



Role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in the Regular Process, preparation of integrated assessments and capacity building activities

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- ▶ **Some concrete examples** of participation of RSCs (Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas) in the Regular Process and other relevant initiatives and commitments (SDGs, Ocean Governance, Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) etc.).



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ The UNEP/(UN Environment) Regional Seas Programme has been an integral part of ocean governance since its establishment in 1974. There are eighteen **(18) Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) around the world** (Arctic, Antarctic, Black Sea, Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Africa, East Asia, ROPME sea area, Mediterranean, Northeast Atlantic, Northeast Pacific, Northwest Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South Asia, South East Pacific, and West, Central and Southern Africa), of which **seven (7) Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans** (Caribbean Region, Caspian Sea, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa Region, Mediterranean Region, North-West Pacific region, Western Africa Region) **are administered by UN Environment.**
- ▶ Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) focus on promoting regional cooperation for sound management of the marine and coastal environment. Generally, RSCAPs operate through the implementation of Action Plans, most of which are accompanied by a legally binding framework in the form of a regional convention and associated protocols relating to specific issues, including specially protected areas, protection of the environment from accidental oil and chemical spills, and from land-based pollution.



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ **Global Meetings of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are being held annually** and they concentrate on collaboration to increase the visibility and strategic involvement of RSCAPs in key processes at global and regional levels.

- ▶ For that RSCAPs:
 - Prepare **Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD)** every three years;

 - Prepare inputs to the **Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action** for The Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA); and

 - Stepwise plans for RSCAPs to **respond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the SDGs)**.



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ In particular, **Sustainable Development Goal 14** provides extensive targets on marine biodiversity and ecosystems;
- ▶ Regional targets related to the SDG-Oceans and marine related Aichi Targets of the CBD and were encouraged to work in **two areas**:
- ▶ (1) internalising the SDGs in their strategic documents (Action Plans, thematic action plans, SAPs and national programmes of action) and further implementing these documents through regionally coordinated national action; and
- ▶ (2) coordinating the national monitoring of the SDGs through the regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms.



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ Cross sectoral approaches have been promoted and cooperation in 'marine ecosystems' at the regional seas level (**for example, Baltic Sea, Western Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean**) is highlighted;
- ▶ UN-Environment elaborated **case studies** to highlight experiences and lessons learnt of the actual institutional cooperation and/or coordinated policy development between/across regional organisations/mechanisms;
- ▶ The case studies produced were **compiled into a report with a synthesis of experiences and lessons learnt** and published by UN-Environment with European Union funding.



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ Regional Seas Indicators Working Group:
- ▶ UNEP launched a report: *Measuring Success: Indicators for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans*, in which **indicators used in different Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans have been compiled and presented;**
- ▶ Many of them covering: the state of **water quality, pollution loads, the status of key ecosystems, indicator species, major threats to key ecosystems;**
- ▶ In 2015, after UNEP Report, the **Regional Seas Indicators Working Group was established.**
- ▶ So far **22 Core set of the Regional Seas indicators** were adopted and information on **3 indicators were compiled and discussed by the WG remotely:**
 - ▶ *Indicator 1 (chlorophyll -a);*
 - ▶ *Indicator 3 (beach litter);*
 - ▶ *Indicator 22 (ICZM).*



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ Regional Seas Indicators Working Group:
- ▶ Contribution to the global assessment – World Ocean Assessment (WOA II);
- ▶ Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP);
- ▶ Track down the achievement of the defined and agreed management targets and objectives in Regional Seas action plans, and conventions and protocols, harmonize approaches (incl. MSFD Directive and similar regional legislation).



Relevant activities and coordination role of the DOALOS and UN-Environment:

- ▶ With regard to coordination, UN-Environment is in charge of coordinating the work of all RSCs. At the same time, **need to coordinate concerns not only the cooperation among RSCs, but also with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and relevant organizations**, such as CBD Convention;
- ▶ The Memorandum of Understanding between **OSPAR and NEAFC**, the one between **UNEP/ MAP/Barcelona Convention** and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (**GFCM**), **CBD EBSA Process** are considered as good models of synergies between fisheries management and environmental management.



Participation of RSCs in the Regular Process, Participation of WOA II: capacity needs, data gaps and overlaps:

- ▶ in considering the second cycle of Regular Process, Delegations expressed the view that **greater effort needed to be made to ensure the Assessment is widely publicized**, in order to ensure that the scientific community remains engaged and to encourage consideration of the Assessment findings by States, including through relevant regional and international bodies, with respect to informing management, policy and capacity-building decisions;
- ▶ The need to **establish partnerships with different types of stakeholders**, including UN Agencies, NGOs, and institutes at national and regional levels, was also highlighted by a number of delegations;
- ▶ therefore, **intergovernmental organizations were invited to suggest members of the Pool of Experts**, who become members if there is no objection from the relevant State;



Participation of RSCs in the Regular Process, tion of WOA II: capacity needs, data gaps and overlaps:

- ▶ UN-Environment took a lead and, in close collaboration with DOALOS, **recommended experts with the requisite areas of specialization to the pool of experts** for the second cycle of the World Oceans Assessment;
- ▶ The second round of Regional Workshops allowed not only representatives of States in each of the five main ocean regions, but also relevant RSCAPs to (1) make inputs on issues that they regard as **regionally important** and to **identify regional sources of information**; (2) to allow members of writing teams to meet to **discuss the structure and drafting** of the various chapters and sub-chapters.



Overview of Integrated Assessments by RSCs and Action Plans:

- ▶ The **HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea Report** is a comprehensive assessment of the status of the Baltic Sea in 2011-2016 and builds upon experience gained from the HELCOM initial holistic assessment in 2010. This initial assessment provided for the first time a coherent assessment of the Baltic Sea ecosystem and its pressures from a holistic perspective, based on available data and prevailing knowledge. Through the HELCOM coordinated work of hundreds of experts, 30 regionally agreed core indicators have been made operational and are included in this assessment to reflect the status of the Baltic Sea environment, together with 5 indicators included as test;
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- ▶ The **UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention** works on State of Environment and Development Report of 2019, the MED 2050, the 2nd Horizon 2020 regional assessment (2019), EEA's 50 year European Environment – State and Outlook 2020 Report (SoER 2020) and the next UN Environment/MAP Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023);
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- ▶ **OSPAR carries out the Intermediate Assessment 2017** of the marine environment in OSPAR's waters. The planned online format for the IA2017 will enable access to high-level summaries and detailed background documents for common indicator assessments, as well as links to the relevant data. OSPAR will make the IA2017 available as a common regional report for relevant EU Member States to use in their national reporting on the state of the marine environment in their waters under the MSFD;
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- ▶ The **Black Sea Commission finalized its State of Environment Report for 2009-2014** (with socio-economic part) and plans the next 5-years reporting.



Overview of Integrated Assessments by RSCs and Action Plans:

- ▶ FAO General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM) launched the **“State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2018 (SoMFi 2018)”** at the Fish Forum on 11th December, 2018 in Rome;
- ▶ CBD Convention successfully carries out its global **EBSA description process** (by holding the CBD regional workshops, EBSAs merge marine and coastal physical, biological and biogeographical information held by States, diverse scientific institutions and individual experts).



Effective tool: SOI Initiative

- ▶ The **Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)** is a global capacity building platform, supported by the Governments of Japan, France, the Republic of Korea and Sweden, and the European Union, that is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and implemented in collaboration with a wide range of partners. Under the framework of SOI, the SCBD, UN Environment and FAO created an initiative to provide a platform for enhanced dialogue among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies.
- ▶ This initiative, the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, is the **first of its kind at the global level**. Thus far, two meetings of the SOI Global Dialogue have been convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea; the first in September 2016 and the second in April 2018.
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Effective tool: SOI Initiative

- ▶ These meetings have gathered representatives of regional seas organizations (RSOs), regional fishery bodies (RFBs), including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and United Nations/international organizations/initiatives as well as experts from national governments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations to:
 - ▶ • **Share experiences** both within and across regions on various issues of common interest;
 - ▶ • **Identify tangible opportunities** to enhance regional-scale collaboration and coordination on fisheries and environment issues; and
 - ▶ • Identify opportunities for enhanced regional-scale collaboration to **contribute to global goals and processes**.
- ▶ The SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs has also sought to **share lessons from regions** that have significantly advanced in regional-scale coordination.



Current challenges in capacity building:

- ▶ **geographical fragmentation, the lack of implementation, the lack of capacities and the lack of coordination between entities;** limited scope of their action as most RSCs do not have the mandate to apply management measures to areas beyond national jurisdictions (**ABNJ**);
- ▶ the need for harmonization of scientific assessments and strengthening of monitoring and data/information sharing to support development of **targets and indicators**;
- ▶ opportunities to build on existing collaborations and to **harmonize and streamline strategies and policies**;
- ▶ securing and **optimizing resources** to facilitate implementation of SDGs and Aichi Targets;
- ▶ enhance the **application of the ecosystem approach and ecosystem-based management**;
- ▶ strengthen the **effectiveness of area-based management tools**.



Conclusions:

- ▶ Coordination work by DOALOS and UN-Environment, participation in initiatives such as SOI **brings regular chance to discuss and coordinate our efforts**, to deepen collaboration with RSCs and other Regional fisheries and biodiversity organizations, as well as donors and, therefore, to contribute to the elaboration of WOA II and Regular Process, in general;
- ▶ The particular feature and success of the second round of regional workshops in support of the second cycle of the Regular Process was that the **representatives of the RSCAPS were present at almost all workshops held, and took a solid commitment to contribute to the success of the WOA II** by appointing relevant experts and presenting the relevant publications intended to support the development of the WOAI by enabling the collection of regional-level data and enabling relevant members of writing teams to meet.



Thank you for your kind attention!!!