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**Progress Report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013 – 2016
(as of October 2015)**

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DRAFT

Chapter 1: Implementation of the RSSD (2013-2016) by UNEP

Analysis of the implementation of the RSSD (2013-2016) by UNEP

UNEP made a significant contribution to achieve the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2013-2016) with regards to the Strategy 1 (*Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment*) and the Strategy 2 (*Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter*). These two strategies are closely related to the activities of the UNEP Programme of Work (PoW) and the contributions towards the strategic goals were smoothly made.

On Strategy 4 (*Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity*) various activities are ongoing at UNEP developing tools and methods in order to promote Green Economy. However, there are opportunities for UNEP to create further collaboration with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) particularly to implement the concept in the oceans. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainable production and consumption patterns have been emphasized and thus the realization of Green Economy will continue to be important.

UNEP has also contributed to the achievement of the Strategy 5 (*Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contribution to the World Ocean Assessment*), providing technical as well as financial supports to the workshops and to the Expert Group. The summary of the regular process is produced¹. As a spinoff of the process, Nairobi Convention has produced the first report on the State of the marine environment in the region. The regular process has, therefore, helped develop regional capacities to monitor the status of the oceans.

On the other hand, it seems that UNEP has made limited progresses on the implementation of the Strategy 3 (*Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal environment*) and 6 (*Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)*). Particularly, it has been difficult to secure financial resources for the RSCAPs (3.4). Further efforts are needed to foster partnerships with MEAs and other international organizations to increase visibility of the Regional Seas Programme and to attract future funding. However, the secretariats also need to develop their own strategies to achieve financial as well as institutional sustainability.

Due to the lack of clear targets and indicators for the strategies, it is difficult to assess the overall level of achievements UNEP has made toward the RSSD (2013-2016). Furthermore, it is not clear to the extent which UNEP was able to use these strategies to implement its work as the PoW is the principal guiding document for the implementation of the activities. For the future RSSDs, therefore, it is recommended

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/112

to set explicit targets to encourage commitments towards the implementation both by UNEP and RSCAPs.

Implementation of the each action item by UNEP

1. Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment

1.1 Identify areas/indicators related to Sustainable Development Goal on oceans.

Significant efforts have been made to link indicators used by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Regional Seas Indicators Working group. It is expected that the RSCAPs will be able to provide technical assistance to the member countries to monitor the indicators related to the oceans particularly on the SDG Goal 14.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for the State of Regional Seas (Geneva, 30 June – 2 July 2014)	The workshop confirmed important principles for choosing indicators and recommended to establish a regional seas indicator working group to develop an indicator toolbox ² .	30 June – 02 July 2014
Publication “Measuring Success – Indicators for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans”	The publication was submitted to UNEP SDG Task Force and Inter-Agency SDG indicators working group. It was also presented to ICP on Sustainable Development and Oceans in May 2015.	Dec 2014
Launching of the Regional Seas Indicator Working Group, 23 October 2015, Istanbul	Based on the recommendations from the 2014 technical workshop, UNEP would like to launch regional seas indicator working group, and the results of the working group should be provided to the continuing discussion on the SDG indicators ³ .	October 2015
Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 14 (Oceans) follow-up and preparatory input: Proposed indicator included target 14c as ‘additional indicator’ for consideration by UNGA: “Number of countries implementing either legally or programmatically the provisions set out in Regional Seas protocols and ratification and implementation of	If adopted, RSCAPs may utilize its relevant systems for monitoring and reporting on management and governance of the marine and coastal environment, incl.(a) compliance committees reviewing implementation of regional agreements within their mandates, (b) mandatory reporting on	August 2015 ⁴

² http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Indicator_RS_meeting/indicator_workshop.asp

³ <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/40YearsofAction/IndicatorRRSMeeting-2015/tabid/1060470/Default.aspx>

⁴ <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/index.html>

the ILO Maritime and Fisheries Conventions".	the state of the marine and coastal environment of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans at 3-5 year cycles.	
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1.2 Build capacities on application of EBM principles at the Regional/National level

UNEP has been emphasizing the implementation of EBM. A number of projects for EBM have been carried out at regional and national levels. For example, capacity building activities have been conducted with CPPS and CEP. UNEP and SPREP are also working on an on-going project on cost-benefit analysis for ecosystem-based adaptation. On the other hand, several policy guideline and guiding materials have been produced. The RSCAPs are encouraged to use the publications to conduct capacitation activities at their regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional capacity building workshop on EBM conducted in specific regions, including preparation of site-level EBM pilot projects	Regional EBM Capacity Building workshops held in collaboration between UNEP/DEPI-CPPS (14-18 Oct 2013 in Lima, Peru) to provide decision makers and planners across relevant sectors from the governments of the Lima Convention Region (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile) with tools and skills to develop and implement ecosystem-based approaches for coastal management. EBM pilot project concepts were prepared for each country, partly followed under the IOC/UNESCO SPINCAM project on indicators for coastal zone management	Oct 2013
Guidance on governing Marine Protected Areas – building resilience through diversity	A governance framework with a set of guiding principles has been developed to assist analyzing and combining different governance aspects in the planning and implementation of MPAs. The framework is informed by 20 MPA case studies from the field. The framework and principles are discussed in the peer-reviewed paper ⁵ . Follow-up work is ongoing to develop a practical guidance resource on MPA	Sept 2013

⁵ E.M. De Santo, O. Vestergaard, P.J.S. Jones, W. Qiu: An empirical framework for deconstructing the realities of governing marine protected areas, *Marine Policy* 41, 2013.

	governance to be launched spring 2016 ('Guidance on MPA governance – resilience through diversity')	
The report "Pacific Integrated Island Management: Principles, Case Studies and Lessons Learned published.	The report Pacific Integrated Island Management (IIM): Principles, Case Studies and Lessons Learned was prepared through collaboration between SPREP, UNEP Wildlife Conservation Society, Alluvium Consulting, Edith Cowan University, Sustainable Island Innovations and Hodge Environmental, and presented during the 9 th Pacific Island Nature Conservation Conference in early December 2013 as well as at the 3 rd SIDS conference in September 2014. IIM is a planning process that recognizes the importance of integrated management that operates at the scale at which biological, social and physical processes occur on small islands. IIM calls for sustainable and adaptive management of natural resources through coordinated networks of institutions and communities that bridge habitats (e.g. land-sea) and stakeholders (e.g. communities, business, industry, government) with the common goals of maintaining ecosystem services and securing human health and well-being. Based on analysis of 15 case studies sourced from Pacific islands and covering a range of island environments, habitats and vulnerabilities, as well as varying development and governance contexts, the report presents ten best practice principles for IIM and synthesizes lessons learned. The report is accompanied by a brief policy outreach document ⁶ and the work was also published in a peer reviewed journal ⁷ .	Dec 2013

⁶ <http://www.sprep.org/publications/pacific-integrated-island-management-principles-case-studies-and-lessons-learned>

<p>Report on the mangrove ecosystem services was prepared and launched.</p>	<p>The publication “The Importance of Mangroves to People: A Call to Action” was published and launched in October 2014. The publication presented a set of recommendations for global action, including establishment of a global mangrove commission and of a global mangrove fund. Based on the recommendations, UNEP, IUCN, Ramsar Convention and CBD are developing a global mangrove initiative (provisional title), and once it is fully developed, regional seas conventions and action plans are invited to participate in and contribute to this initiative.</p>	<p>October 2014</p>
<p>UNEP-LifeWeb: “Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning for transboundary marine mammal management in Caribbean and Southeast and Northeast Pacific”</p>	<p>Key results: (a) Regional capacity and networking among govt. planners in 26 participating countries enhanced on broad-scale marine spatial planning ; (b) Regional expert consultations, data collation and review undertaken to map marine mammal distribution, essential habitats, and human impacts; (c) Management plan developed for Silverbank Humpback Sanctuary, Dominican Republic; (d) Transboundary scenarios developed on marine mammal protected areas in East Caribbean; (e) Policy advice and outreach on transboundary management and governance developed and disseminated.</p>	<p>July 2010 – Dec 2014</p>
<p>UNEP-LifeWeb: Saving Monk Seal Population from Extinction, pilot work at the Cap Blanc Peninsula and surrounding areas, Mauritania</p>	<p>Key results: (a) Special Areas of Conservation for the monk seal (SACMS) other suitable monk seal habitats accurately surveyed; (b) SACMS confirmed as important potential places for monk seal feeding and dispersion; (c) Monitoring and enforcement strengthened; (d) Increased awareness of local public and artisan fishermen on sustainable resource use and conservation</p>	<p>Jan 2011- Dec 2014</p>

⁷ Jupiter SD, Jenkins AP, Lee Long WJ, Maxwell SL, Carruthers TJB, Hodge KB, Govan H, Tamelander J and Watson JEM 2014: Principles for integrated island management in the tropical Pacific. *Pacific Conservation Biology* 20(2) 193 – 205.

	strategies ⁸ .	
UNEP-LifeWeb: Strengthening the management and surveillance of Marine Protected Areas in Guinea Bissau	Key results: (a) Participative maritime surveillance system operational in the three marine protected areas, with a national strategy for maritime surveillance in the protected areas validated by stakeholders, published and distributed; (b) Management capacity of the Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) improved through the creation of the Central Surveillance Unit and acquisition of surveillance equipment; (c) Participation of local populations in management of MPA is a reality: local fishermen are actively contributing to its management and surveillance ⁹ .	Jan 2011- Dec 2014
UNEP-LifeWeb: Support to regional marine protected areas network of marine turtles in Western Africa (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone)	Key results: (a) Threats to breeding marine turtles due to coastal dynamics and climate change described and analysed; (b) Representativeness, connectivity and management efficiency of the regional network of marine protected areas in West Africa strengthened; (c) Management of the marine protected areas of Palmarin and Joal in Sine Saloum, Senegal strengthened ¹⁰ .	Jan 2011- Dec 2014
“Blue Solutions” initiative of GIZ, UNEP, GRID-Arendal and IUCN - developing and bringing together innovative marine and coastal management approaches and policy advice	Global capacity building initiative focusing on holistic solutions for a sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. Five thematic areas: (I) Ecosystem-based marine spatial planning and management; (II) MPA governance,; (III) Integrating ecosystem services into development planning; (IV) Ccosystem-based adaptation; and (V) Sustainable financing. By collating best practices, improving methods, enhancing capacity and fostering knowledge exchange, action is supported at local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels.	2013-2017

⁸ <http://www.unep.org/lifeweb/mauritania.asp>

⁹ <http://www.unep.org/lifeweb/west-africa.asp>

¹⁰ <http://www.unep.org/lifeweb/sea-turtles.asp>

	Through different formats and cooperation with various partner institutions, the Blue Solutions Initiative seeks to (a) enhance capacities for scaling up useful approaches and tools, (b) provide learning opportunities and trainings on Blue Solutions themes, and (c) support policy processes to facilitate pilot application and testing ¹¹ .	
Blue Solutions Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-being co-organised by UNEP, GIZ, IUCN (Cebu, Philippines).	Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-Being convened by Blue Solutions. Attended by 120 managers and practitioners from 20 countries to share, discuss and learn from local-to-regional experiences related to MPA governance, Locally Managed marine Areas, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem services. Held in May 2015, Cebu, Philippines ¹² .	May 2014
UNEP guidance: “How can ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change be integrated into national adaptation planning?”	Concise briefing document to advice how ecosystem-based adaptation principles can be integrated into national adaptation planning. It considers four main elements: (a) Understanding adaptation context; (b) Assessing climate change impacts and vulnerabilities; (c) Identifying, appraising and selecting adaptation options; (d) develop implementation strategies ¹³ .	Oct 2014
Regional MPA networks – challenges and opportunities	Review of MPA network development and implementation from different global regions, providing practical examples on challenges and opportunities for regional-scale MPA development. Findings published in: ‘Building the regional perspective: platforms for successes ¹⁴ .	Nov 2014

¹¹ www.BlueSolutions.info

¹² <http://bluesolutions.info/solutioning-exchange-on-blue-solutions-asia-and-pacific/>

¹³ Munroe, R., Mant, R., Hicks, H., Kapos, V., Woroniecki, S., Soi, N., Crane, S., Vestergaard, O., and Kay, R. (2014): How can ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change be integrated into national adaptation planning? UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya.

¹⁴ David E. Johnson, Carole Martinez, Ole Vestergaard, Dominique Duval-Diop, Marie Romani, Martha C. McConnell, Craig Beatty, Ronny Jumeau, Kate Brown,. Aquatic Conservation, 24, 2014

Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation in SIDS	UNEP-EU ENRTP project on coastal EBA in SIDS. Main ongoing activities: Development of decision-tools and guidance of coastal EBA; two pilot demonstration projects (Grenada, Seychelles); and regional EBA training in Caribbean and Western Indian Ocean and global policy advice through the Global Adaptation Network. Implemented by DEPI Climate Change and Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Units in collaboration with UNEP Regional Offices and Regional Seas (CEP, Nairobi Conventions)	2013-2016
Guidance on Integrated Approach to Managing Ecosystems	UNEP report introducing and discussing guiding principles on integrated management with examples from terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine systems. The report adopts UNEP's marine and coastal EBM planning framework as an underlying capacity building framework ¹⁵ .	Jan 2015
Blue Solutions Latin America and Caribbean Regional Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-being co-organised by UNEP, GIZ, IUCN (Cancun, Mexico).	Latin America and Caribbean Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-Being convened by Blue Solutions. Attended by 100 managers and practitioners from 17 countries to share, discuss and learn from local-to-regional experiences related to marine spatial planning, ecosystem services, ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable financing. April 2015, Cancún, Mexico ¹⁶ .	April 2015
Marine and coastal EBM guide translated into French and Spanish	UNEP's guidance and planning framework on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, "Taking Steps Towards Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-based Management – An Introduction Guide", is translated into French and Spanish	Oct 2015

¹⁵ Gibson, J., Wilson, L., Kelly, J. Vestergaard, O., Bowles-Newark, N., Strubel, M., Crowther, A., Fancourt, M. & Brown, C. (2014): Towards an integrated approach to managing ecosystems. UNEP, 107 pages.

¹⁶ <http://bluesolutions.info/sharing-blue-solutions-from-latin-america-and-the-wider-caribbean-region/>

<p>Ongoing work with SPREP on using cost-benefit analysis for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in a Pacific island context.</p>	<p>UNEP, in collaboration with the Lami Town council (Fiji), SPREP UN-Habitat and WWF has developed a planning framework for the use of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in local urban planning and climate change adaptation strategies. This encompasses the use of cost-benefit analysis in identifying and combining ecosystem-based adaptation options with other, more conventional adaptation options. In the first phase (2012-13), this focused on adaptation options within the Lami town area. The second phase of the project (2014-2015) encompassed further identification and detailed analysis of costs and benefits associated with adaptation options as well as a increased focus on monitoring and evaluation. The report "Benefit cost analysis of ecosystem-based management and climate change adaptation options in Lami Town, Fiji" is being finalized for publication in Q4 2015. Building on previous work it makes significant enhancements in terms of methodological approach, and provides a system to track effectiveness of ecosystem-based adaptation in the longer term. Importantly, given the uncertainty regarding the long term efficacy of many EBA options, this new report uses a threshold analysis approach which helps identify when a given adaptation option becomes economically viable. This pilot initiative can support mainstreaming of EbA actions into adaptation and development planning, by providing a locally appropriate approach suitable for replication in a Pacific SIDS context¹⁷.</p>	<p>Q4 2015</p>
<p>Regional EBM training and pilot project development in Caribbean by CAR/RCU and DEPI</p>	<p>Preparation ongoing for implementation of regional training introducing EBM principles and</p>	<p>2016</p>

¹⁷ <http://www.ebaflagship.org/ecosystems/urban/lami-town-project>

	<p>practical approaches to government planes and decision-makers across coastal and marine sectors. A number of national/local EBM pilot projects will be discussed and prepared for further implementation.</p>	
<p>Support to the South Asian Seas Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>Responding to the 5th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme, a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy is being prepared by SACEP and UNEP. The MCBS will address threats to the region's marine biodiversity, by supporting the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal habitats through strengthening implementation of and coherence of actions under National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) for 2011-2020. A First Order Draft of the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy has been prepared based on thematic desk review studies conducted during 2013 and a regional technical workshop held in Colombo in July 2014. This provides initial identification of Regional Targets and Actions for the SAS region and encompasses extensive information on the rationale for the Regional Strategy, current status and trends, background information on each of the six thematic areas of the Strategy as well as sections on communication, monitoring and evaluation, financing and partnerships. The First Order Draft has been shared with national focal points for review and comments, and will be further elaborated at a second regional workshop tentatively planned for Q4 2015. The final strategy will be presented to the SAS Inter-ministerial Meeting for Endorsement.</p>	<p>2016</p>

1.3 Provide guidance on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation at local, national, transboundary level.

Most of the activities related to the MSP have been at global level as shown below. However, works at national level have started as is the case in Vietnam. It is expected that the RSCAPs will take advantage of the available tools and learning materials to facilitate MSP at the regional level. There are opportunities of further collaboration between UNEP and the RSCAPs for the implementation of MSP at regional level.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Ecosystem-based Spatial Planning and Management for Sustainable Oceans and Coasts' UNEP project to implement UNEP PoW 2014-17 developed and initiated	EBM global support project to provide decision-support tools and guidance, regional capacity building, and national pilot projects to assist countries and regions implement ecosystem-based management principles through coastal and marine spatial planning and management. Thematic areas include: Guidance on practical implementation of MSP frameworks for integrated marine and coastal management; MPA governance; MSP open-source training course; MSP for coastal sustainability and resilience; ecosystem-services in MSP; integrated ecosystem assessments for area-based planning and management. The project supports for example the Regional Seas Coral Reef Partnership through tools and capacity building on coastal EBM.	2015- 2017
"Marine Spatial Planning in Practice" Initiative. Review of practical experiences and development of tools and guidance enabling effective implementation	Preparation by UNEP and GEF/STAP, CBD, GIZ and TNC on barriers and enabling conditions for marine spatial planning and plan implementation in different ecological, social and economic context and settings. A global survey of 90 MSP processes have been collated and analysed. Initial findings are presented in the report: " <i>Marine Spatial Planning in Practice— Transitioning from Planning to Implementation</i> " (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/23)	June 2014 with follow-up work ongoing

	Further work in ongoing in support of UNEP PoW 2014-17 outputs on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, and CBD COP12 decisions are ongoing to develop draft guidance on marine spatial planning in practice.	
Training course on Marine Spatial Planning and Management in Practice	<p>UNEP and GIZ are developing a new open source training course on coastal marine and spatial planning and management in practice targeted at government planners and practitioners. Building on existing guidance resources and learning from real-life experiences it provides a modular training package addressing barriers and enabling conditions for marine spatial planning, plan implementation and monitoring of MSP outcomes and impact.</p> <p>The MSP training course complements Blue Solutions training courses on: 1) Integrating ecosystem services in development planning, and 2) coastal ecosystem-based adaptation. More at www.bluesolutions.info</p>	Ongoing
MSP online experience sharing platform	UNEP has initiated development of an online system to collate and share practical experiences on coastal and marine spatial planning globally to assist countries/regions optimize enabling conditions for application and implementation of coastal and marine spatial planning for integrated management. An knowledge-sharing interface is being designed under UNEP-Live, also seeking to guide future reporting of outcomes of marine management initiatives relevant to SDG target 14.2 ¹⁸ .	Ongoing
Guidance of spatial dimensions of fisheries and biodiversity governance for integrated marine planning and management	Guiding principles on integrated fisheries and conservation are discussed in the paper: "Spatial	Sept 2014

¹⁸ 'Sustainable use and protect coastal and marine ecosystems to achieve healthy and productive oceans'.

	<p>dimensions of fisheries and biodiversity governance”¹⁹. It identifies spatial governance in fisheries and biodiversity conservation and spatio-temporal issues in both governance fields and the potential offered by spatially-structured multi-use integrated management frameworks. The analysis concludes that the spatial dimensions of both governance streams and the similarity of issues arising from an increasing range of human uses and impacts would require an effective integrated approach to spatial and temporal management.</p> <p>The results inform UNEP’s ongoing work to develop practical tools for marine spatial planning and management.</p>	
<p>Publication on Marine spatial planning and coral reef resilience</p>	<p>The report “Coral Reef Resilience through Spatial Planning: A Conceptual Framework” is being finalized for publication in Q4 2015, through collaboration between UNEP, IUCN, the National Coral Reef Institute, The Nature Conservancy and the Living Oceans Foundation. The report has been prepared as part of UNEP’s work on area-based EBM tools to help integrate resilience considerations into ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning. It also recognizes that systematic and cost-effective approaches for resilience-based coral reef planning and management applicable to a variety of geographic and institutional settings are lacking. It provides the foundation for such approaches, by reviewing and synthesizing recent progress in resilience science that has potential direct application in spatial planning, and suggesting ways indicators of resilience can be used in spatial planning across all of its incarnations.</p>	<p>2015</p>

¹⁹ Kenchington, Vestergaard and Garcia, 2014, WILEY

	<p>The report provides a foundation for further development of spatial planning and coral reef resilience tools and approaches through UNEP’s Marine and coastal EBM Tools & Capacity Support Programme and the Global Coral Reef Partnership (see below), including by identifying requirements and opportunities associated with Marine Spatial Planning processes and frameworks.</p>	
<p>Coastal spatial planning pilot project, Mekong Delta, Vietnam</p>	<p>New capacity building initiative on ecosystem-based spatial planning for sustainable use and resilience building in four coastal provinces of the lower Mekong Delta, Vietnam. UNEP’s EBM planning framework (“Taking steps..”) serves as guiding framework for preparation of spatial planning scenarios and land-use strategies for provincial Action Plans to implement Vietnam’s new national ICZM strategy. Main partners include Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, provincial governments, UNEP, GIZ Vietnam, Mangroves for the Future, and COBSEA Secretariat (engaged to assist regional knowledge sharing and project logistics).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

2. Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter.

2.1 Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the Global Partnerships on Nutrients, Marine Litter and Wastewater, as relevant to each region

As shown below UNEP has strongly facilitated activities on marine litter at regional level. Several Regional Seas have formulated regional Action Plans for Marine Litter²⁰ receiving technical supports from the GPA. For nutrients management, Asia and Caribbean Regional Platform were established. It is

²⁰ reference

expected that UNEP and the RSCAPs continue working together to facilitate establishment of regional chapters of the GPA.

Related action/project by UNEP	Results	Delivery date
Marine litter chapters of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter ongoing in some regions.	Launched for NOWPAP Launch planned for Wider Caribbean Region Support to the implementation of the Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter	September 2014 November 2015
SPREP demonstration project in Samoa - "Pacific Islands Waste Management and Marine Debris Minimisation Best Practice - Samoa Demonstration Project", which aims at reducing flux of marine litter into harbor and raising awareness on the issue of marine debris, while demonstrating effective waste management means	The project included four main components: community and media awareness; improved waste management in the ports of entry into Samoa in particular the Samoa Port and Samoa Airport; waste disposal facilities within the UNSIDS venue and the accommodation providers; and working with the communities to improve waste practices in Apia areas. This also included e.g. provision of litter booms in major contributory rivers and upscaling of waste through craft workshops. Documentary ²¹ is available. Litter booms also installed in Solomon Island (spin off project)	October 2014
CPPS, development of municipal action plans between municipalities and local stakeholders to reduce the impact of marine litter in coastal communities in Southeast Pacific countries.	Five municipal action plans developed and adopted.	January 2015
Enhanced knowledge on best practices in dealing with marine litter in fisheries, aquaculture and shipping, and prevention of marine litter inputs from land-based sources in NOWPAP countries, including NGOs. Enabled adoption by Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention on a Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean Sea.	Best Practices compiled and shared in 4 languages. Honolulu Strategy translated to Chinese.	2014
Enabled adoption by Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention on a Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean Sea.	Commitment from over 20 countries around the Mediterranean to address marine litter through specific actions. Action plan in force 2014.	2013 (developed) 2014 (in force)
Informed regional and national action and the future work of the Cartagena	Updated RAPMaLi	2014/5

²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FibX2E6xydI&feature=youtu.be>

Convention/Caribbean Environment Programme by revision of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Wider Caribbean Region		
Asia and Caribbean Regional Platforms established under the Global Partnership on Nutrients Management (GPNM).	<p>Meetings in support of the GPNM Asia Platform were held in Delhi (launch event) and Beijing in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The key challenges and strategic directions for the platform were laid out. In the Caribbean a launch meeting for the Platform was held in 2013 in Trinidad and Tobago. The key issues of concern were articulated and proposed work planning elements were identified.</p> <p>A meeting of the GPNM Asia Platform will be held at the East Asia Seas Congress in November 2015; a meeting for the GPNM Caribbean Platform is being organized for February 2016.</p>	Process is on-going.

2.2 Work with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) to develop nutrient management plans.

During this reporting period, UNEP has worked with PERSCA, SACEP and ROPME for nutrient management as described below. It is expected that the experiences and lessons learnt will be shared with other regions to facilitate improvement of nutrient management in other regions.

Related action/project by UNEP	Results	Delivery date
Project developed in PERSCA region on wastewater management and pollution loads assessment in coastal cities.	Based on the existing cooperation under the Regional Seas Programme, UNEP agreed to cooperate with PERSCA with respect to the project entitled "Managing Wastewater through Global Partnership". Activities carried out in the first six months include the development of the Regional Guidelines on Wastewater Management in Coastal Cities of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which were presented during the Arab Water Week – Dead Sea, Jordan, 11-15	On-going, expected to end Dec 2016

	<p>January 2015. These regional guidelines were translated into Arabic and French. A regional Wastewater Management Taskforce Meeting and Workshop was held in Aqaba, Jordan, 4-6 May, 2015 and also a National workshop on Wastewater mgmt. and the Risk of Seasonal Surface Runoff and Groundwater Contaminating on the Coastal Development in the Red Sea was held in May 2015, Hurghada, Egypt.</p>	
<p>SACEP (with technical inputs from GPNM and financial support from BOBLME) is carrying out a study on Nutrient over-enrichment and coastal eutrophication in South Asia to develop a regional action plan and establishment of a regional policy forum to monitor progress of action and define corrective actions to be pursued by member countries.</p>	<p>The study, completed in 2013 was undertaken by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.</p> <p>A Sub-Regional Workshop to Validate the Scoping Study was held from 21 to 22 May 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Twenty-six participants representing government agencies and international / regional organizations participated at this important event. A regional strategy is envisaged based on the findings of the report.</p>	<p>Recommendations to be considered within the Asia Nutrient Platform for further action</p>
<p>Development of baseline and indicators on the impact of wastewater on coral reef for the PERSGA region, taking stock of the findings of the science to policy brief on wastewater pollution on coral reefs, development by the Coral Reef Unit.</p>	<p>An agreed outline has already been developed and a workshop is planned in Hurghada, Egypt to propose monitoring indicators and capacity building strategy for communities. Local communities and national bodies will be built to use these indicators and monitor their coral reef.</p>	<p>On-going, expected to end Dec 2016</p>
<p>Support to ROPME to revisit their existing Municipal Wastewater Management guidelines, update them and develop a wastewater management strategy.</p>	<p>An Assessment of LBS of Municipal wastewater – Experience from PERSGA Was presented at the ROPME meeting in Kuwait, 25-27 May 2015. ROPME is expecting more technical support from GPA, to deal with their pollution issues.</p>	<p>2015</p>

2.3 Support LBS/A Protocol ratification and implementation through resource mobilization, awareness-raising, capacity-building, sharing of lessons learned and on-the-ground activities (i.e. demonstrations projects)

In collaboration with UNEP and GEF, three conventions (Nairobi Convention, Cartagena Convention and Abidjan Conventions) have been working on the ratification or implementation of the LBS protocols. Further capacity building on the implementation of the LBS protocols at national level could be conducted in other regions.

Related action/project by UNEP	Results	Delivery date
Initiation of the GEF WIO-SAP project to prompt the ratification of the LMSA protocol of the Nairobi Convention	The project concept was approved by the GEF Council and the project document and CEO endorsement were submitted officially to GEF in June 2015. UNEP is responding to the comments provided by GEF Secretariat.	June 2015
CReW	The GEF funded project with the support of CAR/RCU is engaging with CAR countries to support (1) new ratification but also (2) compliance and implementation of the LBS protocol for those who have already ratified. For now work is ongoing with Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala coordinated by RAC/CIMAB in Cuba.	Ongoing
Med Partnership	<p><i>Midterm evaluation of SAP Med and NAPs implementation</i></p> <p>The evaluation of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP-MED, adopted in 1997) as a long term policy framework to combat pollution from land-based sources in the Mediterranean as well as of the National Action Plans (NAPs) prepared in 2004/2005 was completed by early 2014.</p> <p>The evaluation report on SAP/NAP implementation acknowledged the big effort made to set a complete and comprehensive policy and regulatory framework by almost all countries. It identified some gaps and stressed that pressures from land based sources and activities remained high and that further concerted efforts were needed to reduce marine pollution in the</p>	2014

	<p>Mediterranean. Meanwhile, pollution related reporting capacities of the countries had increased over time. Lack of data was identified as an important constraint to the assessment.</p> <p>With regards to the NAP investment portfolio, the analysis conducted by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) showed that funding was secured for 83% of waste water and for 40% of solid waste projects during the first 7 years of implementing the NAPs. However, delays in the NAP projects becoming operational were recorded even in cases when the investment funding was secured due to lack of operation and maintenance funding or for other reasons (e.g. lack of collection systems or political opposition). Implementation of all the assessed projects would substantially contribute to elimination of the identified hot spots by the year 2025. Key recommendations include the need to ensure project sustainability through, amongst others, cost recovery and better use economic instruments, as well as the needs to move to a more sustainable consumption and production patterns, improve monitoring and enforcement systems, and others.</p> <p>The evaluation report acknowledged the SAP MED relevance including its final pollution reduction targets and recommended to strengthen its implementation, develop indicators to facilitate and improve reporting and prepare the grounds for its future update with the view to identify the required measures for achieving GES in the Mediterranean including addressing sources up stream at driver level to promote pollution prevention policies. The report strongly recommended the update of the NAP endorsed by COP 15 in 2005 taking into account the SAP MED 2025 targets, the application of ecosystem approach as well as the</p>	
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	<p>implementation of Regional Plans adopted by the contracting parties in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.</p>	
<p>CCLME and GCLME and their contribution to LBSA protocol for the Abidjan Convention</p>	<p>On GCLM: During the SAP preparation phase, fifteen countries developed national action plans (NAPs) and six national demonstration projects were completed with results disseminated. The project invested substantially in individual capacity building with over 80 workshops. Together these represent important foundational steps towards the project development goal, to create an ecosystem-wide assessment and management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the GCLME. Key outputs in this area – reflecting strong partnerships with UNEP GPA, FAO, IMO and the Abidjan Convention – include development of regional fisheries management plans, national plans of action on land based sources of marine pollution (NPAs-LBS), adoption of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol). The Protocol to the Abidjan Convention on LBSA was signed by the first six plenipotentiaries at a meeting of the Convention Focal Points in June 2012 .Please note that the 15 NAPs contain the prioritized country driven projects which were presented to the donors' conference in Douala organized by the project to facilitate contact between countries and donor agencies.</p> <p>On CCLME: A TDA was finalised and a SAP is currently under development as part of a GEF financed project which started in 2010 for 5 years: LBS Protocol is currently under development , the first part regarding</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

	<p>inventory of pollutants has been finalised and the second part concerning the strategies to be defined to mitigate will be developed (consultant to be recruited) to be finalised by end of this year and then to be endorsed by the regional working group of CCLME</p> <p>Outputs further include</p> <p>Strengthened existing transboundary waters institutions and regional policies and instruments;</p> <p>Stakeholders' involvement in transboundary waterbody priority setting and strategic planning, including 7 functioning National Inter-Ministry Committees;</p> <p>Improved knowledge and capacity to address concerns on 'Marine Living Resources' and 'Biodiversity, Habitat and Water Quality';</p> <p>Demonstration activities and related costs/benefits valuations addressing priority transboundary concerns.</p>	
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3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance

3.1 Enhance visibility of the RSCAPs in terms of its governance mandate and to communicate outcomes of the regional governance review.

UNEP has been working to increase visibility of the RSCAPs at various aspects. In 2014, the Regional Seas Programme has celebrated its 40th anniversary. To commemorate the anniversary, campaign materials and a summary report have been produced. Two papers on regional ocean governance were also produced to examine and address currently fragmented ocean governance. The RSCAPs were called for inputs and contributions for key processes such as on the development of the African Ocean Governance Strategies. Continuous efforts are needed to increase the visibility and enhance the role of the RSCAPs. UNEP's Regionalization Strategy²² for the coming years could facilitate the process.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
White paper on regional oceans governance developed with two case studies targeting	The publication "Regional Oceans Governance: making Regional Seas	October 2015

²² citation

East Asia and West and Central Africa.	Programmes, Regional Fisheries Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanisms Work Better Together” is expected to be launched in October 2015.	
UNEP, IASS and IDDRI developed a paper on the regional approach to biodiversity in the areas beyond the national jurisdiction	UNEP, IASS and IDDRI prepared a discussion paper on the regional approach to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which was discussed at the 2014 Ocean Governance Potsdam workshop in October 2014.	October 2014
Side event on regional approach to biodiversity in the areas beyond the national jurisdiction was held in NY	A side event on this was organised in June 2014 in New York where cases of OSPAR, Mediterranean, Nairobi Convention, CARICOM, Abidjan Convention and South Pacific were introduced.	June 2014
Communication strategy with DCPI finalised with focus on the 40th Anniversary of the Regional Seas Programme	Regional Seas @ 40 “Setting a Course for Regional Seas” has been published online ²³ . Campaign materials highlighting Regionals Seas’ 40th anniversary have been distributed.	2014
Relevant regional seas were called to cooperate and contribute to the implementation of the paragraph 14 of the Cairo Declaration where the African ministers decided to develop an African ocean governance strategy and to organise a regional conference in 2016.	An initial telephone conference was organised among UNEP, MAP, PERSGA, Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions. An informal meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2015 to prepare a more concrete plan to implement this decision.	October 2015

3.2 Strengthen and facilitate inter-regional cooperation

As shown below, further efforts are needed to create opportunities for inter-regional cooperation among RSCAPs. It is necessary for UNEP to increase its efforts to collect case studies and analyse potential areas for cooperation between RSCAPs. However, it should be noted that thematic collaborations have occurred. For example, experience of wastewater management at PERSGA was presented at ROPME meeting.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
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Twinning arrangements occurring to varying degrees between OSPAR-Abidjan Convention, COBSEA-NOWPAP, PERSGA-ROPME, MAP - Bucharest Convention (Black Sea)- Tehran Convention (Caspian Sea).	Exchange of knowledge and experiences has increased between Regional Seas Secretariats.	2014
Exchange of lessons among the SIDS relevant regional seas (SPREP, CEP, Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions) with initial focus on green/blue economy.	Organization of the regional green/blue economy workshops (Caribbean, West Indian Ocean) with the Melanesia to be organised in the fourth quarter 2015.	2015

3.3 Facilitate partnerships between RSCAPs and RFMOs

UNEP has started hosting workshops to transfer the collaborative experiences between OSPAR and NEAFC to other regions. UNEP will share the information from the workshops with the RSCAPs to replicate the successful Collaborative Agreement. As the visioning processes in 2014 identified that the partnership building with RFMOs is important for integrated ocean governance, UNEP will keep facilitating this process.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Ongoing project “Securing the Ecological Foundation for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean”, focusing on partnership between Abidjan Convention and RFMOs	Three tow project preparation workshops, the final project document was prepared and submitted to the Government of Norway ²⁴ .	2014 - 2015
A global workshop “Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Meeting of Mainstreaming Marine Biodiversity in Fisheries” is under preparation with CBD	Two regional workshops (South Pacific and Southern Indian Ocean) are scheduled in 2015 and the global meeting in September 2016, Busan, the Republic of Korea.	2015 – 2016
Workshop being prepared for Cartagena convention and WECAFC with NEAFC	An agreement was signed between UNEP and FEAFAC and this workshop is scheduled for December 2015 in Trinidad and Tobago.	December 2015

3.4 Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocol

There is a lack of efforts on the side of UNEP to identify potential financial mechanism to assist activities at RSCAPs. In 2006 the report entitled “Financing the Implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and

²⁴ http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Abidjan_meeting_july_2014/Abidjan_meeting.asp

Action Plans”²⁵ has published but since then no analysis on funding mechanism has been conducted. Although the RSCAPs receive funds from GEF, other funding sources such as the private sector need to be analyzed particularly for the secretariats that are financially unstable.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
“Financing the implementation of regional seas conventions and action plans” was developed in 2006 but no follow-up seems to be conducted.	Not Applicable	-

3.5 Include RSCAPs inputs into international processes, i.e. (Barbados +20)

UNEP facilitated the RSCAPs to be important partner for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. In the coming years, it will be important for UNEP to closely work with the RSCAPs in order to assist follow-up activities.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional seas registered as the partnership for SIDS to implement the Barbados Action Programme.	Regional seas has been registered as the partnership before and during the Samoa Conference and considered to be a main partnership to implement the ocean related paragraphs in the Samoa Pathway.	2014

3.6 Give further consideration to UNEP Governing Council Resolution of oceans and role of the RSCAPs vis-à-vis Rio+20

The role of RSCAPs has been reemphasized in the UNEP Governing Council Decision 27. As the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted based on the outcomes of Rio +20 and the indicators will be decided in 2016, UNEP needs to consider the potential roles the RSCAPs may be able to play in facilitating Member States to achieve the SDG targets related to oceans.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Oceans decision taken at 27th session of the UNEP Governing Council	Decision 27/6 2 (c) stated: Invites member States of existing regional seas conventions and action plans: (b) To strengthen the capacity necessary for	February 2013

²⁵ <http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/publications/reports/RSRS/pdfs/rsrs180.pdf>

	the effective implementation of the existing regional seas conventions and action plans	
Ocean issues were included in the decision of the UNEA1	UNEA 1/8 Ecosystem-based adaptation noted coastal erosion and ocean acidification under the context of climate change	June 2014

4. Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems

4.1 Raising awareness on the utilization of market-based instruments and economic valuation to support management decision making and policy settings

UNEP has published various technical reports on Green Economy and Blue Economy to promote the use of economic valuation. However, it is not clear to what extent the awareness was raised due to the lack of clear indicator.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Publication “Green Economy for Oceans: Success Stories” is being prepared	The case studies presented in the report are expected to inspire implementation of Blue Economy at ground level.	October 2015

4.2 Technical assistance through regional/national workshops related to resource efficiency, with particular emphasis on identification of fiscal policies that promote green sectoral transformations related to the marine and coastal environment

Workshops have been held to increase capacities on the green economy for oceans in the Wider Caribbean and the Western Indian Ocean region. However, further emphasis will be needed on resource efficiency and fiscal policies in the coming years in the context of the SDGs.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional workshop on the green economy for oceans and SIDS held in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention).	The capacity of the region to implement green economy has increased.	April 2013
Regional workshop on green economy for oceans and SIDS held in the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention). Workshop hosted by the Government of Seychelles.	The capacity of the region to implement green economy has increased.	2015

4.3 Technical assistance at the national level in the preparation of scoping studies related to sectoral transformative policies in the marine and coastal environment (enabling conditions, identifying and capturing value, and sectoral transformation/reform)

Limited activities have been done to provide technical assistance at national level. UNEP will need to work closely with the RSCAPs to enable sectoral transformation at national level due to the limited capacity and resources.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
The Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study (GESS) was launched on World Environment Day 2014.	The partnership catalyzed multiple projects on Green Economy under GEF Small Grants Programme.	2014

4.4 Disseminate methodologies for economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services, in-line with The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Oceans, in the RSCAPs through regional workshops

The Guidance manual on valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting in SIDS²⁶ was published in 2014. Regional workshops were conducted only in the South East Pacific Region. Regional workshops in other regions should be developed in collaboration with the RSCAPs.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
GEF Project on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in development phase.	The project concept is being developed, but no funding confirmed for this project.	2014-2015
Two Regional capacity building workshops on economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services held for South Pacific Region (Lima Convention/CPPS)	The first workshop created an understanding of economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services and to identify pilot case studies at the national level. The second workshop analysed the results and shared the experiences of the pilot case studies.	2011, 2013
Guidance manual on valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting in SIDS was prepared.	The manual on valuation and accounting of ecosystem service in Small Island Developing States was published and launched in January 2015 in New York.	December 2014

²⁶ Available at: <http://web.unep.org/ourplanet/march-2015/unep-publications/guidance-manual-valuation-and-accounting-ecosystem-services-small>

5. Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

5.1 Assist in building capacities at the regional level on integrated assessments on the marine and coastal environment, with particular emphasis on regional priority issues as identified by the outline of the World Oceans Assessment

5.2 Technical assistance to RSCAPs in the organization of workshops on the World Oceans Assessment

5.3 Support the Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment

5.4 Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs

UNEP has extensively provided technical and financial support for the workshops on the World Oceans Assessment. It should be highlighted that UNEP and Nairobi Convention published a regional state of marine environment report out of this process. This kind of regional marine environmental reports should feed into the Global Environment Outlook prepared by UNEP²⁷.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Regional capacity building workshops on the World Oceans Assessment held with the coordination of the Regional Seas	UNEP provided technical and financial support for six of the eight workshops held in Santiago in September 2011 (at the invitation of the Government of Chile), in Sanya in February 2012 (at the invitation of the Government of China), in Miami in November 2012 (at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America), in Maputo in December 2012 (at the invitation of the Government of Mozambique), in Brisbane in February 2013 (at the invitation of the Government of Australia), and in Grand Bassam in October 2013 (at the invitation of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire). Each workshop aimed to consider the scope and methods of the WOA, the information available in the region	2011-2013

²⁷ The next Global Environment Outlook (GEO 6) is under preparation: <http://www.unep.org/geo/>

	where it was held, and capacity-building needs in that region.	
UNEP provided support to Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment.	Funds were provided to the Regular Process Trust Fund to support members of the Group of Experts from developing countries. The European Union also provided funds through UNEP for the support of the Group of Experts.	2012-14
UNEP provided support to Nairobi Convention in the development of state of marine environment report for the Western Indian Ocean ²⁸	The WIO - RSOCR is by product from the Capacity Building Workshops organized by DEWA and the Regional Seas Programme to provide technical and scientific support to the first phase of the Regular Process. It is the first integrated assessment report of the region to be facilitated by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. The RSOCR's main objectives are to i) provide a comprehensive baseline, ii) highlight main opportunities, iii) describe successes and challenges, iv) identify capacity building needs, v) identify knowledge gaps, and vi) propose policy options.	2015

5.5 Strengthen mechanisms to sustain environmental data at regional and national level, capitalizing on strategic synthesis efforts (WOA).

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Publication "Measuring Success – Indicators for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans"	The publication was submitted to UNEP SDG Task Force and Inter-Agency SDG indicators working group. It was also presented to ICP on Sustainable Development and Oceans in May 2015.	Dec 2014
Launching of the Regional Seas Indicator Working Group, 23 October 2015, Istanbul	Based on the recommendations from the 2014 technical workshop, UNEP would like to launch regional seas indicator working group, and the results of the working group should be provided	October 2015

	to the continuing discussion on the SDG indicators ²⁹ .	
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6. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

6.1 Fundraising to support integration through partnership demonstration projects

Workshops are planned to facilitate collaborative mechanism between the RSCAP and RFB in the Caribbean region. UNEP will undertake further fundraising to replicate the experience to assist creation of collaborative arrangement between RSCAPs and RFBs in other regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Workshops to facilitate future collaborative mechanism between CEP and WECAFC	-	December 2015

6.2 Identifying opportunities for RSCAPs in global initiatives (private sector, Global Partnership for Oceans, Oceans Compact, etc.)

6.3 Demonstrating, promoting and communicating contributions of the RSCAPs to global initiatives, MEAs and relevant partners

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Underway as opportunities emerge – example Regional Chapters of the World Ocean Council.	See section 5	2011-2013
Cooperation is being established with the Convention on the Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, based on the mangrove report.	See above on the mangrove initiative.	2015
UNEP has been requested to support the implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning related decision of the CBD COP.	See section 1.3 above	2014-2015
UNEP is providing its developed tools to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in support of the CBD parties achieving the Aichi targets.	UNEP facilitate the input from the regional seas conventions and action plans to Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) regional capacity building workshops	2015

²⁹ <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/40YearsofAction/IndicatorRRSMeeting-2015/tabid/1060470/Default.aspx>

Collaboration underway with Global Partnership for Oceans, especially in Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	A workshop was organized to facilitate collaboratio	2014
Three RSCAPs will implement data management system for inforMEA to enhance information sharing among MEAs	It is expected that by participating in the inforMEA project, collaboration grounds with other MEAs will be identified ³⁰ .	2015

6.4 Coordinate blue carbon policy assessments by developing a common approach

Policy assessments have been conducted in ROPME and PERSGA regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Blue carbon policy assessments underway in ROPME (Tehran Convention) and PERSGA (Jeddah Convention)	The publication of blue carbon assessment in the PERSGA region was published.	2013

6.5 Coordinate Coral Reef Partnership

UNEP has coordinated Coral Reef Partnership and substantial outcomes have been seen as described below. For the coming years, it is expected that more regional seas will make use of the guidance materials on the monitoring in order to conserve coral reef of the regions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Consultation with RSCAP and other entities on partnership development including Partnership Workshop organized during GLOC-2 in October 2013	Report from partnership workshop; Draft work programme and terms of reference for the partnership prepared	2014
Development of UNEP Project Document for the partnership under PoW 2014-15 and 2016-17	Project document specifying activities, deliverables, contribution to UNEP PoW and work plan approved in January 2015;	Jan 2015
Initiation of activities in consultation with RSCAP and technical partners, including detailed activity planning and subcontracting	Activities initiated in all substantive work areas of the partnership, legal instruments prepared.	March 2015
Guidelines on resilience assessment to support spatial as well as sectoral planning in coral reef areas, and development of datasets on climate change exposure scenarios for better prioritization of reef management	Expected outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statistically downscaled climate model projections for the worlds coral reefs over 50 years - guidance on resilience indicators, assessment and application of 	Ongoing, expected completion Q1 2016

³⁰ <http://informea.org/>

	<p>assessment findings in reef management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIF on managing coral reefs for resilience 	
Report on mesophotic reefs, their biodiversity, ecosystem services and their role in supporting resilience of shallow reef habitat, with GRID-Arendal	Expected outputs: Report on mesophotic reefs, similar in format to Rapid Response Assessments prepared by GRID-Arendal, including recommendations for science as well as management and policy.	Ongoing, expected completion Q4 2015
A science to policy brief on wastewater pollution on coral reefs, with the Global Wastewater Initiative.	Expected outputs: science to policy brief on wastewater pollution on coral reefs, including recommendations on management as well as monitoring of wastewater impacts on coral reefs	Ongoing, expected completion Q4 2015
Expansion of the Green Fins approach for environmental stewardship in the dive tourism industry and preparation of a comprehensive Green Fins Toolbox of guidance materials to facilitate further replication	<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comprehensive Green Fins Toolbox of guidance materials - '2 minutes on Oceans' video on sustainable diving and snorkelling <p>Expansion of Green Fins in Asia is underway. Initial discussion on introduction of Green Fins to the Mediterranean is underway with MAP</p>	Ongoing, expected completion Q1 2016
Demonstration project on the use of economic instruments to finance reef management with CEP/SPAW-RAC	<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of a marine managed area, a public private partnership agreement, and a payment for ecosystem services scheme based on coral reef ecosystem services at a pilot site in Barbados - Feasibility studies for project replication in other locations - guidance on how coral reefs can be used as basis for economic instruments. 	Ongoing, expected completion Q3 2016
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Caribbean report	Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012, launched in 2014. Based on this draft recommended standards for coral reef monitoring indicators and methods in the Wider Caribbean have been developed, several countries have already committed to using these, and further application in national programmes is being supported	Q3 2014

	through SPAW-RAC.	
GCRMN reporting in other Regional Seas, drawing on experiences from the Caribbean	<p>Preparation of Guidelines for Development of Regional GCRMN reports initiated, led by the GCRMN Scientific Director.</p> <p>Regional GCRMN reporting process have been initiated in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Western Indian Ocean through the Indian Ocean Commission and Nairobi Convention, - the Eastern Tropical Pacific, where discussions are underway with CPPS; - in the Pacific Islands, where initial data mapping is underway supported by France. and discussions are underway with SPREP 	<p>Expected Q4 2015</p> <p>Expected completion 2016-17</p>
Policy outreach through RSCAP as well as global fora	<p>Partnership work and outputs are reflected in decisions of intergovernmental bodies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems as contained in the annex to CBD CoP decision XII/23; - the Abidjan Convention Conference of Parties Decision 11/6 on coral reefs, which inter alia emphasizes the importance of preserving coral reef ecosystem services, collaboration on development and tools and methods as well as a network of marine protected areas for management of coral reefs; - the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties Decision CP8/13 on enhancing cooperation with partners, which includes preparation of a regional coral reef report for the WIO; and - Recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW protocol to the Cartagena Convention in relation to strengthening regional coral reef 	

	monitoring and implementation of the "ICRI Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean" developed with support from UNEP.	
Preparations for first partnership steering committee meeting 30 November 2015	The meeting is expected to discuss and further define roles and responsibilities of partners, including the level and type of support provided to the partnership and the role of RSCAP as mechanisms for uptake, as well as the level and type of services provided by the Secretariat to partners. A work plan for 2016 should also be discussed and agreed.	Expected Q4 2015

Chapter 2: Implementation by Regional Seas Secretariats

Analysis of the implementation of the RSSD (2013-2016) by the RSCAPs

The level of implementation differs across different regions and it is difficult to make a general conclusion. The lack of specific targets and indicators also make the assessment on the achievement challenging. Without quantifiable targets comparisons between the RSCAPs with regards to the level of implementation cannot be made.

However, some commonalities have been shown through the analysis on the implementation on each strategy. For example, most of the RSCAPs seem to struggle with identifying financial mechanisms to improve their financial situation. Thematically, it was found that many of the RSCAPs do not implement activities on sustainable consumption and production patterns. As sustainable consumption and production is emphasized more in the SDGs as compared to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it could be worthwhile for the RSCAPs to consider relevant actions on this.

Various collaborative experiences have been reported in between regions and with relevant MEAs and international organisation. Yet, the low visibility of the RSCAPs has still been pointed out. Further efforts are needed both from the side of the RSCAPs and from UNEP to show the significance of activities implemented by the RSCAPs. By doing so, the RSCAPs could attract potential donors.

On the other hand, some of the RSCAPs have started working with the private sector particularly with the tourism sector. The RSCAPs may seek opportunities to work with different sectors in order to move towards integrated management.

Implementation of each action item by the RSCAPs

1. Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment

1.1 Contribute towards articulation of Sustainable Development Goal on oceans

It is not clear to what extent the RSCAPs were involved in the process of formulating the SDG Goal 14 on oceans from the reporting below. It is expected that the RSCAPs will be involved more for the implementation of the SDGs assisting member countries to achieve ocean-related targets.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Preparation and organization of the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects	Meeting report of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including socioeconomic Aspects of the South Atlantic region	30th of Oct. 2013
CEP		
UNEP CEP assisted in providing technical comments and input to various regional and global reports, at regional workshops and meetings and through our Intergovernmental Meetings. Input was also provided to national governments and UNEP colleagues to assist in their negotiations on the Oceans SDG.	Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans Adopted.	September 2015.
HELCOM		
HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) sets objectives in order to reach the Baltic Sea in Good environmental status by 2021.	Follow up through regular HELCOM work and in particular in the periodic Ministerial Meetings	continuous 2021
MAP		
The approval of the revised Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (MSSD) for the period 2016-2025 by the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties follows the approval of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as such, will be among the first regional strategies aiming to implement and further specify the SDGs at a regional level. It will be an important policy framework, which all UNEP MAP-Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties should implement, but which will need specific, targeted investment and support.	MSSD draft was developed in the form of a draft Decision, to be discussed at the MAP Focal Points Meeting in October 2015, after which it is going to be submitted for adoption to COP19. The drafting process gave due attention to the parallel development of the global Post-2015 SD Agenda.	Feb 2016 (COP19)

Nairobi Convention		
In decision CP8/1: Preparation of a New Work Programme for the Nairobi Convention, 2018-2022 of the 8 th Conference of Parties held in June 2015, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to take note of the outcomes of the ongoing Post 2015 Development Agenda process and the expected Sustainable Development Goals, and incorporate the relevant outcomes into the new work programme for 2018-2022, especially those relating to sustainable management of marine and coastal environment.	The Secretariat is developing a new Work Programme for the period 2018-2022 that will incorporate SDG 14 and its targets and other SDGs related to the coastal and marine environment for adoption at the Ninth Conference of Parties	2017 at the Ninth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention
PERSGA		
Strategic ecosystem management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden project in collaboration with the WB	MPAs zoning plans and management support using MMAs concept Community capacity building on co-management and EBM Sustainable LMR based livelihoods options under EBM framework Monitoring to support EBM	2014-2017
Annual Training Program	50 regional and national training workshops addressing various topics on LMR and MPAs management; maritime pollution; environmental inspection LBA; EBM; MEAs; and Climate Change issues	2013-2014
LMR: Regional MoU Concerning Cooperation in Fishery Management and aquaculture	Review of regional fishery legislation; the regional	MoU developed thr. 2013-2014 tb. adopted early 2016
Biodiversity and Regional MPAs Network	Capacity building/ exchange	Regular
Regional LBA Program	NPAs in all member states Capacity building and demo activities addressing wastewater (see 2.1 below) Regional strategy to reduce unintentional POPs emissions in coastal areas Marine litter assessment manual, training and cleaning campaigns	2012-2013 2014-2016 2013 2012-2015
Maritime Pollution Program	National and regional BW management strategies Capacity building in contingency planning & response; BW management; capacity	2012-2014 2013-2014

	building on imp. of MARPOL, London Convention; OPRC and others	
Environmental monitoring	Dem activities to support national coastal monitoring program Installing online monitoring buoy in northern Gulf of Aqaba	2012-2014 2014
ROPME		
Publication of SOMER 2013 Summary: Sustainability Message to Decision- Makers		Oct 2013
Preparation of Strategic Directions for Sustainable ROPME Sea Area	Reorientation of ROPME Programme Activities	26-27 Jan 2015
SACEP		
<p><i>Sustainable Development Goal-14: Conserve and sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine resources for Sustainable development.</i></p> <p>Under this goal, South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) so far implemented the following projects / activities:</p> <p><i>Goal-14.1: A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asian Seas Region.</i></p> <p>The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) together with the United Nations Environment Programme –Global Programme of Action (UNEP-GPA) and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project implemented the project. The activities under this initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inventory of point/non- point sources of nutrients that end up in the coastal waters • Estimating the impact of nutrient enrichment on coastal waters • Develop and undertake actions to reduce nutrient inputs to agriculture as well as remedial measures to over eutrophication/hypoxia conditions in identified sites. • Development of a regional action plan and establishment of a regional policy forum to be pursued by member countries. 	<p>Sub-Regional Workshop to Validate the Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was held from 21 to 22 May 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Twenty-six participants representing government agencies and international / regional organizations participated at this important event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoping study of nutrient Pollution document is ready for further preparation of a regional strategy by using the study report. • It will enhance to implement the Manila declaration. • Created awareness among the stakeholders 	<p>July 2015 Development and endorsement of an Action Plan for the Asia region will continue into 2016 to be supported under the GPNM Asia Platform</p>
<i>Goal-14.a: Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (MCBS) for the South Asian Seas Region:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional workshop for the Development of a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for 	<p>December 2015 and will be continued</p>

<p>South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), which acts as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the five SAS countries and other partners, has developed a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (MCBS) for the South Asian Seas Region. These strategy focuses on clusters of relevant Aichi targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Ecosystem Services and Wellbeing (Aichi Target 5,10,14, and 15) • Prevention of Species Extinction (Aichi Target 12); • Control of Alien Invasive Species (Aichi Target 9) • Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (Aichi Target 6 and 7) • Prevention of Marine Pollution (Aichi Target 8) • Effective and Equitable Governance of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (Aichi Target 11). 	<p>the South Asian Seas Region was held from 10-12 July 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 52 members from different countries and organizations were participated in the regional workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created awareness among the stakeholders • It addressed the ecosystem services and wellbeing • Also has addressed relevant section of Achi Target. • First Order Draft is circulated for comments of the member states of SASP. 	
<p>Goal-14.1: Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asian Seas Region.</p> <p>A Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. Programme is aimed at assisting the South Asian Seas (SAS) region to develop a regional cooperation mechanism for marine pollution preparedness and response. The long-term objective of the project is the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol in South Asia region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SACEP signed a MoU with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on 29th August 2013 and the First Regional Meeting of the National Authorities Responsible for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response was held from 26-28 February 2014 - Colombo, Sri Lanka. • 5 Maritime country of SAS regional will have their own National Oil and chemical Spill contingency Plan, • A regional Oil and chemical Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU have been agreed upon by the SASP member states and only Government of India has to sign the MoU out of the 5 member states. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have signed the MoU • It will reduce oil and chemical pollution in sea water • SACEP is coordinating the regional process. 	<p>December, 2015. Ongoing activity</p>

<p>Goal-14.2: Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management in South Asian Seas Region. Ballast water can pose serious economic and ecological damage through introduction of invasive alien species to our coastal and marine waters. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) contains measures to prevent the potentially devastating effects of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized the South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting in Mumbai, India in May 2012 and it was decided that SACEP, as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, would be the Institutional Framework to support and finalize the draft regional BWM strategy and to ensure the execution of the Action Plan. With the financial and technical support from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme Coordination Unit, a two-day regional workshop was held in February 2014. Workshop resolutions, work plan and implementable timetable were sent to the National Focal Points of SASP as per the recommendations of the regional workshop. Another Regional Workshop is proposed to be held in the 4th quarter of 2015, after receiving the progress of achievements of the five maritime countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Meeting of the Regional Task Force and Workshop to Develop a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Ballast Water Management (BWM) in South Asia was held from 24 to 25 February 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka. • 32 members from different countries/ organization were participated in the meeting. • It aims to reduce introduction of invasive alien species in coastal and marine water; • A Regional Taskforce was established to address Ballast Water Management in South Asian Seas Region; • SACEP is coordinating the regional process; • It will create awareness among ship owner; • This process will save the marine and coastal ecology from invasive alien species. 	<p>Ongoing activity</p>
<p>Goal-14.1: International Coastal Clean-up activities In the International Environment Calendar for each year, Saturday of 3rd week of September marks the International Coastal Cleanup Day, where events are organized to make the public aware of the growing problem of debris accumulated in coastal areas. Litter such as plastic bags, soda cans and broken glass are slow to degrade. Studies have</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activities may quantify the composition of marine debris; • It creates general public awareness • Enhance public participation • Ensuring sustainability of marine and coastal environment 	<p>Regular activities</p>

shown that marine debris threatens over 265 different species of marine and coastal wildlife through entanglement, smothering, and interference with digestive systems. It is a problem that not only damages our marine and coastal ecosystems, but also affects the coastal tourism and public health.		
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1.2 Utilize DPSIR approach (Driving, Forces, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses), including ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change

As shown below the RSCAPs utilized DPSIR approach for thematic areas including ocean acidification, climate change and biodiversity. The discussion on Regional seas Indicators will continue at the Regional Seas Indicators Workshop.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Capacity building workshop held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Freetown (Sierra Leone)	Support the production of the first global ocean assessment	December 2013
CEP		
This approach was used in the development and design of the GEF IWECO project.	GEF IWECO project was submitted and approved by the GEF in March 2015 and is now in its pre-inception phase.	Ongoing
Provided Technical Input to the planning of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Sub-Regional Workshop on Ocean Acidification	Sub-regional Workshop held on Ocean Acidification by the OECS in early 2015. Opportunities for further collaboration identified during discussions of OECS Ministers of Environment Meeting in September 2015 attended by CAR/RCU.	Ongoing
Promote the issue of ocean acidification	Fact Sheet Prepared and shared on web site and social media	September 2015
Invited USA National Focal Point to make a presentation on Ocean Acidification at 14 th IGM and present Conference Room Paper for Discussion with support of Secretariat	Decision taken at 14 th IGM to promote the issue of Ocean Acidification at the regional level	Ongoing
MAP		
DPSIR is the framework on the basis of which MAP prepares its State of Environment reports, including the last one in 2012. An important major development in this area is the negotiation and agreement for the first time of a set of 25 common and candidate	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) was prepared and submitted for approval to the MAP Focal Points Meeting (October 2015) and adoption for COP19.	February 2016

<p>indicators, which also serves the basis for the Mediterranean Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). The IMAP will enable a quantitative based analysis of the state of the marine and coastal environment in an integrated manner, covering pollution and marine litter, biodiversity, non-indigenous species, coast, and hydrography, targets and Good Environmental Status descriptions.</p> <p>In addition, during the elaboration of the National Action Plan (NAP) update guidelines (following the LBS Protocol and SAP MED), the Contracting Parties have agreed in principle on a number of set indicators based on DSPIR approach on the basis of which they will report on the implementation of the NAPs, LBS, Dumping and HW Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>In addition, in synergy with other regional seas and the MSFD, work is ongoing to develop a common DPSIR framework for assessing the Good Environmental Status for the European regional Seas.</p>	<p>Its implementation will be supported through the elaboration of national integrated monitoring programmes and capacity building activities (guideline development, trainings, and exchange of specific best practices based on country capacity needs).</p> <p>NAP DPSIR indicators already agreed by the MED POL FP meeting and expected to be fully streamlined in the updated NAP by the Contracting Parties.</p> <p>In the framework of the MSSD, a dashboard of SD indicators is planned to be elaborated during the next biennium building with the existing battery of MAP SD indicators.</p>	<p>2017-2018</p> <p>February 2015</p> <p>2016-2017</p>
Nairobi Convention		
<p>The First State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region was launched on 21 June 2015 during the 8th Conference of Parties. The report highlights the enormous economic potential and development needs of countries in the WIO and, at the same time, points out the growing natural and anthropogenic pressure imposed on the region coastal and marine environment, and the opportunities to avoid them.</p>	<p>It is evident from the report that countries and the region as a whole have placed a high priority on the coastal and marine environment. Nationally and regionally, actions are being taken at different levels to sustainably manage the coastal and marine environment. However, the report also highlights the perils of continued delay on addressing some of the major challenges and also how critical it is to balance economic, social and environmental needs, if the countries are to continue to benefit from the diverse and life-sustaining goods and services provided by the coastal and marine environment for many years to come.</p>	
<p>In decision CP7/9.2: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation of the Seventh Conference of Parties, Contracting Parties</p>	<p>The Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area has been finalized and shall be adopted by the</p>	

requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and other partners, to facilitate the finalization of the regional strategy on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation in the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region.	Nairobi Convention Bureau in December 2015.	
NOWPAP		
Activities on assessing the threats on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region	Regional report as part of the UNEP global report on marine biodiversity	2010
OSPAR		
Application of DPSIR approach based on the EU's Marine Strategy Directives	Ensured application of EBM	2013-2015
Application of common, sub-region wide indicators for biodiversity, food web, pollution and other aspects of marine environment and pressures	Common indicators facilitated common monitoring scheme	2013-2015
Development of a comprehensive assessment of the North East Atlantic Marine Environment	The report will be an intermediate state to a fuller integrated quality report after 2020	2017
Published social and economic analysis on cumulative pressures	The report offered recommendations to achieve better data comparability within the region. A revised assessment for 2017 is planned based on Contracting Parties' national socio-economic reporting for the EU Marine Strategy Framework.	2013
OSPAR is working together with the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) to compile information on cumulative pressures and interactions within an ecosystem	Production of sub-regional summary reports	2015
Comparison of different national approaches to modelling cumulative effects of human activities on the marine environment	Now best approaches to assess cumulative human impacts are investigated and a pilot report and methodology is planned for 2017.	2015
PERSGA		
Current SOMER II	Guidelines for SOMER following the DPSIR approach	2016
Capacity building in monitoring OA	Regional workshop and liaison with OA International Centre at IAEA	2016
ROPME		
Meeting of Regional Task Force on Climate Change Dimension	Upcoming	Mar 2016
Technical Workshop on monitoring and assessment of SDS in the Marine Environment of RSA	Elaboration of a Regional Monitoring Programme	11-12 Oct 2015

SACEP		
<p>Goal-13.3: Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the institutional mechanisms in strategy implementation • How robust adaptation decision making can proceed in the face of uncertainty about climate change and its impacts. • Explore practical adaptation policies and approaches, and share strategies for decision making from the international to the local scale. • Introduce and examine new tools and methodologies for adaptation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Asia Regional Workshop on Lessons Learnt in Strategy Implementation on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in Water Sector was organized from 9 to 10 September 2014 at Colombo, Sri Lanka. • Created awareness among the people • Increased capacity building to address climate change 	September 2014

1.3 Streamline EBM into RSPs work programmes and their member states by sharing lessons learnt on ecosystem based approaches, including, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated coastal area and river basing management (ICARM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and adaptation strategies (EBA)

All the regions reported demonstrated significant efforts on the implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Management as described below. For example, guidelines of EBM were prepared in several regions. The diverse experiences and lessons learnt need to be shared among the RSCAPs to learn from successful cases. Currently UNEP is preparing a knowledge exchange platform for a marine spatial planning and it could serve for the needs of such knowledge sharing.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Development of a Protocol on Integrated coastal zone management	Improve cooperation between states and management of water resource, coastal zones and upland habitats	May 2015
Development of a protocol on mangrove sustainable management	Improve cooperation between states, livelihood of local communities and management of water resource, coastal zones and upland habitats	July 2015
CEP		
Case Studies and experiences shared through the CEP website, list serves, quarterly newsletters, social media, published case studies, and E mail communication with national and technical focal points.	Greater knowledge and awareness of EBM	Ongoing
Examples of the above provided during	Greater knowledge and awareness of	Ongoing

regional meetings and workshops either as power point presentations or hand outs.	EBM.	
<p>In 2015, CEP began implementation of the “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management” project with funding from the Government of Italy, Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS).</p> <p>The project will develop capacities and information systems (and pilot test their application) that can be used by government and non-government agencies to make decisions on planning and managing coastal resources with an ecosystem based management (EBM) approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project partner meetings and site visits (May 2015) • Network and dialogue on EBM in Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) at GCFI conference (Nov. 2015) • Assessment and Design of Decision Support System (DSS)node at Pilot Site – Montecristi in Dominican Republic (Nov 2015) 	
COBSEA		
<p>Implemented in November 2007 the “Indramayu Pilot Project on Integrated Coastal Zone Management”, a district-level pilot activity that combine climate change adaptation measures into integrated coastal zone planning in Indramayu, Java island, Indonesia.</p>		2007
<p>Implemented the Sida Project ‘Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone – Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development’ from 2010 to 2013 focusing on spatial planning application in coastal zone management in six countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced the Regional Resource Document "<i>Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone of the EAS Region: Integrating Emerging Issues and Modern Management Approaches</i>" and the "<i>Training and Capacity Building for Coastal Spatial Planning in the EAS Region: Menus and Syllabus</i>". These documents provide the integration of concepts such as climate change adaptation, disaster-risk reduction, ecosystem-based management and results-based management into existing coastal spatial planning policies and procedures. • Translated and adapted the Regional Resource Document into National Resource Documents (NRD) which included the 'national setting and national aspects' on spatial planning in the coastal zone in the 		2010-2013

country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed training manuals including organization of training courses on coastal and marine spatial planning at regional and national levels. 		
Produced in October 2011 the Regional Resource Document “A Regional Approach to the Sustainable and Ecosystem-Based Management of Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas Region: A Resource Document”. The document lays the foundation for a regional strategy or policy on coastal erosion in the region.		2011
Implemented the Yeosu Project “Addressing the Challenge of Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas – Initial Implementation of the COBSEA Regional Strategy” in six countries. Produced six National Assessment Reports on coastal vulnerabilities due to coastal erosion		
Participated in the National Workshop on the Application of Vietnam’s Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning - An Ecosystem Based Management Approach in May 2013 in Haiphong City, where a paper on Building Capacity to Apply Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning in COBSEA Member States was presented.		2013
HELCOM		
HELCOM BSAP overall applies the ecosystem approach	Implementation since 2007 -> 2021 Overview, document prepared for 2013 Ministerial Meeting	continuous
Maritime spatial planning (MSP): HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has ensured more coherent regional planning since 2010.	Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020	2013
	MSP working group has dealt with the draft Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation, as agreed on in the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap.	2015/16
	Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group officially started in 2015. In addition to improving access, quality and compatibility of MSP related regional data, the sub-group’s work is hopefully incorporated into the 2 nd Holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (release in	2017 (indicator development) 2018 (Holistic assessment)

	<p>2018). The assessment will be built on core indicators, which are data products providing quantitative regional assessment of different elements of the marine ecosystem of the Baltic Sea. The work on transboundary MSP will likely benefit from HELCOM indicators.</p>	
<p>Coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) - <i>see 3.6</i></p>		
MAP		
<p>The ecosystem approach (EcAp) was reconfirmed at COP 18 as the guiding principle for the overall work of UNEP MAP, in Decision IG. 21/3.</p> <p>In this context the Contacting Parties have decided on a roadmap for application of EcAp by the MAP system with clear indications on how specifically to mainstream it into MAP work.</p> <p>As a follow-up, policies, strategies, action plans and measures were developed with EcAp in their core, including the development and implementation of IMAP with the view to achieve good environmental status of marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>The adoption in 2013 by COP 18 of the Marine Litter Regional Plan (MLRP) constitute the first regional regulatory framework of UNEP MAP system which has fully streamlined the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>It was followed by the update of the NAPs conform Art 5 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention which are focusing on including Measures to achieve good environmental status (GES) with regards to MAP ecological objectives adopted in 2012 related to eutrophication, contaminants and marine litter.</p> <p>The elaboration of Fishing for Litter Guidelines to implement Article 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan on ML is the first set of</p>	<p>On the draft IMAP, which is going to be submitted for adoption, please see point 1.2.</p> <p>Several policy products applying and or streamlining the ecosystem approach, subject to adoption and endorsement of COP 19, February 2016: MSSD, IMAP, updated NAPs, update of the three Regional Plans on endangered Species, Fishing for Litter Guide, Offshore Action Plan, Regional Strategy to combat pollution from ships.</p> <p>In addition, a Report on Measures Gap Analysis was developed to assess to what extent the Measures taken under the MAP Barcelona Convention and Its Protocols can lead to GES achievements and or maintenance.</p> <p>Work will continue on this during the next biennium, in line with the draft Programme of Work to be discussed and adopted at COP 19.</p>	<p>September 2015 And February 2016</p>

guidelines developed in line with Art 14 of the Regional Plan that provide for developing the required guidance and guidelines for supporting the implementation of MLRP measures.		
With regards to the ICZM Protocol (which entered into force in 2012), actions have been implemented to support countries in developing national ICZM plans and building the capacity for coastal zone planning, in the face of climate change pressures. <i>Supported by the UNEP MAP GEF MedPartnership Project</i>	ICZM National Strategies in Montenegro and Algeria. Interministerial committees for ICZM implementation established in Algeria, Montenegro and Croatia Joint ICZM, IWRM and aquifer planning demonstrations in key coastal areas in Albania/Montenegro, Croatia and Algeria Aquifer vulnerability maps, and establishment of aquifer online database Integrated methodological Guidelines for joint aquifer, ICZM and IWRM planning developed and implemented in demonstrations	July 2015
MPA network of the Mediterranean strengthened through capacity building in existing MPA's and support to developing MPA management plans and including for economic sustainability, and support to countries for the assessment and creation of new potential MPA sites in line with achieving the Aichi Target of 10% PAs	6 MPA Management Plans developed and adopted Mapping of new MPA's to be established Creation of new MPAs in Libya as an example	Ongoing
Elaboration of a guiding document on best practices related to the management of large marine transboundary areas.	Guiding document elaborated: <i>"Best practices and case studies related to the management of large marine transboundary areas: Options for the preparation of joint proposals for inclusion in the SPAMI List in accordance with Article 9 of the SPA/BD Protocol"</i> .	Oct 2015
Nairobi Convention		
The Nairobi Convention Secretariat partnered with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, KMFRI, WIOMSA, WWF, CORDIO, University of Dar es Salaam, and University of Nairobi in the First International Training Course on Mangrove Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region held on 2 to 9 December 2013 in Diani, Kenya. The training course was organised to: enhance the capacity of young professionals academics, park rangers, managers and institutions in the WIO region to undertake characterisation, monitoring, risk assessment,	24 professionals trained. The training course contributed to capacity building for restoration of critical habitats.	2013

management and restoration of critical mangrove ecosystems; increase the awareness of the ecological roles, economic importance, and cultural significance of mangrove ecosystems; and promote and encourage sharing of knowledge and experiences.		
The project document ' <i>Marine governance in the Northern Mozambique Channel</i> ' was prepared and presented to the Contracting Parties at the 8th Conference of Parties in 2015 for a proposed project to be submitted to the GEF and other donors.	Proposed project to be submitted to the GEF and other donors in 2015	2013-2015
The Nairobi Convention, IUCN, CORDIO, and WIOMSA with funding from the government of Sweden finalized a situation analysis on Mangroves for Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Mozambique, and developed a programme titled ' <i>Resilient Coasts: Strengthening the resilience of coastal socio-ecological systems in the Western Indian Ocean.</i> '	The findings from the situation analysis on Mangroves have been incorporated in the WIOSAP project under component I on Critical habitats project due for submission to the GEF in 2015.	
In decision CP8/5: Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 , Contracting Parties agreed to implement the Cairo Declaration of the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters and inform on progress at AMCEN sessions;		Next AMCEN session
In decision CP8/10.4, Blue and Ocean Economy , Contracting Parties agreed to cooperate in improving the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction, building on existing regional institutions including the Nairobi Convention and developing area based management tools such as marine spatial planning to promote the blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region.		Ninth Conference of Parties
NOWPAP		
Activities on integrated coastal area and river basin management (ICARM) are being implemented by NOWPAP POMRAC since	Regional report on EBM (called ICARM in NOWPAP) was prepared in 2013	2013

2007		
	Guidelines for ICARM (EBM) applications were published in 2015	2015
OSPAR		
Implementation of the North East Atlantic Environment Strategy and ministerial commitment	Application of EBM in the region to embody a holistic perspective in monitoring and assessment of activities as a basis for the policy discussion	ongoing
Integrate impacts of climate change and ocean acidification and needs for adaptation and mitigation in all aspect of its work	Integration of climate change aspects in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy	ongoing
PERSGA		
Strategic ecosystem management project (see 1.1 above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two pilot MPAs sites for implementing demo activities and sharing lessons in EBM, co-management and MMAs • Guidelines for EBM and livelihoods options in MPAs • Assessment of fisheries legislations and policies to facilitate implementation of EBM and co-management 	2014-2017 2016-2017
Regional MoU concerning cooperation in fishery management	Committed to provide for ecosystem approach in fishery management (article 4.4)	2016
ROPME		
Regional Workshop on Ecosystem Based Management Approach	Upcoming	Mid Nov 2015
SACEP		
<p>The following activities have been selected under Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for implementation by the south Asian Sea Member states:</p> <p>Preparation of Coastal Profile, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project scope, i.c. identification and geographic boundary; Identification of issues and priorities; • Preparation of development outlooks and strategies for their achievement and analysis for the social and economic implications of the proposal strategies • Identification of information gaps • Proposal for the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated management plan • Analysis of the legal and financial 	<p>Following activities carried out by SACEP/SASP partly covers Item 1.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy (MCBS) for the South Asian Seas Region • Preparation of Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan in South Asian Seas Region. • Preparation of Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy in South Asian Seas Region. • Yearly Coastal Clean-up activities commemorate International Coastal Cleanup Day. 	Many activities carried out during 2000-2010 decade.

<p>requirements posed by the ICZM project proposal and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for the institutional arrangement needed to support the coordination and implementation of the pilot project <p>Analysis and Forecasting , including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and research on selected issues within sectors of human and economic activities; • Analysis of natural system and human and economic activities in the coastal areas; • Assessment of exposure to risk, e.g. sea-level rise. Natural hazards and preparation of resource atlas. 		
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2. Contribute to the implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA), in particular the partnerships on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter.

2.1 Support the implementation of the GPA through the Land-based Sources of Pollution (LBS/A) Protocols and its annexes

The regions with LBS protocols continued implementing the protocol. Workshops were conducted to build capacity while relevant project activities contributed to implement the protocol. As it is difficult to know the effectiveness of the protocol, however, it is encouraged to assess the implementation level at national level in order to understand the effectiveness.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Development of a Protocol on Land-based Sources of Pollution	Improved the cooperation between states on the fight against oil spill	
Multilateral agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the CCLME Region under finalization	Strengthening the cooperation between states on the fight against oil spill	September 2014

Assessment of the land-based sources of pollution activities within the CCLME region	Informed decision-maker and resources managers	September 2014
CEP		
AMEP Sub-Programme and projects such as GEF CReW, IWEco contribute directly to the LBS Protocol Implementation.	Ratification and Implementation of the LBS Protocol through various activities and projects.	Ongoing
MAP		
<p>The pollution related obligations of the Barcelona Convention are strengthened by three protocols addressing land based sources with a special focus on LBS Protocol.</p> <p>For its implementation since 2012, 8 Regional Plans (legally binding) have been adopted and are under implementation on Mercury, POPs, MLRP, BOD from Food Sector, adopted Criteria and standards for Bathing waters.</p> <p>Work has continued at national level on ESM of PCB.</p>	<p>MLRP (first legally binding regional plan on marine litter).</p> <p>Since 2013, five Guidelines developed and or updated on EMS of PCB, Lead Batteries, Tanneries, Lube oil, Mercury decontamination.</p> <p>400 tons already shipped from Turkey to France and 200 tons disposed in Turkey.</p>	<p>2013 (Marine Litter Regional Plan)</p> <p>Ongoing Implementation</p> <p>In total 900 tons PCB to be disposed fully by end of 2015</p>
Pollution assessment criteria have been proposed for COP 19 consideration on eutrophication, litter and contaminants. On this basis the assessment of GES will be made. Work is ongoing to develop Mediterranean specific assessment criteria for a range of contaminants. Work is ongoing.	Pollution assessment criteria developed and proposed for COP 19 consideration on eutrophication, litter and contaminants, as part of the draft IMAP Decision.	Feb 2016 2015-2016
In terms of national implementation, monitoring of marine pollution is ongoing for nutrient and contaminants in biota and sediments by all Contracting Parties, Data reporting remains a challenge; All Contracting Parties are updating their NAPs to be finalized by February 2016. The NAPs will cover the period 2016-2025 and aim the full implementation of SAP MED and achieve GES designed based on ecosystem approach.	Monitoring and related assessment ongoing. NAP update process ongoing	Ongoing Monitoring on annual basis Draft NAP finalized by Feb 2016
Mid term evaluation of SAP MED and NAPs 2005-2015 undertaken. Results shared with MEDPOL FP. Publication is under preparation.	Report finalized pending final adjustment based on the most recent data received from some Contracting Parties.	February 2016
Establishment of on line information systems for data coming from the implementation of the national monitoring programme as well as inventories of national pollutant loads.	System to be designed and to be operational for testing (system designed based o SEIS principles).	June 2016

The latter has been harmonized with PRTR approach.		
Several technical guidelines developed to address key sectors with support of MedPartnership Project (PCB, Lead batteries, Mercury, Fishing for litter), NAP update including 6 several technical annexes on hot spot assessment criteria, Inventory of pollutant load methodology, common NAP implementation indicators (DPSIR), cost benefit analysis, etc.	Complete set of 5 Guidelines delivered in English and French language.	2015
Nairobi Convention		
The Nairobi Convention contributed to the strengthened legal capacity of countries in the region to address land based pollution. The regional consultations disseminated the results of the regional guidance paper on 'the State of ratification and implementation of the LBSA protocol: Challenges and Solutions for the WIO region' aimed at assisting member states to address identified policy, legal and institutional gaps and constraints that have an impact on domestication processes. The Secretariat supported national domestication workshops in Tanzania and Mozambique.	Contracting Parties are at various stages of ratifying the protocol including preparation of cabinet ratification papers as follows: France- ratification of the protocol is on-going; Mauritius- discussions advanced to the Cabinet level; Mozambique-protocol has been discussed by Parliament and ratification effected; Seychelles- draft cabinet memo has been prepared and the protocol will soon be ratified; the Republic of South Africa-ratification process on-going; The United Republic of Tanzania: Cabinet paper has been finalised for submission to Cabinet.	
PERSGA		
Regional Protocol Concerning Protection of Environment from LBS 2005	Develop NPAs	2012-2013
Regional LBA Program activities	Regional coordination meeting to promote implementation of the protocol	regular
ROPME		
Expert Meeting on the Impacts of HABs on Aquaculture		17-19 Feb 2013
Expert Meeting on Land-Based Activities	Adoption of a Survey Programme for Municipal Waste water in the RSA with a work plan and timetable	25-27 May 2015
Regional Training Course on the Analyses of Marine Algal Toxins		31 Aug-03 Sept 2015
SACEP		
Controlling Nutrient Loading and eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region	Sub-Regional Workshop to Validate the Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was held from 21 to 22 May 2014,	July 2015

	<p>Colombo, Sri Lanka. Twenty-six participants representing government agencies and international/regional organizations participated at this important event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scoping Study document is final - Further recommendations has been made in the document. - SACEP will take necessary steps for the formulation of regional action plan for controlling land based source of pollution. - Development partner is needed for implementation 	
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2.2 Develop Regional Action Plans with respect to one or more GPA priorities and Regional Partnership

Various Regional Action Plans were developed for the GPA-related activities as shown below. Since increasing number of regions has created Regional Action Plans, experiences could be shared to elucidate the means of effective implementation.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
The Gambia national report on the Global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities	Informed decision-maker and resources managers	September 2014
Guinea national report on the Global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities	Informed decision-maker and resources managers	September 2014
Morocco national report on the Global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities	Informed decision-maker and resources managers	September 2014
Guinea Bissau national report on the Global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities	Informed decision-maker and resources managers	September 2014
CEP		
Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Completed in

Management in the Wider Caribbean region was updated as part of the 2013-2014 Work Plan.	updated and endorsed by Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.	2014
Updated Regional Action Plan on Nutrients to be presented for technical endorsement in 2016.	First Meeting and Draft Action Plan developed. Updated Action Plan prepared and to be presented at experts meeting in February, 2016.	February 2016
UNEP CEP through the GEF CReW Project participated in the Global Wastewater Initiative.	GEF CReW Project Manager participated in initial discussions.	N/A
Commenced Development of Regional GEF PIF for Marine Litter/Plastics Management in the Caribbean	Zero draft prepared. CAR/RCU provided technical inputs and coordinating regional input	March, 2016
COBSEA		
In February 2008, published the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the East Asian Seas (RAP-MALI). ³¹		
HELCOM		
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter prepared by cross-sectorial expert team, including consultations with other Regional Seas, with 30 regional actions listed and fully adopted.	2015
Regional status assessment on mitigating pharmaceuticals e.g. released through waste waters, followed by an Action Plan	Status report started in 2015. Case study proposal on emerging pollutants in water and wastewater granted UNESCO Project on Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater Reuse in Developing Countries (September 2015)	2016
Building a knowledge base on underwater noise towards a regional action plan on underwater noise in 2017/2018	Preparations started in 2015 with the agreement of the work plan. Ongoing drafting of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017	2017/2018
MAP		
MAP PoW, Ecap I Med Project, GPA Project on Marine Litter. The Mediterranean has adopted three legally binding Regional Plans related to two priorities of the GPA (2009, 2012, on BOD from WWT and Food sector) and (2013, ML). Several proposals prepared addressing Marine Litter in the Mediterranean for	FfL Guidance for submission to COP 19 for its approval Marine Litter Assessment report for submission to COP 19 to take note of. NAP update ongoing to streamline the obligations under the above Regional Plans. Three Regional Plans on	Updated NAPs expected to be delivered by next COP 19, February 2015 Feb 2019

³¹http://www.cobsea.org/documents/Meeting_Documents/Marine%20Litter/Marine%20Litter%20Report%202008.pdf

<p>funding from EU and other donors in collaboration with Partners.</p> <p>Marine Litter Assessment Report Regional assessment report on abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gears including 11 National reports.</p> <p>Draft Decision for submission to COP 19 to approve the FfL guidelines, takes note of the ML assessment report and adopt ML reduction environmental targets (by 2024 20% reduction of beach litter).</p> <p>Development of FfL best practices Guide.</p>	<p>Wastewater and Marine Litter adopted, in force and under Implementation.</p> <p>Proposed Med-wide Marine Litter reduction targets</p>	<p>Feb 2019</p>
<p>National loads of nutrients for 2013 from WWTP in process of assessment, including an inventory of WWTP in the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>Full inventory expected next year.</p>	<p>February 2016</p>
<p>Inventory of nutrient inputs from rivers in the Mediterranean and related scenarios carried out by MEDPOL under the Medpartnership Project.</p>	<p>Final report under publication Recommendations of the report submitted to MEDPOL FP including the need to enhance monitoring of nutrient inputs from rivers.</p>	<p>Dec 2015</p>
Nairobi Convention		
<p>In Decision CP8/2.3 of the 8th Conference of Parties: Ratification, Accession and Implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities, Contracting Parties agreed with the support of partners, to implement their action programmes on waste water in the Western Indian Ocean Region.</p>		
NOWPAP		
<p>Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) was developed in 2007 and adopted by member states in 2008</p>	<p>RAP MALI is being implemented ever since</p>	<p>2008-now</p>
<p>Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) on oil and HNS spills was adopted in 2008, and then periodically updated</p>	<p>RCO is being implemented ever since</p>	<p>2008-now</p>
OSPAR		
<p>“Fishing for litter”, beach litter monitoring programme has been established</p>	<p>Facilitate actions to achieve the target for a reduction in 2020</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Monitoring plastics ingested by seabirds under its Ecological Quality Objectives has been established</p>	<p>Facilitate actions to achieve the target for a reduction in 2020</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter</p>	<p>The action plan forms the basis of</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

	regional measures to deliver Good Environmental Status. More than 60 actions have been taken both regionally and nationally.	
PERSGA		
Regional guidelines for marine litter assessment	Manual and training	2014
Regional Plan for Marine litter management	Action plan	2012
Regional guidelines for wastewater management	Manual and training	2015
Demo activities for best practices in wastewater treatment and reuse	Demonstration activities; exchange of experience and best practice	2015-2017
SACEP		
Regional Action Plan on Ballast Water Management in South Asian Seas Region	It will help the marine and coastal ecosystem from invasive alien species	Ongoing
Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan in South Asian Seas Region.	It will reduce the marine pollution from ship oil and chemical.	Ongoing
Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity strategy for South Asian Seas Region	It will assist to conserve the marine biodiversity in South Asian Seas Region.	Ongoing

2.3 Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the three Global Partnerships (Nutrients-Management, Marine Litter and Waste water) as appropriate

Diverse activities have been undertaken especially under the current attention on Marine Litter around the world. On nutrients, HELCOM is taking an inspiring step to develop national standards for nutrient content in manure to reduce the nutrient pollution in the ocean. The other nutrients will be able to learn from the experience at HELCOM in near future.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Elaboration of a Regional Strategy on Marine Litter	Regional Strategy on Marine Litter	Late 2016
CEP		
Caribbean Node for Marine Litter to be launched in November, 2015 and co-hosted by GCFI and UNEP CAR/RCU in collaboration with UNEP GPA	TORs for Node Developed, Planning for Workshop ongoing;	November, 2015
Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management launched in 2014 to be operationalized in February 2016 in	Draft Mechanism for Platform Developed; Planning for Workshop ongoing;	February, 2016

collaboration with UNEP GPA.		
HELCOM		
Waste water: Development of the regional recommendation on sustainable sewage sludge management in order to enhance recycling of its valuable components and protect the environment against contamination.	HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge management	2016
Nutrient management: Promotion of the effective nutrient management at farm level.	Setting up tools to promote nutrient accounting at farm level.	2018
Development of national standards for nutrient content in manure	Guidelines/recommendation on the use of national standards for nutrient content in manure	2016
Implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme	Nutrient input to all the sub-basins does not exceed allowed level.	2021
Litter: Implementation of the new Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will benefit from the joint efforts conducted through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter	Ongoing (e.g. webinar 26.6.2015, UNESCO-SIWA case study on microplastics)	2015 ->
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP is a member of GPWM since 2011 and GPML since 2014	NOWPAP is hosting a NW Pacific regional node of the GPML	2011-now
Cooperation with GESAMP on micro-plastics	Inviting expert of GESAMP Working Group 40 to NOWPAP 2014 ICC workshop	2014
PERSGA		
Regional guidelines for marine litter assessment	Manual and training	2014
Regional Plan for Marine litter management	Action plan	2012
Regional guidelines for wastewater management	Manual and training	2015
Demo activities for best practices in wastewater treatment and reuse	Demonstration activities; exchange of experience and best practice	2015-2017
ROPME		
Regional Expert Meeting on Hazardous Wastes Monitoring and Management	Upcoming	Nov 2015
SACEP		
SACEP together with UNEP-GPA and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project developed a project concept "Controlling Nutrient Loading and eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region with the main objective of reducing and controlling nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the	A scoping study of nutrient Pollution document is ready for further preparation of regional strategy by using the study report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will enhance to implement the Manila declaration. • Created awareness among the 	July, 2015

South Asian Seas Region through development of a regional action plan and policy forum/framework.	stakeholders	
SACEP organized national workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February - March 2010 to propagate the idea of beach certification. These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes. Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on Beach Certification Programme.	<p>Created public awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution free marine and coastal environment • More tourist attraction. 	Ongoing
Marine Litter arising from land based littering and disposal of solid wastes by ships is a growing problem in the SAS region. This year SACEP with Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) of government of Sri Lanka had country wide beach cleanup programme from 19-24 September to commemorate the International Coastal Cleanup day, 2015. Government of India has also organized the beach cleanup programme with collaboration with SACEP since 2006.	<p>Created public awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution free marine and coastal environment • More tourist attraction. 	Ongoing

2.4 Facilitate support and awareness raising to civil society

Different methods are used to raise awareness on Land-Based Pollutions. Website, social media, coastal clean-up, workshops and conferences targeting different stakeholders have been used. Among them PERSGA is unique in giving workshops to school teachers. Engagement of the public is crucial in raising awareness and the RSCAPs are in a good position to identify regionally effective ways of engaging the public.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Creation of a consultative mechanism with African CSOs on marine related issues	A platform of African CSOs on LBSA related issues is created	Late 2016
CEP		
The CETA sub-programme of UNEP CAR/RCU facilitates this as an ongoing programme	Various outreach and awareness material targeted at civil society developed.	Ongoing

activity. This takes place through: (1) Web Site; (2) Social Media; (3) Marking of Commemorative Days; (4) Engagement of and Capacity Building of Media; (5) Participation in a range of conferences, exhibitions at both national and regional levels.		
COBSEA		
In 2008, provided small grants support to three COBSEA member countries (Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam) for pilot activities to increase awareness and strengthen capacities on marine litter at national level.	-	2008
Organized a regional awareness raising campaign and workshop on marine litter in September 2008 in Pattaya, Thailand.	-	2008
HELCOM		
HELCOM as a key provider of regional information on marine environment	HELCOM information sources (e.g. website) are well found and used, especially specialized areas such as the extensive data and map services	continuous
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Full section dedicated to actions to educate and raise awareness	2015->
MAP		
<p>Web Publication in the Arabic language of Marine Litter education kit and Marine Litter Management best practices.</p> <p>Publication of Marine Litter assessment reports ongoing.</p> <p>Various outreach, communication activities, mainly as celebrating UNEP MAP 40 anniversary.</p> <p>Developing updated leaflets and brochures, posters, banners, annual reports about MAP, its programmes and projects.</p> <p>Building synergy with NGOs and CBOs and organize activities and beach cleaning under the auspices of UNEP MAP. (MedSOS annual campaigns).</p> <p>Establishing information task force among UNEP MAP and its RACs to reach out and better disseminate information.</p> <p>Developing and implementing media</p>	<p>All publications to be delivered by COP 19 (three publications related to Marine Litter) and one publication related to Nutrient inputs, one publication on the implementation of SAP-MED NAP LBS Protocol.</p> <p>UNEP MAP at 40 Workshop during the EU Maritime Day (May 2015); UNEP MAP at 40 reception, with inviting key stakeholders on the sidelines of the MAP Focal Points Meeting (May 2015); UNEP MAP at 40, MED POL, MedPartnership and EcApMED brochures prepared and shared in meetings; Marine Litter-related panel discussion at UNOG. Marine litter related educational kit and communication material; Coast Day (September 2014 and 2015).</p> <p>Three on line publications of Guidelines on SM of PCB, Lead Batteries and Lube oil and Tannery sectors.</p>	<p>February 2016</p> <p>February 2016</p> <p>2015 and</p> <p>February 2016</p>

campaigns in specific MAP events (MSSD revision in Malta and Morocco, CoP 18, Istanbul, Regional Seas meeting, Coast Day). In addition, draft Programme of Work foresees a strong focus on awareness raising, knowledge strengthening and strengthening public participation.		
NOWPAP		
Annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign, including workshop on marine litter management since 2006	Enhanced public awareness of marine litter problems	2006-now
PERSGA		
Regional strategy and program for environmental awareness and education	National training workshops for school teachers in charge of environmental clubs in the member states	2012-2013
	National training workshops for journalists at various media in member states	2013-2014
	Cleaning campaigns and awareness workshops in coastal cities and celebrating Red Sea Day	2013, 2014 (annual)
SACEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Cleanup activities to commemorate International Coastal Cleanup day. • Celebration of world environment day and other days related to ocean. 	<p>This programme has created mass general public awareness including youth and children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public participation in beach cleanup activities+. • Boosted up awareness for better environment and pollution free ocean 	Regular Programme

3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance

3.1 Strengthen relationships with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

There have been only limited cases of collaboration between RSCAPs and RFMOs/ RFBs. However, it should be noted that OSPAR has a successful collaborative agreement with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). Efforts are being made to replicate this type of arrangement in other

regions. For example, in the Caribbean workshop is planned for December 2015 to strengthen the relationship between CEP and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
MoU with the Regional Commission for fisheries of the Gulf of Guinea	Strengthen the cooperation with regional fisheries organization for the protection of habitat and de management of fisheries	
CEP		
Collaboration is ongoing and takes place within the framework of the SPAW Protocol and in particular under the recently concluded CLME project	WECAFC will form part of the governance structure for the new CLME+ project.	Ongoing
HELCOM		
Strengthening cooperation with BALTFISH		continuous
MAP		
Establishment of a MoU between UNEP MAP and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (GFCM). The general aims of this MoU is to respond to current and newly emerging issues in the realm of the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems, and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources.	<p>The areas of cooperation with GFCM cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources; - Mitigation of the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species: by the use of best available techniques in fisheries and the development of sustainable aquaculture; - Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean (hotspots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands); - Integrated maritime policy: with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning, and integrated coastal zone management, and other integrated zoning approaches, with a view to mitigate cumulative risks due to reduced 	2012-2015

	access and availability of space affected by multiple and increasing conflictive uses; - Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation.	
Nairobi Convention		
Draft programme with SWIOFC		
OSPAR		
OSPAR works closely with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)	Work has been undergoing to address the issues in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)	ongoing
	OSPAR and NEAFC developed and agreed on a mechanisms for collaboration via information exchange on the development of area-based marine protection between both regional and multilateral organisation operating in ABNJ in the North East Atlantic	2014
	OSPAR and NEAFC Contracting Parties have started regular meetings to complete the detailed information annexes of the Collective Arrangement	ongoing
	OSPAR and NEAFC have collaborated on the development of proposals for several areas that meet the scientific criteria for Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)	-
PERSGA		
Collaborate with FAO for strengthen regional cooperation in fishery management	Develop regional MoU concerning fisheries management and aquaculture	2016
SACEP		
At this moment, there is no partnership with Regional Fisheries and Management Organization (RFMOs).		

3.2 Formalising partnerships and demonstrating joint working relationships with relevant regional and organizations, such as river basin organizations, Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) projects, as appropriate

Several cases of collaboration have been described below. For example cooperation between CEP and CLME, NOWPAP and PEMSEA and NOWPAP and PICES have been made. In the context of ocean governance, all the RSCAPs are urged to formulate strategy for regional cooperation as appropriate. s

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Join implementation of CCLME project together with FAO	Strengthen the cooperation with UN organization for the protection of habitat and management of fisheries	August 2013
MoU with the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine conservation in western Africa (PRCM)	Strengthen the cooperation with Civil society organisation for the conservation of the marine and coastal resources	July 2015
CEP		
CEP will be working with the CLME+ Project to implement a Pilot Project in the North Brazil Shelf region that demonstrates EBM with both land and marine components.	Project Design and implementation to take place by early 2016	End of 2018
COBSEA		
Developed and implemented three Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Regional Grant Initiatives: 1. Mapping and Enhancing Natural Resource Governance in Small Island Communities 2. Protecting Marine Ecosystems in MFF Countries Using the Green Fins Approach Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities, Ecosystems and Economies to Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion	-	
Development of the Project Preparation Grant of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Strategic Action Programme (SCS SAP) Implementation	-	
HELCOM		
Cooperating with river basin commissions in order to engage them in the work on compilation of the data on transboundary nutrients load on the Baltic Sea.	Improvement of the quality of the data on nutrient input to the Baltic Sea.	continuous
MAP		
The delineation of a Joint Strategy to coordinate Mediterranean spatial conservation efforts among the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS, under the Convention on Migratory Species, CMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the	The Joint Strategy elaboration is currently ongoing, benefitting from preliminary discussions and long-term bilateral collaborations among the concerned bodies. Section 1: <i>“Analysis of mandates, current strategies and preliminary identification of commonalities”</i> ready.	2015-2016

<p>Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM), the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA of UNEP MAP), with the contribution of the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN).</p>	<p>Letter of Intent for an even broader Joint Strategy, towards Regional Ocean Governance, with cooperation of common interests, were exchanges in between UNEP MAP, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN in cooperation with MedPAN.</p> <p>The project was built under 3 components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a climate change and coastal information sharing platform - Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability <p>Support to ICZM protocol implementation and capacity building</p>	<p>2010-2015</p>
<p>The design and implementation of a GEF-UNEP MAP “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) as a collective effort of leading environmental institutions and organizations together with countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea to address the main environmental challenges that Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems face.</p> <p>Partners included UN organizations FAO, UNESCO-IHP and UNIDO, and NGO’s including WWF-MedPO.</p> <p>The Project supported the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs developed and adopted by the CP’s in 2003 and 2005, and during the projects implementation, evaluated the status of implementation of agreed priorities and targets. Further updating of these SAP and NAPs is underway, now integrated with the EcAp process for achieving GES</p> <p>In 2012, a new “the integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM protocol” (ClimVar & ICZM), was approved and implementation started as a sister project to the MedPartnership. This project is addressing the climate change related challenges in the Mediterranean and aims to increase the</p>	<p>The MedPartnership is implementing activities and projects in 11 GEF Mediterranean eligible countries. The project built around four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer: coordination of activities, joint outputs. - Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED. - Component 3: Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs. Component 4: Project Co-ordination, NGO Involvement, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. <p>The Climvar & ICZM project was built under 3 components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a climate change and coastal information sharing platform - Strengthening the knowledge base on 	

<p>resilience of its marine and coastal areas.</p>	<p>regional climate variability</p> <p>Support to ICZM protocol implementation and capacity building</p> <p>The MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM together have implemented more than 150 activities and 80 demonstration projects. The results achieved by the two projects are not only considerable in terms of quantity, but have had a long term impact on the sustainability of the region.</p> <p>They contributed in saving over 10 million cubic meters of water yearly in several industrial sectors, supported the establishment of 7 new MPAs, produced new maps of coastal aquifers, and made possible the disposal of over 900 tons of PCBs in 3 different countries. Together they supported the organization of more than 500 meetings, workshops, and trainings which have reached out to thousands of stakeholders and provided a platform for local actors, regional experts and international institutions to interact.</p> <p>The projects were instrumental to several governance processes, as they supported the creation of inter-ministerial committees (IMC) in Croatia and Montenegro to implement an ICZM national Strategies, and developed a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework that identify the priority fields where action should be taken to increase the resilience to the adverse impacts of climate variability and change to the marine and coastal areas of the region. Overall, the projects' activities produced over 300 documents including technical reports, guidelines and policy analyses. These were sorted in a detailed bibliography that is available online in the projects' web page: http://www.themedpartnership.org/.</p>	
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Working together with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), with a focus on pollution reduction.	Collaboration with UfM and H2020 initiative, signing of a MOU with UfM.	2014-2015
Sharing best practices, coordinating with other European Regional Seas Marine Litter.	Marine Litter Initiative for coordination of the work of the European Regional Seas	
Nairobi Convention		
<p>The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) under its Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Countries of the Indian Ocean (ReCoMAP) Project which ended in 2011 developed a region wide consensus and shared understanding on the need for a regional framework on ICZM. Subsequent to the project, Contracting Parties with the support of IOC agreed to negotiate the ICZM Protocol to the Nairobi Convention.</p> <p>In Decision CP8/3: Development of a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to review the current status of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners and facilitate discussions to explore other possible options for the effective management of marine and coastal environment and report back on the options at or before the next conference of parties.</p>	Negotiations on ICZM Protocol to be finalized in 2015	Ninth Conference of Parties in 2017.
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project	Close relations with YSMLE, NOWPAP might become a member of the Yellow Seas Commission (if and when established)	2007-now
Cooperation with PEMSEA	Close relations with PEMSEA, NOWPAP is a member of the Partnership Council	2007-now
Cooperation with PICES	Close relations with PICES, some NOWPAP experts are ex-officio members of PICES working groups	2006-now
PERSGA		
Will participate in the 17th Consultative Committee Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems and Coastal partners, Paris, 29	-	2015

Sep- 2 Oct 2015		
ROPME		
Development of a Road Map for TDA in the RSA	Implementation of the TDA/SAP Framework	2015 and onwards
SACEP		
<p>SACEP with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) has implemented a project to address 'Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region' with the assistance from UNEP-GPNM (Global Partnership on Nutrient Management).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with IMO for preparation of regional Oil and Chemical Spill contingency Plan and Regional strategy for Ballast Water Management. • Partnership with UNEP for the preparation of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for South Asian Region. • Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change. • Partnership with Nitrogen Group of India for carried out a scoping study of nutrient pollution in South Asian Seas Region. • Partnership with IUCN, Sri Lanka for desk study of nutrient pollution in South Asian Seas Region. 	These partnerships help SACEP to implement the Action Plan of SASP.	Continuous process

3.3 Provisions of inputs into international processes

It is clear that the RSCAPs are able to contribute more towards global processes based on their extensive experiences with ocean-related issues. Therefore it is urged that UNEP takes extra care to vigorously engage RSCAPs in global discussions.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
CAR/RCU provides input of processes on request from UNEP HQ, UNEP ROLAC, UNDAF and other partner agencies and Intergovernmental Processes. These include	Inputs incorporated as appropriate.	Ongoing

Meeting of Conference of Parties of related Conventions as well as UN processes.		
HELCOM		
Regular reporting, upon request, to DOALOS	Annual input	annual
MAP		
Integrating the global reflexions on Ecosystem Based Management, the main Mediterranean biodiversity related bodies gathered around the concept of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) developed in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a sound understanding of the most ecologically and biologically important ocean areas that support healthy marine ecosystems. In a joint CBD-UNEP MAP meeting in Malaga, Spain (April, 2014), a proposal listing 17 descriptions of EBSAs for the Mediterranean was drafted. Input into various EU consultation processes, where we were consulted as a European Regional Sea Convention.	The descriptions of EBSAs for the Mediterranean were almost wholly endorsed (15 out of 17 ones) by the last CBD Conference of the Parties COP12, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, October 2014. Input into the EU public consultation on European Neighbourhood Policy Input into the EU public consultation on International Ocean Governance	2014 And 2015
Nairobi Convention		
In Decision CP7/15.1: Contribution to United Nations Regular Process , Contracting Parties agreed to support and actively contribute to the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, Including Socio-economic Aspects by nominating national experts or institutions to be part of the Pool of Experts and by providing the necessary information for the process and the assessment of marine environment.	The First State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region was launched on 21 June 2015 during the 8th Conference of Parties.	
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with CBD on establishing regional EBSAs	Nomination of NOWPAP experts for two EBSAs workshops	2013-2015
PERSGA		
Activity reports		
SACEP		
A partner in the consultation process of South	Publications for South Asian Perspective	Continuous

Asia Environment Outlook South Asia partner for UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series Post 2015 Development Agenda	Available at SACEP website ³²	process.
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3.4 Disseminating information, among members and parties, on joint actions promoting RSCAPs at all level and promoting these actions

Newsletter is one of the most common forms of communication across the RSCAPs. In addition social media, database and geo-tagged system are used. In order to increase the visibility of the activities conducted by the Secretariats as well as by the member countries, the RSCAPs are encouraged to regularly update their websites while using other communication materials.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Establishment of a clearing house mechanism within the geographic scope of the Abidjan Convention	A functioning clearing house mechanism of the Abidjan Convention	Late 2016
CEP		
CAR/RCU disseminates information as part of its Communications Strategy through various modalities and outreach products.	KAP Survey to be conducted in 2015 to evaluate effectiveness of outreach efforts	Ongoing
Clearing House Mechanisms established to share information on programmes, projects and activities	Facebook and Twitter Accounts Established, List Serves and Mailing Groups used to disseminate information	Ongoing
GEF CReW Project being used to test sustainable financing mechanisms for wastewater as per Annex III of the LBS Protocol	Ongoing	December 2016
Audit conducted in 2015	Need for Resource Mobilization Strategy Identified – to be tabled at next IGM	
MAP		
On general information dissemination, please see Point 2.4. Various marine litter communication materials were developed, building on the Marine Litter Regional Plan's implementation needs. At Mediterranean regional scale, UNEP MAP	Marine Litter Guidelines, translated to Arabic; Marine Litter Educational Package Some key consultation meetings followed from 2011 to 2015 on the establishment	2011-2015

³² www.sacep.org

and its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), through the EC funded project “MedOpenSeas”, already selected twelve priority areas in the pelagic and deep-sea domain to promote their multilateral conservation and natural resources sustainable management, through their declaration as Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), supported by the advice of regional organizations. Those areas were endorsed in an extraordinary meeting of RAC/SPA Focal Points held in Istanbul in 2010 and support work to their multilateral conservation and management is pursued since then.	of SPAMIs in five out of those twelve agreed priority areas in the Mediterranean: Gulf of Lions, Alboran Sea, Adriatic Sea, Sicily Channel and Tunisian Plateau. For all those priority sites, thematic reports proving their value, containing compiled and new scientific data, were elaborated (specifically thematic reports on cetaceans, turtles, seabirds and fisheries, with emphasis on elasmobranchs; as well as overall ecology reports).	
Nairobi Convention		
PDERIODIC NEWS ROUND-UP		
NOWPAP		
Being done regularly		2005-now
PERSGA		
Production of PERSGA Al-Sanbuk Newsletter	Awareness and education	regular
PERSGA website news and events	Awareness and education	regular
Installing online tracking geo-referenced system for PERSGA activities in the region	Accessible geo-referenced projects data for regional exchange and synergy with partners	2014-2015
ROPME		
Development of second phase of ROPME Integrated Information System for Ecosystem-Based application modules, marine scientific models and networking with other information systems. Modules include coral reefs mangroves, fisheries, marine turtles, marine mammals, invasive species, HABs, marine mortality, radiation, hazardous wastes and Red List of Species	Establishment of a Regional Integrated Information System	Started in 2013 and continued
SACEP		
A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asian Seas Region	It is circulated among the member countries and website of SACEP ³³ and website of FAO ³⁴	June, 2015
Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for South Asian Seas Region (First Order Draft)	1 st order draft was circulated among the SAS countries for their comments. It will be finalized in the next regional meeting	February, 2015

³³ www.sacep.org

³⁴ www.fao.org

	which is scheduled to be held at December, 2015.	
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3.5 Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocols

From the report below, it seems that most of the RSCAPs mainly rely on contribution from participating countries. However it is also possible to look into other financial mechanisms to supplement budget especially in the region where financial sustainability of the Secretariat has been a challenge.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Enhanced Marine Management in West Africa project submit to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)	Implementation of 3 tools : EBSAS, MSP and SoME	May 2019
CEP		
Proposal for changes to Financial Rules tabled at 14 th IGM and Meeting of Contracting Parties.	Decision taken at last IGM to amend existing Financial Rules to make specific reference to payment of outstanding contributions, and the establishment of a working capital reserve by the Secretariat	
MAP		
Project concept note was developed and successfully presented to the GPGC Project Steering Committee (EU-UNEP), with project approved for an EcAp-MEDII project (October 2015-September 2018)	EcAp-MED II Project: This EU funded project of 2,7 million EUR will focus on the implementation of IMAP, with mainly providing support to Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties (next to strengthening science-policy interface and information and data system on a regional scale).	2014-2015
Elaboration of a regional study/gap analysis of financial needs of Mediterranean MPAs, by MedPAN and RAC/SPA in collaboration with WWF-MedPO.	The study " <i>Sustainable Financing of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: A Financial Analysis</i> " was finalized in May 2015.	
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP member states provide adequate resources, increasing their contributions gradually		
PERSGA		
Collaboration with GEF agencies and member states to develop new projects addressing		

regional priorities		
Collaborate with member states to include coastal issues in NAPAs and other portfolio projects		
Partnerships with the government and private sector to support monitoring activities	Establish online monitoring station in the northern PERSGA region	2015
SACEP		
SACEP is the secretariat of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP). SASP is operated by the country contributions of the 5 member countries (e.g. Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).	Annual agreed country contribution by the member countries.	Regular Process
The activities are carried out on individual MoUs / LoAs on a case to case basis.	Projects are implemented by individual MoU/ LoA with development partners.	Regular

3.6 Facilitate intra and inter-regional cooperation and support and/or initiate networks. (i.e. Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks)

The Target 14.5 of the SDG states “conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information”. Based on the extensive experiences of the RSCAPs on the MPA networks as described below, it is expected that the RSCAPs will assist member countries to achieve the target.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Enhanced Marine Management in West Africa project submit to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 3 tools : EBSAS, MSP and SOME 	May 2019
Creation of the first marine park of Cote d’Ivoire		Late 2016
CEP		
CEP continues to support the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) Network and Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Training of Trainers Programme (ToT) on MPA Management held in Grenada (February 2015) • Support to MPA managers and practitioners to participate in the GCFI Conference (Nov 2015) • Technical assistance to Haiti for their MPA processes 	Ongoing

HELCOM		
Coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) have since 1994 aimed at coherent protection of particularly vulnerable areas.	The area of HELCOM marine protected areas has increased threefold since 2004 and now covers about 12% of the marine area of the Baltic Sea. This exceeds the target of 10% spatial coverage set by the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
	Modernization of the HELCOM database on HELCOM MPAs. Receiving regular information and data is essential for following up the related HELCOM agreements and assessing the ecological coherence of the coastal and marine protected areas. The aim is to create an approachable database via restructuring the existing information and to harmonize the new HELCOM database as much as possible with similar ones on North-Atlantic (OSPAR) MPAs and EU's Natura 2000 sites.	
Nairobi Convention		
The Nairobi Convention Secretariat in partnership with WIOMSA advanced and finalised the review of WIO-LaB demonstration projects.	The outcome of the review was disseminated to support the preparation of the project Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the marine and coastal environment from land based sources and activities (WIO-SAP) submitted for GEF support in 2015	
MAP		
Establishment of a <i>“Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean including the High Sea”</i> adopted by Barcelona Convention COP 16 (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2009).	An assessment of the progress made so far in implementing the Regional Working Programme undertaken.	2015
Elaboration of a <i>“Draft Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean”</i> .	The Roadmap is proposed for adoption by the Barcelona Convention COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016).	2015
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with YSLME project (in its second phase) might result in that	Not clear at this moment	2016-2017
Cooperation with NEASPEC	Close relations with NEASPEC, NOWPAP expert serving as advisory group member of a project on MPAs	2014-now
PERSGA		

Support MPAs network: coordination meeting, capacity building and exchange lessons learned	-	Regular program
ROPME		
Development of a Protocol concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Protected Areas	Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries for Signing of the Protocol is awaited	2014
SACEP		
SACEP already Established the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)	Network Established	Since July, 2007
Regional Ballast Water Management Taskforce for South Asian Region has also been established	Network Established	July, 2015

4. Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems

4.1 Raise awareness, promote and implement, as appropriate, economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services to support management decision making and policy settings

The RSCAPs have made significant efforts to raise awareness by organising workshops and conducting studies. Although it is difficult to measure the level of awareness, the workshops have surely contributed toward preparation of the ground for future application of green economy concept.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Coastal EbA/ Adaptation Training for the countries of the Abidjan Convention	Improved management of the resources	November, 2013
Elaboration of a synthesis report on the economic value of the Guinea, Canary and Benguela LMEs		Mid-2016
CEP		
GEF CRW – Conducted Regional Resource Valuation Capacity Building Workshop and three pilot case studies in Panama, Trinidad, and Tobago in collaboration with the World Resources Institute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three pilot studies completed in Panama, Trinidad and Tobago • Regional Capacity Building Workshop Convened • Resource Valuation Methodology Developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2015 • August 2015 • October 2015

HELCOM		
Support of the valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services in the Baltic Sea	Regional workshop and report, 7-8 November 2013	2013
Promotion of research on cost-efficient water protection in the Baltic Sea	Study by University of Helsinki and MTT Agrifood Research Finland: Prospects for cost-efficient water protection in the Baltic Sea	2014
MAP		
RAC/SPA organized a training session on the evaluation of the services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems.	8 nationals trained and two case studies elaborated.	2015
EcAp MED project 2012-2015, Economic and Social Assessment (Component A).	• Economic and social analysis of the uses of the coastal and marine waters in the Mediterranean	2014
	• Scoping study for the assessment of the costs of degradation of the Mediterranean marine ecosystems	2014
	• Guidelines for national economic and social analysis of Mediterranean marine ecosystems ³⁵	2015
The Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation Project (GEF grant), Socio-economic evaluation of maritime activities	Establishing national economic and social analyze analyses of the main economic uses of the coastal and marine environment for four pilot countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia; as well as a comparative synthesis report of the results of the three national analyses, describing the present situation and the perspectives of Mediterranean maritime economic activities with regard to their socio-economic and environmental characteristics. National reports and synthesis available on http://goo.gl/J8PKj6	2015
Nairobi Convention		
The Nairobi Convention Secretariat assisted the Contracting Parties to advance the blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean Region mainly through intergovernmental dialogue on the principles, valuation and enabling	Blue economy has been recognized as the pathway to improve the socio-economic development in the Western Indian Ocean Region and sustainably manage the environment as a key to alleviate poverty.	

³⁵ <http://goo.gl/2XOYmb>

frameworks for blue economy. The Secretariat organized two technical and awareness workshops on 11-13 December 2013 and 17-18 June 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles.		
	The concept of blue economy for coastal and island states of the Nairobi Convention Area gained momentum in their development agenda and varies significantly: for example it is fairly advanced in South Africa with Operation PHAKISA, Seychelles with blue economy and Mauritius with ocean economy; while other countries are in the process of defining and developing blue economy pathways.	
	At the Eighth Conference of Parties that was held on 22-24 June 2015 in Mahe Seychelles, the Contracting Parties adopted decision CP8/10 on Blue and Ocean Economy, and agreed to apply blue or ocean economy approaches as pathways for sustained economic growth, food security, poverty eradication, job creation and environmental sustainability.	
ROPME		
Workshop on Environmental Challenges in RSA for Journalist (In Arabic)		30 Sep-02 Oct 2013
Workshop on Promoting Environmental Awareness for Journalists (In Farsi)		17-19 Sep 2013
Workshop on Promoting Environmental Awareness for Journalists and Mass Media Specialists (In Farsi)		29-31 Dec 2014
National Workshop on Ecotourism and Ecosystem Services –Sultanate of Oman (in Arabic)		12-14 Oct 2015
Regional Workshop on Environmental Awareness for major target groups on new Directions of Environment for Sustainable Development in line with Rio+20 outcomes	Upcoming	Jan 2016
SACEP		
The First Order Draft of the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in South Asian Region is prepared. It has focused on awareness economic value of coastal ecosystem services to support management decision making and policy setting.	The regional document on MCBs will be finalized in the regional meeting which will be held at the beginning of 2016	On going

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4.2 Foster key partnerships on specific green economy actions between governments, private sector and civil society

From the reporting it could be concluded that many RSCAPs are struggling to identify key partners for green economy actions. On the other hand, HELCOM has held dialogues with various stakeholders including the private sector. It is, thus, encouraged to identify and have a dialogue with regional key partners to seek opportunities of partnership on green economy.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Continued to provide input to the development of UNEP Green Economy projects in Jamaica and Saint Lucia.	Final Reports prepared at Country Level. Next Steps uncertain.	N/A
Promote Green Economy Approaches and partnerships in the ongoing development of new GEF Projects such as CREW + and on Marine Litter	Ongoing	N/A
HELCOM		
Regional platform for promoting green technologies and alternative fuels for ships	Established as a permanent HELCOM sub-group	2014
Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over-packaging and promote wise packaging	Reduce input of marine litter.	continuous
Sustainable management of fisheries and maritime spatial planning	Fishing for space workshop BALTFIMPA project	14.11.2013 2012-13
MAP		
A green economy Feasibility study on ecotourism for local development of Kotor Bay in Montenegro	Feasibility study on ecotourism ready and a training workshop to local stakeholders on its application undertaken.	2013-2014
SACEP		
Coastal Clean-up activity is related to Green Tourism (With involvement of Governments/ Private Sector / School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created public awareness to clean the beach • Pollution free marine and coastal 	Regular Activity

Children and Youth)	environment • Enhance tourisms	
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4.3 Develop regional policies on resource efficiency, in support to the 10-year framework programme for sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as appropriate

SCEP has been promoting sustainable consumption and production as stated below. However, no substantial achievements have been seen in the other regions. The reasons for this low level of implementation are not clear but the RSCAPs are encouraged to consider SCP particularly in the context of SDGs, which emphasize the importance of SCP.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No action taken	N/A	N/A
MAP		
The draft Mediterranean Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (the Draft SCP Action Plan) identifies goals and actions as well as a common roadmap for all Mediterranean countries to shift to SCP patterns. This Action Plan, which is also predicted to be adopted in February 2016, will be a milestone that places the Mediterranean region at the forefront of the global and regional efforts in the development of the 10YFP.	The Draft SCP Action Plan is going to be discussed during the upcoming MAP Focal Points Meeting (October 2015) and will be submitted to COP19 for adoption	February 2016
PERSGA		
Regional guidelines for wastewater management		2015
Regional policies for wastewater treatment and reuse		2016-2017
Regional blue carbon policy analysis		2013
National blue carbon policy analysis in KSA		2014
SACEP		
Following on the implementation of the Asia–Pacific Roadmap of the Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) as well as the recommendation of the 13 th Governing Council, SACEP is 'Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia' to develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), 26-27 February 2015, Negombo, Sri Lanka. • SACEP in collaboration with 	Ongoing process

a resource pool and to explore opportunity for capacity building to support governments and other stakeholders at national and regional level in a transition to SCP, and to support public awareness campaigns on SCP.	UNEP will be organizing a Meeting on the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production in India from 3 – 6 November 2015	
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5. Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the regional and national levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

5.1 Planning and implementing, regional monitoring and assessment activities, as appropriate.(i.e. State of Marine Environment / Status reports or their equivalent)

Extensive activities were conducted in order to contribute to the Regular Process. As the first cycle is concluding, it may be a great time for the RSCAPs to examine future monitoring approaches.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Report of the State of Marine Environment of Sierra Leone	illuminate decision-maker and managers of resources	Oct 2015
Report of the State of Marine Environment of Cote d'Ivoire		
Report of the State of Marine Environment of Gabon		
CEP		
Development of State of Convention Area Report as per obligations of the LBS Protocol of the Cartagena Convention	Decision of Contracting Parties to develop State of Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region (SOCAR)	Completed in 2014
Intercessional Working Group of Government Experts, LBS RACs and Regional Experts Developed	Working group established and meeting monthly under Chairmanship of USA	Completed in 2014
SOCAR Outline presented to Contracting Parties for endorsement	State of Convention Area Report Outline Developed	Completed in 2014
Activities developed within GEF CLME+ and IWEco to support SOCAR Development	Specific Plan of Action for SOCAR to be developed by December 2015 with implementation to begin January 2016	Draft Report by November 2016.
COBSEA		
In 2009 published the first ever 'State of Marine Environment Reporting (SOMER) of		2009

<i>East Asian Seas'</i> . ³⁶		
Contributed inputs to the global biodiversity outlook produced by UNEP/DEPI/MCEB for the CBD COP-10 in Nagoya, Japan.		
HELCOM		
Regular joint monitoring of the Baltic Sea since 1970s	Outcomes of HELCOM working groups	continuous
HELCOM Monitoring Manual	One online site to stipulate what is monitored, where, when and how	2013
HELCOM core indicators	New generation – 19 indicators – launched	2015
MAP		
Please See Point 1.2 on the draft IMAP	Please See 1.2 on the draft IMAP	Feb 2016
Please see Point 4.1, on the Economic and Social Assessment, which served as an update to the UNEP MAP State of Environment Report of 2012.	Please see Point 4.1, on the Economic and Social Assessment, which served as an update to the UNEP MAP State of Environment Report of 2012.	2015
Status Quality Report is foreseen for 2017, on which preparations will start already from 2016 on, in line with the IMAP implementation.	Status Quality Report is foreseen for 2017, on which preparations will start already from 2016 on, in line with the IMAP implementation.	
<p>Evaluation of the implementation and updating of the following regional Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “<i>Action Plan for the Conservation of the Coralligenous and Other Calcareous Bioconcretions in the Mediterranean Sea</i>”; • The “<i>Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea</i>”; <p>The “<i>Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea</i>”.</p> <p>- Elaboration in 2012, by MedPAN and RAC/SPA, of a status report on MPAs in the Mediterranean, in order to assess the progress made by the region towards the 2012 CBD objectives.</p>	<p>Three regional Action Plans updated focusing on the regional integrated monitoring and assessment process.</p> <p>- The “<i>Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea - 2012</i>” edited and disseminated during many regional and global fora.</p>	<p>- 2015</p> <p>2012-2013</p>

³⁶ <http://www.cobsea.org/documents/Report-SOMER/State/Marine/Report.pdf>

Nairobi Convention		
In 2013, training course modules for the UN Regular Reporting process developed by UNDOALOS were customised for the WIO region and were expanded in 2014 to include methodology for the preparation of marine assessment reports particularly DPSIR framework (Driver-Pressure--Impact-Response); policy options, and Scenario Building.	Building the capacity of countries for scientific environmental data and knowledge management and assessments at the national level for sound decision making and to contribute to regional and global marine assessments reporting.	
NOWPAP		
Two State of Marine Environment Reports for the NOWPAOP region were prepared so far	SOMER-1	2007
	SOMER-2	2014
OSPAR		
Common environmental status indicators report	Interim report is to be produced by 2017. Next status report due in 2021.	2017-2021
PERSGA		
SOMERII		2016
Regional Monitoring Program		Regular
Review regional legislations for living marine resources		2014-2015
Assessment of marine litter in the region	assessment report	2013-2015
Assessment of LBS impacts on coral reefs		2015-2016
POPs inventories		2012-2014
ROPME		
Regional Task Force Meeting on Mussel Watch Programme	Preparation of 2014 regional survey programme	2-3 Feb 2014
Implementation of the 2 nd Regional Mussel Watch Round	Survey of contaminants (PHC, TM, TBTs, Biotoxins, Radiation)	Feb-March 2014
Preparatory Meeting on the Four Season Oceanographic Cruise – 2016	Identification of objectives and a preliminary framework for the Cruise Plan	25-27 May 2015
Technical Expert Meeting for the Study of Water Circulation at the Strait of Hormuz	Outlining the Study programme	23-24 Aug 2015
First Scientific Committee Meeting on the Four Season Oceanographic Cruise-2016	Preparation of the Cruise Plan	15-17 Sept 2015
SACEP		
A partner in the consultation process of South Asia Environment Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Asia partner for UNEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and enhancing consultations and technical co-operation among States of the 	On going

<p>Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 2015 Development Agenda 	<p>region;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizing the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment; and • Establishing a regional co-operative network of activities concerning concrete subjects/projects of mutual interest for the whole region 	
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5.2 Technical assistance to member states on integrated assessment in the marine and coastal environment, including support to World Oceans Assessment, as appropriate

In most of the regions, no significant progress seem to have been made to provide technical assistance on integrate assessment. However, HELCOM member states are in the process of creating the next holistic assessment. The other regions are, thus, encouraged to learn from the experience at HELCOM to provide assistance to their member countries.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No Action taken. Possible Assistance through GEF IWECO and CLME+ projects	N/A	N/A
HELCOM		
Regional work by all HELCOM member states to create the next holistic assessment	<p>Second Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea (2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incorporates thematic assessments on biodiversity, hazardous substances, eutrophication and maritime activities - socio-economic analysis included <p>pressure indices improves</p>	2018
MAP		
Please see point 1.2 on IMAP, point 3.4 on Med OpenSeas and Marine Litter related activities and point 3.5 on the EcAp-MEDII project	Please see point 1.2 on IMAP, point 3.4 on Med OpenSeas and Marine Litter related activities and point 3.5 on the EcAp-MEDII project	Feb 2016 and 2015-2018

Organization of training sessions and symposia in order to build national capacities on the monitoring of threatened marine and coastal species and their habitats and to allow exchange of results and experiences.	The Recommendations issued from the symposia endorsed by the RAC/SPA Focal Points.	2014-2015
Nairobi Convention		
Between 2011 and 2014, capacity building activities for member states for integrated ecosystems assessments and valuation of ecosystem goods and services through were carried out through targeted regional capacity building workshops on ecosystem based management, and the UN Regular process for global reporting on marine environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased expertise in the region for integrated ecosystem assessments for informed decision making processes and improved formulation of marine and coastal programmes and policies. The trainings have resulted in over 100 additional experts, and policy makers including at senior government level, equipped on integrated ecosystem assessment since 2008 and enhanced capacities for integrated ecosystem assessment for informed decision making. <p>The experts have been involved in the development of the marine assessment reports for the Regular Process on marine reporting.</p>	
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP has supported two WOA workshops where national experts were present		2012
ROPME		
		Upon request
SACEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to prepare National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan for 5 maritime countries of SAS Region. SACEP is providing technical assistance to prepare Regional Taskforce on 'Ballast Water Management (BWM) in south Asian Seas Region. Finalized a Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asian Seas Region. Technical assistance to prepare a 	SAS member countries have their own oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan.	Ongoing process

regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in the South Asian Seas Region		
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5.3 Assist in building capacities at the national/regional level on integrated assessments on the marine and coastal environment, with particular emphasis to aligning as appropriate to regional priority issues as identified by the outline of the World Oceans Assessment

As mentioned above (5.2), most of the RSCAPs seem to be struggling to formulate integrated assessments.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No Action taken. Possible Assistance through GEF IWEco and CLME+ projects	N/A	N/A
COBSEA		
Co-organized the Regional Scientific and Technical Capacity Building Workshop on the World Ocean Assessment (the U.N Regular Process) on the South China Sea on 17–19 September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. ³⁷		
MAP		
Please see point 1.2. on IMAP and point 3.5 on the EcAp-MEDII project	Please see point 1.2. on IMAP and point 3.5 on the EcAp-MEDII project	Feb 2016 2015-2018
NOWPAP		
NOWPAP has supported two WOA workshops where national experts were present		2012
ROPME		
		Continuous
SACEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka to prepare National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Assistance to prepare Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in SAS Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capacity building of the member countries of the SAS region Established a regional network to save the marine environment 	Ongoing process

³⁷ <http://www.grida.no/publications/default/5784.aspx>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to Prepare BWM taskforce in SAS Region 		
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5.4 Support the Group of Experts, including regional and national experts, as appropriate, of the World Ocean Assessment

As shown below, the RSCAPs have successfully provided support to the Group of Experts in order to organise regional workshops.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided assistance with the planning and organizing of United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment Assisted in identification and nomination of national and regional experts Facilitated a Decision of 13th IGM to support this process 	Regional Meeting successfully held in Miami in 2014; Additional experts from the Wider Caribbean and in particular Caribbean SIDS were nominated.	Completed in 2014
COBSEA		
Hosted the 11 th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas in Bangkok.		
Hosted the 37 th Session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) on 14 – 19 February 2010 in Bangkok.		2010
Nairobi Convention		
Seven experts and authors' capacity building training workshops were organised by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 for effective management of scientific environmental data and knowledge management, ecosystems assessments and valuation of ecosystem goods and services.	The Regional State of Coast Report was finalized in 2015 and launched at the Eighth Conference of Parties	
NOWPAP		

NOWPAP has supported two WOA workshops where national experts were present		2012
SACEP		
The study report on Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was prepared by a group of national consultants (Indian Nitrogen Group). The Nitrogen Group also engaged scientist from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka to prepare the study report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACEP also engaged national consultants for the preparation of National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for five maritime countries of SAS Region. 	SACEP has involved the national and regional experts to formulate regional and national consultants	June 2015 and continuous process

5.5 Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs

The level of achievement on this item is not well reported.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
No action required - Completed in last reporting.	N/A	N/A
ROPME		
Expert Meeting on the Review of draft text of SOMER 2013	Finalization of SOMER ³⁸ draft for publication	27-28 Jan2014
Publication of SOMER 2013	Distribution of SOMER	2014
SACEP		
The chapter of 'Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report in South Asian Seas Region'	This chapter is now in the UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series	2010

³⁸ State of the Marine Environment in ROPME sea area: <http://ropme-somer.org/>

5.6 Strengthen mechanisms to sustain environmental data at regional and national level, capitalizing on strategic synthesis efforts (WOA)

As reported below many RSCAPs are in the process of improving managing of their monitoring data. Regional state of the environment report could be a good summary, synthesizing the collected data.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Decision at 14 th IGM to support development of State of the Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region;	Details on SOCAR provided above	See above
Participated in regional workshop by UNEP ROLAC for development of project on Environmental Indicators in SIDS	Input provided to Draft Project Proposal developed by ROLAC; CAR/RCU may have role in implementation subject to project being approved by the GEF	Unknown
HELCOM		
Constant upgrading of HELCOM data & map services	Currently over 500 pan-Baltic map layers	continuous
	Biodiversity data portal	mid-2016
	Human pressures and MSP relevant data	2016 ->
	Online decision support tool and port survey database for ships' ballast water, with OSPAR	2017
NOWPAP		
One of the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (DINRAC) is maintaining environmental data in its databases.	Data bases	2013-now
SACEP		
SACEP website is updated with recent publications, regional plan, MoU and regional plan. This information could be used to sustain environmental data at regional and national level.	Information is accessible form SACEP website ³⁹	Regular Process

³⁹ www.sacep.org

6. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

6.1 Mapping existing and potential partnerships with relevant MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs

All the regions are aware of the key partners as described below. However, whether the RSCAPs have conducted the mapping as specified by this action point is not clear.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
As part of ongoing GEF Projects, a detailed stakeholder mapping exercise is usually done. This has been done for example for GEF IWECO, GEF CLME+ and GEF CREW. As part of this mapping, the potential role and partnership of MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs is specifically identified and explored during project implementation.	Specifically	Ongoing and Project Dependent
COBSEA		
Established and developed amicable and collaborative working relations with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP HQ and ROAP • UNDP • Sida • KOICA • PEMSEA • ASEAN Working Groups on Coastal and Marine Environment and Maritime Transport • UNESCO IOC WESTPAC • GEF • FAO • IUCN/MFF • SEAFDEC • NOWPAP • SACEP • YSLME • BOBLME • IMO • CBD • GISP local universities and with global conventions and U.N. organizations		
In March 2010, UNEP/COBSEA and Korea		

Maritime Institute (KMI) signed a general 'umbrella' Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations.		
HELCOM		
UNEP Minamata Convention	Specific measures developed for implementation	2017
MAP		
Please see cooperation with CBD at point 3.3.	CBD-UNEP MAP EBSAs Regional Workshop	2014
	Participation in the Chemical MEAs COP in May 2015.	2015
	Contacts established with EBRD, AFD/FFEM, UNHCR-Greece	2015
Nairobi Convention		
In decision CP7/7.2: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas , of the Seventh Conference of Parties, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, in partnership with the Secretariats' of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and other partners, to support Contracting Parties to participate in the process of recognising and describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and where feasible, establish marine protected areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat established a partnership with WWF on the Northern Mozambique Channel as a priority ecologically and biologically significant marine area (EBSA). <p>The Secretariat has also partnered with Kenya Wildlife Service and Marine Parks and Reserves Department in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania respectively, for discussions on the Trans Boundary Conservation Area between Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania as a marine protected area under the Pemba Channel EBSA.</p>	
NOWPAP		
Cooperation with IOC UNESCO Sub-commission (WESTPAC)	Close relations with WESTPAC, including joint activities	2006-now
Cooperation with HELCOM, MAP and OSPAR	Close relations with MAP, HELCOM and OSPAR, including participation of their experts in NOWPAP activities	2010-now
OSPAR		
Review of the work on OSPAR Region 1(The Arctic)	The Commission identified the importance of collaboration with the Arctic Council	ongoing
OSPAR has developed partnership with ICES, NEAFC, the North Atlantic Salmon	Illustrative area of collaboration: on exchange of information to enable	ongoing

Conservation Organisation, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), the Sargasso Seas Alliance and the European International River Commissions such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine	Ballast Water Convention exemptions, monitoring and assessment	
Initiative from Norway, FAO and UNEP on the project “Securing the Foundations for Fish Food Security in a Changing Oceans in West, Central and South Africa”	OSPAR joined the other regional partners such as Abidjan Convention on joint activities under the project	ongoing
PERSGA		
Database to be installed in PERSGA tracking system		2015
New agreements for cooperation with IMO, IOC-UNESCO, IAEA,		
Executing regional projects in collaboration with WB, IMO, UNIDO and UNEP	Activities supported regional capacities for adoption of EBM, combating maritime pollution, reduction of POPs emissions and reduction of pollution from LBS of pollution	2011-2014 2014-2017 2015-2016
ROPME		
Participation in Arab REIN First Regional Meeting for GEO-6	Contribution in outlining Ch-8 of the Report	10-14 May 2015
Participation in LAKI – The Priority-Setting Workshop for GCC Sub-Region	Contribution in identifying the gaps in knowledge	15-17 June 2015
SACEP		
Partnership with UNEP, UN-ESCAP, IMO, FAO, NORAD, BoBLME, Development Alternatives-India, Nitrogen Group of India and IUCN to implement the action plan of SASP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan in SAS Region • Regional Taskforce on BWM in SAS Region • Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity strategy for SAS Region • National Oil and chemical spill Contingency Plan of all SAS country. 	Continuous Process

6.2 Initiate and operationalize Inter and Intra Regional Collaborations

Collaborations among RSCAPs have been emerging. For example, HELCOM, OSPAR, Bucharest Convention and MAP continue collaborating on the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. The RSCAPs

are encouraged to work closely particularly with neighbouring RSCAPs to join forces on marine conservation.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
Participated in Intergovernmental Meetings of Caribbean Community and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States;	Greater Coordination in the development and implementation of regional projects	Ongoing
COBSEA		
Co-organized with NOWPAP, UNDP, PEMSEA and YSLME a workshop on regional governance during the PEMSEA EAS Congress in Manila in November 2009.	-	2009
Co-organized with GEF, UNEP and Sida the first GEF International Waters Science Conference (IWSC 2012) in Bangkok in September 2012	-	2012
Participated and presented at the PEMSEA EAS Congress in Changwon, Korea in July 2012	-	2012
Participated in the Global Land Oceans Connections Conference (GLOC) and the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA (IGR 3); UNEP's Global Programme of Action on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land Based Activities in Manila on 23-27 January 2012.	-	2012
HELCOM		
With OSPAR, Barcelona Convention & Bucharest Convention: Regional action plan on marine litter	Cooperation continues on common actions with other Regional Seas Conventions. Informal meeting on cooperation between RSC regarding Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter (18.09.2015 in Paris). Next meeting envisaged in spring 2016.	2015->
With OSPAR: Continuous regional work on IMO Ballast Water Management Convention	Joint Action Plan under development	2019
	Online decision support tool and port survey database for ships' ballast water	2017
With OSPAR, RSCs: Intra-regional indicators; Ongoing work with RSCs on Indicators	Further development of other core indicators and Good environmental status;	2016
	Sharing best practices to other RSCs	2014 ->
With OSPAR: Joint work on mitigating the harmful impact from underwater noise	Develop a roadmap towards a regional action plan on underwater noise Joint Meeting of OSPAR's	2016

	Intersessional Correspondence Group on Underwater Noise (ICG-Noise), HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (HELCOM EN-Noise) and EU Technical Group on Underwater Noise (EU TG-NOISE) (ICG Noise-HELCOM EN Noise-EU TG NOISE 1-2015) to take place 30 September 2015, in Copenhagen, Denmark.	
With IMO: Full implementation of Baltic Sea special area status for sewage from passenger ships	Work on improving adequacy on port reception facilities for sewage	2019
Black Sea Commission: Sharing knowledge, with particular view on monitoring and assessing eutrophication	Outcomes of Baltic 2 Black project. Transfer of knowledge between the regions on assessment of eutrophication and monitoring of nutrient loads	2011-13
MAP		
3.1 applies also herein. In addition, close cooperation and coordination established with other European Regional Sea Conventions (OSPAR, HELCOM, Black Sea)	3.1 applies also herein. Consultation meetings on EcAp; Joint Issues Paper planned on Marine Spatial Planning (with lead of UNEP MAP); Specific consultation meeting to share UNEP MAP best practice on marine litter with OSPAR and HELCOM	2013 2014-2015 2015 2015
3.2 applies also herein.	3.2 applies also herein.	2016
3.3 applies also herein.	3.3 applies also herein.	2014
Nairobi Convention		
In decision CP8/5: Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Jeddah Convention, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to contribute to the development of an African strategy on ocean governance in the context of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063.		
OSPAR		
Collaboration with the HELCOM Convention, Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention	Information and experiences have been shared with neighbouring regions	
PERSGA		

Collaboration with ISESCO	Joint training workshops	2013-2014
Collaboration with AL	Participation in ARAB SD Initiative activities	Regular
Collaborations with neighbouring RSs: ROPME and MAP	Joint workshops/ publish regional manuals	
collaboration with FAO-NENA regional office	MoU to strengthen regional mechanism for fishery cooperation	2016
Collaboration with UNEP-ROWA	Joint training workshops	2013-2014
ROPME		
ROPME- KISR MOU	Supporting research programme	
ROPME – JICA MOU	ROPME-JICA Partnership Programme	
ROPME- Qatar University MOU	Coordination for 4-season Oceanographic Cruise	10 May 2015
ROPME-UNEP/ROWA MOU	Collaboration in implementation of the reoriented ROPME Programme Activities	02 Jul 2015
SACEP		
SASP is working within the Member States and international, Regional, Multilateral, Bilateral and Private Sector organizations	Implementation of the Action Plan of SASP	Continuous Process

6.3 Support and streamline reporting with relevant MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs

Harmonized reporting to the MEAs and relevant protocols has long been an issue in the environmental community. Continuous efforts need to be made on the side of UNEP as well as of the RSCAPs to move towards more streamlined reporting system to reduce burden on the member countries.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
CEP		
GEF CReW Project has facilitated greater interaction with the Interamerican Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank.	Joint capacity building activities carried out with IDB, World Bank and CDB; Interest of IFIs in becoming partners for new GEF Projects including a follow up to CReW and on Marine Litter/Plastics.	Ongoing
PERSGA		
Contribution to SG reports on UNCLOS and Oceans		regular
Contribution to GEO6 report		
Observer to CBD COP		2014
Observer to UNFCCC-CMP COPs		2012, 2013

Observer in IMO COPs		regular
ROPME		
ROPME- KISR MOU	Supporting research programme	
ROPME – JICA MOU	ROPME-JICA Partnership Programme	
ROPME- Qatar University MOU	Coordination for 4-season Oceanographic Cruise	10 May 2015
ROPME-UNEP/ROWA MOU	Collaboration in implementation of the reoriented ROPME Programme Activities	02 Jul 2015
SACEP		
Collaborate with UN Agencies and related Conventions	Implementation of the Action Plan of SASP	Continuous Process

6.4 RSCAPs engagement in the Coral Reef Partnership and Blue Carbon Partnership, carrying out regional policy assessments, as appropriate

The regions that encompass coral reef ecosystem have been engaged in the Coral Reef Partnership. On the other hand, only PERSGA has reported on Blue Carbon Partnership and the extent to which the RSCAPs are engaged is not clear.

Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
Abidjan Convention		
Establishment of an Ocean governance working group experts	Raise awareness and inform decision-makers	January 2013
Establishment of a working working group experts and programme of action on Area Beyond National Jurisdiction	Raise awareness and illuminate decision-makers	June 2015
CEP		
CEP has facilitated the recent reactivation of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and will lead and provide guidance for the Steering Committee along with its regional coordination through the SPAW-RAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First online meeting held in February (2015) to facilitate developing a workplan along with several activities to be fulfilled within the year • Finalization of the Terms of Reference for the Wider Caribbean GCRMN Steering committee, regional coordinator and members as well as the new structure (geographic scope) 	Ongoing

	Coming out of recent meetings, recommended methods (based on on-going monitoring) put forward by the Caribbean GCRMN, are currently being taken into account by experts monitoring coral reefs in the region.	
COBSEA		
Supported the implementation of the Green Fins Initiative in the region.		ongoing
OSPAR		
OSPAR 2015 adopted some priorities including Blue Carbon to further develop work on the issue	Further development on Blue Carbon is expected	2015
PERSGA		
Participation in ICRI activities		2014
Regional assessment of blue carbon and policy analysis in collaboration with UNEP		2013
Support blue carbon assessment and management planning in KSA		2014
SACEP		
SACEP already established the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)	Taskforce is not active due to financial constrains	

3. Challenges faced by the RSCAPs

Limited financial and human resources have been the main limiting factors for various Regional Seas Secretariats. Due to the limitations, some regions faced serious difficulties in implementing activities. Furthermore, since the Strategic Directions differ from regional strategies adopted by the participating countries, implementation could be limited especially in the areas where discrepancies exist between the RSSD and the regional strategies.

Several Regional Seas pointed out limited coordination among MEAs and UN organisations at regional level. UNEP Regional Offices might have a clear understanding of the activities implemented by Regional Seas. These are the areas where UNEP can enhance its coordination to facilitate activities implemented by the RSCAPs.

Below, specific challenges faced by the Secretariats are listed.

1. CEP

- Limited human resources at the Secretariat and insufficient funding in particular for projects and activities
- Lack of awareness of the work of Regional Seas by other branches of UNEP including the Regional Offices
- Challenges in getting partners to play their role and implement in accordance with their respective mandates to enable more synergies and reduction in overlap and duplication.
- Based on demands of Contracting Parties - trying to address too many small scale or country-specific issues is very difficult with limited human resources at the Secretariat. This is where enhanced UNEP Coordination in the region would enhance both regional and national impact.

2. COBSEA

COBSEA's financial and human resources limitations have hindered the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Direction for the period.

3. Nairobi Convention

The Regional Seas Strategic Directions WERE not supported by the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi. We have retrofitted COP decisions making implementation difficult.

4. NOWPAP

NOWPAP member states have agreed upon on the Medium-term strategy which is not exactly the same as RSSD.

5. OSPAR

- Lack of data hinders application of ecosystem approaches.
- Lack of knowledge on the likely interactions between elements of the ecosystem
- Complexities and uncertainties prohibit rational decision making
- Contracting Parties are prioritising more generic EU wide economic and social analysis to avoid replication of work at the regional level

6. PERSGA

Limitation of financial resources and regional capacities; accelerated development in the coastal zone; slow momentum in some approached potential partners for collaboration; inadequate coordination and synergies of MEAs interventions in the region (overlapping)

7. ROPME

- Lack of a coordination mechanism between ROPME and other concerned international institutions/UN organizations in the Region on common areas of activity
- Limitation of technical support from UNEP
- Slow response of National Focal Points in Member States
- Difference in prioritization of marine and coastal issues among Member States
- Absence of GEF and WB involvement in ROPME Programme Activities

8. SACEP

- Attracting donors for implement the South Asian Seas Action Plan
- Clearance of SASP Country Contributions by the member states

4. Lessons learnt

Valuable lessons were shared by the Regional Seas Secretariats to inspire the future actions. Some of the issues identified as challenges in the above section might be addressed through the actions suggested by other secretariats. For example, CEP highlighted the importance of establishing close communication with national focal points through frequent communication, newsletters and reporting of the implementation of the decisions. By improving communication, slow responses of national focal points could be improved. Since the RSCAPs could learn from experiences in other regions, it is important to periodically share knowledge and experiences among the RSCAPs. Increased efforts are needed to create such knowledge sharing platform.

1. CEP

- Importance of establishing mechanisms for direct communication and exchanges with national and technical focal points and finding out about any concerns they might have about the work of the Secretariat including projects and activities. This included use of more frequent communication, newsletters etc.
- Implementing as many of the decisions taken by the parties during the Conference of Parties and Intergovernmental Meeting assists greatly in developing credibility among the Contracting Parties as well as Partners including donors.
- Reporting to the Parties on the implementation of the decisions and how they were accomplished or why they were not. This process gave the Parties a lot of confidence, thus supporting the Secretariat politically and financially.
- Importance of developing and sourcing funding for new projects that address priority environmental issues on the ground in each country.

- Increased use of social media in highlighting and promoting ideas and actions as well as participating in national and regional activities to spur interest and support towards national/ regional efforts
- Improved website and awareness of website
- Showing people how they can help in promoting environmental protection and dismiss ideas that this is solely the responsibility of designated bodies. It also helped that we identify sustainable practices at home, in businesses and communities especially where projects have been implemented and have ended.
- The development of partnerships with NGOs and the private sector has also contributed greatly to the success of large project funded by the GEF.

2. MAP

Overall coordination and information exchange mechanisms among RS for the implementation of the RSSD need to improve in order to have coherent and integrated efforts in place.

3. Nairobi Convention

Nonetheless, despite point II above, the RSSD 2013-2016 have guided the Nairobi Convention in the implementation of the Work Programme 2013-2017, in line with the needs and priorities of the Contracting Parties while at the same time contributing to UNEP's Program of Work and other global processes.

4. NOWPAP

NOWPAP member states have agreed upon on the Medium-term strategy which is not exactly the same as RSSD.

5. PERSGA

More inter-regional collaboration and synergy are required among regional organizations and MEAs interventions; addressing livelihoods options in EBM framework; more involvement of local communities in restoration projects; MPAs

6. OSPAR

- The commission acknowledge that more understanding of the impacts and effects of climate change in the marine environment is needed, including cumulative effects of climate change and other pressures.
- It has been clear that the Collective Arrangement (between OSPAR and NEAFC) cannot be a mechanism for joint management o areas of se. However, it is a mechanism for collaboration and coordination between such organisations.

- In practice, OSPAR's Marine Protected Areas, have coincided in many instances with fisheries restrictions applied by NEAFC in very similar geographic areas, protecting the same features
- It has been found that practical exchanges are increasing mutual understanding between OSPAR and NEAFC in terms of objectives and working methods. New opportunities for cooperation might emerge from the exchange of information.

7. ROPME

Need of intensive National/Regional brainstorming/ awareness programmes for all levels of stockholders prior to programming the implementation of the Strategic Directions

8. SACEP

- SACEP has organized many regional meeting/workshop to prepare regional strategy or action plan for the South Asian Region;
- Finalized post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda which is an excellent report reflects the key challenges and the critical analysis on means of the Rio+20 outcomes in South Asia;
- Organized national workshop in 5 SAS maritime countries to formulate their national oil spill contingency plan;
- SACEP has promoted the coordination of regional chapter on 'Marine Biodiversity outlook for South Asian Seas Region' of the World Ocean Assessment which has emphasized the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment of South Asian Region.

5. Other experiences to be shared

Below several Regional Seas Secretariats shared the experiences, ideas and proposals for the future. One of the themes that emerge was the collection of successful case studies to attract potential donors. Although the Regional Seas Programme has a long history celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014, no substantial compilation of success stories has been conducted. Further emphasis on the significance of the RSCAPs is clearly needed to convince the participating countries and to attract future donors.

Partnership with tourism sector also came up from the recommendations by the RSCAPs. Although it might not be applicable to all the regions, there are opportunities to find a common ground with the tourism sector. All the regions are, however, encouraged to move towards integrated ocean governance engaging with different sectors and there are opportunities for working with other sectors outside of the environmental sector.

1. CEP

- A. In response to IGM 16, CEP has been monitoring and has established a forum for technical exchange on the social, economic and environmental impacts of Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region. This topic is a high priority for UNEP CEP and the following decision was made by Contracting Parties during the last Conference of the Parties of the SPAW Protocol (COP 8) in Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014:

" support more research on origins, impacts and ways to control the brown algae, as well as to improve the development of models in response to the increasing incidence of such events which affect the marine environment, biodiversity and health in the region."

Following this decision, the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) began working on this issue in early 2015 by identifying regional initiatives on the subject in order to enhance regional cooperation and encourage collaboration and group discussions. Working in close contact with a growing number of organizations and experts, the SPAW-RAC is working to formalize a network of delegates/experts from countries affected by the Sargassum issue in order to share experiences, good practices and promote collaboration. In 2015, the SPAW-RAC launched an on-line discussion forum dedicated to the Sargassum issue for the Wider Caribbean Region. This forum aims to gather information on the issue as well as share links to other relevant partners/websites.

- B. There is a critical role for the Regional Seas in the development of the oceans governance agenda. Regional Seas Programme should continue to fulfil the mandates established by the Governments in their different Conventions, Protocols and Action Plans and which are further reflected in biennial workplans and budgets. Regional Seas Programmes should be and continue to be the platform to address relevant national and global problems and issues at the regional level. Several opportunities now exist for UNEP through the Regional Seas Programme to contribute data and information to assist in more informed policy development and decision-making. These include but not limited to:
- Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans
 - World Ocean Assessment
 - UNEP Live
 - Relevant regional resolutions on the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of the sustainable development
 - Scientific Advisory Groups and Technical Groups etc. There are useful as there are still many environmental data gaps that need to be filled. Relevant and current data and information would assist in regional and national decision making.
 - Large Multi-country Projects funded by the GEF and others
- C. The support to projects and activities by Governments of the Wider Caribbean is because as Secretariat, we have tried to be:

- Relevant, responsive and flexible in our responses to the needs and priorities of the Wider Caribbean region with regards to the protection, management, sustainable use and development of their coastal and marine resources.
- Help member states to meet their National priorities/needs through projects and activities that result in actions and impacts on the ground
- Be flexible – we are being asked to function as other bodies function at the international level which we are unable to do given our need to provide support to the countries of the region.

D. Additional Support Required

- UNEP needs to have a strong voice/ image/ presence and enabling structure to promote the individual RSPs
- Enriched and dedicated human resource capacities for Regional Seas in UNEP HQ
- Need to revive donor resources and support through JPOs (e.g. SIDA, Norway)
- Advertise quantifiable success stories to attract more donors at the regional level
- Increased inter-regional seas interaction at the functional level and not only at the directorial level
- Needs to be consideration of the outputs of the SIDS conference (SAMOA Pathway) and the SDGs in RS's future agenda
- Need for continued active engagement of the private sector particularly, the cruise ship industry, oil sector, fisheries sector, and the hotel sector and linked to specific programmes, projects and activities
- Partnerships with the Tourism sector should be enhanced, UNEP (RSPs need to be better mainstreamed with UNEP offices and Programme Areas)

E. A formal agreement between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat (UNEP CEP) will be developed to help promote collaboration and improved governance as part of the GEF CLME+ Project.

2. COBSEA

Resolution 1 of 22nd COBSEA IGM reaffirmed participating countries commitment to increase their contributions to the COBSEA Trust Fund. All except one country has confirmed their increased contributions. At the said IGM, participating countries also decided the hosting of the COBSEA Secretariat by Thailand.

3. PERSGA

EBM and livelihoods options in MMAs; promote environmental monitoring to support EBM; building resilience to support EbA solutions in dry coasts; ecotourism demo projects

4. ROPME

Establishment of a mechanism for inter-regional cooperation to transfer cases of success stories and experiences gained during the implementation of the Strategic Directions.

5. SACEP

Blue Flag Beach Certification is an exclusive eco-label which is presently awarded to more than 3200 beaches and marinas in 38 countries worldwide. This is highly relevant as the five maritime countries of South Asia are endeavored with coastal and marine resources which have enormous potential to develop sustainable tourism industry. SACEP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and with the financial support of UNEP took the message of 'A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven' for promoting sustainable tourism in the SAS region. In this process SACEP organized national workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February-March 2010 to propagate the idea of beach certification. These national workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes. Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on Beach certification programme.

A Regional Project Proposal was prepared and forwarded to UNEP for favorable funding support which is still pending. This activity can be promoted under the UNEP-GPA activities as the subject area is highlighted as priority.

6. Immerging issues to be considered by the next RSSD

The secretaries pointed out problems with the RSSD (2013-2016) to be improved for the next RSSD. The ROPME Secretariat concisely summarized such problems⁴⁰. In the context of the SDGs, the RSCAPs as well as UNEP need to formulate strategies to help member states achieve the targets. On the other hand, it is necessary to pay attention to emerging pollutants. Extraction of offshore resources could also be increasingly important in many regions across the world. The RSACPs are, thus, invited to consider the issues pointed out below as well as the discussion paper⁴¹ to formulate the next RSSD 2017-2020.

1. CEP

- Oceans Governance and what the Blue Economy means especially for SIDS and Coastal Countries; The Governance focus in the current strategic directions relate more to living marine resources and MPAs – this should be broadened to more development focussed and link issues of land and marine-based pollution and the management of living and non-living coastal and marine resources
- Increased demand and interest for extraction of off shore resources
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially for Small Island Developing States which are the majority Parties in our Convention

⁴⁰ For the discussion on the problems of the RSSDs please see the Discussion Paper on the RSSD 2017-2020 (UNEP/WBRS17/2/)

⁴¹

- Water, Food, Energy and Climate Change Nexus could be useful linkage to facilitate political support new projects in the Wider Caribbean Region
- More Integrated approaches to Disaster Risk Management including Marine Disasters e.g. Off Shore Platforms
- Increased pollution from emerging pollutants including Microplastics, Hormones, Endocrine Disruptors

2. NOWPAP

Align with the SDGs, when adopted this September

3. PERSGA

Micro plastics; coastal marine adaptation knowledge; building resilience of coastal ecosystem; wastewater reuse, expansion of aquaculture, impacts of acidification on major fisheries; cost of environmental degradation and restoration; 2020 SDGs targets and regional seas

4. ROPME

- Lack of a system for assessment of the Implementation of Strategic Directions , Regional Sea-wise
- Need for identification of priorities in the Strategic Directions
- Lack of a mechanism for the follow up of implementation by UNEP
- Lack of a system for the exchange of information and experience among Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

5. SACAP

Development of a regional programme for monitoring of marine pollution in the coastal waters of the south Asian sea and the regular exchange of relevant data and information.

Chapter 3: Conclusion

It is clear that the Strategies that are closely linked with the programme of work of UNEP and of the RSCAPs have been implemented more than the other activities that may fall into outside of the planned activities. Both UNEP and the RSCAPs faced difficulties in identifying potential financial mechanisms. Stakeholder mapping might be difficult to conduct but as CEP has experienced, the RSCAPs may take advantage of projects to identify important players in the region including the private sector.

As stated, due to the absence of clear targets and indicators, assessment cannot be made to determine the level of achievements both by UNEP and by the RSCAPs. This limitation unfortunately undermined the value of the RSSD. Although a detailed discussion on the problems of the RSSDs have been provided

in a separate paper⁴², it is encouraged to review the above report on the implementation of the current RSSD to identify current status and gaps existed.

DRAFT

⁴² UNEP/WBRS.17/2 Discussion paper on the RSSD 2017-2020