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16<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas  
Conventions and Action Plans  
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***Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic  
Directions 2013-2016***

## Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

A new global strategy highlighting new directions was agreed and endorsed at the 14<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in Nairobi, Kenya, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

Strategic Direction	Related Actions by UNEP	Achievements/Progress by UNEP
<p>1. Effectively apply an ecosystem approach in the management of the marine and coastal environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas/indicators related to Sustainable Development Goal on oceans.</li> <li>• Build capacities on application of EBM principles at the Regional/National level.</li> <li>• Provide guidance on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation at local, national, transboundary level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White paper on Sustainable Development Goal on oceans under preparation.</li> <li>• Regional Workshops on EBM conducted in specific regions, such as PERSGA and CPPS including preparation of site-level EBM pilot projects.</li> <li>• Marine Spatial Planning in Practice” Initiative. Review of practical experiences and future development of tools and guidance enabling effective implementation. Initial results presented in technical report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/23) submitted to CBD SBSTTA 18 in collaboration with GEF STAP and CBD, June 2014.</li> <li>• Report on the regional seas indicators was finalised and in preparation for publication.</li> <li>• A workshop on Ecosystem-based indicators for the Regional Seas was conducted in July 2014.</li> <li>• Guidance manual on valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting in SIDS was prepared.</li> <li>• The report "Pacific Integrated Island Management: Principles, Case Studies and Lessons Learned published.</li> <li>• A report on the mangrove ecosystem services was prepared and being launched.</li> <li>• Blue Solutions Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Human Well-being co-organised by UNEP, GIZ, IUCN (Philippines, April 2014).</li> <li>• Ongoing work with SPREP on using cost-benefit analysis for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in a Pacific island context.</li> </ul>
<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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the Global Partnerships on Nutrients, Marine Litter and Wastewater, as relevant to each region</li> <li>• Work with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) to develop nutrient management plans.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asia and Caribbean regional chapters established for Global Partnership on Nutrients Management (GPNM).</li> <li>• Marine litter chapters of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter ongoing in some regions.</li> <li>• Project developed in PERSGA region on wastewater management and pollution loads assessment in coastal cities.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

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		<p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 harbour and raising awareness on the issue of marine debris, while demonstrating effective waste management measures that can be implemented in Pacific island countries.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Informed regional and national action and the future work of the Cartagena Convention/Caribbean Environment Programme by revision of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Wider Caribbean Region.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and coastal governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance visibility of the RSCAPs in terms of its governance mandate and to communicate outcomes of the regional governance review.</li> <li>• Strengthen and facilitate inter-regional cooperation – ‘twinning arrangements’.</li> <li>• Facilitate partnerships between RSCAPs and Regional Fish Management Organizations (RFMOs).</li> <li>• Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocols.</li> <li>• Include RSCAPs inputs into international processes, i.e. (Barbados +20 )</li> <li>• Give further consideration to UNEP Governing Council Resolution of oceans and role of the RSCAPs vis-à-vis Rio+20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal “Securing the Ecological Foundation for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean” approved by Government of Norway, focusing on partnership between Abidjan Convention and RFMOs.</li> <li>• White paper on regional oceans governance developed with two case studies targeting East Asia and West and Central Africa.</li> <li>• UNEP, IASS and IDDRI developed a paper on the regional approach to biodiversity in the areas beyond the national jurisdiction.</li> <li>• Side event on regional approach to biodiversity in the areas beyond the national jurisdiction was held in NY in June 2014.</li> <li>• Oceans decision taken at 27<sup>th</sup> session of the UNEP Governing Council (February 2013).</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Twinning arrangements occurring to varying degrees between OSPAR-Abidjan Convention, COBSEA-NOWPAP, PERSGA-ROPME, MAP - Bucharest Convention (Black Sea)- Tehran Convention (Caspian Sea).</li> <li>• Communication strategy with DCPI finalised with focus on the 40th Anniversary of the Regional Seas Programme.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness on the utilization of market-based instruments and economic valuation to support management decision making and policy settings.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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). 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional workshop on the green economy for oceans and SIDS held in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention). Meeting held in April 2013, in Jamaica.</li> <li>• Regional workshop on green economy for oceans and SIDS held in the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention). Workshop held in December 2013, hosted by the Government of Seychelles.</li> <li>• GEF Project on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in development phase.</li> <li>• 2 Regional capacity building workshops on economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services held for South Pacific Region (Lima Convention/CPSS)</li> </ul>
<p>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).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 (WOA).</li> <li>• Technical assistance to RSCAPs in the organization of workshops on the World Oceans Assessment.</li> <li>• Support the Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment.</li> <li>• Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Regional capacity building workshops on the World Oceans Assessment held with the coordination of the Regional Seas.</li> <li>• Support provided to Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment.</li> <li>• Support being provided to Nairobi Convention in the development of state of marine environment report for the Western Indian Ocean.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising to support integration through partnership demonstration projects.</li> <li>• Identifying opportunities for RSCAPs in global initiatives (private sector, Global Partnership for Oceans, Oceans Compact, etc.)</li> <li>• Demonstrating, promoting and communicating contributions of the RSCAPs to global initiatives, MEAs and relevant partners.</li> <li>• Coordinate blue carbon policy assessments by developing a common approach.</li> <li>• Coordinate Coral Reef Partnership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underway as opportunities emerge – example Regional Chapters of the World Ocean Council.</li> <li>• Cooperation is being established with the Convention on the Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, based on the mangrove report.</li> <li>• UNEP has been requested to support the implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning related decision of the CBD COP.</li> <li>• UNEP is providing its developed tools to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in support of the CBD parties achieving the</li> </ul>

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		<p>Aichi targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration underway with Global Partnership for Oceans, especially in Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention).</li> <li>• Blue carbon policy assessments underway in ROPME (Tehran Convention) and PERSGA (Jeddah Convention).</li> <li>• Implementation of the GEF Blue Forest Project has commenced.</li> <li>• Coral Reef Partnership work programme and terms of reference drafted based on consultation with Regional Seas. Documents available.</li> </ul>