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## **Programme of Work of the Regional Seas**

### **Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004-2007\***

The coordinators/representatives of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) at their 5<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting agreed upon a set of global Strategic Directions for 2004-2007, in response to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, decisions adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session, Agenda 21, and the Millennium Declaration. The directions are aimed at strengthening the Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) at the global level, while continuing to implement the action programmes of the individual RSPs as agreed upon by their governing bodies.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas, 30<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey included a high-level session of the Chairpersons/representatives of the Conference of the Parties (COPs)/Governing Bodies of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs). The UNEP RS Secretariat submitted a progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Directions to the meeting, which included recommendations for further action by the RS Secretariats, COPs and the UNEP RS secretariat. Additionally, representatives from individual RSPs presented progress summaries on the implementation of the Strategic Directions in their specific Regional Sea. The meeting reviewed, revised and approved the Strategic Directions, as well as the recommendations for further action.

The table below summarizes these outcomes and recommendations, set into actions to be undertaken by the Regional Seas. Recommended actions for the COPs are to be undertaken with support from their Secretariats.

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\* As discussed by the representatives of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Secretariats at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas in Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2003 and further endorsed by the chairpersons, or their representatives of the COPs and IGMs at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global RS meeting, Istanbul, Turkey, 30<sup>th</sup> November-2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004.

**1. Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development (SD), 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.**

<b>1. CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate discussions on the new global RS strategic directions into the agendas of the next COPs/IGMs.</li> <li>• Based on the overview of major actors/programmes in the region that address issues within the realm of the RS, propose concrete measures on how cooperation can be improved, possibly culminating in a decision at the COP/IGM.</li> <li>• Identify how the COP and Secretariats can further contribute to enhancing RS contribution to sustainable development, including to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).</li> <li>• Consider if the RS programme of work should address new programme elements to enhance regional partnerships and increase RS contribution to SD.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action by RS Secretariats</b>	<b>Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forge increased partnerships within and across the regions with the various major actors and players in the field of conservation &amp; management of the coastal and marine environment, as reflected in the databases compiled on the RS website.</li> <li>• Continually Update the individual RS sections of the database of major actors/players on the RS website with support from the UNEP Regional Seas Coordinating Office.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage an expert to undertake a Global Review of the RS. (<i>Begin by May 2005 – review to take 6 months</i>)</li> <li>• Finalise/publish the Regional Seas Brochure, "Partnerships for Sustainable Development" by end of May 2005</li> <li>• Link the database of major actors via the RS website to the following sites: Large Marine Ecosystem website; Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) database, which also lists all major partners, action programmes and projects; Relevant Global Environment Facility (GEF) project websites; International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW-Learn) site.</li> <li>• Ensure continuous update of the database on major actors in the RSPs, to keep abreast with new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.</li> <li>• Assess by the 7<sup>th</sup> Global RS Meeting, the usefulness of the database. Send out questionnaire to the RSPs.</li> <li>• Compile inputs from the RSPs to the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA in 2006.</li> </ul>

**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.**

<b>2.1 COUNTRY OWNERSHIP</b>	
<b>Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify alternative means to enhance reporting by countries at COPs/IGMs (Governing Bodies) on implementation of RS Convention/Action Plan, other than review of Programme of Work (POW) of RS Secretariats, with the goal to shift the emphasis in the implementation of Conventions/Action Plans from the Secretariat to the national level. (Such implementation review with a focus on the national level is already being utilized by some RSCAPS (such as PERSGA, MAP and the Black Sea) but some countries might require expert advice (in the form of consultancies) in order to competently report in this manner.</li> <li>• Consider means for amending COP/IGM agendas to better reflect the contribution by countries to the implementation of Conventions/Action Plans, as well as to review the impact of the national and regional action and annual/biannual POW of the Secretariats at the national level, the measures taken and the results achieved.</li> <li>• Assess if and how COPs/IGMs should address common policy development towards global issues and present them in relevant <i>fora</i> such as Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), International Comparisons Project (UNICP), World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), SIDS, Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (UNSOCA), and UNEP Governing Council (GC).</li> <li>• Assess how to ensure closer co-operation between RS Secretariats, COPs/Governing Bodies, the UNEP Regional Offices and UNEP's Governing Council.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action by Secretariats</b>	<b>Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariats/countries might also wish to consider assessing the impact of the implementation of the Convention/Action Plan on the social, economic and environmental conditions of participating countries. The role of the Secretariats in monitoring the national implementation of RSCAPS should be enhanced, amongst others to be able to better assist countries to develop the necessary capacity to implement the Convention/Action Plan, and to solicit international financing targeted towards increasing the capacity of national governments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage an expert to assess how countries could be assisted in better reporting on how through other international agreements and obligations, they implement the RSCAPS &amp; other Conventions and action programmes e.g. CBD, Basel, POPs etc.</li> <li>• Develop short papers on upcoming major events/meetings and inform the regions accordingly, soliciting their input.</li> <li>• Explore on ensuring participation of the RSPs at the UNEP GC, as is with the Secretariats of other Conventions.</li> </ul>

<b>2.2 ASSIST COUNTRIES IN TRANSLATING RS CONVENTIONS/ACTION PLANS (RSCAPS) INTO NATIONAL REGULATION AND LEGISLATION</b>		
<b>Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice for capacity building on means for translating RSCAPS into national legislation.</li> <li>• Provide advice for capacity building on improving the implementation of the Conventions/Action Plans at the national level, and for utilizing, where appropriate, monitoring of and reporting on compliance and enforcement at COPS/IGMs as a means of spurring improved implementation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Action by Secretariats</b>	<b>Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in cooperation with the RS Coordinating Office to support legal implementation and strengthen compliance and enforcement of the RSCAPs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop and revise guidance on developing implementing legislation and strengthening compliance with and enforcement of RSCAPs.</li> <li>• Design and develop an initial capacity building workshop programme (to be tested in two regions in 2005) for training on developing implementing legislation for RSCAPs, strengthening institutional structures for improved compliance and enforcement and identifying means for coordinated implementation of RSCAPs with related environmental Conventions (such as Basel and POPs).</li> <li>• Prepare overview and analysis of options for future legal support to the Regional Seas by the Coordinating Office for presentation to and consideration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Regional Seas Meeting. This overview should include outcomes and results of the regional workshops, options for further legal capacity building, analysis of alternative options, such as organizing workshops with those responsible for ongoing Regional Seas GEF projects for insuring a coordinated approach.</li> <li>• Promote integration of RSCAP-related issues into various existing legal training and capacity building exercises, to increase opportunities for those implementing RSCAPs to improve their legal knowledge base and take advantage of synergies and inter-linkages with other environmental Conventions. For example, ensure that Regional Seas legal issues and the draft legal guidance on Regional Seas will be made a major component of upcoming DEPI legal workshops for Latin America, Francophone Africa, and West Asia.</li> <li>• Coordinate and develop, in conjunction with GPA, a network of land-based sources of pollution (LBS) protocols that facilitates information sharing and exchange of expertise and experience.</li> <li>• Regional Seas Coordinating Office will also provide legal advice and support to Secretariats on legal issues such as competence, mandate, rules of procedure, financial rules and terms of reference.</li> </ul>	

<b>2.3 RAISING FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on how to make better use of domestic resources for the implementation of Conventions and Action Plans at the national level, and the role the COPs and Secretariat can play in this regard, including on measures to be taken to ensure adequate contribution by countries to the RS Secretariats.</li> <li>• Assess how intersectoral/interministerial cooperation at the national level can contribute to the implementation of the RSCAPs.</li> <li>• Assess how international programmes, including those co-financed by the GEF, lead to sustainable (domestic and international) financing of the implementation of the RSCAPs in the long run, as well as the long-term sustainability and impact of international funded regional programmes and activities.</li> <li>• Incorporate the social, economic and environmental vulnerability of SIDS into the sustainable financing strategies.</li> </ul>		
<b>Action by Secretariats</b>	<b>Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariats should provide details on topics they would like to see discussed/addressed at the pre-meeting of UNEP-administered Secretariats.</li> <li>• If desired, assess how other international and regional agencies and institutes contribute to the implementation of the RSCAP through the implementation of their mandates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare agenda items and materials to make financial discussions a key topic for the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Regional Seas Meeting. – <i>Strengthening long-term sustainable financing.</i></li> <li>• Organize a one-day pre-meeting in conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Regional Seas Meeting for UNEP-administered RSCAP Secretariats to discuss issues of mutual interest. Compile from the regions issues to be addressed prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>	

2.3.2 COLLABORATION WITH THE GEF	
Action by Secretariats	Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the GEF training courses.</li> <li>Invite, if desired, GEF national focal points and/or project coordinator to COPs.</li> <li>Continue to collaborate and support countries in the implementation of GEF projects in the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a two phase GEF related training programme for the Regional Seas:  <u>Phase I</u> – Development of GEF project proposals. Directed to RS secretariats. Sources of finance to be identified (possibly GEF and GPA).  <u>Phase II</u> – Implementation of GEF International Waters projects. Directed to GEF projects personnel once the project has started. Source of finance a special allocation within the project budget. Training materials and course content for both phases is currently under development by the GEF.</li> <li>Make a presentation at the GEF's 3rd Biennial IW Conference (June 2005; Brazil), to review GEF's global IW portfolio, share experiences and promote collaboration between RS and GEF and across the IW portfolio.</li> <li>Inform RS on IW GEF related activities.</li> <li>Produce an overview of all GEF projects involving Regional Seas summarising the value of RS for the GEF and vice versa.</li> </ul>

2.4 CIVIL SOCIETY	
Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify an (increased) role of civil society and private sector in the COP/IGM and how to effectively engage them in the implementation of Conventions/Action Plans.</li> <li>Review if amendment of POW of RS Secretariats is needed to increase the contribution of civil society, private sector to the implementation of RS Conventions/Action Plans.</li> </ul>	
Action by Secretariats	Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate partnerships with civil society and private sector to address priority issues of common concern noting the crucial role of civil society in reaching the goals of the RS</li> <li>Use NGOs to raise the profile of RS at the countries' level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess how RS can be involved in and represented at global civil society <i>fora</i>, convened by the UNEP Civil Society Unit.</li> <li>Conduct a study on how different RS interact with civil society, how they contribute to the implementation of the Action Programmes and the Conventions, and how this contribution and involvement can be strengthened.</li> </ul>

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*.

### 3.1 VISIBILITY

#### Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats

- Promote a greater visibility of the RS, individually and jointly, in the countries, with the public at large, different ministries and relevant international divisions, amongst others by drawing attention to the impact of RS on the socio-economic and environmental fabric of the countries and the way the RS address/respond to countries' priorities.
- Promote discussion on relevant global sustainable development issues and upcoming events in the COPs/IGM.
- Attend, if possible, as Chairperson of the RS Convention/Action Plan, UNEP GC and other relevant *fora* and/or ensure that country delegations are well briefed.

#### Action by Secretariats

- Promote visibility of the RSPs regionally and nationally e.g. through newsletters. Note the experience of ROPME in detailing the role of different Ministries in the implementation of the Conventions through consecutive newsletters.
- Facilitate the inclusion of RS in regional environmental ministerial *fora*, and representation of these ministerial *fora* at the COPs of RS in cooperation with UNEP Regional Offices.
- Promote at the national and regional level, combined reporting to relevant regional & global Conventions & programmes (e.g. RS, GPA, SIDS, ICARM etc) in cooperation with the UNEP RS Coordinating Office.

#### Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office

- Promote a greater visibility of the RS at different international *fora*, including at relevant meetings of the UN, COPs of MEAs amongst others through joint representation of the RS, briefings on RS to country delegations in UNHQ and other relevant meetings. (*See also briefs on major meetings -item 2.1*)
- Assist UNEP RS Secretariats to report, as relevant, on progress in the implementation of RS Conventions/Action Plans at UNEP GC and other relevant *fora* including MEA COPs (e.g. upcoming CMS COP in November 2005).
- Ensure an updated RS website and continued links & cross-references to other RSP websites for better outreach. (*See also item 1.*)
- Advise on how RSPs can better contribute to relevant international policy issues (e.g. GEF, CSD, MEAs, MDG, Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and the role COPs/IGMs can play in this regard.
- When necessary, prepare a side event on RS at relevant international *fora*, including CSD, GC, Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) and others.
- Increase visibility of RSPs within UNEP through informing UNEP Divisions and Programmes on the possibility to implement relevant activities through RSPs, and vice-versa inform RS of ongoing UNEP Programmes in their region through UNEP Regional Offices.

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.

### 4.1 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

#### Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats

- Advise how countries can better contribute to regional monitoring and assessment activities and the realistic measures, including prevention and prediction, e.g. as they relate to natural disasters, actions countries could take in this regard, including forecasting and financial measures.
- Advise on national monitoring and assessment needs and requirements, of relevance to the regional needs and requirements (e.g. reporting to MEAs).
- Identify ongoing national and regional monitoring and assessment programmes, including those conducted by universities and NGOs that are relevant to the RS and can contribute to regional monitoring and assessment activities and promote their cooperation and coordination at national and regional level.
- Stress the importance of incorporating socio-economic and health aspects, the valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources, and the relation to poverty reduction in monitoring and assessment programmes, as well as the vulnerability of SIDS and the economic impact of different policy options and/or of continued contamination in case no action is taken.

Action by Secretariats	Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve communities and indigenous knowledge in monitoring and assessment activities, taking into account socio-economic aspects in assessments, the link with poverty and capacity building.</li> <li>• Continue cooperation, where possible with IAEA/MEL given their experience in various RSPs on monitoring assessment activities, and taking into account financial repercussions.</li> <li>• Exchange best practices and experience on biomarkers, amongst others.</li> <li>• Make use of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) networks to build ecosystem-based approaches for the GMA. The GIWA project will end in June 2005 and the results will be presented at GEF's 3rd Biennial International Waters Conference.</li> <li>• Contribute to existing assessment exercises (GIWA, GMA, GEO, MA) and make better use of them, particularly Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).</li> <li>• Enhance collaboration with IOC, GOOS and GTOS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote cooperation between RSPs and UNEP-DEWA. IAEA/MEL and IOC/GOOS to assist and advise RSPs, on regional and global Monitoring and Assessment (M&amp;A) programs.</li> <li>• Assist, when relevant, in the implementation of the recommendations of the <i>Review of Regional Marine Pollution Monitoring and Assessment in the Regional Seas Programmes</i> prepared by IAEA/MEL in 2004.</li> <li>• Promote and assist in the involvement of RSPs in the GMA (with DEWA) and other major global assessment activities, including ensuring that they are reflected in those conducted for the Review of the MDGs.</li> <li>• Assist in soliciting contributions of RSPs to the draft GPA State of Environment (SOE) publication for IGR2 of the GPA.</li> </ul>

**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.**

5. 1 PROMOTING SYNERGIES AND REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT MEAs	
Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess how to ensure better cooperation between RS and relevant MEAs at the national and regional level, and the role the COPs and Secretariat can play in this regard.</li> <li>• Encourage &amp; assist countries to implement their responsibilities towards different global &amp; regional Conventions, as they relate to the RS, in a coherent and co-ordinated manner.</li> <li>• Assess if joint implementation of RS, relevant MEAs, national &amp; regional programmes &amp; projects, including those co-financed by the GEF, can bring economies of scale to countries.</li> </ul>	
Action by Secretariats	Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively collaborate with MEAs: CBD, CITIES, CMS, Ramsar, Basel and Chemical MEAs, through amongst others: promoting and facilitating the cross-participation of RSPs in relevant meetings of the COPs of MEAs, Global/International Bodies and Organizations; Cross nominations of Focal Points and also encouraging countries to implement their responsibilities towards different global and regional Conventions, as they relate to the Regional Seas, in a coherent and co-ordinated manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) – Invasive species (with Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)); coral reef management; living marine resources; identification of gaps and needs of RSPs in the field of biodiversity; marine and coastal protected areas network.</li> <li>- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) – marine mammals.</li> <li>- Basel Convention – Used oils; used batteries; waste management; marine litter.</li> <li>- Actively collaborate with the Chemicals, Atmosphere and Climate Change Conventions on Prior Informed Consent (PICs) &amp; Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), pesticides management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cooperate with UN and non-UN Bodies in particular: UN – IMO (UNEP/IMO Forum, MARPOL, OPRC, LDC, MPAs), UNESCO/IOC (GOOS), FAO (sustainable fisheries and ecosystem approach), IAEA, UNICP (UNCLOS), GA, CSD; Non-UN - IUCN, WWF; including developing the Marine Litter Programme with IMO, Basel, FAO and IOC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Maritime Organisation (IMO) - Projects related to prevention, preparedness and response to oil spills or other harmful substances, through the development of contingency plans and assistance to comply with marine pollution and related protocols; marine litter; London Dumping Convention (LDC); ballast water &amp; invasive species; chemicals; navigation safety.</li> <li>- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) – Strengthen cooperation with FAO HQ and Regional Fisheries Bodies on ecosystem- based management of living marine resources (including fisheries) and on the impact of pollution on fisheries; marine litter (fishing gear).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and ensure cooperation between RSPs and relevant MEAs and IGOs on both the HQ and regional levels, through, among others: mutual cross participation in relevant meetings; workshops; training programmes; capacity building; publications and outreach on matters of mutual interest; cross nomination of focal points.</li> </ul> <p>Synergies between RSPs and MEAs and IGOs will focus on:</p> <p><u>IMO</u> – UNEP/IMO forum, oil spill prevention, preparedness and response. LDC, marine litter, ballast water, chemicals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organise the 7<sup>th</sup> Global RS Meeting in conjunction with the UNEP-IMO Forum</li> </ul> <p><u>CBD</u> – Invasive species (with GISP) MPAs, corals (with CRU), ecosystem-based management, specific workshops in RSPs (upon request).</p> <p><u>Basel</u> - Used oils; used batteries; waste management; marine litter.</p> <p><u>FAO</u> – RSPS/RFBs cooperation, ecosystem approach to fisheries, marine litter, invasive species.</p>

Action by Secretariats	Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) – Scientific aspects of marine and coastal environment management; cooperation between IOC/Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and RSPs; harmful algal bloom; Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM); GMA; Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN); marine litter.</li> <li>- IAEA – Monitoring and Assessment.</li> <li>• Cooperate with Global Programmes and initiatives: GPA, SIDS, WCMC, ICRI, and ICRAN.</li> <li>- International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), ICRI, GCRMN and other coral related organizations – regional implementation of coral management projects.</li> <li>- The GPA – SAP on wastewater; National Programmes of Action (NPAs); Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitat (PADH); ICAM/ICZM, ICARM, marine litter; GPA pilot projects and other LBA related activities.</li> </ul>	<p><u>UNESCO/IOC</u> – implementation of the IOC/GOOS-UNEP/RSPs MoU, monitoring and assessment, data and information</p> <p><u>IAEA/MEL</u> – monitoring and assessment</p> <p><u>CMS</u> – marine mammals (upon request)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate cooperation between RSPs and other MEAs, IGOs and relevant global programmes &amp; processes such as GPA, SIDS, ICRAN &amp; WCMC.</li> </ul>

**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.**

PROMOTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH	
Action by Chairs of COP/IGM with support from the Secretariats	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess how an ecosystem-based management approach can be further implemented in the RS Conventions/Action Plans, also as it relates to the GEF.</li> <li>• Identify emerging policy issues and items the RS should address with regard to scientific, social and economic developments.</li> <li>• Encourage improved socio-economic valuation of the goods and services of marine ecosystems.</li> <li>• Identify how RS can better cooperate, including through action at the national level, with Regional Fisheries organisations and other relevant bodies, e.g. those dealing with meteorology, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), coral reefs, the benefit and modalities of such cooperation at national and regional level, and request relevant authorities within countries to promote such cooperation.</li> <li>• Invite Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and other relevant regional organisations as observers to the COPs/IGMs.</li> <li>• Review if Ecological Quality Objectives (EQOs) are useful management tools for the region.</li> </ul>	
Action by Secretariats	Action by UNEP RS Coordinating Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with global and regional biodiversity related Conventions and programmes such as FAO, the NOAA Large Marine Ecosystem Programme, seeking their co-operation in the development and implementation of the ecosystem approach.</li> <li>• Promote the use of the LME management concept as an important vehicle to strengthen the RSCAP and ensure synergies and complementarities between RS and regional GEF/LME projects.</li> <li>• Exchange data and information available at the level of RSPs and RFBs that may be of mutual interest.</li> <li>• Promote and facilitate formalisation of cross participation of RSPs in the meetings of governing bodies of RFBs and their technical subsidiary organs.</li> <li>• Build on the existing cooperation with relevant fisheries organisations, including FAO, in ongoing GEF projects &amp; the information derived on fisheries from TDAs.</li> <li>• Seek association and co-operation with regional components of global programmes providing data and information relevant to ecosystem-based management of living marine resources (including fisheries) such as IOC-GOOS.</li> <li>• The RSPs bordering the EU should continue their contribution &amp; participation in the Ecosystem Approaches component/working group of the EU Marine Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage an expert to undertake an Economic Valuation of goods and services of marine ecosystems, also identifying potential economic effects of prospective GEF funding.</li> <li>• Publish a joint RS-LME brochure with NOAA, giving a MAP overlay of RS and LMEs.</li> <li>• Through joint partnership between RS &amp; LMEs, provide an overview focussing on the assessment and management of LMEs located in RS areas.</li> <li>• Continue to support individual RSPs in their LME activities.</li> <li>• Contribute to the proposal on the Regional Fisheries project on community participation in the conservation and management of coral reefs and MPAs – resulting from discussions at the IUCN Meeting 16-17 November, Bangkok, Thailand.</li> <li>• Co-operate with FAO and Regional Fisheries bodies on the implementation of joint programmes for ecosystem-based management of fisheries.</li> <li>• Ensure continued participation in the Ecosystem Approaches Working Group of the EU Marine Strategy.</li> </ul>