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Regional Seas Visioning Workshop
Geneva, Switzerland, 3rd - 4th July 2014

Workshop Report

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REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

The Regional Seas Visioning Workshop was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 3 – 4 July 2014.

Workshop Attendance

The workshop was attended by Co-ordinators/Representatives from the following Regional Seas and organizations: Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention (MAP), Black Sea Commission, Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU), COBSEA, Helsinki Convention (HELCOM), Jeddah Convention (PERSGA), Nairobi Convention, Noumea Convention (SPREP), NOWPAP, OSPAR Convention, South Asian Seas (SACEP), Tehran Convention (Caspian), Food and Agriculture Organization / Regional Fisheries Bodies, Global Environment Facility (GEF), European Commission, UN-Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNEP-Grid Arendal, UNEP-WCMC.

Opening of the workshop

1. The workshop was opened at 09.00 a.m. on Thursday 3rd July 2014 by Jacqueline Alder, Head, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, UNEP. She welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and partners for coming to Geneva and participating in this Visioning Workshop that aimed to identify the future trends and priorities for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, taking into account the milestones, achievements and challenges that this framework has undergone in the past 40 years. She recalled the current context in which the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans interact, dominated by heavy fragmentation of ocean governance and a concerning over-exploitation of marine resources.

2. She continued by outlining the key objectives of the workshop as:

- Identify objectives and priorities for the future positioning of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.
- Identification of a roadmap with short, medium and long term milestones.
- Identification of partnerships with external partners (UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders).

3. A 'tour de table' took place where participants presented themselves to the workshop, expressing their institution and areas of work.

Session 1 Day 1: Setting the oceans scene

4. Session 1 was chaired by Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator, Caribbean Environment Programme (Cartagena Convention). It focused on presentations with particular reference to providing a context of current ocean affairs at the international and regional level.

5. Jacqueline Alder, Head, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, UNEP presented on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. She began by recalling the outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, "The Future We Want" which demonstrated the growing interest and commitments by member states to address the alarming degradation of oceans and seas including its living resources and ecosystems services. She explained that additionally, Heads of State and high-level representatives resolved to "establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly" (Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 248). In this sense, the outcome document mandated the creation of an intergovernmental open working group that would submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action. The Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) is developing the goals and targets for sustainable development for the next 10 years and the ocean is included in this process.

6. She presented the ongoing discussions related to the Ocean Goal, in which member states maintain the importance of this goal by proposing that it stays as a stand-alone goal and associated targets. The proposed goal is: Attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas.

7. Takehiro Nakamura, Coordinator, Marine Ecosystems Unit, FMEB, UNEP, presented an overview of the Regional Ocean Governance review, suggesting recommendations on possible collaboration model between RFMOs, RSCAPs and LME commissions. He began by outlining the objectives of the paper, which was to (1) analyse the legal, institutional and scientific foundations of these regional mechanisms,

exploring their respective mandates and ways of intervention; (2) assess their successes and challenges, particularly in terms of cooperation and coordination; and (3) propose options for better regional oceans governance. In terms of the recommendations he called to avoid bypassing existing regional oceans governance mechanisms, in spite of their weaknesses and the temptation that represented the creation of new mechanisms. Similarly, he called on avoiding the development of action plans / protocols without considering future implementation programmatically and financially. In terms of the way forward, a revision of the mandates of key mechanisms should be made, for instance, the RFMOs' coverage of the high seas. Similarly, he called to strengthen individual mechanisms and finally to promote informal cooperation and coordination arrangements, acknowledging that a unification of the three systems remains highly unlikely to occur.

8. Nicholas Hanley, Freshwater and Marine, International, Regional and Bilateral Relations Unit, DG Environment, European Commission, presented an overview of EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. He began by giving historical background to the Marine Directive and its aims, which is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe by achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU marine waters by 2020 and by protecting the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. To achieve these objectives the Directive establishes European marine regions (the Baltic Sea, the North East Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea) on the basis of geographical and environmental criteria.

9. Discussions ensued on the 3 presentations. Regarding the post 2015 development agenda, the participants thought that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans do have an important role to play given the regionalization nature of the Rio+20 Outcome Document. Secondly, they believed that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Oceans will also provide an important framework that will guide member states towards enhanced implementation of already existing commitments. In this sense, it was viewed that the discussion on the SDG on Oceans should continue to be monitored and where possible to identify potential roles for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans at this early stage. The discussion on the SDG lead to a wider discussion on ocean governance and how it needed to be addressed to alleviate the systemic failures in cooperation and coordination amongst the different organizations/institutions working with oceans and coasts.

10. The participants welcomed the report on regional oceans governance and look forward to the final version. The discussed on the suggestions to better cooperate and coordinate with the Regional Fishery

Bodies and the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects. With regards to the latter one, they mentioned that the assessment of cooperation and coordination needed to be viewed on a case by case basis as some Regional Seas are actually implementing some components of the LME projects. At the same time, it was viewed that the model being utilised in the Abidjan Convention with the integration of the Guinea Current Commission as a protocol of the Convention is an interesting precedent to be considered towards the future. With regards to the Regional Fishery Bodies, the participants mentioned that more coordination can be done; highlighting that there is ongoing cooperation between the 2 frameworks. Lastly, participants welcomed the presentation from the European Commission and mentioned that the framework of the Marine Directive is valuable because it sets the benchmark to which 4 Regional Seas can assist their member states to implement this Directive.

11. Gail Lugten, Secretary of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network, FAO, presented on the FAO frameworks and their Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. She began the presentation recalling some of the outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network that took place in Rome, Italy, 14 June 2014. In this sense, she summarised that (1) all Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) observed that there was a need to reinforce science-based decision making and to encourage communication between organisations to overcome barriers to cooperation; (2) NEAFC observed that the ability to recognise and appreciate the differences was a key to their success; (3) NAFO congratulated OSPAR / NEAFC for their greater policy coherence and would like to see a similar arrangement in the west Atlantic' and (4) FFA – was deeply interested in the collaboration in relation to the Pacific Oceanscape Framework. In particular, she presented the question to the participants if the OSPAR / NEAFC model could be applied to other RFBs and Regional Seas. For now, she mentioned that the Norwegian government is funding a UNEP-FAO project looking at food security in West Africa and that the success of this project would open the doors for many regions to replicate the potential benefits.

12. Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, presented on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. She provided an overview of how UNCLOS provides a basis for cooperation at the regional level for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. She also highlighted ongoing discussions at the United Nations General Assembly regarding marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, in particular the process initiated within the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal

Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction to prepare for the decision of the Assembly on the possible development of an international instrument under UNCLOS. She emphasized that all issues under consideration by the Working Group (namely marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology) were being considered as a package. She also drew attention to some opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation based on UNCLOS and the calls made in the General Assembly resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea.

Session 2 Day 1: Future Trends

13. Session 2 was chaired by Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal. This session consisted in the division of participants into 4 work groups. The chair asked Alberto Pacheco Capella, Coordinator, RSP, UNEP, to explain the modalities and objectives of the working groups. He explained that the working groups would discuss the emerging key issues related to oceans that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans should become/continue to engage, in order to address the growing degradation of the marine environment. In this sense, topics such as climate change /ocean acidification, seabed mining, ABNJ, NBSAPs, accountability would be discussed. He suggested that each group consolidates the top 3 - 4 relevant future trends that would need the engagement of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and what role would be envisioned for them.

14. The four groups selected a rapporteur to present the outcomes of each group at the plenary session.

15. The rapporteurs of each group presented the 4 key future trends and the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. The plenary discussed the implications of the role in each one of the proposed future trends. In this sense, some participants questioned whether the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans would have the mandate from their member states in order to absorb some of the proposed topics. For instance the topic of fisheries was discussed at length. The Coordinators were certain that the Convention text does not include fisheries and stated that this is the mandate of FAO and Regional Fisheries Bodies. At the same time, they acknowledge that it was a

strange proposition that fisheries, are impacted by all the key drivers that are governed by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans such as land-based pollution, specially protected areas, oil spills, marine protected areas, amongst others, and in some regions they are managed in completed isolation and without a cross sectorial/ecosystem management approach.

16. Another key discussion was related to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. In this sense, it was the opinion of the participants that the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans would be limited to adaptation responses. While many participants agreed, a UNEP representative reminded participants that through the work over the past 2 years on the green economy for oceans and SIDS, there have been sectorial resource efficient measures being proposed that are on the mitigation and sustainable consumption and production side. In this sense, he proposed that if this area is considered in the final consolidation of priorities then it would be convenient to leave open both adaption and mitigation.

17. After plenary discussions, the Chair proposed that he would work with Alberto Pacheco Capella, Coordinator, RSP, UNEP to identify the commonalities of key areas presented by all the groups, in order to present a consolidated priority matrix at the start of the following day's session for further discussion.

Session 3 Day 2: Roadmap vs. Strategic Directions

18. Session 2 was chaired by Darius Campbell, Executive Secretary, OSPAR Commission. He began thanking all the participants for the rich discussions held at the afternoon plenary session. He invited the Yannick Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal, as the Chair of the previous session to present the consolidated matrix of priorities for further discussion in plenary.

19. Yannick Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal presented the consolidated matrix, saying that his perception, along with that of the Regional Seas Coordinator, was that broadly 4 key trends could be identified in for each group. These were: extraction (living and non-living), governance, pollution and climate change including ocean acidification. At the same time, cross cutting such as communications and financial investment were also identified.

20. The participants discussed the consolidated matrix, mentioned that it capture very much the discussions presented in each group. At the same time they mentioned that it would be valuable to have

a more detailed matrix that would allow for more of a visioning exercise as to what would be the intended outcomes if the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were to become engaged in the identified priority areas. Additionally, who would be the main partners/building blocks to help implement potential activities and what could be the reference indicators.

21. The session Chair proposed that as plenary an expansion of the matrix to be more results-oriented could be worked on to include: (1) thematic areas; (2) inputs (building blocks, resources; partnerships); (3) activity areas/outputs; (4) outcomes 5-10 years window; (5) outcome indicator; (6) impacts 10+ years; (7) impact indicators.

22. The participants agreed to the proposed approach. Furthermore, UNEP proposed that the workshop focuses on the finalisation of the extended matrix and that the process of a roadmap be delegated to the 16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans that would take place from 29 September to 1 October 2014 in Athens, Greece.

23. Following the proposals, the workshop continued with the development and discussions regarding the extended matrix.

24. The workshop participants agreed on the following key priority areas for the 10+ years: (1) Extraction (living and non-living); (2) pollution; (3) governance; and (4) impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

Session 4 Day 2: Next steps

25. Jackie Alder, Head, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UNEP, mentioned that following the agreement by the participants, the finalisation of the visioning roadmap would be undertaken at the 16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans that would take place from 29 September to 1 October 2014 in Athens, Greece. She thanked the participants for their deliberations and expressed UNEP's commitment and support to the Regional Seas Programmes.

26. The workshop was closed at 4.30pm.

Annex I

Provisional Agenda

Day 1

Thursday, 3 July 2014

9.00 Opening of the Workshop

Welcoming remarks

- Welcoming remarks
- Background, purpose and expected outcomes of the workshop
Jackie Alder, Head, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UNEP
- Presentation of participants

9.30 Session 1

Setting the oceans scene

- Post 2015 Development Agenda
Jackie Alder, Head, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, UNEP
- Regional Oceans Governance
Takehiro Nakamura, Coordinator, Marine Ecosystems Unit, FMEB, UNEP
- EU Marine Directive
Nicholas Hanley, Freshwater and marine, International, Regional and Bilateral Relations Unit, DG Environment, European Commission
- Discussions and sharing of experiences on the engagement of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans with international development processes

Chair: Nelson Andrade, Coordinator, Cartagena Convention

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Session 1

Setting the oceans scene

- FAO frameworks and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
Gail Lugten, Secretary of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network, FAO
- UNCLOS and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- IMO Conventions and Protocols and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
Stefan Micallef, Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO
- Discussions and sharing of experiences on the engagement of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans with international development processes

Chair: Nelson Andrade, Coordinator, Cartagena Convention

13:00 Lunch break

14.30 Session 2

Future Trends

- Plenary discussions on identification of ocean related future trends, for example:
 - Climate change /ocean acidification
 - Seabed mining
 - ABNJ
 - NBSAPs
 - Accountability

- Break-out groups to discuss:
 - Top 3-4 relevant future trends for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
 - What would be the role for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans?

Chair: Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal

16:00 Coffee Break

16.30 Session 2

Future Trends

- Presentations by break-out groups
- Plenary discussions to consolidate key future trends relevant to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and their potential role

Chair: Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal

18:00 Closing of Day 1

Day 2

Friday, 4 July 2014

9.00 Recap day 1

Session 3

Roadmap vs. Strategic Directions

- How to operationalize a visioning roadmap towards the future of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
- How can/should the Regional Seas Strategic Directions become embedded in the visioning roadmap?
- Drafting of roadmap and identification of milestones

Chair: Darius Campbell, Executive Secretary, OSPAR Commission

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Session 4

Visioning roadmap

- Drafting of roadmap and identification of milestones

Chair: Darius Campbell, Executive Secretary, OSPAR Commission

13:00 Lunch break

14.30 Session 5

Ensuring implementation of visioning roadmap

- Discussions on strategic **partnerships** needed to implement the roadmap
- What type of **mandates** are need from member states into Regional Seas intergovernmental bodies
- Funding requirements and resource mobilisation
- How to measure progress?

Chair: Darius Campbell, Executive Secretary, OSPAR Commission

16:00 Coffee Break

16.30 Session 6

Next steps

- Drafting of roadmap at 16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
Jackie Alder, Head, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UNEP

17.00 Closing of Day 2

Annex II

Thematic areas	Inputs (building blocks; resources; partnerships)	Activity areas/Outputs	Outcomes 5-10 years window	Impact (10 + years)	Impact Indicators
EXTRACTION	<p>Relevant national, regional, international competent authorities (e.g. Clean Fuels Initiative – DTIE)</p> <p>Private sector; World Oceans Council; IPIECA</p> <p>Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)</p> <p>Data partnerships</p>	<p>Extraction - non-living e.g. Oil/gas, Sea-based mining)</p>	<p>REGIONAL SEAS BUILD CAPACITIES IN MEMBER STATES TO IMPLEMENT ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT APPROACH</p> <p>EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISMS/REGULATIONS/PROTOCOLS/ACTIONS PLANS ARE DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED BY MEMBER STATES OF THE REGIONAL SEAS</p>	<p>WITHIN REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ARE MAINTAINED AND/OR RESTORED</p>	
	<p>Relevant national, regional, international competent authorities (e.g. FAO, RFBs)</p> <p>Fisheries companies/fishers/distributors/sellers/monitoring/SMEs/community based fisheries</p>	<p>Extraction – living i.e. Fisheries (fishing gear)</p> <p>UNEP to include fisheries in 10 YFP</p>	<p>THE VALUES OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WITHIN REGIONAL SEAS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY ARE DEFINED AND INTEGRATED IN PLANNING AND POLICY.</p>		<p>e.g. Aichi Targets</p>

Thematic areas	Inputs (building blocks; resources; partnerships)	Activity areas/Outputs	Outcomes 5-10 years window	Impact (10 + years)	Impact Indicators
POLLUTION	<p>Relevant national, regional, international competent authorities</p> <p>Chemical Conventions (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minimata)</p> <p>Private Sector polluters; consumers of clean environments (e.g. tourism)</p> <p>Education and outreach partnerships/collaborative actions</p> <p>Financial institutional/finance – partnership building and collaborative action (e.g. UNEP FI, Equator Principles)</p> <p>Regional/sub-regional economic cooperation organizations</p> <p>Data partnerships</p>	<p>Marine litter</p> <p>Wastewater</p> <p>Nutrients</p> <p>Offshore inputs</p> <p>Hazardous contaminants</p> <p>Sustainable Consumption and Production</p> <p>Establishment of relevant baselines</p>	<p>REGIONAL SEAS MEMBER STATES HAVE IMPLEMENTED AND ENFORCE LBS PROTOCOLS AND ACTION PLANS</p> <p>REGIONAL SEAS HAVE ADOPTED A BASELINE ON RESPECTIVE POLLUTION LEVELS FROM WHICH PROGRESS IS MEASURED</p> <p>REGIONAL SEAS HAVE ADOPTED A SOURCE TO SEAS APPROACH FOR POLLUTION MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT.</p> <p>REGIONAL SEAS HAVE ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED ACUTE POLLUTION EVENT RELATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND PROTOCOLS AND ACTION PLANS</p> <p>REGIONAL SEAS HAVE ADOPTED RESPECTIVE AND RELEVANT CHEMICALS AND POPs INTO THEIR POLICY FRAMEWORKS (ALLOWANCE FOR EMERGING ISSUES AND PROTOCOLS)</p>	<p>WITHIN REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTION AND ACTION PLANS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, POLLUTION INPUTS TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IS REDUCED TO LEVELS THAT DO NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE HEALTHY FUNCTIONING OF ECOSYSTEMS.</p>	<p>Link to SDG targets</p>

Thematic areas	Inputs (building blocks; resources; partnerships)	Activity areas/Outputs	Outcomes 5-10 years window	Impact (10 + years)	Impact Indicators
GOVERNANCE	<p>Relevant national, regional, international competent authorities (e.g. to encourage and enhance cross sectoral and inter-ministerial; UNDOALOS)</p> <p>Targeted Think Tanks/research/advisory institutions (e.g. academia, NGOs)</p> <p>Regional governance bodies (e.g. AU, EU, PIF, Arctic Council) for experience sharing</p> <p>Regional/sub-regional economic cooperation organizations /commissions</p>	<p>DATA ACTIVITY AREA</p> <p>SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE</p> <p>STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH AND AWARENESS RAISING EFFORTS (INCLUDING: INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE RETENTION AND DISTRIBUTION)</p> <p>AWARENESS RAISING AT INTERNATIONAL FORA</p> <p>CROSS-REGIONAL PLATFORM COORDINATION ACTIVITIES (RSPs AND RFMOs AND SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS LINKS)</p> <p>POTENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLIANCE</p>	<p>EFFECTIVENESS OF DECISIONS AGREED TO IN REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS IS INCREASED THROUGH <u>STRENGTHENING OF INTEGRATED CROSS-SECTORAL AND INTER-MINISTERIAL APPROACH</u></p> <p>COMPETENCY AND VISIBILITY OF REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION IN SERVICE TO THE DECISION MAKING AND ACTION(S) EFFECTIVENESS OF MEMBER STATES IS INCREASED THROUGH COORDINATED AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS.</p>	<p>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 THAT ENSURES INCREASED HUMAN WELL BEING.</p>	

Thematic areas	Inputs (building blocks; resources; partnerships)	Activity areas/Outputs	Outcomes 5-10 years window	Impact (10 + years)	Impact Indicators
		COMMITTEES			
IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE <u>AND</u> OCEAN ACIDIFICATION	<p>Relevant national, regional, international competent authorities</p> <p>Research/academia/ advisory (Ocean Acidification Network)</p> <p>Global and regional adaptation networks</p> <p>Climate Adaptation finance mechanisms (e.g. REDD+, Green Climate Funds)</p>	<p>ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION</p> <p>ECOSYSTEM BASED DEVELOPMENT (NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE E.G. BLUE CARBON)</p> <p>ICZM</p> <p>LINKING THE REGIONAL TO LOCAL</p> <p>MULTISTAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NAPs</p> <p>MPA DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS</p>	<p>REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS HAVE DEVELOPPED 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, IN THE FACE OF A CHANGING CLIMATE.</p> <p>REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS HAVE SUPPORTED THE ADAPTION AND RESILIENCE NEEDS OF SIDS AND LOW- LYING COASTAL AREAS BY SUPPORTING INTEGRATION NATIONAL PLANS.</p>	<p>THE REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS HAVE HELPED MAINTAIN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH, HUMAN WELL BEING AND OVERALL RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE <u>AND</u> OCEAN ACIDIFICATION.</p> <p><i>(IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH A GOOD SET OF INDICATORS/BASELINE TO MEASURE PROGRESS)</i></p>	