Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia

SDG Outlook Overview

Regional Workshop on the Development and Finalization of the Outlook on COBSEA Follow-up and Review of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals

Manila, Philippines 11-12 December, 2019

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Background

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - Stresses the important role of regional organizations in SDG implementation, follow-up and review
  - Suggests that follow-up and review of regional level can provide useful opportunities for peer learning, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets
  - Promotes inclusive regional process to draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review on global level
- UNEA Resolution 2/10 : invites Regional Seas Programme to work towards SDG implementation and reporting
- 18th Global Meeting of Regional Seas : regions to prepare SDG outlook documents
- Guidance prepared by UNEP

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SDG Outlook Objective

- Guide COBSEA in supporting tracking and implementation of relevant ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Outlook timeline

- 2nd Extraordinary IGM : Outlook discussed and funds allocated towards process
- 24th COBSEA IGM : Secretariat presented progress, including initial draft outlook document, agreed process for further development and finalization
- Outlook workshop : development and finalization of Outlook
- 25th COBSEA IGM : final draft for consideration

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Outlook Overview

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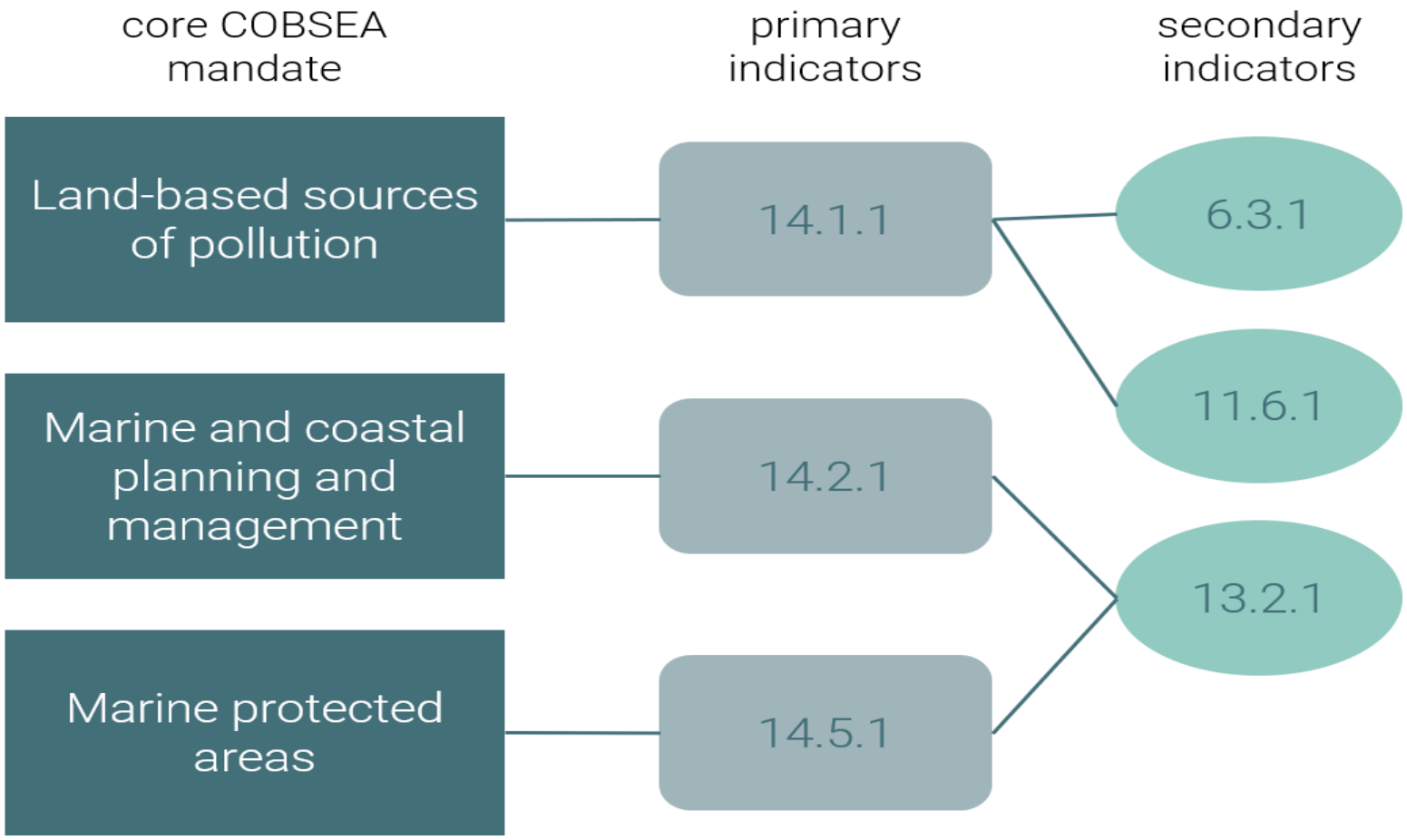
Ocean-related SDG targets relevant for COBSEA



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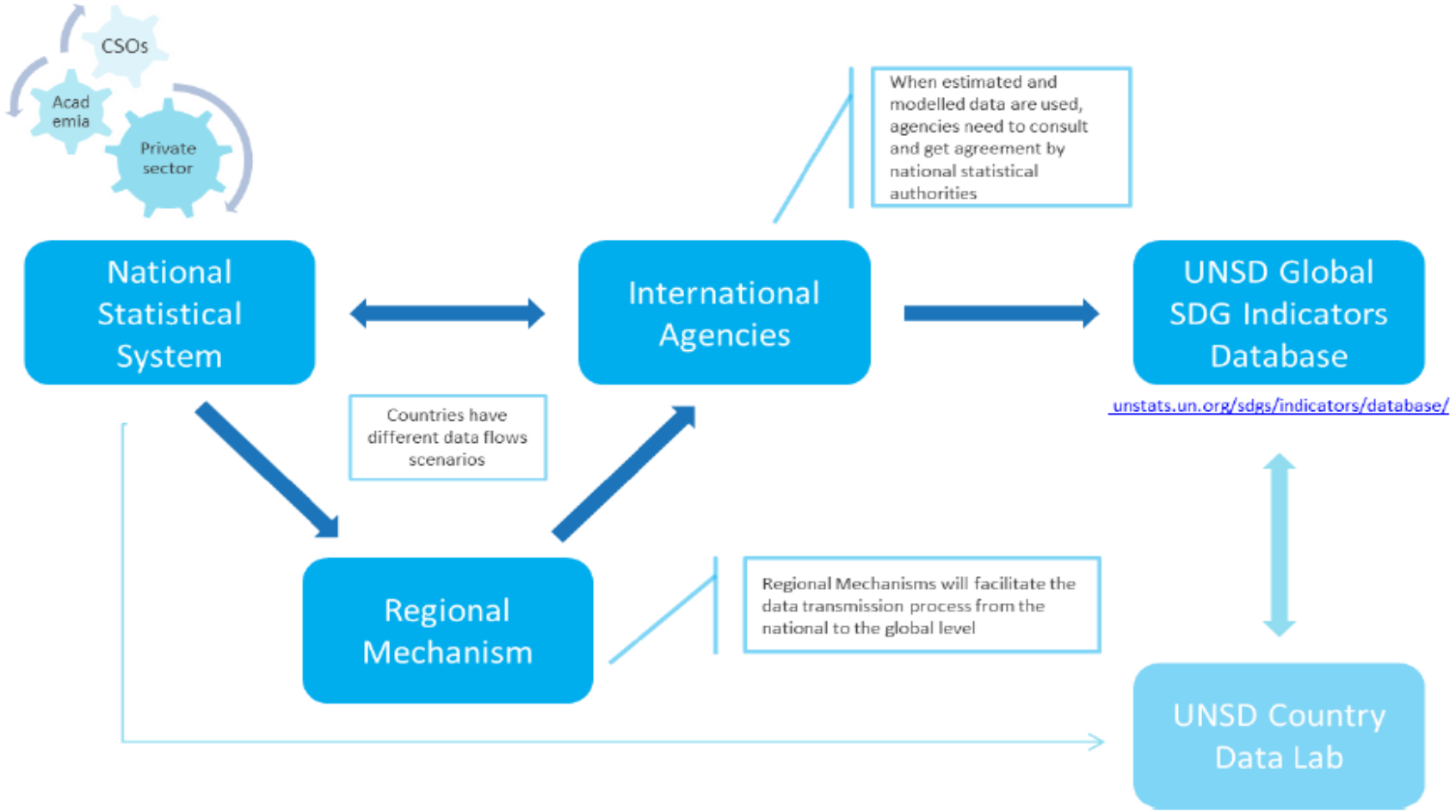
SDG Reporting



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Regional Seas Indicators

Regional Seas Indicator Working Group:

- 22 regional ecosystem-based indicators agreed
- Incorporating/directly addressing SDG target indicators
- Linking policy and operational objectives and action
- Enables comparability between regions, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned

Relevance for COBSEA: high applicability, relative ease of adaptation and adoption, benefit of exchange with and assistance from UNEP and other Regional Seas

Regional Seas indicators for SDG target 14.1

SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Regional Seas Indicator
14.1 Marine Pollution	14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	1. Chlorophyll a concentration as an indicator of phytoplankton biomass 2. Trends for selected priority chemicals including POPs and heavy metals 3. Quantification and classification of beach litter items

Regional and country analysis

- Low SDG 14 data availability, hindered by data collection challenges
- Some development to increase coverage of MPAs in region documented, progress still needed
- Fragmented reporting on ocean-related SDGs in VNRs from region
- National plans and frameworks addressing ocean-related SDGs exist in COBSEA countries

Progress toward achieving the SDGs in South-East Asia

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COBSEA SDG Outlook and Roadmap

Some comments on structure including adding an executive summary and annexes

Include some additional information e.g. on SDGs in the background

Add/update information in situation analysis based on country presentations

Revise recommended actions in line with input provided

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Recommended Action

Indicator-based assessment

Cooperation and capacity building

Delivering key actions

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Indicator-based assessment

Tracking and reporting on SDG progress: Some ongoing assessment, use of indicators and existing capacity uneven/unknown, overall limited data coverage

Strengthened indicator-based assessment, focusing on SDG targets where COBSEA has a specific mandate and comparative advantage, enables improved National reporting and decision support as well as better tracking delivery of 2030 Agenda

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Indicator-based assessment – key actions

- Establish COBSEA working group / pool of experts on SDGs, with a focus on indicators, assessment and reporting
- Map indicators and methods used in countries as well as current institutional and human capacity, as basis for identification of common core set of indicators
- Strengthen country efforts/capacity to monitor and report, focusing on the common core indicators (training, guidance, sharing of experiences and best practice) and identified needs
- Where relevant, promote harmonization across countries

NB work on marine litter monitoring underway on basis of RAP MALI, working group on marine litter and ongoing projects

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Cooperation and capacity building – key actions

Conduct capacity building e.g. in relation to monitoring and reporting, documenting and sharing SDG implementation best practices and lessons learned

Strengthen cooperation and information sharing with relevant regional entities

- e.g. with IOC-WESTPAC and PEMSEA, to support capacity building and to document and share SDG implementation best practices and lessons learned
- with ESCAP to promote SDG 14 assessment in VNR reporting through APFSD subregional preparatory meetings and inter-agency Regional Collaborative Platform

Develop new interlinked regional and national Voluntary Commitments (VCs) towards UN Ocean Conference 2020

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Delivering key actions

Leverage current COBSEA projects (e.g. on ML) and prioritize project development to deliver on key actions identified in Outlook document

Leverage capacity within region/among countries including exploring establishment of Regional Activity Centre for monitoring and assessment

(+role of COBSEA bureau in intersessional work)

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UN
environment
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Questions