

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME INTO THE 2019 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA, PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/73/124, ENTITLED, “OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA”

New Marine and Coastal Strategy of UNEP 2020-2030

1. The fourth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-4) held in March 2019 in Nairobi, took note of the proposal of a new marine and coastal strategy (UNEP/EA.4/INF/7: *Proposal for a new marine and coastal Strategy of United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2020–2030*)¹. The strategy outlines the overall strategic direction, operational objectives, approach and priority actions of UNEP to support national, regional and global efforts to ensure healthy and sustainable oceans and coasts by 2030.
2. The new strategy also supports global innovation and delivery of normative services and contribute to an enhanced coordination of actions in collaborative frameworks addressing marine and coastal issues. This includes contributing to important global processes, such as the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment on the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the post-2020 biodiversity agenda and the United Nations decade of ocean science for sustainable development.
3. The strategy is intended to operationalize and communicate the convening role and contributions of UNEP in its support to countries in achieving healthy and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems globally. This ranges from identifying strategies and actions to assist transitions at the national and regional levels towards sustainable blue economies, to strengthening concerted multilateral efforts in support of healthy oceans and coasts, to grounded-in-truth, effective, nature-based solutions that ensure long-term, ocean-based sustainable development.

Regional Seas Programme²

4. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme has been UNEP’s most important regional mechanism for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment since its establishment in 1974. The Programme aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world’s oceans and coastal areas through a “shared seas” approach – namely, by engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their common marine environment. Currently, more than 143 countries have joined 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. In most cases, the Action Plan is underpinned by a strong legal framework in the form of a regional Convention and associated Protocols on specific problems.

¹ <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1900315.pdf#overlay-context=pre-session-unea-4>

² <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/working-regional-seas>

5. A major role of the Programme is to support regions to fulfill their responsibilities towards the priorities identified in relevant UN Environment Governing Council Decisions and resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to contribute to reaching global targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. UN Environment administers regional programmes in [West Africa](#), [Caribbean](#), [Mediterranean](#), [Northwest Pacific](#), [East Asian Seas](#), [Caspian Sea](#), and [East Africa](#). The programme also covers several other regions of the world, making it one of the most globally comprehensive initiatives for the protection of marine and coastal environments: [Antarctic](#), [Arctic](#), [Baltic](#), [Black Sea](#), [North-East Atlantic](#), [North-East Pacific](#), [Pacific](#), [Red Sea and Gulf of Aden](#), [ROPME Sea Area](#), [South Asian Seas](#) and [South-East Pacific](#) . Fourteen of the Regional Seas Programmes have also adopted legally binding conventions that express the commitment and political will of governments to tackle their common environmental issues through joint coordinated activities. Most conventions have added protocols , legal agreements addressing specific issues such as protected areas, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and land based sources of pollution (LBS), including oil spills and movement of hazardous waste.

Activities in the regions:

A. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

7. In relation to paragraphs 207-209, 213, 214, 216, 232, 281 of Resolution 73/124
8. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) supports participating countries to address priority issues including land based marine pollution and marine and coastal planning and management, in line with the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 adopted in 2018. A revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) will be considered for adoption at the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting in June 2019, following consultations through the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter in 2018 and 2019.
9. COBSEA and UN Environment have launched a regional project (USD 6.4M supported by Sida) on ‘Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South East Asia’. The project engages national and local governments, plastic producers and retailers, and civil society to develop inclusive and equitable market-based solutions and policy pathways, as well as to strengthen assessment, monitoring and knowledge management for decision support, thereby supporting countries to implement key regional and global frameworks and action plans including the COBSEA RAP MALI, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Framework of Action on Marine Debris (to be adopted in June 2019), the global Clean Seas campaign, and voluntary commitments related to Sustainable Development Goal 14, Target 14.1.
10. Delivery on COBSEA’s Voluntary Commitment made at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017 (#OceanAction15986) is on track.
11. In relation to paragraphs 268 and 269 of the Resolution

12. A project on ‘Including coral reef resilience and vulnerability to climate change in marine spatial planning in Malaysia’ supported by UN Environment and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and implemented by SymbioSeas, WWF and COBSEA successfully concluded in 2019. The project further developed and demonstrated an approach to improve marine spatial planning for a more climate resilient network of marine protected areas (MPAs), by integrating climate vulnerability considerations in planning and zoning processes. It provides a model that can be used and replicated more broadly in the region and beyond.
13. In relation to 297, 298 of the Resolution
14. COBSEA will contribute towards the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) through ongoing and emerging efforts, in particular in relation to Strategic Objective 2 on evidence base and capacities for ecosystem-based management as well as Cross cutting Objective 4 on networks, data systems, other infrastructure and partnerships, and Cross cutting Objective 6 on knowledge-to-policy cooperation, coordination and communication. A regional outlook on COBSEA’s contribution to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development currently under development will also inform COBSEA’s engagement in the UN Decade of Ocean Science. The COBSEA Secretariat participated in initial planning for the UN Decade of Ocean Science during the Twelfth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC) in Manila, the Philippines, April 2019, and will continue engaging in the planning process at the regional level and, through UN Environment, at the global level.

I. Detailed Developments

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

15. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) is a regional intergovernmental policy forum and the sole decision-making body for the East Asian Seas Action Plan. COBSEA supports the nine participating countries (Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam) in the development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of East Asian Seas. The COBSEA Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by UN Environment, located at the UN Environment Asia and the Pacific Office in Bangkok, Thailand.
16. Delivery under COBSEA’s Voluntary Commitment made at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017 (#OceanAction15986) is progressing according to plan. Following the adoption of the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 at the Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of in April 2018, COBSEA is continuing its support to countries through regional governance, addressing land-based marine pollution, and improving spatial planning and ecosystem-based management toward achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Targets. A regional outlook document on COBSEA’s contribution to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is being prepared, identifying how COBSEA will support participating countries with the implementation and monitoring of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets.

17. The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA is held in Bali, Indonesia, 19-20 June 2019, preceded by a meeting of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter, 17-18 June 2019.
18. The meetings will, inter alia, consider revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, establishment of a Regional Node of the Global Partnership of Marine Litter to support knowledge management and information exchange on marine litter; and establishment of a Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas proposed by Indonesia (following the Bali Declaration arising from the 4th Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2018, and as noted in UNEP/EA.4/L.12). A meeting of the Working Group on Marine Litter was also held in Bangkok, Thailand, December 2018.
19. The regional project ‘Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South East Asia’ has commenced the implementation phase, following the completion of the inception phase in 2019. Activities planned in 2019 in collaboration with the UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific include a detailed plastic value chain analysis and case studies to identify market transforming solutions for the beverage, food and retail industries; technical assistance for target countries to develop marine litter monitoring programmes and improve marine litter planning; compiling scientific evidence on marine pollution; and engaging regional stakeholders.
20. An annual regional constituency engagement and partnership forum on marine litter and plastic pollution entitled “SEA of Solutions” is being developed with UN Environment and other partners. The inaugural event is planned for 11-15 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
21. With support from the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), a Training of Trainers on the ‘Guidelines for the monitoring and assessment of plastic litter and microplastics in the ocean’ prepared by GESAMP WG 40 will be held in September 2019.
22. UN Environment GEF projects in the context of the East Asian Seas Action Plan include the USD 15M project ‘Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea’, which addresses the habitat, land-based pollution and regional coordination components of the Strategic Action Programme (starting in 2019); and the USD 3M project ‘Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand’, which implements the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme, executed by SEAFDEC (underway).

B. The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) - Barcelona Convention

23. In this reporting period, the Mediterranean Action Plan made significant progress towards implementing its six voluntary commitments registered in the context of SDG 14 in 2017. This contribution also touches upon other specific issues relevant to the Report, such as Marine Litter and Marine Protected Areas.

- (i) SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction19914
[-https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19914](https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19914)

Implementation of the UN Environment/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

24. UN Environment/MAP is providing support to the Southern Mediterranean Countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), to implement the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project. To this purpose, the national regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags and to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was carried out for Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Technical assistance is provided to national decision-makers and stakeholders with the aim to minimize the use of single use items. The pilot implementation of “Fishing-for-Litter” and “Adopt-a-Beach” measures (clean-up campaigns) is ongoing in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Efforts are ongoing for Lebanon to join in the implementation of the said pilots. Implementation of national pilots related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean are also on-going in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Progress can also be reported on the development of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Candidate Indicator 24 “Effect of marine litter on biota”, including the identification of the most representative species to be used; capacity building training sessions on monitoring the amounts of marine litter ingested by or entangling marine turtles; development of standardized protocols on monitoring the effect of marine litter on sea turtles; assessment of available data to propose Good Ecological Status (GES); building a regional operation strategy. Regional guidelines were developed for the implementation of key marine litter reduction and prevention measures, receiving attention also from other regions (e.g. Tehran Convention, BSR Convention, Black Sea Commission). The Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean is operational. Coordination among the European Regional Seas Coordination Meetings is on-going, including the support provided to the Black Sea Commission (BSC) for the development and adoption since 2018 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Black Sea Region and the preparation of a regional monitoring programme for marine litter.

- (ii) SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction19949
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19949>

Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security

25. The MedProgramme aims to accelerate the implementation of agreed upon priority actions to reduce the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security, and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. The Global Environmental Objectives of the MedProgramme are: (a) restore the integrity of a globally significant transboundary large marine ecosystem and of its coastal areas through multi-country cooperative actions; (b) prevent the exposure of humans and the environment to harmful chemicals and waste of global importance; (c) maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society; (d) increase resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change in vulnerable developing countries. UNEP/MAP and the co-executing partners of the MedProgramme completed the development of the information required by the GEF to mobilize and make available the funds allocated for the Programme (USD 37,7 million). The development of the full programme package was finalized and submitted on 29 March 2019. The work was done in full

coordination with the GEF Operational Focal Points of the participating eligible countries, namely Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.

- (iii) SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction20339
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20339>

Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD

26. Substantive progress was achieved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in relation to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean: 1. Publication of the Quality Status Report 2017 of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, which is the first, region-wide agreed common indicator-based assessment of the Mediterranean sea and coast, covering both biodiversity, fisheries, non-indigenous species, pollution, marine litter, coast and hydrography; 2. Development in Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties national monitoring and assessment programmes, in line with new requirements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of UN Environment/MAP - Barcelona Convention; 3. Successful implementation of a sub-regional joint pilot in the Eastern Mediterranean (with participation of Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey) which resulted in a draft sub-regional monitoring plan for Eastern Mediterranean countries, which is in line with the monitoring frameworks of both the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and UN Environment/MAP; 4. Strengthened Science-Policy Interface in the region, with an established network of scientists and policymakers, with meetings that address key elements of ecosystem approach implementation in the region; 5. Development of IMAP in synergy with a compatible pilot Information and Data Sharing system; 6. Development of an Ecosystem Approach Funding Strategy, with the aim to assist interested countries in the region to mobilize further resources towards achieving and/or maintaining the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

- (iv) SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction20344
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20344>

Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas

27. The aim of this initiative is to put in place a connected, ecologically representative, effectively managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean which ensures the long-term conservation of key elements of the marine biodiversity and gives significant support to the sustainable development of the region. Achievements include: (i) The 2016 Forum on MPAs in the Mediterranean, co-organized by the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC of UNEP/MAP) and the network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), with the support of the Moroccan High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD) (Tangiers, Morocco, 28 November - 1 December 2016); (ii) Collection and analysis of data on Mediterranean MPA coverage and management. The dataset is available from SPA/RAC and MedPAN, upon request, until the development of an updated version of the of MPAs in the Mediterranean (MAPAMED). An

assessment of the Mediterranean MPA network status was undertaken and a leaflet summarizing its main findings elaborated and disseminated during the 2016 MPA Forum; (iii) An Ad hoc group of experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM) was set up on an experimental basis. The AGEM First Meeting was held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 22-23 February 2018. The AGEM is providing scientific and technical advice to SPA/RAC; the Second Meeting of the AGEM took place in Tunis on 21 February 2019. At mid-2019, an evaluation of the AGEM functioning is being undertaken; (iv) An ecological characterization of the Sallum MPA (Egypt) was completed by a team of national experts and the related report was elaborated; (v) The ecological characterization of three marine sites suitable to be declared as MPAs in Lebanon was completed; (vi) A socio-economic/stakeholders assessment of the marine part of the Jbel Moussa MPA (Morocco) was completed and the process for the elaboration of the area management plan is underway; (vii) The process for the elaboration of a management plan for the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands MPA (Tunisia) is underway.

- (v) [SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction19839](https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19839)
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19839>

Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the ENP South region - ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism

28. The overall objective of this initiative is to improve the availability and access to relevant environmental information to the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policy-making in the southern Mediterranean countries. A methodology for addressing environmental issues affecting the Mediterranean marine environment has been developed. The set of indicators has been updated and refined to provide a snap shot of the achievement of existing initiatives for pollution prevention and control. Horizon 2020 indicators were mainstreamed for complementarity to existing indicators established by relevant initiatives and programmes. Eligible countries agreed on the methodological factsheets defining the scope, geographical coverage, data availability and data collection methodology of the set of indicators. The 2nd ENI SEIS II Regional Meeting on Indicators was held in Athens, Greece, on 17-18 April 2018. The meeting reviewed the proposed indicators' methodological specifications and reporting processes and agreed on the final list of H2020 indicators and their specifications. The 1st ENI SEIS II Regional Workshop on Infrastructure and Data Management was held in Rome, Italy, on 4-5 October 2018. The regional workshop aimed to provide technical solutions to the countries developing the Regional Infrastructure based on SEIS principles. The workshop agreed on the way forward regarding data and data dictionaries and how to organize capacity building activities to support the establishment of the network for the exchange of data protocols to populate the indicators. The work is ongoing at the regional and national level to establish the sound infrastructure for sustainable data collections. MEDPOL (UN Environment/MAP) initiated data calls under already established information infrastructure.

- (vi) [SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction20412](https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20412)
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20412>

Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

29. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 2012 between the GFCM and UN Environment/MAP is the first agreement that formalizes cooperation between a UN Environment Regional Sea Convention and an FAO Regional Fisheries Management Organization. This MoU stemmed from years of bilateral consultations on common areas of work and responded to the request by Contracting Parties of both organizations for enhanced coordination. The MoU addresses the following areas of cooperation: 1. Promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of marine and coastal environment and ecosystems, and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources; 2. Mitigation of the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species by the use of best available techniques in fisheries and the development of sustainable aquaculture; 3. Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands); 4. Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning, and integrated coastal zone management, and other integrated zoning approaches, with a view to mitigate cumulative risks due to reduced access and availability of space affected by multiple and increasing conflictive uses; 5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation. Collaboration is ongoing through the implementation of several activities which are followed up through annual bilateral meetings. UNEP/MAP participated and contributed to GFCM Fish Forum 2018 (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018) through a number of events focusing on the complementarity among Area based Conservation tools in the Mediterranean Sea, the cross-sectorial cooperation among Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Management Bodies and added values of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue, and on the sub-regional pilot project on fisheries related to Non-Indigenous Species in the Eastern Mediterranean (implemented within the EcApMEDII project).

C. The Abidjan Convention

30. The Abidjan Convention has finalized its revitalization process which led to the implementation of several activities that have increased its visibility and expertise on issues related to the management of marine and coastal zones, climate change and coastal resilience.

1. Development of legally binding Regional Protocols

(i) Formulation of an additional protocol on the Sustainable Management of Mangroves

31. Despite their importance (spawning and nursery for fish, protection of islands and coastal habitats, carbon sequestration...), mangroves areas are under pressure (particularly anthropogenic) which has considerably reduced their surface areas in West and Central Africa. To ensure protection and a better management of mangrove ecosystems, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat initiated the process of developing the protocol on sustainable management of mangroves following its COP10 and COP11 decisions (CP 11/1. COP. 10/7). The final version of the protocol will be submitted for the plenipotentiaries' signature to be held early July in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

(ii) Formulation of an additional protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management

32. Marine and coastal areas serve as homes to many human activities such as shipping, fishing and aquaculture, production of renewable energy, extraction of raw materials and nautical tourism. Experts raised the alarm years ago on the threats that these activities have on the marine and coastal environment. Strengthening their framework has become a major objective for the Contracting parties to the Abidjan Convention. In this respect, management based on an ecosystem approach was recalled at COP10 and 11. The Parties evaluated the importance of drafting a protocol on ICZM which would contribute to a more effective management of the marine and coastal zones. This process of drafting has been completed and the protocol will be submitted with the other protocols in July 2019 during the plenipotentiaries' meeting in Abidjan.

(iii) Environmental Norms and Standards for Offshore Oil and Gas Activities

33. During the COP 10, the contracting parties adopted the decision CP.10/8 “Environmental standards for the offshore exploration and exploitation activities of mining and mineral resources off the coasts of the States Parties”. The implementation of a regulatory framework for the surveillance and monitoring of offshore oil and gas activities follow the COP 9 during which the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention adopted important decisions aiming at preventing and combating pollution from offshore activities. This refers to the third protocol that will be submitted to the plenipotentiaries with the previous protocols.

PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN PROJECTS FRAMEWORK

34. The Abidjan Convention is today recognized as a key actor and partner in terms of marine and coastal biodiversity management all over the Africa's Atlantic coast. Aside the implementation activities and partnerships, other projects are about to be finalized.

1. West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme (WA BICC)

35. Recognizing the significant role the Abidjan Convention plays in the region, the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme (WABICC) conducted an assessment in October 2015 on integrated technical and organizational capacity (ITOCA), which resulted in the formulation of an institutional capacity building plan leading to the elaboration of a joint communication strategy, the recruitment of a communication specialist and a consultant for the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the Convention's projects portfolio. Finally, with the support of WABICC, the Abidjan Convention will be equipped with a resource centre that will host most relevant publications on marine and coastal biodiversity and other ocean related data.

2. STRONG High Seas

36. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the project will facilitate the development and implementation of comprehensive approaches, that span many sectors, for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of the Southern East Atlantic and Pacific. Based on the interest of both regions, the project will identify best practices and provide regional institutions and national authorities, knowledge, tools and necessary capabilities to support the implementation of existing approaches and the development of new ones in terms of regional ocean governance.

3. MAMI WATA

37. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), through its International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Mami Wata Project « Enhancing Marine Management in West Africa through Training and Application » works in collaboration with African countries to develop their capabilities in Integrated Ocean Management (IOM). This experience sharing will be done through (i) Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), (ii) identification of EBSAs, (iii) elaboration of reports on the State of Marine Environment (SoME).

4. RESILIENSEA

38. Funded by the Mava Foundation for Nature, the project ResilienSea focusses on seagrass, one of the most important ocean habitats. Serving as nurseries and feeding grounds, protecting our shores and storing carbon among other benefits, the issue of seagrasses is unknown to the public. This project will aim at strengthening knowledge on seagrass all over West Africa and carrying out pilot actions on selected sites which are intended to implement management tools and improve the status of their protection and services they provide.

5. COASTAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE IN WEST AFRICA -CFI-

39. As a fruit of collaboration between FAO and UNEP, the CFI project is being implemented in Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. It aims at strengthening fisheries governance, management of fisheries chain of values through the implementation of fisheries ecosystem approach, relevant international instruments and innovative governance partnerships. The Abidjan Convention is responsible for the implementation of the component on governance and fisheries management. Through a participatory approach involving different actors (States, civil society, private sector and researchers) at national and local levels, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat ensures the sustainable conservation and use of mangroves resources as dictated by its protocol on the sustainable management of mangroves and its implementation action plan. The Abidjan Convention Secretariat is expected, over the next three years, to conserve up to 700 hectares of mangroves in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

6. Support the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME)

40. Funded by the GEF, the overall goal of this project is to strengthen the regional governance and ecosystem-based management of the GCLME by assisting the countries in capacity building for the implementation of the SAP measures related to transboundary fisheries, conservation of biodiversity and combatting pollution. The overall environmental expected benefits will be the protection of habitats and fish stocks with a global importance in the GCLME. The project will contribute to the improvement of governance and resource management and to enhance the capabilities of stakeholders to consider the values of sustainable fisheries. Improved resource management and reduction of poverty in the sixteen participating countries will further enhance sustainability under the GCLME.

7. WACA ResIP

41. Funded by the World Bank, the West Africa Coastal Areas programme (WACA) aims to (i) provide expertise and funding to the countries of the region for the sustainable management of their coastal areas considering the risks of erosion, floods and pollution and (ii) strengthen

regional integration of countries by working with related regional institutions and agreements, thereby enhancing the resiliency of communities and the economic assets of the West African coastline. The program is to be done in six countries through a regional investment for West African coastline resiliency (resiliency Investment Project (ResIP) with a total cost of USD 221,70 million and funded up to USD 190 million (grants) by the World Bank. The project consists of a combination of activities at political and institutional levels and addressing the demands for physical and social investment at both regional and national levels. The Abidjan Convention is responsible for assisting the six participating countries in all technical matters related to the ratification and implementation of regional and international coastal and marine protocols.

8. UN HABITAT a Project on improving the resiliency of coastal communities

42. Supported by the Adaptation Fund, the overall objective of this project is to strengthen Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire coastal communities' resiliency to climate change and later to the rest of West Africa while being consistent with the national priorities of the government in their implementation. The full proposal and lessons learned will benefit not only the most vulnerable communities but also governments at national and community levels, supporting Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire as well as their neighbors.

9. MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

43. With a funding from the European Union and in partnership with FAO, the overall objective of this project is to strengthen and improve the capability of ACP countries to implement selected multilateral environmental agreements. The ultimate goal is to increase environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector. The project will focus on combatting depletion and degradation of natural resources (water, soil and biodiversity) by developing synergies and collaboration between the environment and agricultural sectors from global governance to policy. The specific objective is to integrate biodiversity into all the sectors of the three ACP regions to support sustainable agriculture and conservation of natural resources, giving a focus to specific regional priorities. These will include land degradation and desertification – issues related to food security and migration- which are the results of damages caused by land clearing, invasive species, overuse of agrochemicals and other inadequate farm management practices.

Conclusion

44. The Abidjan Convention is now recognized as a key actor and a privileged partner in the management of marine and coastal biodiversity throughout the Atlantic coast of Africa. In addition to the activities implemented and developed partnerships, other activities are being undertaken and are being finalized. The variety of partnerships developed helps the Convention's Secretariat achieve its mandate and objectives of its programme.

D. North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

A. Major developments since the last reporting period

45. NOWPAP member states –Japan, P.R. China, R. Korea, and the Russian Federation adopted the NOWPAP Medium term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023 in June 2018. The NOWPAP Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre agreed on the next

steps in the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation scheduled to be launched after 2021. The special project: “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics pollution” was launched to harmonize standards and methods used for measuring and monitoring microplastics pollution in the region. An online marine Pollution Reporting System – set up by the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre enabled China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to speedily share information on the spreading spill and measures being taken to contain it. The 23rd Northwest Pacific Region Intergovernmental Meeting called for enhanced regional cooperation in support of SDG 14: Life Below Water in the Northwest Pacific. The meeting launched an innovative project to produce up-to-date information on key species and habitats of transboundary concern in the Northwest Pacific Region. NOWPAP discussed six most applicable indicators related to monitoring marine ecological quality in the region and agreed on the targets for the four of them, aligned with environmental Sustainable Development Goals. Marine scientists from NOWPAP endorsed the effectiveness of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) in protecting the region from eutrophication that threatens marine and human health and can severely harm fisheries and tourism.

(i) Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan)

46. *On 10-11 May 2018*, the annual Northwest Pacific Action Plan Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre meeting was held in Toyama to discuss and agree on the next steps in the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation scheduled to be launched after 2021. The region is under growing threat from human activities and climate change but does not yet have a regional framework for marine biodiversity protection and sustainable use to advance achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in a regionally harmonized manner.
47. *On 6 June 2018*, the Expert Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan special project: “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics pollution” agreed on the need to harmonize standards and methods used for measuring and monitoring microplastics pollution in the region. The meeting launched the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Special Project on harmonization of microplastics methodologies led by the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and leading global experts from the region.
48. *On World Environment Day (5 June 2018)* under the theme #BeatPlasticPollution, Northwest Pacific Action Plan and Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting organized an annual marine litter management workshop focused on abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear, sharing progress in policy and management. Joint efforts were made with the Asia Pacific Civil Forum on Marine Litter to share experiences with South East Asian countries. A beach cleanup campaign with local communities concluded 4 days of inspiring information and knowledge exchange.
49. *June 2018*: Four Northwest Pacific Action Plan members adopt the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 on June 25th, 2018. The Strategy envisions "a resilient Northwest Pacific marine and coastal environment, supporting sustainable development for the long-term benefit of present and future generations". This is to be promoted by leveraging the best scientific knowledge to inform policy- and decision-making and promoting intraregional cooperation and higher synergy among various activities. The Strategy ensures that Northwest Pacific Action Plan activities will support national and regional progress towards the Sustainable

Development Goals and thus marks a historic step in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan evolution.

50. *July 2018*: The January 2018 sinking, 160 nautical miles off Shanghai, of the oil tanker ‘Sanchi’, loaded with 136,000 tons of condensate, was the world’s largest marine pollution incident since the March 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska, in the United States of America. The world’s biggest oil spill at sea in decades was met with a speedy response thanks to timely information exchange, according to the maritime authorities of the countries exposed to the environmental disaster. An online marine Pollution Reporting System – set up by a joint United Nations Environment Programme and International Maritime Organization: Northwest Pacific Action Plan Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre enabled China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to speedily share information on the spreading spill and measures being taken to contain it. More than 250 reports were exchanged during the Sanchi incident exhibiting the importance of an effective information sharing platform such as the one set up by the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.
51. *October 2018*: Representatives of the four Member States of the UN Environment Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) attending the 23rd Northwest Pacific Region Intergovernmental Meeting from 9 – 11 October 2018 called for enhanced regional cooperation in support of SDG 14: Life Below Water in the Northwest Pacific. The annual Northwest Pacific Region Intergovernmental Meeting was convened to review implementation of the 24-year-old Northwest Pacific Action Plan.
52. The meeting launched an innovative project to produce up-to-date information on key species and habitats of transboundary concern in the Northwest Pacific Region that could be used as important indicators of biodiversity change caused by natural and human factors. The project will generate key information for a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation to be formulated as part of the medium-term strategy.
53. Member States also agreed to step up efforts to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter from their shores and seas and to identify and propose new projects to support implementation of the strategy. They also agreed in principle on how to monitor and evaluate its implementation using a number of criteria.
54. *March 2019*: Marine scientists from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation met in Vladivostok, Russian Federation in March 2019 to discuss ways of assessing the health of the seas shared by the four countries in order to support regional progress towards ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals.
55. The meeting, organized by the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC) of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan of the four-decades-old UN Environment Regional Seas Programme, discussed six most applicable indicators related to monitoring marine ecological quality in the region and agreed on the targets for the four of them, aligned with environmental Sustainable Development Goals.
56. *March 2019*: Marine scientists from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation meeting in Vladivostok, Russia in March 2019, endorsed the effectiveness of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) in protecting the region from eutrophication that threatens marine and human health and can severely harm fisheries and tourism.

57. The Regional Seas Programme's Northwest Pacific Action Plan intends to collaborate with global online search giant Google and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency to test NEAT to monitor eutrophication in oceans around the world, using cloud computing.
58. A significant reduction in marine pollution by 2025, in particular from land-based activities, is part of the commitment made by world leaders in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Use of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool will help countries in the region to report their progress to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

E. The Nairobi Convention

Ocean Governance and Partnerships

59. The Nairobi Convention held the Ninth Conference of Parties to Nairobi Convention on 30 – 31 August 2018 in Mombasa, Kenya. The ten Contracting Parties adopted fifteen decisions, including on priority areas such as the management of marine protected areas; marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and connectivity in exclusive economic zones and adjacent areas; ocean governance; pollution from land-based sources and activities; climate change; ocean acidification; environmental management for the oil and gas industry; growth of the blue economy; scientific research; fisheries management; marine spatial planning; integrated coastal management and the sustainable development of ports and harbours.
60. The Nairobi Convention has developed the Western Indian Ocean Regional Outlook on Marine Protected Areas. The Marine Protected Areas Outlook will provide regional baselines on protected areas for sustainable development goal 14.5 (which states that by 2020, states should conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information). The Outlook is expected to be launched later in 2019.
61. On 27 March 2019, Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention agreed on the final language for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol. States had started discussing the protocol in 2012, and the meeting in Dar es Salaam marked the fourth round of negotiations on the text. Some objectives of ICZM include promoting the sustainable use of resources; conserving the integrity and value of ecosystems, and preventing and mitigating the effects of natural and human threats to coastal and marine environments. The protocol provides a framework to promote regional and national ICZM and enhance cooperation for sustainable development in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. The protocol will now move to the Convention's Conference of Plenipotentiaries for formal adoption.
62. Nairobi Convention organized the Partnership Meeting with Regional Economic Communities and Commissions in the Western Indian Ocean Region in April 2019 in Durban, South Africa. The workshop established working relationships with Regional Economic Communities, Commissions, Fisheries bodies and regional scientific bodies in the WIO region to support and facilitate regional economic integration, promote sustainable development and governance in the member states. **A recommendation from the meeting was to establish a “core group” as a way for the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities, Commissions and partners to communicate on these initiatives.**

63. As part of its SAPPHIRE project (implemented by UNDP), the Nairobi Convention has held four partnership meetings on oceanographic data and scientific research in the WIO region from March -June 2019. The sessions brought together scientists, policy makers, and partners together to discuss the status of national data centres; identify priorities of countries in using, managing and owning data findings; and agree on mechanisms and partnerships to improve data collection, sharing, and archiving, among others. The data will support the updating of the national marine environment diagnostic analysis and develop a coastal and marine environment outlook for the Western Indian Ocean region.
64. The first meeting of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Litter Technical Working Group held on 13 - 14 June 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa, constituted its terms of reference as a forum for sharing and exchange of information; provide policy guidance and advice to the Nairobi Convention and other regional frameworks; and produce peer-reviewed publications and other products on marine litter. At the meeting, the Group approved its leadership, identified ongoing initiatives, and drafted a three-year workplan. The regional action plan on Marine Litter was validated earlier in November 2019.
65. Nairobi Convention showcased the results, related initiatives and key challenges of the project on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Deep Seas at the 2019 Deep-Sea Conference held in Rome, Italy in 9 May 2019. Stakeholders representing multiple sectors within the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction synthesized the opportunities and challenges faced and discussed support to sustainable deep-sea fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
66. The joint workshop on improved ocean planning and governance for areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) in South East Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean was held on 11 - 12 June 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa. workshop brought together stakeholders within the Western Indian Ocean and South East Atlantic Ocean regions to discuss the current status and challenges of global and regional ocean governance, foster exchange and build new networks. By developing a united voice towards shared interests in the ABNJ, African States seek to strengthen their potential to leverage opportunities for the common objectives of their people in future regional and global discussions. The Conference of the Parties of the Abidjan Convention in March 2017 had already recognised the importance of the preservation and sustainable use of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and established a working group to study all aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction under the Convention's framework (Decision COP 11/10). Similarly, the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention in August 2018 called on the Contracting Parties to cooperate with existing regional institutions on ocean governance and the conservation of marine biodiversity in adjacent areas beyond national jurisdiction, including preparing a feasibility, options and scenarios for the establishment of marine protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the Western Indian Ocean (Decision CP9/10).

Capacity Building and outreach in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region

67. Nairobi Convention, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) organized regional training courses on marine spatial planning (MSP) between October - September 2018 in Kenya and in Mauritius. The training course on MSP supported the implementation of the project on 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities'; and presented the concepts on Ecosystem-based

management including application to data, information and national needs on decision support tools, which are essential for integrated management of coastal zones. The Nairobi Convention held another training on MSP in Tanzania in March 2019, which allowed participants to examine MSP practices and tailor the implementation of MSP to their own maritime domains.

68. Nairobi Convention organised a Regional Training for Eastern Africa Countries on Oil Pollution Shoreline Clean-up Assessment and Response on 06-09 November, 2018 in Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with UN Environment Post Conflict and Disaster Management, Geneva; Oil for Development programme, Norway; the International Maritime Organisation and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited. The training focused on assessment and response to incidents where oil reaches the shoreline – providing an understanding of how oil affects the local environment, the different vulnerabilities present in the region and how to prioritize response actions.
69. The Nairobi Convention organized the Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to Policy Workshop on 27-29 May 2019 in Port Louis, Mauritius. The goal of the meeting was to establish and operationalize the Science to Policy Platform as a core structure within the Nairobi Convention; establish a Scientific and Policy Advisory Panel for the region; and to facilitate information-sharing between institutions and the Nairobi Convention and other regional processes. The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Platform, its membership and modus operandi; and discussed the need for a regional ecosystem/indicator monitoring framework and road map on its development.
70. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat organised a regional training workshop on 10–11 December 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique, in partnership with the UN Environment Global Programme of Action, on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. The workshop demonstrated the use of tools for management of pollution from land-based sources and activities, including the Technology Matrix for Wastewater; the Nutrient management Toolbox; and the Ecosystem health score card.
71. Nairobi Convention has developed tools and guidelines to support the implementation of national demonstration projects including: Mangrove restoration guidelines, seagrass restoration guidelines, climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit, economic valuation guidelines, and E-flows assessment toolkit and assessment of alternative livelihoods. The Guidelines/Toolkits capture respective WIO specific case studies on how the various interventions have worked and lessons learnt and are expected to be released in the coming year.
72. World Oceans Day was 8 June 2019, and the Nairobi Convention celebrated by releasing information on major issues facing the Western Indian Ocean region and how the contracting parties are working to sustainably protect, manage, and use their marine and coastal resources. In addition to sharing stories highlighting actions taken by each of its Contracting Parties, the Convention also received several stories from partner institutions outlining progress, challenges, and recommendations.

Project Implementation Demonstration Projects in the WIO region

73. The WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE Projects held their third and first, respectively, Project Steering Committee (PSC) from 25-27 June in Durban, South Africa. Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings: The Nairobi Convention held PSC meetings for its two GEF-funded projects: 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources – (WIOSAP) and Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems

Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms' (WIO LME SAPPHERE) in June 2019. The meetings approved progress reports and Terms of References; proposals and concepts for demo projects; Guidelines and Toolkits; and annual workplans and budgets.

74. Eight innovative initiatives to reduce land-based stresses through demonstration projects are underway in WIO region. These include integrated coastal zone management in Malindi-Sabaki estuary area in **Kenya**; integrated spatial planning in Kilifi county in **Kenya**; coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in **Mauritius**; habitat restoration and attraction of seabirds to ile aux Aigrettes in **Mauritius**; assessment of a blue carbon ecosystem in **Mauritius**; improving Mtwapa creek water quality in **Kenya**; monitoring effluent discharges, water, and sediment quality in **Madagascar**; and tackling marine litter in five river systems in KwaZulu-Natal in **South Africa**. Additional demonstration projects are in the pipeline in Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles and Comoros.

Upcoming Projects

75. Nairobi Convention has developed a Partnership project on 'Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth' with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Contracting Parties have committed to cooperating on fisheries management (through the SWIOFC) and on environmental protection (through the Nairobi Convention). Such cooperation will lead to a more integrated management of the fisheries and other uses of the coastal environment. The project will allow the Contracting Parties to benefit from a coordinated and mutually-reinforcing intervention on both fisheries and environment conservation beyond what could be obtained by uncoordinated interventions in a singular field. The project aims to improve food security, increase resilience, and reduce poverty of fisheries-dependent coastal communities.
76. The Nairobi Convention will be receiving funding and implementing the project on the Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel, funded by the Global Environment Facility, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Members of the Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C). The project will address scenarios for development to maximize the opportunities for sustainable development in the NMC, based on preservation of the health of marine ecosystems as a foundation for future prosperity. The project will use the holistic approach for Integrated Ocean Management to assist the countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal 14.

F. Cartagena Convention-Caribbean Environment Programme

77. To date, the Cartagena Convention has been ratified by 26 of 28 United Nations Member States in the Wider Caribbean Region. The Convention was adopted in 1983 and is supported by three Protocols, the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (17 Contracting Parties) and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) (14 Contracting Parties). On October 13, 2018, Honduras became the most recent country to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols. During 2018, technical support was provided by the Secretariat to the Governments of St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Haiti and Cuba to assist them

with their ratification process for the LBS Protocol while discussions with Mexico and Guatemala are ongoing with respect to possible ratification of the SPAW Protocol.

78. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention and the 10th and 4th Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW and LBS Protocols respectively, were held from June 3-6, 2019 in Roatán, Honduras. Among the key outcomes were the adoption of a new 2020-2030 Strategy for the Secretariat and approval of its Work Plan and Budget for the 2019-2020 biennium.
79. At the 10th SPAW COP Meeting, two new species were added to the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol: *Pristis pristis*, Largetooth sawfish to Annex II and the *Carcharhinus falciformis*, Silky shark to Annex III. The total number of listed species has now increased to 256. The 10th SPAW COP also endorsed two new protected areas: the Mount Scenery National Park of Saba Island proposed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the National Natural Reserve of Kaw-Roura and the National Natural Reserve of Amana, both in French Guiana, and proposed by the Government of France. These new additions bring the total number of SPAW listed sites to 35.
80. The COP to the Cartagena Convention adopted decisions to build partnerships for improving oceans governance through the Coordinating Mechanism established under the UNDP Global Environment Facility- Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (GEF CLME+) Project, as well as with the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention, the International Atomic Energy Agency, The Ocean Foundation, and the Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA).
81. Contracting Parties at the 4th LBS COP Meeting adopted the region's first State of Marine Pollution Report and decided to establish a new Open-Ended Working Group for Monitoring and Assessment to support the work of the LBS Protocol.
82. A report on the Status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Bans in the Wider Caribbean Region was finalized and presented as a resource document for Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region. The report summarizes the bans and policies that have been implemented in the region to support ongoing efforts to regulate the use and production of single-used plastics and Styrofoam. The report is complemented by an interactive map of the region depicting the geographical distribution of these bans.
83. Other publications which the Secretariat contributed on marine pollution included: Marine Pollution in the Caribbean: Not a Minute to Waste led by the World Bank, the Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean by GESAMP, and the Harmonized Manual on Marine Litter Monitoring in partnership with the OSPAR Commission and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI).
84. The three-year project "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean (EBM)" (extended to four years), funded by the Directorate for the Environment within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy is ongoing. Its objective is to increase the livelihood of the population in the Wider Caribbean Region by contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity, through the application of the EBM approach.
85. The project is now focused on improving functionality and updating the data sets of the CaMPAM database, especially Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) listed under the SPAW Protocol.

This will contribute to the SOMEE3/ CLME+ and SOCAR4 processes on the status of the Wider Caribbean marine environment. The process of redesigning the website is ongoing and will be launched via integration with the new server of the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention. The forum will be redesigned to encourage open and interactive discussions between members and to enhance linkages between managers of MPAs.

86. The Secretariat continues to promote the use of Ecosystem-Based Approaches and Marine Spatial Planning tools for integrating Habitat Restoration and Pollution Reduction projects. In Trinidad and Tobago, the sampling of water quality sites of the Guayamare Cunipia study/ Caroni swamp area was completed to address the impacts of land-based sources of pollutants on the mangrove swamp.
87. There has been continued progress towards the completion of the draft State of Habitat report and the 2020-2030 Regional Strategy and Action Plan and Investment Plan, supported by the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project. The full proposal for the GEF-funded Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW+) Project entitled 'Upscaling and enhancing the experience of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the wider Caribbean promoting through an integrated approach of innovative technical solutions and financing mechanisms' was developed and submitted to the GEF Secretariat in May 2019 for review and possible approval.
88. Marine litter remains a priority for the Wider Caribbean Region. The community- based project launched in Panama and Jamaica under the Trash Free Waters International Partnership involving the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reduced the impacts of marine litter on coastal and marine ecosystems, livelihoods and humans. Sandals Foundation has been coordinating the implementation of pilot project activities in the towns of Bluefields and Whitehouse in Jamaica since 2018. The project will be upscaled and replicated in other countries.
89. New communication products including technical reports, infographics and factsheets on pollution and marine biodiversity were developed to increase awareness of the state of the marine environment and the threats to the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. The Secretariat and the GCFI as co-hosts for the Caribbean Regional Node on Marine Litter Node expanded their communications and outreach efforts by developing factsheets on Microplastics, Marine Litter and Sargassum.
90. The Secretariat celebrated several environmental commemorative days including International Day for Biological Diversity, World Environment Day and World Oceans Day through outreach activities and/or social media promotion. A mini social media campaign was undertaken in May 2019 to enhance dissemination efforts about Ecosystem-Based Management in the region and its related pilot project in the Dominican Republic (#ecosystembasedmanagement). A one-month social media campaign on marine litter in July 2019 (#PlasticFreeJuly) is being coordinated through the Caribbean Marine Litter Node.
91. The Secretariat and GCFI convened a Marine Litter Expert Workshop in March 2019 to develop a 5-year plan for a Regional Marine Litter Strategy, including priority project proposal concepts for marine litter management in the Wider Caribbean Region. This will support the continued implementation of the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI). A two-day Regional Marine Litter Expert Workshop was also held from October 18-19, 2018 to highlight

³ The State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies

⁴ The State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) for the Wider Caribbean Region

best practices on harmonized monitoring strategies, assess the effectiveness of monitoring and propose arrangements for strengthening monitoring programmes, as well as the management of marine litter data.

92. The Secretariats of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Cartagena Convention have made a voluntary commitment to collaborate across the Atlantic as part of their contribution to fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14). In 2018, funding for their cooperative agreement was provided by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden, and a proposed full-sized five-year project is being drafted on the management of Marine Protected Areas and capacity building. The proposal will include input from a task group (France, the Netherlands and United Kingdom representatives in Europe and the Caribbean), as well as from the Cartagena Convention and OSPAR Secretariat staff.
93. There has been continued progress in the implementation of the 5-year GEF-funded project for Integrating Water, Land & Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF-IWEco) which focuses on the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems in small island developing states. Since the last reporting period, Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) were prepared for Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Jamaica and St. Kitts & Nevis. In relation to environmental education, communication and awareness activities for the project under Component 4, a total of 8 webinars were conducted with over 72 participants being trained to date.
94. The GEF IWEco Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) hosted their 3rd Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting (RPSC3) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 2-4 April 2019 and their Governance Partnership Meeting in March 2019. In November 2018, the IWEco National Projects in Jamaica and Cuba ("Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity from the Integrated Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Cuba") were launched. A regional training workshop on Ecosystem Services Assessment and Valuation (ESAV) and Carbon Sequestration was also held in May 2019 as part of Component 2 of the IWEco project.
95. After the launch of the Global "Clean Seas Campaign" in 2017, the Secretariat actively promoted participation in the campaign and currently, 10 countries have signed on to the campaign in less than 15 months. Of the countries signed on to Campaign, seven (7) of these member states are also Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol. These countries include the Governments of Panama, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Saint Lucia, Grenada and France.
96. The Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol on Oil Spills, (RAC REMPEITC-Caribe) based in Willemstad, Curacao completed the feasibility study for the possible development of a Regional Reception Facility for Ship Generated Wastes among the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Wider Caribbean Region. The study includes a detailed analysis of shipping data, site visits and assessments of ports in 16 U.N. Member SIDS, and identification of possible measures to address the inadequacy of port reception facilities (PRFs) throughout the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).
97. Support from the SPAW Protocol's Regional Activity Centre has been integral in the implementation of two significant projects funded by the EU, namely, the Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network (CARI'MAM Project: 2017-2020) and the Caribbean Coastal Risks related to Climate Change for a Monitoring and Prevention Network (CARIB Coast Project). The CARI'MAM Project was launched in Martinique in October 2018.

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)

98. The GPA continues to focus its efforts mainly on the three pollution source categories of nutrients, wastewater, and marine litter, through establishment and management of global partnerships, in response to the Manila Declaration. The GPA held its 4th Intergovernmental review Meeting in Bali in October 2018. The review meeting was attended by more than 240 delegates, representing over 60 states. The meeting also saw the participation of UN partner agencies, intergovernmental organizations observers, experts, the private sector and the academia. The meeting considered the review of the work of the Programme since the last intergovernmental review held in the Philippines in 2012, the outlook on future work and strategic options for management of the Programme, mandate and alignment to the UN Environment Assembly. The meeting concluded with a “Bali Declaration” where countries affirmed the need for continued focus on the priority marine pollution categories, namely marine litter, nutrients, and wastewater. The countries underscored the value of the work of the global partnerships associated with the three pollution categories with encouragement for strengthening. The meeting mandated the GPA Coordination Office to complete the review of the future options of the Programme for presentation at the next UN Environment Assembly (UNEA4) for consideration by countries.
99. The GPA of UN Environment has developed a new project document titled “Protecting the Marine Environment from Land-Based Pollution through Strengthened Coordination of Global Action.” The project, launched in January 2019, will be implemented on a global level and includes partners such as international organizations, the private sector, and NGOs. It aims to strengthen responses to land-based pollution, enhance co-operation and foster action to tackle the issues related to wastewater pollution, nutrient management, and marine litter also through the key role of global partnerships, including the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I).
100. The GPA has organized side events during the 4th UN Environment Assembly, which was hosted by UN Environment from 10 to 15 March 2019 at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The events took place in the Clean Seas Tent, were all well attended and allowed the audience to interact with speakers and experts coming from different sectors directly, and across the entire globe. A cross-cutting event, aiming to touch upon the three main source categories of pollution tackled by the GPA, was organized to discuss the nexus between nutrients, wastewater, and plastic pollution (<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/session-nasty-nexus-nutrients-wastewater-and-marine-litter>).

Wastewater and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I)

101. UN Environment through the GPA/Wastewater has provided support to the Tanzanian government in developing guidelines and standards for decentralized wastewater management systems. An expert meeting was held in Tanzania in January 2018 for selected sector experts to revise and provide input to the Guidelines for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems. This activity was part of a project implemented by UN Environment together with the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA), who is also a member of the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I) and UN-Habitat. The project aimed to support the scaling-up of decentralized sanitation solutions throughout Tanzania. Inputs gathered have been compiled into one final document, presented to relevant ministries and used as a basis for developing standards on decentralized wastewater treatment systems for Tanzania and other potential countries.

102. UN Environment, through the GPA/Wastewater, has developed and completed the implementation of the activities of phase two of a ⁵community-based project for biodiversity conservation and local community development through tree planting supported by Korea Forest Service (KFS) in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Morocco.
103. A Policy Brief on SDG6 has been developed by the Science Division of UN Environment, in collaboration with the Freshwater Unit and the GPA/Wastewater. The Sustainable Development Goals Policy Briefs highlight a hotspot of environmental concern. The evidence provided builds on the scientific data and information hosted on the online platform Environment Live and is complemented by stories from around the world.
104. A Sanitation and Wastewater Story Map⁶ has been developed under the ongoing “Wastewater Management and Sanitation Provision in Africa Project,” which is a partnership between UN Environment and the GPA, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and GRID-Arendal. The story map has won the first place in the Infrastructure, Planning and Government category of the “Storytelling with Maps” contest run by ESRI. This Story Map illustrates challenges associated with the inadequate infrastructure for sanitation provision and wastewater management in Africa at a time when volumes are increasing due to population growth, and expansion in industry and agriculture. ⁷Case studies are given from Kenya and from across Africa.
105. The project aims at profiling the trends in wastewater management and sanitation delivery in Africa through a range of communication products. The project also envisages to identifying advocates who can bring attention to the issues of sanitation provision and wastewater management in Africa. In line with this, Rocky Dawuni, a famous singer from Ghana, has embraced the role of advocate for wastewater management.
106. The GPA participated in the review workshop of the “Wastewater and Sanitation Atlas.” The Atlas is among the major outputs of the “Wastewater Management and Sanitation Provision in Africa” project, implemented together with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and GRID-Arendal. The workshop gathered the lead authors, reviewers, representatives of the project partners, as well as government representatives, and experts from the academia, to further review the Atlas before finalization. The meeting also served as an opportunity to address pending matters and explore opportunities for further collaboration among the participants. In 2019, the Sanitation and Wastewater Atlas has also been further developed is currently being finalized.
107. A Science-to-Policy Brief on managing wastewater to support the health and resilience of coral reefs and titled “Wastewater Pollution on Coral Reefs” has been developed by the GPA and the Coral Reef Unit of UN Environment. This brief provides policy and management recommendations for addressing and reducing the impacts of wastewater on coral reefs, based on current scientific knowledge. It promotes integrated planning and management, awareness-raising, capacity-building and other efforts to improve monitoring of wastewater loading and its impacts, among key stakeholder groups. It is primarily aimed at national and state policymakers.
108. UN Environment through the GPA/Wastewater continues to provide support in the implementation of the UNEA3 resolutions. Inputs on the ongoing activities in support of the implementation of the UNEA3 resolutions related to wastewater were recently shared during a

⁵ https://papersmart.unon.org/igr-meeting/sites/default/files/lessonslearntdocument_7_27.pdf

⁶ <https://www.grida.no/resources/12638>

⁷ <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=caf411c40c3442b782406de631bddb2f>

multi-stakeholder brainstorming session on the UNEA3 implementation plan in Paris, 13-14 June 2018.

109. The GPA/Wastewater through the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I) has organized side events during the 4th UN Environment Assembly, which was hosted by UN Environment from 10 to 15 March 2019 at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. One event focused on reusing wastewater and the related business models and innovative solutions⁸ while another event aimed to shed light on the emerging issue of microplastics in wastewater.⁹
110. A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) titled “From Source to Sea to Sustainability. Integrated Cycle in Wastewater and Nutrient Management¹⁰” was developed by UN Environment/GPA, Concordia University and the Loyola Sustainability Research Centre to raise awareness and build capacity on the two pollution streams.
111. UN Environment, through the GPA/Wastewater and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I) is organizing a series of webinars to enhance the understanding and recognition of wastewater as a resource as well as to expand knowledge generation, awareness raising and outreach on crucial issues related to sustainable wastewater management. The webinars also serve as an opportunity for the members of the Global Wastewater Initiative to share their expertise and experiences regarding critical issues related to sustainable wastewater management. The first webinar titled “The need for innovative financial mechanisms for sustainable wastewater management,” hosted by UN Environment was held on 30 April 2018. A second webinar titled “The impact of land-based pollution on coral reefs: focus on nutrients, plastics and wastewater” was hosted by UN Environment on 24 May 2018. Two more webinars on the reuse of greywater and on the need for financing wastewater infrastructures were held in November 2018 and February 2019.
112. The GPA/Wastewater organized a mini-workshop on the “polluter pays” principle in March 2018. The mini-workshop explored the “polluter pays” principle from different perspectives, which triggered discussions around the benefits and challenges of implementing the principle as well as some possible undertakings for UN Environment.

Nutrient Management and the Global Partnership on Nutrients Management (GPNM)

113. Under the nutrient pollution portfolio, the Secretariat continues to support the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) within UN Environment’s Programme of Work. The GPNM, in collaboration with the GW²I supported through the GPA, delivered a relaunch of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on nutrients and wastewater management over the first quarter of 2019 to assist in the outreach and availability of web-based resources. Concordia University of Montreal, Canada developed the MOOC sourcebook and online platform, and administered the MOOC roll-out which had an uptake of just over 1,080 registrants from 170 countries.
114. Under the GEF-funded Global Nutrient Cycling (GEF-GNC) Project that is completed, a significant body of knowledge related to quantitative modelling approaches (based on tools such

⁸ <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/session-innovative-solutions-wastewater-reuse>

⁹ <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/session-microplastics-wastewater-hidden-threat>

¹⁰ <https://forum.susana.org/140-courses-including-online-courses-and-trainings/23084-massive-open-online-course-from-source-to-sea-to-sustainability-integrated-cycle-in-wastewater-and-nutrient-management-registrations-open-until-1-march-2019>

as Global NEWS model), on coastal nutrient enrichment has been generated with several published scientific journal articles available on the topic. Key collaborators to this work included IOC-UNESCO along with University of Utrecht, Washington State University and University of the Philippines. The nutrient load data is fully integrated in a Global Nutrient Management Toolbox that has also been developed under the project, along with a comprehensive suite of best field and policy management practices which is accessible through the Nutrientchallenge.org website. The watershed-based nutrient flux modelling for the Manila Bay watershed led by the Marine Science institute of the University of the Philippines is complete. The work supported the design of watershed BMPs and strategies for addressing nutrient loading into the receiving environment. Specific deliverables included the Environmental Atlas of Manila Bay, the Laguna de Bay ecosystem health report card (Philippines), the Management plan for the Manila Bay and State of Coast reports for provinces surrounding Manila Bay. Under the project Chilika Lake ecosystem health report card (India) was also developed.

115. A collaboration established with the World Resource Institute to prepare experience notes on the implementation highlights of the project and market the nutrient management toolbox to global users. GRID-Arendal was engaged to translate the key scientific outputs from the project to a suite of information products for wider audiences and decision makers in the formats that include information graphics, a map atlas and a story-map that focuses on Manila Bay. The work under the GEF-GNC Project is now being extended to support the development of the SDG 14.1 target indicator on nutrient pollution of the marine environment in collaboration with IOC-UNESCO and other partners under the guide of UN Environment's Science Division.
116. Completion of a project in Sri Lanka on reducing the risk of degradation of coral reef ecosystems by addressing nutrient, wastewater and other land-based sources of marine pollution. The project contributed to strengthening local and regional enabling environments to foster the uptake and adoption of innovative approaches in reducing threats to coral reefs from land-based pollution. This initiative was a contributory to the UNEA2 resolution on the protection of coral reefs and fed into activities under the 2018 International Year of the Coral Reef. Further, South Asian countries have agreed to develop a transboundary International Waters GEF funded project towards the protection of Coral reefs, Mangroves and Seagrass in Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME), Arabian Sea and then also partly in the Indian Ocean.
117. At the 4th Plenary of *International Nitrogen Management System (INMS-4) Project*, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, along with representatives of relevant conventions participated in a high-level segment to commence the process of consideration of global policy options for integrated nitrogen management. Science-based community agreed to support countries take actions to address the impacts of reactive nitrogen in the environment.
118. Adoption of the '[Sustainable Nitrogen Management resolution](#)' during UNEA-4 led by the Government of India. Member states recognized that reactive nitrogen has adverse pollution impacts on terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Poor nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) management contributes to world's food security. In the next two years, the GPNM will take the lead in facilitating better coordination of policies on the nitrogen cycle; explore sustainable options for nitrogen management; coordinate existing relevant platforms for assessment of improved nitrogen management; conduct capacity-building activities for policy-makers and practitioners; and support member states on informed decision-making on nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) management.

119. The 2018/19 edition of the [UN Environment Frontiers Report](#) highlighted - "[The Nitrogen Fix: From Nitrogen Cycle Pollution to Nitrogen Circular Economy](#) focusing on the emerging issues of environmental concern" in chapter 4 of the report.
120. The Joint [Global Partnership on Nutrient Management \(GPNM\)](#) and [Global Wastewater Initiative \(GW2I\)](#) meeting discussed how to strengthen the synergies between the two partnerships through; restructuring the composition of the steering committees so they are fit for purpose to deliver the expected progress; building on the momentum of already existing projects and initiatives (including existing good practices and experiences, for example, the Global Soil Partnership, or the Global Challenge Research Fund); ensuring effective science communication by the partnerships on the development of products and; creating a joint database by the two partnerships which will, in turn, be used by the International Nitrogen Management System for policy actions.
121. The Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities' (WIOSAP) Project, in collaboration with the [Global Programme of Action](#) hosted a workshop on application of tools and approaches for the management of land-based pollution. Three specific tools were featured in the training; (1) the nutrient runoff calculator derived from the [Global NEWS \(Global Nutrient Export from WaterSheds\) model](#) that is contained in the GPNM nutrient management toolbox; (2) a wastewater technology matrix (screening assessment) tool developed by the Global Wastewater Initiative in association with the [International Water Association \(IWA\)](#), and (3) the ecosystem health report card that has been applied in GPNM-supported projects in India and the Philippines.
122. The 'Soil in the nexus' event during the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), discussion considered the unbalanced and geographically uneven access to and use of fertilizers (e.g. in the Africa region), and the need for fine-tuning best practices in nutrient use efficiency in accordance with the agro-ecological conditions. There is recognized need for better synergies between agriculture and environment ministries in designing mutually benefiting policies to effect for better results on the ground from both the perspective of food production and maintenance of ecosystem services.
123. UN Environment organized a technical exchange between experts from [Laguna Lake Development Authority \(LLDA\)](#) of the Philippines, [Chilika Lake Development Authority \(CDA\)](#) of India and national stakeholders concerned with preserving the environmental and water quality of [Lake Naivasha](#) in Kenya. This exchange was to facilitate the development of an Ecosystem Health Report Card (EHRC) in a replication effort for Lake Naivasha, based on work undertaken in India and the Philippines as part of the Project, that is executed by the Global Programme of Action with oversight by the Steering Committee of the GPNM.

124. [UN Environment](#), under the [Global Programme of Action \(GPA\)](#) in association with [IOC-UNESCO](#), brought together some 23 scientific experts, [Regional Seas Programmes \(HELCOM, NOWPAP, MAP\)](#) and earth observation specialists from [NASA Ames Research Center](#) and the [European Space Agency](#) working on the science of marine pollution indicators, data capture and dissemination, to advance the global methodology development on eutrophication and plastic debris assessment under SDG Target 14.1. target indicators, specifically, the index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP) and floating plastic debris, along with other relevant metrics. The meeting also explored the application of ‘big data’ through earth observation systems and how these can be applied in monitoring freshwater and coastal pollution. Participants considered the process to facilitate country adoption of a ‘harmonized approach’ to report on the SDG14.1 target.
125. The concern over the impact of climate change related to ocean temperatures and influences on the proliferation and persistence of harmful algal blooms will continue to be tracked under the nutrient management portfolio of the GPA. Efforts will continue toward improving the understanding of the phenomenon through research, while bolstering national measures to reduce nutrient loading (agricultural discharges, municipal wastewater) to the environment require continued, and in some areas, stepped-up attention. The sargassum proliferation events in the Caribbean and West Africa in recent years have been suggested by researchers to be potentially linked to this phenomenon. In the Caribbean, there is collaboration under the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project to develop a nutrient management strategy and in the West Africa region under the Abidjan Convention, an alien invasive species response strategy that includes sargassum management has been developed.

Marine Litter and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

126. One of the main focuses of the GPA during the period under review was continued development of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) which is a voluntary open-ended partnership for international agencies, governments, businesses, academia, local authorities, and civil society. As well as supporting the Global Partnership on Waste Management, GPML seeks to protect human health and the global environment through several specific objectives, with reduction and management of marine litter as its main goal. UN ENVIRONMENT provides the Secretariat for the GPML in line with the mandate received in the “*Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the GPA*”, and leads on the focal area on land-based sources of marine litter. FAO and IMO lead the focal area on sea-based sources of marine litter. Much support has been provided to various organizations, including Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Regional nodes for the GPML have been established in the Northwest Pacific, co-hosted by the Northwest Pacific Environmental Cooperation Center and the NOWPAP Secretariat, and the Wider Caribbean Region, hosted by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.
127. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group was held in United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya from 29 to 31 May 2018. The Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group was established in response to UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 Marine Litter and Microplastics. It was attended by 266 participants, representing 72 member States, 9 intergovernmental organizations and 28 observers representing major groups and stakeholders accredited to the United Nations Environment

Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. The second meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 3 to 7 December 2018¹¹.

128. As a follow up to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1, 2014) resolution 1/6 on Marine plastic debris and microplastics study which was presented to the Second Session of UNEA (UNEA-2) recommendations for the most urgent the working group 40 of the GESAMP focused on a study to provide guidelines for a harmonised approach for assessment and monitoring of marine plastics and microplastics. The report will be published before the end of the year. These methodologies will be useful for monitoring on SDG 14.1.1.
129. The first meeting of the expert group, in May 2018, was attended by 266 participants representing 72 member States, 3 non-member States, 9 intergovernmental organizations and 28 observers representing accredited major groups and stakeholders.
130. UN Environment and the Open University have created a [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#) on Marine Litter. It is part of [Clean Seas](#) and contributes to the goals of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The MOOC on marine litter strives to teach students through action-oriented learning how they can apply successful and inspiring activities to their own local context, regardless of their profession or location. The course will present different options and tools to combat marine pollution such as the use of effective and legitimate tools like the Honolulu Strategy. The course will provide examples and case studies that will inspire leadership at all levels, thereby increasing awareness of and stimulating creative solutions to marine litter problems. Moreover, this course will benefit policymakers, practitioners, and managers who wish to connect with other professionals in order to enhance their knowledge of marine litter issues. The Course is on-going.
131. The Coordination Office continued to implement awareness-raising activities, such as the five-year Clean Seas campaign, launched in February 2017. The campaign promotes improved plastics management through a drastic reduction in the use of single-use plastics and a global phasing-out of microplastics in personal care and cosmetics products. By June 2018, more than 50 Governments had joined the campaign and made substantial commitments in that regard. For example, the Government of Indonesia set an ambitious target of reducing marine litter generated by that country by 70 per cent by 2025. ¹²The Government of India commemorated World Environment Day on 5 of June 2018 under the theme “Beat plastic pollution!”.

¹¹ <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeg>

¹² <https://www.cleanseas.org/>