated implementation of MEAs and global initiatives</p>	<p><u>Recent actions by HELCOM:</u> HELCOM has in 2005/2006 adopted a new data and information strategy as well as a monitoring and assessment strategy to ensure both an efficient data reporting (inter alia avoiding duplication of data reporting), serving both national, regional, European and global level assessments and to take into account requirements under various European and global legislative frameworks.</p> <p>Currently work is on-going within HELCOM to adjust the HELCOM monitoring programmes in order to ensure that the needs of HELCOM, and in this respect especially the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, are adequately covered and in order to measure whether we are progressing towards the agreed objectives and targets.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>HELCOM, based on its experience in putting the concept of the ecosystem approach into practise, is taking actions to share experience gained with other marine regions in Europe.</p> <p>Together with the Black Sea Commission Secretariat, and upon invitation by Sweden, a proposal for a joint HELCOM/BSC two-year project to address environmental pressures resulting from high density of shipping, including increased oil transportation, as well as from oil exploration has been developed.</p> <p>The overall aim of the project is to enhance partnership, to exchange information and transfer of experience for mutual benefit and for speeding up the process of development of guidelines for rehabilitation and protection of the Black Sea, based on the examples from the Baltic Sea.</p>
<p>6. Promote the ecosystem approach for integrated management</p>	<p><u>Recent actions by HELCOM:</u></p> <p>In 2006 HELCOM adopted a vision – a Baltic Sea where all its components are in balance guaranteeing diversity of life and supporting also a wide range of sustainable human use of its goods. This vision has been widely accepted and has given a start to development of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action.</p> <p>Having the Ecosystem Approach as the overarching approach and having the role of environmental focal point in the Baltic Sea Area, HELCOM promotes common regional knowledge and priorities so they are to be utilized in policy making at the global, European, regional and national level and taken into consideration when developing and implementing various policies and programmes in the region.</p> <p>The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan has been widely heralded as a pilot project and a model to be followed by other regional seas on how to apply the Large Marine Ecosystem Approach and as part of the environmental pillar of the foreseen EU Maritime policy.</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007
Submitted by UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
<p>1. Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development</p>	<p>MAP's major contribution to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region was the elaboration in 2005 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). One of its four objectives is to reduce social disparities by implementing the Millennium Development Goals.</p> <p>The MSSD is being implemented through initiatives at the regional, sub-regional and national levels addressing priority fields of action. Thematic Working Groups with representatives from the countries and civil society make recommendations to the MCSDD and in turn to the Contracting Parties on future actions relating to key Mediterranean themes for the promotion of sustainable development.</p> <p>The MSSD is a framework for the formulation and implementation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD). With the financial and technical support of MAP a number of developing Mediterranean countries have prepared their NSSD in conformity with the call in the WSSD for regional and national strategies. A regional review and assessment report about sustainable development initiatives in the Mediterranean region was prepared in 2005. In 2006, a Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD formulation was organized with a view to strengthen the capacity in sustainable development policy formulation in the Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>Obstacles encountered in the process include the fact that environmental policies still have too little an impact on development policies, remaining too sectorial to address issues in an integrated manner. Also sustainable development policies depend almost exclusively on the public sector when they should foster partnerships between the public and private sectors.</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes</p>	<p>The Barcelona Convention and its six Protocols form the legal basis of MAP. The Convention and four Protocols are already in force and therefore their provisions are legally binding on the countries that have ratified them.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>Driven by their commitments under the Convention and Protocols, and in the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Contracting Parties have put into place relevant legislation and structures and established and implemented significant programmes for protecting and improving the quality of the marine environment and coastal regions of the Mediterranean.</p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, countries transmit to MAP Secretariat biannual reports on the legal, administrative and other measures taken by them for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. An implementation and compliance mechanism is expected to be in place after the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Complete implementation of the commitments under the Convention its Protocols and strategies is still a problem. An analysis will be carried out to identify the reasons with a view to undertake and reinforce activities designed to assist Contracting Parties to implement the provisions of the legal instruments.</p>
3. Enhance Regional Seas visibility and political impact	<p>MAP has a number of partnerships agreements with Convention Secretariats and other organizations to carry out joint activities in fields of interest of mutual benefit. These included the European Commission (EC), IMO, CBD, Basle Convention, RAMSAR Convention among others. The objective is to promote coordination on strategic matters of common interest dealing with coastal zone management, ecosystems approach, land-based sources of pollution and pollution from maritime activities.</p> <p>These initiatives are supported through the diffusion of targeted information, within the framework of an Information Strategy approved by the Contracting Parties, as well as education and public awareness raising together with greater visibility and enhanced participation of civil society in development and implementation of policy related to the environment. These activities focus on the economic, social and environmental significance of the Mediterranean coastal and marine resources, on the related threats, real and potential, confronting these resources and on the role and responsibility of the Mediterranean population in driving political social and economic changes towards sustainable development in the region.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
4. Support knowledge-based policy making	<p>MEDPOL (Mediterranean Marine Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme) is the scientific and technical programme of MAP for the collection, analysis and dissemination of reliable and comparable data through comprehensive national marine pollution monitoring programmes throughout the Mediterranean.</p> <p>This knowledge base is used to steer the evolution of the work programme of the MAP system and for MAP's information campaigns and reporting. This data is used also to support knowledge-based policy making and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into economic and social policies formulated by the Contracting Parties. Five UN specialized agencies (FAO, WHO, WMO, IOC of UNESCO and IAEA) cooperate in these activities. Financial assistance is provided to laboratories in the region to purchase analytical instruments and participate in programme activities. A quality assurance programme is also in place aimed at improving the quality of the data such as training of personnel, maintenance of instruments and good laboratory practice. A research programme supports monitoring activities.</p> <p>Public participation in decision-making processes relevant to the field of application of the Convention and the Protocols is provided for in Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention. Moreover, in accordance with Article 20 International governmental organizations and NGOs have observer's status in all meetings of MAP including the meeting of the Contracting Parties.</p>
5. Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives	<p>MAP is a unique regional mechanism for the promotion of pollution prevention initiatives and the safeguarding of biodiversity. MAP collaborates with MEAs, regional initiatives and other UN Agencies to promote Regional Seas objectives.</p> <p>Recently MAP and the European Commission have consolidated, developed and intensified their cooperation to achieve common goals and objectives in the field of the environment. The latest EC initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020 (Horizon 2020) will be implemented through MAP and financed through the European Investment Bank (EIB). REMPEC, one of MAP's Regional Activity Centres, implements IMO conventions in the Mediterranean while the Regional Activity Centre in Tunis for Biodiversity works very closely with the CBD for the protection of biodiversity in the region. MEDPOL's activities are also in synergy with both the Basle Convention and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Next year will see the launching of the implementation of the GEF Strategic Partnership for Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem.</p>

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management based on ecosystem approaches	<p>Following the decision of the Contracting Parties in 2005, MAP in cooperation with the European Commission (EC) has elaborated a roadmap for the application of the ecosystem approach in the management of human activities in the Mediterranean region. The first two steps of the roadmap are the definition of an ecological vision for the</p>

	<p>Mediterranean and the setting of common Mediterranean strategic goals. The first aim of the roadmap is the transformation of the ecological vision from a descriptive status to a quantified target defining the desired ecological status.</p> <p>In the next biennium the Contracting Parties will decide on the appropriate and temporal scale of application of the approach as stipulated in one of the ecosystem approach principles adopted by the 5th Meeting of the COP of CBD (Nairobi 2000) and decide on the initiation of one or more pilot projects in the respective management areas to be decided.</p> <p>Southern Mediterranean countries are very skeptical about the application of the ecosystem approach primarily because of lack of awareness of what it entails and also because of the implications that the identification of management areas in the southeastern part of the Mediterranean may have. In this respect, it is intended to adopt a step-by-step approach in its application</p>
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Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>1. Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development, through the enhancement of local, national, regional and global partnerships with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders, and through the strengthened implementation of the mandates of the Regional Seas, as a major contribution to the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the goals and targets associated with the Millennium Declaration.</p>	<p>In response to Regional Seas Strategic Directions, the Secretariat for the Nairobi convention developed the 2004–2007 work programmes to cover two biennia, to be in line with other relevant ongoing programmes implemented by collaborating partners. The work programmes focused on the following themes: assessment and management of coastal and marine ecosystems; coordination and legal aspects. The themes are linked and designed to provide a cohesive and integrated holistic Programme, to implemented in partnership with NGOs such as WWF, IUCN and WIOMSA. The Secretariat further catalyzed the establishment of the “Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean”. The consortium, referred to as the “WIO-C”, is a partnership between major NGOs and other organizations in the Western Indian Ocean, namely WWF, IUCN, WIOMSA, EAWLS, CORDIO, IOC, WCS and NEPAD. Anchored in the Nairobi Convention, the WIO-C is designed to improve information exchange, synergy and coordination between NGOs working on coastal and marine environment issues in the Western Indian Ocean region, and to move towards a joint programmatic approach in addressing marine and coastal issues.</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes through increasing country ownership, incorporating Regional Seas conventions and protocols into national legislation, promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms, involving civil society and the private sector, building capacities, ensuring viable national and international financial arrangements, as well as developing assessment/evaluation procedures where appropriate.</p>	<p>Under a project entitled “<i>Strengthening the coordination mechanisms, management and assessment activities within the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions</i>” supported by Sida (2003-2007) the Secretariat implemented a series of activities to strengthen the institutions and coordination structures for the Nairobi Convention. Most activities have been undertaken in collaboration with NGOs and institutions, which has enabled the Nairobi Convention, to broaden its base of partners and to secure the support of civil society in the implementation of the Convention’s work Programme. A focal points forum and specific terms reference for the focal points have been established. The focal points institutions have been supported to operationalise their offices and to initiate a reporting mechanism for the Convention by compiling national status reports on the coastal and marine environment. The support has also contributed to strengthening the task forces of the Convention, such as the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) and the Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF). The national reporting mechanism for the Convention and the strengthened task forces will give guidance on national priorities within coastal and marine management in preparation for the Convention’s Work Programme for 2008 and onwards..</p>
<p>3. Enhance Regional Seas' visibility</p>	<p>The Work Programme, for the Nairobi Convention is a collaborative Programme developed with partners and</p>

<p>and political impact in global, regional and national policy setting, through strengthening the Regional Seas Partnership, increasing political and public awareness on the economic, social, and environmental importance of coastal and marine resources, promoting concerted information and communication policies, and ensuring participation and promotion of Regional Seas in relevant national, regional and global <i>fora</i>.</p>	<p>key stakeholders. The work Programme is designed to serve as a tool for the Regional Seas and the collaborating partners to catalyst change in the management of the marine and coastal environment in the Nairobi Convention area, thereby contributing to the achievement of agreed global goals and targets as they relate to the sustainable development of coasts and oceans. The Convention has further catalyzed the establishment of the “Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean. The Consortium of NGOs is a means to further enhance Regional Seas’ visibility and political impact in global, regional and national level.</p>
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making, enhanced public participation, education, awareness, and improved reporting on the state of the coastal & marine environment, its resources, and possible threats to them, through amongst others, contributing to appropriate national and regional monitoring and assessment activities.</p>	<p>The Convention has supported the establishment of an information system and clearing house mechanism for the Nairobi Convention to facilitate effective information exchange for improved management of the coastal and marine environment. The focal points institutions have been supported to set up “Marine and Coastal Programmes Desk”, and to operationalise these offices and to initiate a reporting mechanism for the Convention by compiling national status reports on the coastal and marine environment. Under the GEF funded WIO-LaB project “Addressing Land Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean” (2004-2008) executed by the Nairobi Convention, considerable progress have been made in; a) undertaking a needs assessment ; b) establishing regional frameworks to support management initiatives, capacity building for government officials; c) and initiated demonstration projects for on the job training on effective management of the marine and coastal resources in all the participating countries.</p>
<p>5. Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives, promoting synergies and co-ordinated regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives, and responsibilities of United Nations Agencies and other international actors, as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.</p>	<p>The Nairobi Convention offers a regional framework through which the Eastern African countries can address critical transboundary regional issues, and a platform to share regional experiences in protection, management and development opportunities. Both the convention and NEPAD have agreed that the Senegal-based Environmental Secretariat for NEPAD; SINEPAD/ENV will take the lead in the implementing the Environmental Component of NEPAD that includes the African Process and its Programme of Interventions. However, the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention are the suitable Implementation Mechanisms for the Environment component dealing with the Marine and coastal programmes for NEPAD. The two Conventions are therefore central instruments in the Implementation of the Environmental Component of NEPAD, which encompasses the African Process.</p>

<p>6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management, based on ecosystem approaches, of priorities and concerns related to the coastal and marine environment and its resources in Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, introducing amongst others proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks and effective communication strategies.</p>	<p>The Convention through the WIO-LaB will prepare a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) focussing on land-based sources and activities. The TDA/SAP process will be closely coordinated with two other Large Marine Ecosystems Projects (ASCLMEs and SWIOFP projects). The results from the WIO-LaB, ASCLME and the SWIOFP projects will eventually be integrated in one TDA and SAP for the WIO region i.e. for the whole of the Eastern African Coast.</p>
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Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004-2007

Submitted by the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), Regional Coordination Body of the Northeast Pacific Action Plan

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
<p>1. <u>Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development</u></p>	<p>The major contribution from the NEP Action Plan to Sustainable Development in the region has been the Regional Strategy for Establishing a Contingency Regional Plan and Contingency National Plans to fight against the marine pollution from oil spills.</p> <p>The objective of this strategy is to prepare the Central American region to face any type of incident related to oil spill from ships or marine and shore facilities.</p> <p>A workshop with the participation of high level experts designed by the involved countries was done to formulate the strategy in the year 2004. Then, a route map was elaborated and approved by the national representatives.</p> <p>Two national contingency plans are already in the last phase of approval and in the rest of the countries national working groups are in the process of final discussion of the plans.</p> <p>All these activities have been carried out jointly with RAC/REMPEITC-Carib and the Regional Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARPEL) and with the collaboration of other organizations.</p> <p>Main obstacles found in these processes are related to the institutional weakness of the responsible agencies. A strong leadership to carry this activity is needed from these agencies in each country, to get the incorporation of the national and regional contingency plans as an integral part of the National Plans in case of Disasters and included in the national budgets.</p>
<p>2. <u>Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programme</u></p>	<p>The Antigua Guatemala Convention was signed by six countries and two of them have ratified it. In two more countries the Convention is in the legislative assemblies to be discussed and ratified. With these two additional ratifications, the Convention will enter into force.</p>

	<p>The Action Plan was approved by the eight member countries, by unanimity. All the countries have participated in the performing of the Plan, according to defined activities. Focal Points have been designated by all the member countries.</p> <p>The draft Protocol for Protection of the Northeast Pacific against land based sources of marine pollution was prepared according to a decision of the Third Intergovernmental Meeting and will be presented to the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting in November 2007.</p> <p>The NEP Action Plan is still in its institutionalization phase. Therefore, all the efforts in this sense have been addressed to the ratification of the legal instruments.</p> <p>The Authorities of Environment do not have institutional strength on coastal and marine issues. This situation has made it more difficult to get the ratification of the Convention in all the countries and to get the legal commitments integrated into national policies.</p> <p>Recently, the Authorities and Port Companies of Central America have approved a voluntary Code of Environmental Behavior for Ports. The Code is based on relevant international legislation on this matter.</p>
<p>3. <u>Enhance Regional Seas visibility and political impact</u></p>	<p>NEP has partnership agreements with global and regional organizations both in the public and private sectors.</p> <p>The NEP Action Plan has worked from its formulation and inception in close coordination with the Central American Commission for Development and Environment. This Commission, as well as COCATRAM is part of the System of the Central American Integration (SICA for its acronym in Spanish).</p>
<p>Strategic Directions</p>	<p>Achievements / progress</p>
	<p>The activities of the Institutionalization Plan of the NEP have been carried out with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through UNEP.</p> <p>Most of the issues related to prevention and contingency plans for oil spills have been developed through a partnership agreement with RAC/REMPEITC-Carib. The Regional Contingency Plan activities were carried in joint with ARPEL (private association) and the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency. These activities have permitted NEP to establish close relationships with maritime and port authorities and port companies, including the collaboration of private companies in the region, among them Ocean Pollution Control of Panama.</p> <p>NEP has a partnership agreement with the Alliances Programme of the International Union for Conservation (IUCN).</p> <p>The activities related to wastewater in coastal cities carried out in 2006 permitted NEP to find new partners in the public sector, such as coastal municipalities and Authorities of Public Health.</p>

	<p>Starting in the year 2006, the mechanism of collaboration in matters of common interest with the Smithsonian Institute of Tropical Research, located in Panama has been established.</p> <p>NEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Invasive Species Programme to carry out a training workshop with the participation of experts designated by the countries of the NEP and Spanish speakers of the Caribbean Plan of Action.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the ONG Paso Pacífico.</p> <p>Up to now, these partnership agreements include specific activities of mutual interest. It is expected that when NEP Action Plan will get more institutionalization and financial resources, and these partnerships will agree on actions of wider cooperation in benefit of coastal and marine resources.</p>
Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
4. <u>Support knowledge-based policy making</u>	<p>Although NEP is still in the process of establishing and strengthening its relationships with scientific organizations in the region, some efforts have been addressed in support of knowledge-based policy making.</p> <p>The regional inventory of land-based sources of marine pollution is a document based on national scientific and technical inventories. The results of this study have been shared with the Central American Commission for Development and Environment in order to present them to high level Environment Authorities of the region and to start a process of policy making on this matter.</p>
5. <u>Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives</u>	<p>NEP is providing an effective mechanism for the promotion of initiatives to conserve biodiversity and establishing regional conservation policies.</p> <p>COCATRAM, as a focal point of IMO in Central America and the secretariat of the NEP Action Plan, has successfully promoted conservation initiatives and policies for the coastal and marine resources of Central America.</p> <p>For the year 2008, COCATRAM is expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between NEP and the Central American Commission for Development and Environment on activities of common interest.</p>
6. <u>Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management based on ecosystem approaches</u>	<p>As decided at the Third Intergovernmental Meeting in 2005, an assessment of fishing activities based on an ecosystem approach will be presented to the countries with the participation of public and private sector stakeholders. This will be the first step in addressing this critical regional issue.</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 –2007

Submitted by the the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

Strategic Direction	Achievements / progress
<p>1. Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development (SD),</p>	<p>The Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) of NOWPAP, established in 2005, has been trying to work together with a variety of stakeholders in implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work: different ministries (Environment and Natural Resources; Foreign Affairs and Trade; Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; Transport, Maritime Safety and Coast Guard; Fisheries; Land and Infrastructure), academic community, NGOs and NPOs and general public. Implementing NOWPAP activities contributes to the sustainable development of the region.</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes</p>	<p>As a country-driven action plan, NOWPAP is becoming a self-sustaining regional mechanism with increasing country ownership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each member state hosts one Regional Activity Centre (RAC) and covers RAC staff salaries, office rent, equipment costs. • Japan and the Republic of Korea provide financial support for the two RCU offices located in Toyama and Busan, respectively, including staff salaries, premises and equipment costs. • Host countries also generously support implementation of specific projects, e.g. those related to marine litter. For example, the Republic of Korea and Japan sponsored two NOWPAP Workshops on Marine Litter in 2006 and 2007 (US\$50,000 each); Japan also has provided additional US\$100,000 as an earmarked contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. China and Korea sponsored two coastal cleanup campaigns in 2007 (US\$50,000-70,000 each). National projects related to marine litter are also being implemented in Japan and the Republic of Korea. • Japan and the Republic of Korea will also provide co-financing (about US\$500,000 combined) for a proposed NOWPAP GEF project on persistent toxic substances.

Strategic Direction	Achievements / progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOWPAP member states agreed in principle to increase their annual contributions from US\$315,000 to US\$500,000 (final decision is expected at the 12th IGM in 2007). • In accordance with the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, potential donors and partners are being approached. E.g., a proposal on marine litter monitoring from Russia is being considered by a Japanese foundation.
<p>1. Enhance Regional Seas' visibility and political impact in global, regional and national policy setting,</p>	<p>The public awareness strategy was developed by the RCU and is being implemented accordingly. Important components of this strategy include building close collaborative relationships with potential partners in the region; development of NOWPAP website (http://www.nowpap.org); production of NOWPAP promotion materials (brochures, posters, pens, calendars, etc.); participation in regional and local meetings and campaigns; close contacts with media; and many others. As a result, NOWPAP-related activities have reported quite extensively by media since RCU establishment. NOWPAP brochures in English and in national languages of four member states were produced and distributed widely as well as promotional materials.</p> <p>Close communication with the related projects and organizations in the region has been developed (in alphabetical order): EANET, IOC WESTPAC, NEAR-GOOS, PICES and UNEP ROAP. Formal partnerships were established with the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project, the UNDP/IMO/GEF Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and COBSEA. Joint activities have been implemented, such as beach cleanups, co-organized workshops and seminars.</p> <p>RCU and RAC staff members have been also making efforts to promote the Regional Seas Programme through attending regional meetings organized by partners such as COBSEA, EANET, IAEA, NEAR-GOOS, NEASPEC, IMO/UNEP/SOA, PEMSEA, and YSLME. The RCU, representing NOWPAP, has been actively involved in community-level events, including festivals, exhibitions, coastal clean-up campaigns, etc.</p>

Strategic Direction	Achievements / progress
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making,</p>	<p>NOWPAP is finalizing the report on the "State of Marine Environment in the Northwest Pacific Region". This report (led by one of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres, POMRAC) helps the NOWPAP member states to identify priority marine environmental issues and to allocate available resources accordingly.</p> <p>Summarizing the results of national monitoring programmes, POMRAC has prepared regional overviews on atmospheric deposition of contaminants and on river and direct inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment. Two</p>

	other NOWPAP RACs, CEARAC and MERRAC, prepared regional reports on harmful algal blooms; applications of remote sensing for marine environment monitoring; oil spill modelling and shoreline cleanup in the NOWPAP region.
5. Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform	Since the start-up of NOWPAP RCU in early 2005, efforts to open communication channels with the London, Basel and MARPOL Conventions have been made. Links to these Conventions were provided at the NOWPAP website, their key documents distributed and RCU staff attended several meetings organized by these Conventions in order to establish close relationships with them and to promote the currently on-going NOWPAP activities.
6. Develop and Promote a Common Vision and Integrated Management based on ecosystem approaches	<p>NOWPAP has started several activities which also contribute to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (LBA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Marine Litter Activity (MALITA). This project has been implemented successfully with strong support from NOWPAP member countries and Regional Seas Programme. Data and information have been collected and analysed, marine litter database set up, regional meetings and workshops organized, awareness raising campaigns and clean-up activities held; guidelines for monitoring and different sectors prepared. A regional action plan on marine litter is being developed. • Regional Overview of River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants to the Marine Environment. The overview has been prepared using the national reports from the NOWPAP member countries and distributed at the Second GPA Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) in October 2006. • Overview of National Environmental Legislation. This overview has been updated by the member states in 2006. <p>Integrated Coastal Zone and River Basin Management. This project has been launched in 2007 and is being led by the NOWPAP POMRAC in close collaboration with other three NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres. Participation of PEMSEA experts is also being planned.</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the OSPAR Commission Secretariat

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
1. Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development	<p>1. The OSPAR Commission continues to make a substantive and significant contribution to the sustainable development of the North-East Atlantic. This is captured in OSPAR's vision, mission statement and core values. It is reflected in OSPAR's commitment to ambitious targets within thematic strategies and an articulated stepwise approach for their implementation and as a measure of sustainability.</p> <p>2. Progress in implementing the Ministerial commitments set out in the 2003 thematic Strategies is assessed through OSPAR's Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP). The JAMP provides the basis for Contracting Parties to cooperate on enhancing scientific knowledge of the seas as the indispensable basis for all marine management. The activities under the JAMP include implementing collaborative monitoring programmes, developing quality assurance methods and assessment tools, and undertaking quality status assessments including an evaluation of the effectiveness of measures. Data is collected regularly under the Comprehensive Atmospheric Monitoring Programme (CAMP), Comprehensive Study on Riverine Inputs and Direct Discharges (RID), and the Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) in order to evaluate progress in achieving the Strategies' objectives. Technical guidance supports these initiatives. Thus, for example, the 2006/07 assessment of CEMP data confirmed a widespread downward trend in certain metals, PAHs, PCBs and TBT in biota for the North-East Atlantic. To date OSPAR has been less concerned with social implications of environmental policies, and in future more consideration might be given to intra-societal equity and quality of life.</p>
2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes	<p>3. To implement the general obligations of the OSPAR Convention (in essence to deliver sustainable development), OSPAR adopts legally binding Decisions. These efforts, together with OSPAR Recommendations, have proved to serve as both a catalyst for legislation and enforcement within other forums (e.g. hazardous substances legislation in Europe) and significant investment by industry (e.g. reduction of oil in produced water). During the period 2004 – 2007 OSPAR Decisions have covered a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for Use and reduction of Offshore Chemicals; aspects of control for the Vinyl Chloride Sector and control of the Storage of Carbon Dioxide Streams. OSPAR Recommendations during the period relate to reporting formats for chemicals, management regimes for produced water and cuttings piles and environmental goals for chemical discharges. The added value of Regional Seas Programmes also includes voluntary initiatives. For example OSPAR is currently finalising voluntary ballast water management guidelines for vessels entering the OSPAR maritime area as part of the regional Ballast Water Management Strategy for North-West Europe, an interim regional response to the International Convention for the Control and</p>

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
	<p>Management of Ships' Ballast water Convention.</p> <p>4. Adaptive management is a key to effective RSPs. Within OSPAR the balance of effort has moved from, for example, developing measures to reduce discharges of chemicals from point sources to protection and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity under Annex V of the Convention. This change reflects the success of OSPAR in combating chemical pollution together with recent EC legislation taking on from OSPAR this aspect of regulatory work. In this connection the assessment of human impacts (e.g. dredging, noise etc) are important. Furthermore, there is a recognition that emerging threats – notably adapting to climate change – are likely to result in revised priorities in the run up to OSPAR's 2010 Ministerial Meeting</p> <p>5. OSPAR has acknowledged the need to collaborate more closely with other Regional Conventions to help realise a joint approach to management of EU waters, as well as considering links to third countries/the High Seas and fostering better relations with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and the IMO. In addition there is political will to transfer knowledge (e.g. to link with the Abidjan Convention on topics such as Strategic Environmental Assessment), and OSPAR has welcomed the prospect of a MoU with UNEP to work jointly on marine litter.</p>
<p>3. Enhance Regional Seas visibility and political impact</p>	<p>6. Of particular relevance to OSPAR (and other European Regional Seas) during this period has been the emerging EC Marine Strategy Directive (MSD). Potential OSPAR concerns include uncertainty regarding 'good environmental status'; application of the MSD to coastal Member States and, to a lesser extent, countries within the European Economic Area and suggested adoption of administrative rather than scientific boundaries; potential lack of spatial, legislative and cross-sectoral integration; proposed additional (and expensive) monitoring effort (contaminants and biodiversity) with specific measurable targets rather than the directional targets currently adopted by OSPAR; and the prospect of 're-nationalising' responsibility potentially making the role of multilateral organisations redundant.</p> <p>7. On the basis of these concerns OSPAR made an intervention at a hearing on the MSD at the European Parliament in 2006 advocating the advantages of a regional scale approach. Refinement of the MSD text has further clarified the role of Regional Seas Conventions. Madam Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, at the Bremen Conference on the future of EU Maritime Policy on 2 May 2007, referred to the '<i>paramount role of international co-operation in maritime policies</i>', where she regarded the role of OSPAR and HELCOM as '<i>entirely indispensable</i>'. Key to involvement with the MSD is therefore making best use of forums for regional expertise, delivering priorities with the resources available and not duplicating effort. A European Expert Workshop 'Countdown 2010 for Marine Ecosystems', on 19 April 2007 in Berlin, reiterated the important role of Regional Seas Conventions (www.countdown2010.net).</p> <p>8. OSPAR's international cooperation is achieved through bilateral arrangements, for example with</p>

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
	<p>HELCOM, the Bonn Agreement and IMO. Active participation has also been undertaken within the London Convention, NEAFC, GPA, GESAMP, WFD. Stakeholder involvement is achieved through dialogue with and the input of observer organisations and through specific efforts, such as a recent Workshop on involvement of stakeholders in establishment of MPAs. However, OSPAR recognises that in the past the importance of external visibility has been under-estimated. A recently approved Communications Strategy aims to enhance external communications, make scientific and technical language understandable to a wider public, and provide a platform to send political messages.</p>
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making</p>	<p>9. A core strength of OSPAR is scientific integrity underpinning policy making. Long-term monitoring datasets, including RID, CAMP, and CEMP, will be reflected in the forthcoming Quality Status Report for the OSPAR maritime area (QSR 2010). This brings together a comprehensive series of evaluations and will provide the benchmark for policies for the following decade. It will also serve, as far as practicable, as the Initial Assessment required for the MSD. Essential within this approach is OSPAR's relationship with ICES. OSPAR publications of Assessments, Annual Implementation Reporting, Guidance Documents, Background Documents, Databases, Handbooks, and Manuals are added and updated annually on the OSPAR website.</p> <p>10. A general concern is that reduced funds for scientific research and monitoring may compromise Contracting Parties' efforts. Governments are facing competing demands for resources: for marine environmental protection this presents a challenge to an holistic approach if resources are not maintained.</p>
<p>5. Regional Seas as a Platform for Developing Common Regional Objectives</p>	<p>11. In addition to those common Regional objectives already mentioned, the consensual platform provided by OSPAR has resulted in major strategic achievements. For example, the need to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide is a global challenge. In 2007 OSPAR agreed a package of measures to permit carbon capture and storage in geological formations under the seabed. In this context, OSPAR's achievement is not to allow the storage but rather to set rules for this activity to ensure that the marine environment is not damaged, including preventing any carbon dioxide placement in either the water column or on the sea bed. This is one important pragmatic approach in the portfolio of measures to tackle the challenges of climate change and ocean acidification. This activity provides a sound rationale as to why OSPAR should maintain its creativity and political impetus (e.g. via Ministerial Conferences) and both recognise and articulate a range of values in addition to becoming the implementation body for the MSD</p> <p>12. To this end the sheer size and different characteristics of the OSPAR maritime area can at times prove to be problematic. The QSR 2000 addressed this by identifying priorities in different OSPAR marine sub regions. At the same time an acknowledged short-coming of consensus building is that progress can be slow (e.g. the OSPAR network of MPAs still only represents less than 1% of the maritime area) and, at times, agreement relates to the lowest common denominator (e.g. the impact of certain radionuclides is currently disputed by different OSPAR Contracting Parties).</p>

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>6. Develop and Promote a Common Vision and Integrated Management based on ecosystem approaches</p>	<p>13. OSPAR is a world leader in implementing an ecosystem approach. For example, the application of the agreed Common Procedure to identify eutrophication problem areas will result in a second classification in 2008. In the fields of hazardous substances and radioactivity progressive efforts are being made towards the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses. Work on non-polluting impacts on the marine environment has considered cumulative impacts and the need for marine spatial planning. A set of Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) will provide indicators of success.</p> <p>14. As for other Regional Seas Partnerships, OSPAR must confront sectoral barriers, in particular lack of powers to implement fisheries management measures. It is important to achieve a balance between flexibility and prescription. To that end OSPAR acknowledges that working structures may need to adapt to reflect cross-cutting issues more coherently. Furthermore, some 40% of the OSPAR Convention area can be classified as High Seas, which brings its own challenges and opportunities!</p>

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region
(PERSGA)

Background:

PERSGA approach for implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2003-2007) has relied on three mechanisms. First is reinforcing activities in the existing long-term programs, of which objectives are consistent with the Regional Seas Strategic Directions e.g. the Monitoring and ICZM programs, regional networks and coordination. Second is reorientation of some other program activities to embrace the Strategic Direction in their objectives e.g. the Annual Training Program. Third is designing and launching new programs highlighting the global Regional Seas Strategic Directions in the main objectives e.g. the On-ground Activity Program, which include short-term projects that PERSGA has particularly launched to realize the strategic directions in the regional context.

Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
1. Contribution to Sustainable Development	<p>Seeking to mainstream the environmental issues into major socioeconomic aspects, PERSGA's overall approach is to strengthen the capacities of PERSGA countries to deal with the most urgent issues related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), including strengthening the capacity for developing economic instruments and financial mechanisms to be applied in ICZM.</p> <p>Through its <i>Strategic Action Plan (1999-2005.)</i>, <i>Operational Framework (2006-2010)</i>, and the <i>Integrated Strategy and Business Plan (2004-2014)</i>, PERSGA has emphasised programmes that reflect the mandates of the Millenium Development Goals and the WSSD Agenda 21. PERSGA pursues such WSSD goals as restoring depleted fish stocks and curbing destructive fishing patterns, reducing the global loss of biodiversity, developing sustainable consumption and production patterns based on science-based and life-cycle approaches, and promoting viable and sustainable socioeconomic activities, such as sustainable tourism—activities that are all guided by an ICZM framework.</p> <p>The Annual Training Program of PERSGA for 2004-2007 was designed to deal with several on-job training domains contributing to sustainable development. Special consideration was given to priority and emerging issues in the region relevant to the technical know-how to support sustainable development strategies. The on-job training workshops held in 2006-2007 concentrated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Water Management in coastal cities (in Jeddah, May 2007) • Port Baseline surveys for Invasive species (in Hurghadah, May 2007) • Fish Stock Assessment (in Jeddah, April 2007) • Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (in Amman, January 2007)
Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICZM and Sustainable Tourism (in Hurghadah, December 2006) • Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Projects (In Sudan and Yemen, June 2006) • Environmental inspection (in Jeddah, March 2006)

	<p>The On-ground Activities Program included several Projects that have been launched during 2006-2007 in the member states, with the goal of supporting and enhancing sustainable development approach,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and enhancing ICZM planning in Red Sea State (Sudan) • Supporting Site specific coastal zone management planning in Asir and Jizan (Saudi Arabia) • Sustainable diving tourism in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), • Rehabilitation and sustainable management of overexploited seacucumber fishery (Yemen) • Environmental education and awareness for sustainable development (Jordan, Djibouti). <p>An example of enhancement of sustainable development and ICZM, is a comprehensive ICZM Project for the Red Sea State of Sudan, which PERSGA is implementing in collaboration with a consortium of local and international partners, including the government of the Red Sea State. In March 2006, PERSGA conducted a roundtable entitled “Partnership for the Sustainable Development of the Red Sea Coast in Sudan” that brought together national and international stakeholders and experts to develop a framework for the implementation of an ICZM programme for Sudan. These deliberations then led to the January 2007 establishment of an official ICZM Office in Port Sudan, under the custody of the Red Sea State. This office acts as a Secretariat for coordinating and orchestrating ICZM activities along the Sudanese coast.</p>
<p>2. Enhancing the Sustainability and Effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes</p>	<p>PERSGA has expanded the legal basis and mandates of the <i>Jeddah Convention</i> (1982), its <i>Action Plan</i> and the attached <i>Protocol Concerning Regional Cooperation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substance</i>. Driven by its their commitments, the member states ratified two additional Protocols in 2005: <i>The Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Network of Protected Areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden</i> and the <i>Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden</i>.</p> <p>PERSGA has succeeded in attracting international donors to help fund its Regional activities, and is working to create a funding strategy that increases member state contributions and outlines a fundraising framework for outside sources. Furthermore, by placing strong emphasis on capacity-building and promoting broad stakeholder participation in projects and decision-making, PERSGA’s programmes gain the on-the-ground support needed to remain successful over the long-term. PERSGA also emphasises the need to ensure that national legislation and enforcement mechanisms (in line with Regional legislation) are in place to support its coastal management and protection aims. Accordingly, these activities support Agenda 21, Chapter 37:</p>
<p>Strategic Directions</p>	<p>Achievements / progress</p>
	<p>“National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity building in developing countries”, along with Chapter 33 “Financial Resources and Mechanisms”</p>
<p>3. Enhance Regional Seas visibility and political impact</p>	<p>PERSGA has also solidified partnerships and MoUs with a host of key international, regional and national organisations and agencies, including: GEF, the World Bank, ICRAN, FAO, The Arab League, CEDARE, ISESCO, UNEP, IMO, and the European Commission. PERSGA has established MoUs with: ALECSO, UNESCO-IOC, ROPME, UNEP and UNEP-ROWA, CAMRE, CEDARE, UNEP-MAP, ISESCO. PERSGA is also pursuing an MoU with the IMO regarding Port State Control in its member states. PERSGA’s</p>

	<p>admittance to receive observer status at the WSSD has been a particular boon for PERSGA's visibility and its Regional efforts. PERSGA has also participated in the 34th session of GESAMP (May 2007, Paris) and CEHA meeting (September 2007, Amman).</p> <p>Through organizing several joined training workshops, PERSGA has promoted collaboration with several regional organizations like ISESCO and IHO, and established new partnerships with some additional national government institutes and NGOs. The joint On-ground Activities Projects has also reinforced partnerships with focal points and national organizations. Regional Training Workshops are organized in venues distributed in all member states, which increase country ownership to the Regional Organisation. The On-ground Activities Program includes short-term projects, which are selected on the basis of national priorities and needs to be implemented in each respective member state, which also enhances country ownership.</p>
<p>4. Supporting Knowledge-Based Policy-Making, Public Participation and Education/ Awareness</p>	<p>PERSGA has worked to raise the capacity for data collection and assessment and to improve regional knowledge of issues such as biodiversity and fish stocks. PERSGA's IIMS also helps enhance Regional access to and capacity to analyse information, and to choose the best policy options accordingly.</p> <p>PERSGA has established a regular process of assessment of coastal and marine environment in the Region. The first State of Marine Environment Report (SOMER) was published by the end of 2006. Next PERSGA SOMER reports will be produced on 3 years basis. The SOMER provides a comprehensive analytical review of the state of the environment, pressure, impacts and response together with recommendations for policy making, scenarios and predictions based on situational/ trends analysis. Currently, PERSGA is preparing new guidelines for developing national state of marine environment report. The new guidelines will take thematic gaps and recommendations indicated in the Regular Process of Global assessment and other emerging issues into consideration</p>
<p>Strategic Directions</p>	<p>Achievements / progress</p>
	<p>Wide-spread stakeholder involvement, including government, the private sector, local and international organisations, learning/research institutions, and community representatives in decision-making is a fundamental principle guiding all PERSGA's work, and is an underlying requirement for effective ICZM. In support of Agenda 21, Chapter 40 "information for decision-making" and Chapter 8 "Integrating Environment and Development in Decision-Making",</p> <p>PERSGA's CPP Programmes provide grants and small loans in the form of Small and Medium Projects Programmes, combined with hands-on exposure to alternative and sustainable methods of marine resource use. These projects prioritise participation in decision-making, the strengthening of community institutions for governance, and gender equality. CPPs have included such projects as sustainable lobster fisheries in Yemen, sustainable tourism initiatives in Jordan, community management of MPAs in Sudan, among other initiatives. Furthermore, PERSGA commissioned a field study to review public participation in ICZM in the coastal areas of Aqaba (Jordan) and Yemen (Aden). The study analyzed current levels of public participation and its effect on the livelihood of residents of these areas. The main aims of the study were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the effectiveness of the ICZM plans in promoting good governance and public participation and to review whether laws exist to support public participation. • Prepare recommendations for a best practice model for public participation in ICZM for the Red Sea Gulf of

	<p>Aden Region and the best tool to implement public participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how ICZM plans can support poverty alleviation and economic growth and global partnership, by studying how current practice is improving the livelihood of the selected stakeholders: the fishing community, the tourism sector, and the industrial sector. <p>PERSGA's Public awareness, participation and outreach activities are designed to assist the implementation of all PERSGA programmes and activities. These activities have been instrumental in developing environmental consciousness, encouraging local ownership of initiatives (primarily through the CPPs), and in promoting environmental education. They have also played a key role in raising the profile of PERSGA at regional and international levels. PERSGA has produced a variety of materials and publications to help communicate its conservation activities and help encourage public appreciation for the Region's rich marine and coastal resources, including the al-Sanbouk Newsletter, posters, brochures and a "Red Alert" video.</p> <p>In regards to its education efforts, PERSGA works to align its activities with the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development-ESD (2005-2014) and to fulfil its commitments to the Islamic Declaration, the Millennium</p>
Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
	<p>Declaration and the WSSD recommendations. In so doing, PERSGA seeks to join international efforts in re-orientating the role of education within the sustainability agenda.</p> <p>PERSGA's environmental education activities make use of a variety of resource tools, which are designed to raise the capacity of students and teachers both. Part of PERSGA's <i>Regional Initiative on Education for Sustainability (RIEFS) of Marine and Coastal Resources</i> is establishing Education for Sustainability (EFS) throughout the region. PERSGA recently signed an agreement with the al-Balqa Applied University in Aqaba, Jordan, to launch an EFS pilot project, which will eventually be adapted Region-wide.</p> <p>The current On-ground activities on environmental awareness are based on instruments and tools established beforehand by PERSGA in the region. These include a hard-copy and e-learning version of the "Because I care- An Environmental Education Learning Supplement –EELS" that is appropriate for students at the secondary level, and trained teacher accordingly; a set of 150 environmental school clubs throughout its member states, and Environmental School Club Guide that describes the steps needed to set up and run the club, in addition to 'ESCs and Extra Curriculum Activities' training manual for teachers.</p>
5. Use of Regional Seas as a Platform for Developing Common Regional Objectives	<p>PERSGA officially launched MEMAC (Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre) in 2006 in Hurghada, Egypt to help implement a Regional Action Plan relating to oil spill emergencies, coordinate emergency response efforts, and work to strengthen the adherence to related IMO Conventions in the Region.</p> <p>PERSGA has also created MERSA (Media for the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden), which serves as a regional network of journalists, acting as PERSGA's main media focal point and supporting the dissemination of environmental information throughout the Region.</p> <p>Additionally, PERSGA has identified and trained National and Regional specialists to form specialist thematic teams, or Working</p>

	<p>Groups (WGs) that receive training in necessary skills relating to PERSGA's priority activities. The following WGs have been established: Public Awareness, Education for Sustainable Development, Scientific Research and Monitoring, Habitat and Biodiversity (including Turtles, Mangroves, Coral Reefs and Seabirds), Living Marine Resources, Marine Protected Areas, Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, Persistence Organic Pollutants, Navigation and Maritime Pollution, Capacity-Building and ICZM. PERSGA has also used its regional scope as a platform to facilitate its participation in numerous key international conferences and fora.</p>
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Strategic Directions	Achievements / progress
<p>6. Development/Promotion of Integrated Management</p>	<p>To date, PERSGA has initiated and developed multiple successful ICZM initiatives on both a regional and national scale. Based on PERSGA's positive performance and work in this field, the Arab League has selected PERSGA to act as the ICZM implementing organisation for the entire Arab Region, not just the PERSGA Region. This marks a significant accolade for PERSGA and show-cases the strength of PERSGA's ICZM programmes and activities.</p> <p>In accordance with Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, "<i>Protection of oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources.</i>"</p> <p>PERSGA has implemented and is pursuing a number of projects that strengthen management in the Region, and which are guided by an ICZM and ecosystem-based approach. Most notably, PERSGA has established a network of 12 Marine Protected Areas in the Region, and has created a Regional Master Plan (RMP) as a framework for Park planning, management and the protection of biodiversity. The RMP is consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and also parallels developments in a number of other Regional Sea areas, including the Caribbean and Mediterranean.</p> <p>The RMP has been further complimented by Site-Specific Master Plans with Management Guidelines for four key MPAs in Djibouti, Yemen and Sudan. Furthermore, through its Habitat and Biodiversity Programme, PERSGA has developed National Action Plans addressing the management of coral reefs, turtles, mangroves and sea birds in each of its seven member states.</p> <p>PERSGA's Handbook for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Planning for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region constitutes a valuable tool for guiding ICZM Programmes in the RSGA Region, and has been published in both Arabic and English in 2006. The Handbook takes an action-orientated approach to guide ICZM Programmes, by including practical case studies from the Region aligned with each chapter.</p> <p>As an important cross-cutting principle, PERSGA focuses on including on-the-job training in all of its ICZM activities, and has conducted multiple trainings throughout the Region with specialise themes relating to ICZM (such as conflict resolution in Sudan). To provide basic training for its Member States, PERSGA initiated an exchange programme with PEMSEA in 2004. The Training Workshop on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)^[23] brought together 25 participants from 11 participating countries from the PERSGA and East Asia Region. The workshop discussions and field visits were successful in providing the participants with exposure on the practical issues and best practices on ICZM program implementation.</p>

	<p>PERSGA has conducted ICZM Model Activities (MAs) in Yemen, Djibouti and Sudan. The MAs were based on a Regional template prepared by PERSGA that meets the unique circumstances of its Member States. All Model Activities were conducted using a participatory approach that included all relevant stakeholders in each country and resulted with the preparation and adoption of the National ICZM Plan for each Country.</p>
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Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007

Submitted by the South Asian Seas Programme

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>1. Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development, through the enhancement of local, national, regional and global partnerships with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders, and through the strengthened implementation of the mandates of the Regional Seas, as a major contribution to the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the goals and targets associated with the Millennium Declaration.</p>	<p>The South Asian Seas Programme through its various programmes on Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution, Waste Management including Marine Litter, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Coral Reef Initiatives and activities under the various Conventions have been a major contributor towards the goals and targets associated with implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation of the Millennium Declaration</p> <p>Main collaborators so far has been mainly the UN affiliated organisations such as UNEP, IMO, UNESCO, UNCRD, GPA etc, the concerned Focal Points of the Member governments, the European Union, NORAD, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and organisations such as ICRI, GCRMN, IUCN, IMM & CORDIO with respect to Coral Reef Activities. There has been collaboration with TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL and Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.</p> <p>Cooperations with local, national and regional NGO's have also been established and we are working actively with CEE (India), Development Alternatives (India), BCAS (Bangladesh), SDPI (Pakistan), CARESS (India) in relevant fields.</p> <p>We are also working closely with the Private Sector with ABANS International and Standard Chartered Bank sponsoring our public awareness events</p> <p>Efforts have been initiated to develop projects with the Norwegian Water Institute (NIVA), GEF POP's Unit in Nairobi and UN DOALOS</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes through increasing country ownership, incorporating Regional Seas conventions and protocols into national legislation, promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms, involving civil society and the private sector, building capacities, ensuring viable national and international financial arrangements, as well as developing assessment/evaluation procedures where appropriate.</p>	<p>There has been capacity building in the member countries through the formulation and development of a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia, and implementation of MARPOL 73/78 where through consultations and 2 regional meetings of the concerned member countries this plan was developed. This was facilitated by SAS and the ownership and implementation of the plan once formally ratified will be the property of the respective countries with SAS being the Regional Node.</p> <p>Development of Projects under the UN Law of the Sea Convention have been initiated.</p> <p>There has also been the conduct of a School Awareness Programme with Government of Sri Lanka, South Asia Youth Action Network (SAYEN) and the Centre of Environment Education, India on Education and Creation of Awareness amongst Children through Poster, Essay and Painting Competitions on Climate</p>

	<p>Change and Biodiversity and with particular emphasis on marine issues. For the first time SACEP was able to get a COP decision at the 8th COP of the Basel Convention in Nairobi in December 2006 to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre in SACEP.</p> <p>Under the Marine Litter Programme for Education, and Creation of Public Awareness, Regional Coastal Clean up Campaigns have been regularly organised since 2006. The most significant campaigns are that of India which are undertaken every year with Indian Coast Guard, Ministry of Earth Sciences Indian Government & National Institute of Ocean Technology, Universities, Colleges / NGOs in India. Over 30,000 volunteers participated in 2006 and 2007 all along the coast of India</p> <p>A Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species with assistance from UNEP and Global Invasive Species Programme is scheduled for early 2008.</p> <p>The sustainability of the programme has been made effective by ensuring country ownership and their regular financial contribution to support the programme on an agreed financial formula. An important decision to contribute part of this contribution for programme development has also been taken at the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting in August 2005</p>
<p>3. Enhance Regional Seas' visibility and political impact in global, regional and national policy setting, through strengthening the Regional Seas Partnership, increasing political and public awareness on the economic, social, and environmental importance of coastal and marine resources, promoting concerted information and communication policies, and ensuring participation and promotion of Regional Seas in relevant national, regional and global fora.</p>	<p>SAS through its National Focal Points in the Ministries of Environment or Earth Sciences in the member countries is seen as a major collaborating organisation for the transboundary issues of South Asia. This has ensured greater visibility and political impact in global, regional and National policies. It has also helped in promoting SAS at various regional, National and Inter Governmental Meetings.</p> <p>Many important MOU's have been signed with many UN and other organisations</p> <p>Information on SAS has been facilitated through the SACEP Website (www.sacep.org), publication of Brochures and newsletter. Networking has been undertaken with Educational Institutions, Centres of Excellence, Universities and Global Partnership Networks such as ICRAN, GCRMN & ICRI.</p>
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making, enhanced public participation, education, awareness, and improved reporting on the state of the coastal & marine environment, its resources, and possible threats to them, through amongst others, contributing to appropriate national and regional monitoring and assessment activities.</p>	<p>Many project activities have targeted the enhancements of public participation, education and training especially the general public participation such as Coastal Clean up Campaign under the Marine Litter Programme, Conduct of Seminars and Panel Discussions for the public and school children, Poster, Essay and Painting Competitions for Children on Climate Change and Biodiversity as few of the major activities</p> <p>The Establishment of South Asian Coral Reef Task Force as an integral activity of the ICRAN – EU Project is very significant achievement with former Vice President of the International Court of Justice</p>

Judge C. G. Weeramantry being the Patron of this Task Force. The Task Force was launched by the Chairman of the SAS Hon Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives

There has also been the Preparation of a Review Document on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region and a framework document "Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas",

The Market Based Instrument study aimed at identifying the contribution of the Coastal Region to the National GDP and identifying MBI's to develop Environmental Funds for implementation of the National Plan of Action under the GPA of Sri Lanka is a major study undertaken by SAS.

5. Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives, promoting synergies and co-ordinated regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives, and responsibilities of United Nations Agencies and other international actors, as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.

The South Asian Seas has been actively involved in the promotion many Multilateral Environmental Conventions.

With respect to the International Convention on The Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems On Ships, 2001 (AFS Convention), a Regional Workshop on Measures To Collect, Handle, Treat And Dispose of Waste Generated In Applying The AFS Convention.

Also there was a Regional Seminar/Workshop on the Ratification and implementation of the OPRC – HNS Protocol, the AFS Convention and the Identification & establishment of PSSAS

SAS is also advocating that 2 remaining Maritime Member countries who have yet to ratify the OPRC Convention should do so urgently

SAS is also promoting that all Maritime countries ratify the IMO Globallast Convention

The platform of SAS was used effectively to promote the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and we are happy to report that now all countries have endorsed the Plan

Following COP decision efforts are underway to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre at SACEP in collaboration with the Basel Convention Secretariat, National Focal Points and SACEP

Currently SACEP is developing two Projects with DOALOS under the UN Law of the Sea Convention, namely a Regional Training Course on the "Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas" along with DOALOS and UNEP GRID the conduct of Regional Training Course on Extending the Continental Shelf for the South Asian Seas Programme

There is also the establishment of SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network) with TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL - to combat illegal trade in Wildlife in South Asian Seas Regional. Strategy drafted on Wildlife Trade for South Asia

In collaboration with Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences Capacity building exercise was

conducted for the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia, through informing the public and Training of 60 Post Graduate students in Biodiversity Conservation aspects – A Case Study for Sri Lanka

6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management, based on ecosystem approaches, of priorities and concerns related to the coastal and marine environment and its resources in Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, introducing amongst others proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks and effective communication strategies.

A Project is been negotiated for Development of Harmonised National Environmental Quality Criteria for Seawater for the South Asian Seas with assistance from Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) for the protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities

Further more SAS has conducted many National & Regional activities pertaining to the implementation of the GPA Programme in South Asia. All countries have a National Plan of Action on the GPA. Specifically a project on Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI/NPA)” & the Development of Market Based Instruments for Sri Lanka is currently under implementation

Along with ICRAN, UNEP, EU, SACEP and Member Countries the project on Institutional strengthening and capacity development for the long-term management and conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia is currently underway

By virtue of SACEP being the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, GCRMN used SACEP to co-ordinate all activities in connection with the GCRMN programme including assistance in preparation of Regional Overviews etc.

Progress in Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2004 -2007
Submitted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>1. Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development, through the enhancement of local, national, regional and global partnerships with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders, and through the strengthened implementation of the mandates of the Regional Seas, as a major contribution to the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the goals and targets associated with the Millennium Declaration.</p>	<p>The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), a regional intergovernmental organization now based in Apia, Samoa, was initially established in 1982 as a programme of the South Pacific Commission and as part of the Regional Seas Programme. SPREP is the primary regional organization concerned with environmental management in the Pacific, and serves as the Secretariat for three Conventions: 1976 Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific called the Apia Convention, came into force in 1990; 1986 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific region entered into force in 1990; 1995 Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) entered into force in 2001.</p> <p>The SPREP Action Plan guides the work of Pacific country and territory members and is reviewed by the members every 4 years, it is a synthesis of members' environmental and sustainable development priorities. It identifies 4 broad priorities for the region: natural resources management, pollution prevention, climate change and variability, and sustainable economic development. In the regional and global context implementation of the current Action Plan 2005-2009 is guided by: Agenda 21; Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS (1994), regional synthesis and national assessments for review of the BPoA (2003); Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; Pacific Islands 14 Type II umbrella partnership initiatives; Pacific Island Forum Leaders' decisions; SPREP Meeting Officials' and Ministerial decisions; national sustainable development strategies and plans; Pacific submissions made to CoPs of global MEAs; and the MDGs.</p> <p>The SPREP Action Plan 2005-2009 specifically focuses on: <i>natural resources management</i> – sustainable management and conservation including marine and coastal resources, and effective implementation of the ecosystem approach; <i>pollution prevention</i> – effective waste management and pollution reduction, maximized waste reuse and recycling; <i>climate change, climate variability, sea level rise and ozone depletion</i> – implementation of adaptation measures, alternative energy promoted, meteorological and climatological capacities of countries developed, improved knowledge of climate change impacts, and CFC import into Pacific island countries and territories banned; <i>integrated policy, planning and partnerships</i> – national sustainable development strategies/frameworks developed and implemented, integrated planning and management mechanisms for sustainable development enhanced, and national and regional partnerships improved; <i>environment monitoring and reporting</i> – improved monitoring and reporting on environmental performance and socio-economic pressures, integrated assessments and planning processes accessible and available; <i>MEAs</i> – improved capacity of Pacific island countries to manage MEAs and meet obligations; <i>human resource development and training</i> – capacity to manage and develop human resources improved; <i>public</i></p>

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
	<p><i>awareness and education</i> – capacity to educate and raise awareness about environment and sustainable development improved; <i>knowledge management</i> – capacity to manage knowledge further developed and strengthened, national and regional clearinghouse mechanisms and environmental databases established, integrated and improved.</p> <p>The SPREP Action Plan is further strengthened at the regional level by the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP), adopted by Pacific countries and territories in 2002 and implemented through the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROF-ISA). The PIROF-ISA focuses on: improving governance of coasts and ocean, and understanding of the ocean; sustainably managing and developing the use of ocean resources; maintaining the health of the ocean and promoting its peaceful use; creating partnerships and promoting cooperation.</p> <p>SPREP takes a leading role on sustainable development issues in the Pacific, assisting PICs in developing National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), and providing advice on internationally agreed development goals and targets, including MDGs.</p> <p>SPREP contributed to the preparation of a Pacific SIDS Matrix for Monitoring Implementation of Sustainable Development. This matrix was jointly prepared by agencies in the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and is updated annually in time for submission to each CSD and provides a platform to engaging partners in a coordinated fashion as well as monitoring progress.</p> <p>Partnership agreement between SPREP and World Council of Churches resulted in joint activities with church communities in PICs e.g. climate change adaptation activities in coastal locations.</p> <p>The CROP agencies Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) worked on progressing the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy and framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROP-ISA), including options for securing funding for national implementation. The PIROP-ISA, which was endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum, sets out the road map for the protection and sustainable use of oceans.</p>
<p>2. Enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of Regional Seas Programmes through increasing country ownership, incorporating Regional Seas conventions and protocols into national legislation, promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms, involving civil society and the private sector,</p>	<p>The SPREP Action Plan is established, reviewed and implemented by Pacific countries and territories, supported by the Secretariat through its Strategic Programmes 2004-2013.</p> <p>SPREP contributed to the training conducted by the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the Pacific region. The Centre is a partnership between the Basel Convention Secretariat and SPREP as host to the Waigani Convention; its work is integrated in the Secretariat's activities and supported by SPREP staff.</p> <p>Targeted assistance was provided in three areas:</p>

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
<p>building capacities, ensuring viable national and international financial arrangements, as well as developing assessment/evaluation procedures where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MEAs create a need for specialised legal assistance, as there are often specific legislative requirements for countries to comply with and implement Conventions. In Tonga, an attempt has been made to streamline the management and reporting burdens regarding four related chemical conventions: the global Basel (and its regional counterpart, Waigani), Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. A legislative review was undertaken and following consultations, a draft Act was completed which incorporated the salient requirements from each Convention. The draft law is awaiting consideration by the Tongan Parliament. The project was funded by UNEP. ▪ Negotiations training was provided for the Marshall Islands, Federates States of Micronesia, and Fiji. Because the workshops were held at the national level, many participants could engage in the training. They were taught generic skills needed for the Conference of the Parties and numerous intercessional meetings generated by these MEAs. UNEP again provided assistance for the workshops. ▪ A regional workshop was held regarding the filling out of the detailed reporting forms under the Basel and Waigani Conventions (which treaties regulate the transboundary movement of hazardous waste). Basic matters such as national definitions of waste and the creation of systems for capturing data were covered. <p>In pollution prevention, efforts have continued on the critical issue of waste management through a wide range of activities, addressing the complete waste hierarchy, from waste minimization through to disposal. Significant effort has also gone into improved management of hazardous waste and marine pollution.</p>
<p>3. Enhance Regional Seas' visibility and political impact in global, regional and national policy setting, through strengthening the Regional Seas Partnership, increasing political and public awareness on the economic, social, and environmental importance of coastal and marine resources, promoting concerted information and communication policies, and ensuring participation and promotion of Regional Seas in relevant national, regional and global <i>fora</i>.</p>	<p>SPREP members and secretariat engage with global MEAs, highlighting the key issues, uniqueness and diversity of Pacific SIDS – and in turn as part of wider global SIDS community. This has included the major contribution of Pacific countries to adoption of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW) at CBD CoP8 in 2005.</p> <p>SPREP together with other partners has launched a Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) worth €10 million over 3 years, involving 15 Pacific Island Countries and 3 French Territories. CRISP is a complex partnership of government and non-government organizations and research institutions, organized under three main thematic areas: marine protected areas and watershed management; coral reef ecosystem functions, rehabilitation, and use; and institutional capacity, communication, and adoption</p> <p>2005 marked the start of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a global initiative to showcase, promote and encourage the critical role of education and communication as a basis for a more sustainable society. In August 2005, SPREP with the University of the South Pacific in Suva, coordinated the first regional cross-sectoral discussion that</p>

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
	<p>focused on reorienting environmental education towards ESD. “Education for a Sustainable Pacific” brought together representatives from the media, environmental NGOs, governments and the private sector, to facilitate dialogue about ESD in the Pacific. This was followed by a two-day workshop that finalised the <i>Guiding Framework for a Sustainable Pacific</i>, SPREP’s leading document on education and communication in the Pacific. Focussing on three key areas (formal education, communication and building partnerships and networks), the Framework provides realistic, achievable and measurable actions for supporting the integration of ESD principles into national action plans, and existing environment for sustainable development programmes.</p>
<p>4. Support knowledge-based policy making, enhanced public participation, education, awareness, and improved reporting on the state of the coastal & marine environment, its resources, and possible threats to them, through amongst others, contributing to appropriate national and regional monitoring and assessment activities.</p>	<p>SPREP provides support for Members to improve environmental management. The Secretariat delivers this by providing technical support for environmental policy and planning, monitoring, and reporting. This includes providing legal advice on legislative proposals, technical advice to inform environmental policy across the full range of environmental issues, developing indicators for sustainable development, and bringing together information and data to support reporting on the state of the environment on the region.</p>
<p>5. Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives, promoting synergies and coordinated regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives, and responsibilities of United Nations Agencies and other international actors, as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Global Support Unit of the GEF-NCSA a training workshop for officers from countries facilitated initiatives aimed at linking national issues with multi-lateral environmental objectives; and identified capacity needs to address these inter-linked issues as well as the requirements of MEAs. A total of 20 officers from 12 countries participated and benefited from this training. In-country support was provided to four Members in the implementation of NCSA inception and thematic assessment workshops.</p> <p>All SPREP Members are Parties to a large and growing number of MEAs. While this promotes wide commitment to addressing global issues, it also creates new obligations for Members, and places additional demands on the limited resources available in the region—even the most well-staffed offices face difficulties meeting the requirements of these instruments. SPREP provides support in a variety of ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ advice on how to ratify and become a Party to Conventions ▪ technical and policy advice on the relevant subject area ▪ assistance in preparing for Convention meetings, including preparatory meetings and briefing materials

Strategic directions	Achievements/progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ training in international negotiations ▪ advocacy through MEAs and their Secretariats ▪ back-stopping support during Convention meetings ▪ assistance in meeting reporting requirements, such as National Communications under UNFCCC ▪ assistance with design of projects and other initiatives to implement the convention objectives ▪ advice on legal aspects of implementation ▪ assistance in gaining access to MEA-related funding mechanisms such as the GEF.
<p>6. Develop and promote a common vision and integrated management, based on ecosystem approaches, of priorities and concerns related to the coastal and marine environment and its resources in Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, introducing amongst others proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks and effective communication strategies.</p>	<p>The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges: to protect and sustainably manage the invaluable natural resources that support people, cultures, and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. GLISPA was launched in 2006 to build leadership and partnerships committed to actively support implementation of the new IBPoW under the CBD and other related global policies. It helps link activities at the local, national, and international levels and builds on existing networks, institutions, and initiatives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify and support island leaders championing conservation and sustainable livelihood initiatives ▪ utilise international events to recognise island leadership ▪ stimulate strategic partnerships between governments and civil society to implement these initiatives and ▪ strengthen long-term conservation capacity ▪ engage donors to improve access and provide significant new public and private financial resources for island conservation ▪ facilitate learning exchanges, networks, and information sharing across islands to address urgent needs; ▪ establish a mechanism for better collaboration among island nations and nations with islands.