

Progress Report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 - 2020



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Name of the Region: **Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)**

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Guidance: Please provide any updates since the 18th GMRS held in 2016 up to date

I. Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 -2020 since 2017 up to date

1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
1.1	Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment at national and regional level through development of guidelines, baselines, regional indicators, and monitoring programmes as well as identification of region-specific emerging issues through research	Institutional, training and equipment support/ Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Strategic Ecosystem Management (SEM project)	Promote capacities of national monitoring at selected MPAs in Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan and Sudan (seawater quality, key habitats, including socioeconomic factors)	2016-2018
		Demo project for sustainable monitoring in Saudi Arabia	Promoting skills of national teams for monitoring seawater, mangroves and coral reefs	2017-2018
		Holding series of national workshops in each member state and 2 regional workshops on monitoring results to stakeholders in the member states (SEM Project)	Dissemination of monitoring results to participants stakeholders and local authorities	2017-2018
		Review of Standard Survey Methods for Key Habitats and Species	Updated Standard Survey and Monitoring Methods for PERSGA region	2017-2018
		Establish Regional Monitoring Data Base	(Web based)	
		Two Regional workshops on exchange of monitoring results	Exchange of monitoring results and knowledge sharing	2016/2018
		Training and guidelines and training on assessment of MPAs Management Effectiveness	Establish monitoring of MPAs Management Effectiveness in PERSGA MPAs Network; conduct evaluation at 4 selected MPAs	2017-2018

		Equipment and training support to MPAs administration and staff	Promote MPAs management capacities	2018
1.2	Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues at all levels and facilitate science-policy interactions emphasizing socio-economic impacts and promoting relevant practices, tools, technologies and measures	Regional assessment and 2 workshops on wastewater discharge and impacts on coastal environment	Develop regional indicators for monitoring impacts of wastewater on coral reefs	2016-2017
			Regional guidelines on wastewater management and reuse	2016-2017
			Training of national capacities on the above	2016-2017
		Regional assessment and workshop on regional SOMER indicators and process	New regional indicators for SOMER considering Global layout, socioeconomic and ecosystem indicators, applied in SOMERSGA II	2018/2019
1.3	Raise issues at global level and facilitate regionalization of outcomes of the GPA IGR4 and mandated global partnerships	Regional initiative on marine litter	Survey program, monitoring guidelines and Regional Action Plan	2017-2018
		Regional workshop on marine litter management	Capacity building and information sharing	2017-2018
		Awareness materials, video film on impacts of plastics	Raising awareness	2017-2018
		Cleaning campaigns in the member states, including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia,	Raising awareness	2017-2018
		Update PERSGA school kids educational tool kids on the Red Sea environment	Raising awareness	
		Regional and series of national workshops on IMO conventions and instruments, including LC, MARPOL, and BWM, and national audit schemes	Capacity building of national teams on IMO conventions and Audit Schemes	2016-2018

2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
2.1	Support mainstreaming of climate change into regional and national policies and institutional frameworks	PERSGA Climate Change Program:		
		Organizing regional workshop on ecosystem approach in NDCs climate actions in PERSGA region 2017	6 member states considered, coastal ecosystems in adaptation and mitigation measures in their NDCs	October 2017
		Organizing side event at UNFCCC COP23 on NDCs, ecosystem approach in	Regional coordination and synergy	Nov 2017
		Planned 2 nd workshop on EbA for NDCs in coastal areas	Regional coordination and synergy	planned 2019
2.2	Assess the impacts of climate change and the resilience of people, society and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas to propose adaptation strategies	Organizing regional workshops on ecosystem approach and climate actions in PERSGA region in 2017 and 2019	Guidance and training on proposing adaptation strategies for coral reefs, mangroves, etc. resilience	2017 2019
		Regional workshop in coral reefs resilience	Guidelines on coral resilience and monitoring for CC impacts,	2017
2.3	Create or support climate research, policy networks and inter-regional knowledge exchange towards a better understanding of climate impacts on the marine and coastal environment	Regional workshops (above), side event and booth at COP in 2017	Regional coordination	2016-2018
		Planning for interregional workshops in collaboration with IsDB and ISESCO	Inter-regional knowledge sharing	Upcoming in 2019/2020

2.4	Facilitate access to instruments for climate financing at national and regional levels	Support member states development of NAPA and adaptation projects for coastal components (e.g. Djibouti, and Sudan) projects		2018
		Develop concept note for a regional project proposal for synergy and knowledge sharing on coastal ecosystem based adaptation and mitigation.		Ongoing
		Training workshops on negotiation skills in Climate Change issues in Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Sudan	Contributed to capacity building for national teams	2017/ 2018

3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
3.1	Promote application of guidelines, rules and regulations for exploitation and exploration of living and non-living resources within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and develop such instruments, where necessary, based on the ecosystem approach	Demo community-based livelihoods subprojects at MPAs pilot sites (component 2 of the SEM project), which focused on alternative livelihood options emphasizing ecosystem approach and sustainability principles	Guidelines and application of ecosystem approach principles in design of livelihoods subprojects involving fishers and women in ecotourism at MPAs including for examples: Qula'an eco-village in the WGHNP (Egypt) with solar power lights and desalination unit; and community run ecotourism venture; Solar operated women microbusiness, and fishery workshops at DMNP (Sudan), fishers at Moucha-Maskali Islands MPA ecotourism microbusiness	2016-2018

			(Djibouti); glass-bottom tourist boats operated by fishers at 2 MPAs in Egypt and Sudan	
		Review assessments of national legislations of living marine resources with recommendations for coherence with EBM principles	National assessment reports	2016
		Regional and national workshops on reviews of LMR policies, legislation and management	Validation workshops and technical recommendations for revision of LMR and fisheries legislations	2016-2017
		Support to inscription DMNP and SNG MPAs as UNESCO natural heritage	Two MPAs in Sudan inscribed as UNESCO Natural heritage areas	2017

4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
4.1	Support science-policy dialogue, science-based decisions and provision of regional guidelines	Organizing the 4 th regional meeting of marine academic and research institutes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in 2018	Discussion and adoption of new indicators for SOMERSGAI, including ecosystem and socioeconomic indicators	2018
			Awareness session on the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for	2018

			Sustainable Development (in collaboration with IOC-UNESCO)	
		<p>Development and updating regional guidelines, and provide training on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine litter monitoring and management - MPAs planning and management using mapping techniques - MPAs awareness and outreach planning - Wastewater impacts on coral reefs - Standard survey methods for monitoring key habitats and species 	Support synergy, regional coordination and information sharing, and standardizing regional assessment and monitoring data collection	2016-2018
		<p>Provide 4 regional training workshops and procedures for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring MPAs management effectiveness - Assessment of Red List species in PERSGA region - Wastewater management and reuse - Mainstreaming Ecosystem approach and principles in national policies and legislation 		2016-2018
4.2	Support member states with developing integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation to enhance chronological consistency and coherency across sectors	Review assessments of national legislations of living marine resources with recommendations for coherence with EBM principles in 5 member states	National assessment reports	2016
		Regional and national workshops on reviews of LMR policies, legislation and management	Validation workshops and technical recommendations for revision of LMR and fisheries legislations in Djibouti, Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen	2016-2017
		On-the-ground project: national workshop and assessment for rebuilding institutional and human capacity for environment sector in Somalia	Assessment report including proposal for rebuilding institutional structure, administrative flowchart and work-plan for environment management in Somalis	

4.3	Enhance information exchange and interregional cooperation towards common goals	Side event on CBD COP (2018) on Community Participation and Driven Processes for Improving MPAs Management and Benefits from Living Marine Recourses in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden	Showcase of PERSGA SEM project interventions of MPA community based sustainable and alternative livelihood options	2018
		Sharing 2 success stories with IW/LME: LEARN: https://news.iwlearn.net/enabling-womens-economic-empowerment-in-mpas-marginalized-fishing-communities	Knowledge sharing, showcase of success stories on empowerment of women associations and fishers through their ownership of livelihood and participation in MPA activities in Egypt, Djibouti, Jordan and Sudan	2018
4.4	Encourage multi-stakeholder participation including NGOs and the private sector to promote compliance with Regional Seas instruments, existing guidelines and regulations of ocean management	Demo livelihood subprojects in selected MPAs involving fisher communities and NGOs	Establish micro business schemes owned by fishers and women associations in 4 MPAs in Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan and Sudan, based on ecotourism and artisanal fishing	2017-2018
4.5	Ensure the highest standards of Secretariat performance in support in administration of the Conventions and Action plan	Council and focal points meeting held as planned		
		Ratification of signed protocols (Biodiversity-MPAs; LBA); development of new protocol concerning cooperation fishery and aquaculture management		2016-2018

	Enhancing the regional capacity building program, regional exchange workshops and meetings	Sustain number of annual workshops and participants that were promoted significantly (more than three folds) since 8 years	2016-2018
	Regular update of the Website		
	Production of new outreach materials, video films, dissemination through social media covering, e.g.	3 educational video films on: blue economy, blue carbon habitats, marine litter and plastics One video clip “Red Sea song” performed and acted by a team of youngsters from PERSGA member states	2018
	Satisfactory implementation of GEF SEM project (post SAP intervention) in collaboration with the WB		
	Establish new partnerships and MoUs	New- and strengthening collaborations MoU with UNIDO, UNE-ROWA, IMO, IsDB, UNESCO-IOC, WB.	2016-2018

II. Challenges with the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020

Existing gaps in institutional and human capacities; financial constraint and limitations; slow process in addressing policy and legislation amendments; gaps in information and lack of sustainable knowledge management; rapid pace of coastal development in the region

III. Lessons learnt (2017 – up to date)

- Community-based, strong stakeholders’ partnerships and private investments in sustainability are most tangible to be considered in pilot projects and impact programs; they could also provide experimental approach for quantitative assessment demonstrating benefits of sustainability and ecosystem based management
- MPAs are most suitable for EBM demo activities, ideally by existing initiatives, stated policies and program objectives

- Effective use of relevant cultural and religious inspiration significantly add to impact of awareness for environmental protection and rational use of resources

IV. Any other issues / decisions / case studies / experiences to be shared

Case studies on interventions involving MPAs communities are available for sharing (find link above).

V Emerging issues that have not been covered in the RSSD 2017-2020 but are proposed to be covered during the next RSSD

Role of RSCAPs in SDGs interconnecting with ocean (other than G14), such as G1 (poverty), G2 (food security), G8 (decent work economic growth), G11 (sustainable coastal cities), and others.

Role of RSACPs in UN decade on ocean science.

Empowering RS; any global impact programs lead by RS?? Or at least RS sharing the major role in implementation

*Please submit this report to Nancy Soi at Nancy.soi@un.org by **30 August 2019**