



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



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**The first meeting of the African
Ocean Governance Strategy**
Istanbul, 19 October 2015

Provisional Programme

Background

1. UNEP is mandated to coordinate regional seas conventions and action plans and administers seven of them (Caribbean Region, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa Region, Mediterranean Region, North-West Pacific region, Western Africa Region). UNEP assists the regional seas member countries in pursuing regional ocean governance for regional sustainable development, and promotes partnership between/among the Regional Seas, Regional Fishery Bodies, Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms, regional economic commissions and other sectorial and political mechanisms. UNEP is finalising a publication covering this topic, entitled “Regional Oceans Governance: regional seas programmes, regional fishery bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms better work together”.
2. For the African continent, at the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), held in Cairo March 2015., the Ministers agreed on the Cairo Declaration, which reiterated their support for regional seas programmes in Africa as the regional platforms for implementation of the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050 (AIMS) and Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-based Management Approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters. The Cairo Declaration under paragraph 14 agreed to:

“develop a governance strategy, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and regional seas conventions, on oceans and seas in Africa for the effective management of the region’s shared maritime resources and call for a regional conference to address the matter by 2016”.

Purpose of meeting

3. In response to above AMCEN, the meeting is organised to discuss the modalities of developing an ocean governance strategy in Africa. The focus of the strategy is to on having a common vision and pathway of how to sustainably harness and manage Africa vast natural capital found in the four marine environment and ecosystems. It well understood that the ocean governance strategy is focus on environmental and ecosystems matters, based on the relevant four Africa continent regional seas conventions/ programmes, (that is, MAP, Nairobi Convention, Abidjan Convention, and PERSGA) the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS 2050) and Agenda 2063: Africa We Want. As described in paragraph 9 of the Cairo Declaration, regional seas programmes in Africa are the regional platforms on Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) for marine resources in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and adjacent waters. It is proposed that the African ocean governance strategy be developed based on a number of well accepted and widely agreed principles, such as ecosystem approach, precautionary approach and polluter-pay principle. Based on the ecosystem approach, as long as the regional seas programmes in Africa are the platforms on EBM for EEZ and adjacent waters, it is proposed that the strategy under the leadership of the African Union (AU) Commission and the member states, supported by the regional seas programmes/conventions’ secretariats Africa and in cooperation with regional fisheries bodies, regional economic communities and other critical regional and national bodies.

4. The current meeting is organised in English with documentation only in English.

Provisional Programme

Timing	Activities	Responsible
19 October 2015		
0900-0915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of meeting • Objective of meeting • Adoption of agenda and programme 	UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
0915-1000	Background to need for a regional ocean governance strategy Discussion	UNEP Regional Office for Africa
1000-1045	Presentation of a proposal on the development of the ocean governance strategy for Africa Discussion	UNEP DEPI Participants
1045-1100	Coffee/tea break	
1100-1230	Presentation and discussion of the possible outline of the strategy	Participants
1230-1400	Lunch break	
1400 – 1500	Discussion on the organisation of the regional conference	UNEP DEPI and Participants
1500-1530	Coffee/tea break	
1530-1630	Presentation and discussion of the draft conclusions for agreement	UNEP DEPI
1630	Closure of the Meeting	