



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



Distr.: General
17 October 2015

Original: English

**The 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans
Istanbul, Turkey
20 October - 22 October 2015**

Guidance Note for the Working Group for RSSD (2017-2020) on Day 3

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Guidance note

1. The Visioning Workshop held in Geneva, Switzerland, 3-4 July 2014 identified the four main themes for the Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans in the coming future: **(1) governance; (2) pollution; (3) extraction (living and non-living resources); and (4) impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.**
2. It is proposed that the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) be based on the four main themes.
3. According to the four themes, therefore, four (4) working groups will be formed in order to formulate the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)
4. The chair of each working group will be designated from the chairs of sessions at the 17th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Secretariats that are relevant to each working group. It is proposed that following people will be the chair of each working group:

Working Group	Chair Name
Governance	Mr. Darius Campbell
Pollution	Mr. Vincent Sweeney
Extraction	Mr. Abou Bamba
Climate change and Acidification	Mr. Gaetano Leone

5. The contact group will be formulated during the session 1 of the Day 1 (20 October 2015). From Day 1 to Day 2, each group will draft the Strategic Direction on the specific theme based on the discussions at the meeting. The worksheets for working group are attached as Annex 1.
6. At the end of Day 2 (21 October 2015), each chair of the working group will submit the drafted documents to Ms. Kanako Hasegawa.
7. Based on the draft prepared by the contact group, working groups will be formulated to finalise the draft Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) during the Session 6.

Working Group: Governance

Group Member:

Guidance: Based on the draft prepared by the contact group, the working group is requested to prepare a draft Regional Seas Strategic Directions on **Governance** and the implementation plan based on the format below.

Strategic Direction on Governance: *Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are more effective at taking consensus-achieved, results-based actions and enforce decisions that maintain or improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment in order to ensure increased human wellbeing¹*

Rationale: Visioning Workshop² identified that Governance is one of the four important themes for the future of the RSCAPs. Regional Oceans Governance paper (16th GMRS WP.2.RS) also highlights the importance of integrated ocean governance.

Implementation of the above Strategic Direction:

Element	Collective Goal	Action by UNEP	Action by RSCAPs	UNEP PoW	Relevant SDG target if any
Enhance institutional sustainability of the Regional Seas Programmes	Develop strategies for securing financial sustainability for at least two (2) regions			2016-2017 4 EA(a)/(b) 2018-2019 4 EA(b)	14.c

¹ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

² UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

Improve internal governance efficiency	At least one (1) region will start developing national reporting system			2016-2017 4 EA(a)/(b) 2018-2019 4 EA(b)	14.c
Increase visibility of the Regional Seas programme	Three (3) regions reform and modernise their websites			-	-
Green economy in oceans	Three new (3) regions use green economy concept in their region			2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA(a)	14.2 / 14.7
Governing marine protected area	Two (2) regions engage in capacity building on MPA governance			2016-2017 3 EA (b)	14.2, 14.5

Annex 1: Outcome of the Visioning Workshop on Governance

Theme	Outcome (5-10 years)	Impact (10+ years)
Governance	Competency and visibility of regional seas conventions and action plans in service to the decision making and action(s) by member states are increased through coordinated and collaborative actions	Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are more effective at taking consensus-achieved, results-based actions and enforce decisions that maintain or improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment in order to ensure increased human wellbeing
	Effectiveness of decisions agreed in regional seas conventions and action plans is increased through strengthening of integrated cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial approach	

Annex 2: Proposal from UNEP on the theme of Governance

Suggested element	Potential target (2017-2020)	Relevant SDG target
Enhance institutional sustainability of the Regional Seas Programmes	Develop strategies for securing financial sustainability for at least two (2) regions	14.c
Improve internal governance efficiency	At least one (1) region will start developing national reporting system	14.c
Increase visibility of the Regional Seas programme	Three (3) regions reform and modernise their websites	-
Green economy in oceans	Three new (3) regions use green economy concept in their region	14.2 / 14.7
Enhanced environmental monitoring and data collection	Five (5) regions will adopt core regional seas indicators	14.1, 14.2, 14.7, 14a, 14c
Governing marine protected area	Two (2) regions engage in capacity building on MPA governance	14.2, 14.5

Working Group: Pollution

Group Member:

Guidance: Based on the draft prepared by the contact group, the working group is requested to prepare a draft Regional Seas Strategic Directions on **Pollution** and the implementation plan based on the format below.

Strategic Direction on Pollution: *Within Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans areas of responsibility, pollution inputs to the marine environment are reduced to levels that do not negatively impact the healthy functioning of ecosystems³*

Rationale: Visioning Workshop⁴ identified that pollution is one of the four important themes for the future of the RSCAPs.

Implementation of the above Strategic Direction:

Element	Collective Goal	Action by UNEP	Action by RSCAPs	UNEP PoW	Relevant SDG target if any
<i>Example:</i> <i>Enhanced environmental monitoring and data collection</i>	<i>Five (5) regions will adopt core regional seas indicators</i>	<i>Identify core indicators by 2017</i>	<i>Adopt the core indicator set by 2018</i>	2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA (a)	<i>14.1, 14.2, 14.7, 14a, 14c</i>

³ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

⁴ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

<p><i>Improve implementation of Conventions, Action Plans and Protocols on pollutions</i></p>	<p><i>At least two (2) regions conduct capacity development workshops with UNEP</i></p>			<p>2016-2017 4 EA (b)</p> <p>2018-2019 4 EA (b)</p>	
<p><i>Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA)</i></p>	<p><i>At least three (3) new regions formulate regional action plans on GPA-related issues</i></p>			<p>2016-2017 3 EA (b)</p> <p>2018-2019 3 EA (a)</p>	

Annex 1: Outcome of the Visioning Workshop on Pollution

Theme	Outcome (5-10 years)	Impact (10+ years)
Pollution	Regional Seas have adopted a source to seas approach for pollution mitigation and management	Within Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans areas of responsibility, pollution inputs to the marine environment are reduced to levels that do not negatively impact the healthy functioning of ecosystems
	Regional Seas have adopted a baseline on respective pollution levels from which progress is measured	
	Regional seas member states have implemented and enforced LBS protocols and action plans	
	Regional Seas have adopted respective and relevant chemicals and POPs conventions? into their policy framework (allowance for emerging issues and protocols)	

Annex 2: Proposal from UNEP on the theme of Pollution

Suggested element	Potential target (2017-2020)	Relevant SDG target
Improve implementation of Conventions, Action Plans and Protocols on pollutions	At least two (2) regions conduct capacity development workshops with UNEP	14.1
Enhance monitoring and data collection	Five (5) regions will adopt core regional seas indicators related to marine pollution	14.1 / 14.a
Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA)	At least three (3) new regions formulate regional action plans on GPA-related issues	14.1

Working Group: Extractives (living and non-living natural resources)

Group Member:

Guidance: Based on the draft prepared by the contact group, the working group is requested to prepare a draft Regional Seas Strategic Directions on **Extractives** and the implementation plan based on the format below.

Strategic Direction: *Within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans areas of responsibility, ecosystem services are maintained and/or restored⁵*

Rationale: Visioning Workshop⁶ identified that **Extractives** is one of the four important themes for the future of the RSCAPs. Regional Oceans Governance paper (16th GMRS WP.2.RS) also highlighted the importance of collaboration between RSCAPs and RFMOs.

Implementation of the above Strategic Direction:

Element	Collective Goal	Action by UNEP	Action by RSCAPs	UNEP PoW	Relevant SDG target if any
Integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies developed for sustainable marine and costal resource use	Four (4) new regions adopt integrated ecosystem-based ocean policies or strategies			2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA (a)	14.2

⁵ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

⁶ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

Addressing environmental aspects of living and non-living resource extraction through integrated ecosystem-based management	Four (4) regions apply UNEP tools and guidance on ecosystem-based spatial planning and management in trainings and pilot projects for sustainable oceans and coasts			2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA (a)	14.2, 14.4, 14.7,
Knowledge-sharing on coastal and marine spatial planning and management implementation	Ten (10) regions share experiences of marine spatial planning through UNEP online information platform on “Marine Spatial Planning in Practice’			2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA (a)	14.2, 14c
Develop and support collaborative mechanisms between RSCAPs and RFMOs	Four (4) new collaborative arrangements for integrated marine management between RSCAPs and RFMOs			2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA (a)	14.2, 14.4

Annex 1: Outcome of the Visioning Workshop on Extractives

Theme	Outcome (5-10 years)	Impact (10+ years)
Extractives	Regional Seas build capacities in member states to implement ecosystem-based management approach	Within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans areas of responsibility, ecosystem services are maintained and/or restored
	Emergency response mechanisms/regulations/protocols/action plans are designed and implemented by member states of the regional seas	
	The values of ecosystem services within regional seas areas of responsibility are defined and integrated in planning and policy	

Annex 2: Proposal from UNEP on the theme of Extractives

Suggested element	Potential target (2017-2020)	Relevant SDG target
Integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies developed for sustainable marine and coastal resource use	Four (4) new regions adopt integrated ecosystem-based ocean policies or strategies	14.2
Addressing environmental aspects of living and non-living resource extraction through integrated ecosystem-based management	Four (4) regions apply UNEP tools and guidance on ecosystem-based spatial planning and management in trainings and pilot projects for sustainable oceans and coasts	14.2, 14.4, 14.7,
Knowledge-sharing on coastal and marine spatial planning and management implementation	Ten (10) regions share experiences of marine spatial planning through UNEP online information platform on ‘Marine Spatial Planning in Practice’	14.2, 14c
Develop and support collaborative mechanisms between RSCAPs and RFMOs	Four (4) new collaborative arrangements for integrated marine management between RSCAPs and RFMOs	14.2, 14.4

Working Group: Impacts of climate change and ocean acidification

Group Member:

Guidance: Based on the draft prepared by the contact group, the working group is requested to prepare a draft Regional Seas Strategic Directions on **Climate change and ocean acidification** and the implementation plan based on the format below.

Strategic Direction on impacts of climate change and ocean acidification: *The Regional Seas conventions maintain ecosystem health, human wellbeing and overall resilience in the face of impacts of a changing climate and ocean acidification*⁷



Rationale: Visioning Workshop⁸ identified that **Climate change and ocean acidification** is one of the four important themes for the future of the RSCAPs. Please refer to the paper Ecosystem-approach for Regional Seas.

Implementation of the above Strategic Direction:

Element	Collective Goal	Action by UNEP	Action by RSCAPs	UNEP PoW	Relevant SDG target if any
Ecosystem-based coastal and marine climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies	Two (2) regions integrate EBA and mitigation objectives in regional coastal and marine policies, strategies or planning			2016-2017 1, EA (a) 2018-2019 1, EA (a)	13.2

⁷ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

⁸ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

Decision-support for ecosystem-based mitigation, adaptation and resilience	Two (2) new regions pilot test or apply spatial planning and management tools and guidance for coastal adaptation, mitigation and resilience			2016-2017 1, EA (a) 2018-2019 1, EA (a)	13.2, 14.2
Coral Reef Partnership	At least three (3) new regions adopt the new GCRMN monitoring standards for Coral Reefs			2016-2017 3 EA (b) 2018-2019 3 EA (b)	14.3
Planning on Ocean Acidification	Three (3) regions use downscaled temperature and acidification models			2016-2017 Subprogramme 1, EA (a) 2018-2019 1, EA (a)	14.3
Ocean acidification and Climate change strategies	Two (2) regions incorporate ocean acidification aspects in regional policies, protocols or strategies			2016-2017 Subprogramme 1, EA (a) 2018-2019 1, EA (a)	13.2 /14.3

Annex 1: Outcome of the Visioning Workshop on Climate change and ocean acidification

Theme	Outcome (5-10 years)	Impact (10+ years)
Impacts of a changing climate and ocean acidification	Regional Seas Conventions have supported the adaptation and resilience needs of SIDSs and Low-lying coastal areas by supporting integrating into national plans	The Regional Seas conventions have helped maintain ecosystem health, human wellbeing and overall resilience in the face of impacts of a changing climate and ocean acidification
	Regional Seas Conventions and action plans have developed through collaborative efforts, vulnerability and impact assessments, including ocean acidification adaption and have supported their integration into appropriate response plans to ensure systemic resilience at the regional and local level,. lin the face of climate change.	

Annex 2: Proposal from UNEP on the theme of Climate change and ocean acidification

Suggested element	Target (2017-2020)	Relevant SDG ⁹ target
Ecosystem-based coastal and marine climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies	Two (2) regions integrate EBA and mitigation objectives in regional coastal and marine policies, strategies or planning	13.2
Decision-support for ecosystem-based mitigation, adaptation and resilience	Two (2) new regions pilot test or apply spatial planning and management tools and guidance for coastal adaptation, mitigation and resilience	13.2, 14.2
Coral Reef Partnership	At least three (3) new regions adopt the new GCRMN monitoring standards for Coral Reefs	14.3
Planning on Ocean Acidification	Three (3) regions use downscaled temperature and acidification models	14.3
Ocean acidification and Climate change strategies	Two (2) regions incorporate ocean acidification aspects in regional policies, protocols or strategies	13.2 /14.3

⁹ A/69/L.85 Draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda