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***Regional Oceans Governance: Making Regional Sea Programmes,
Regional Fisheries Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanisms
Better Work Together***

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REGIONAL OCEANS GOVERNANCE

Making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional
Fishery Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem
Mechanisms Work Better Together

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Making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fishery Bodies and Large
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Context of the paper

The development of regional governance for the protection of the environment and its biodiversity is unquestionably a cornerstone of international environmental law and policy. With regard to marine and coastal issues, regional oceans governance has mainly been taking place through: (i) Regional Seas programmes, many of them supported or coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); (ii) regional fishery bodies (RFBs), some established under the framework of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and (iii) Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) mechanisms, including projects supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Although based on a similar geographical approach, these regional mechanisms raise concerns relating to their coordination and efficiency, and possibly overlap in what they aim to achieve.

Objectives of the paper

The review of existing regional oceans governance mechanisms in this paper is intended to assist states that participate in such mechanisms, as well as those that consider participating, by clarifying the key distinctions between the mandates of these mechanisms, and highlighting the successes and challenges of existing mechanisms and cooperation between them. Furthermore, options are identified for strengthening existing mechanisms and cooperation between them, as well as for the creation of new regional oceans governance mechanisms, with particular reference to the ecosystem approach.

Disclaimer

Chapter 1 and most of Annex II were submitted for the first time to UNEP on respectively 3 October 2012 and 4 October 2012. Improvements to the text have been made afterwards, but Annex II has not been updated since then. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect UNEP's positions.

Regional Oceans Governance

Making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fishery Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem Mechanisms Work Better Together

Raphaël Billé, Lucien Chabason, Petra Drankier, Erik J. Molenaar, Julien Rochette

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List of Acronyms

Note: acronyms for international instruments and RFBs are not included. As regards RFBs, see Table 3.2 in subsection 3.3.1 for a complete list of RFBs with acronyms.

| | |
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| ABNJ | Areas beyond national jurisdiction |
| Areas Beyond | National Jurisdiction |
| ATS | Antarctic Treaty System |
| BBNJ Working Group | Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction |
| BCC | Benguela Current Commission |
| BP/RAC | Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre |
| CBD | Convention on biological diversity |
| CCLME | Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem |
| COBSEA | Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia |
| COFI | FAO Committee on Fisheries |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| EAF | ecosystem approach to fisheries |
| EAS | East Asian Seas |
| EBM | ecosystem-based management |
| EBSA | ecologically or biologically significant marine area |
| EEZ | exclusive economic zone |
| EIA | environmental impact assessment |
| EU | European Union |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation |
| FFEM | Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial |
| GAIRAS | generally accepted international rules and standards |
| GCC | Guinea Current Commission |
| GCLME | Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem |
| GEF | Global Environmental Facility |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GFCM | General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea |

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