



**9th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions & Action Plans (RSCAPs)
29-31st December 2007
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Session 1: Global Regional Seas
Strategic Directions (2004-2007)**

Six global Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2004-2007)

- 1. Regional Seas Contribution to Sustainable Development.**
- 2. Political Commitment & financial sustainability.**
- 3. Visibility.**
- 4. Support Knowledge-based policy making, public participation & awareness.**
- 5. RS as a platform for implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).**
- 6. Integrated management based on the ecosystem approach.**

Achievements

- **High-level participation in the decision-making process for the sustainability of the marine envt.**
- **Regional Seas – facilitated the implementation of global initiatives (MDGs, WSSD/JPOI Targets)**
- **Unique regional approach to address transboundary issues (GEF financing)**

Achievements - cont'd

- Increased global interest in the marine environment.**
- Increased partnerships (NGOs, private sector, civil society in general, GEF projects etc.)**
- Increased regional cooperation, particularly in the development of legal framework & (forum) facilitate the ratification of MEAs.**

Challenges

- **Diversity of the Regional Seas – different priorities**
- **Medium & long-term financial sustainability**
- **Ecosystem approach acknowledged, but different approaches poses different methodological challenges**

Challenges cont'd

- **Economic value of marine resources**
- **Data/information availability on the state of the marine environment (fragmented data for comparability) & need for regular reporting**
- **Institutional challenges (different bodies/commissions – MEAs)**