

UNDP's Sustainable Ocean Management Programme assists groups of countries sharing 10 of the world's most important Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in applying integrated, ecosystem-based, climate resilient approaches to sustaining LME ecosystem services. UNDP has been applying the LME approach to regional ocean governance since 1995 and has been involved as a GEF Agency in 13 of the 21 LMES supported by the GEF. Through transboundary diagnostic analyses and support to the development and implementation of LME action programmes, the programme helps to put in place LME governance regimes to transform markets and create sustainable productive use patterns of coastal and ocean resources.

With continued support and facilitation by UNDP/GEF BCLME programme, the **Benguela Current Convention**, the world's first legal framework for a Large Marine Ecosystem, came into force in 2014 following its ratification by South Africa, Namibia and Angola. The objective of the Convention is to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, to provide economic, environmental and social benefits. The resources of the BCLME contribute at least \$269 billion per year to the economies of the region. The convention formally requires parties to sustainably use marine resources, minimize pollution, reverse and prevent habitat loss, collect and share relevant data, protect biological diversity and conduct Environmental Impact Assessments. The Benguela Current Convention also formally establishes the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) – in existence since 2007 – as a permanent inter-governmental organisation. In parallel, the countries ministerially endorsed the revised Strategic Action Programme for the BCLME in August 2014, bringing the SAP fully in line with country obligations under the new convention.

With support from UNDP/GEF ATSEA programme, the **Timor-Arafura Seas Strategic Action Programme** was ministerially endorsed by Indonesia, East Timor and Australia. The SAP commits the three countries to a series of priority actions to recover and sustain fisheries, restore degraded habitats, reduce land and marine-based pollution, protect key marine species, and promoted ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. Implementation of the SAP will help deliver an estimated 15-20% reduction in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management across the ATS; enhance protection and management of 20% of the marine and coastal habitats; deliver a 20% decrease in direct and indirect harvesting of threatened and migratory species; and enhance climate resilience in 60% or more of at-risk coastal villages.

A 10-year Strategic Action Programme for the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the **Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems** was endorsed in 2013 and provides a comprehensive roadmap through strengthened and consolidated regional cooperation. Six strategies have been defined under the SAP, and short-term (1-5 years) and medium-term (6-10 years) actions have been proposed under each strategy. This is the first time that 20+ countries have agreed on a common approach towards the management and governance of a Large Marine Ecosystem.