



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



UNEP (DEPI)/ VW.1 /WP.7

Original: ENGLISH

Regional Seas Visioning Workshop  
Geneva, Switzerland, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014

***Workshop Report***

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies

## **REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP**

The Regional Seas Visioning Workshop was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 3 – 4 July 2014.

### **Workshop Attendance**

The workshop was attended by Co-ordinators/Representatives from the following Regional Seas and organizations: Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention (MAP), Black Sea Commission, Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU), COBSEA, Helsinki Convention (HELCOM), Jeddah Convention (PERSGA), Nairobi Convention, Noumea Convention (SPREP), NOWPAP, OSPAR Convention, South Asian Seas (SACEP), Tehran Convention (Caspian), Food and Agriculture Organization / Regional Fisheries Bodies, Global Environment Facility (GEF), European Commission, UN-Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNEP-Grid Arendal, UNEP-WCMC.

### **Opening of the workshop**

1. The workshop was opened at 09.00 a.m. on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 by Jacqueline Alder, Head, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, UNEP. She welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and partners for coming to Geneva and participating in this Visioning Workshop that aimed to identify the future trends and priorities for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, taking into account the milestones, achievements and challenges that this framework has undergone in the past 40 years. She recalled the current context in which the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans interact, dominated by heavy fragmentation of ocean governance and a concerning over-exploitation of marine resources.

2. She continued by outlining the key objectives of the workshop as:

- Identify objectives and priorities for the future positioning of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.
- Identification of a roadmap with short, medium and long term milestones.
- Identification of partnerships with external partners (UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders).

3. A 'tour de table' took place where participants presented themselves to the workshop, expressing their institution and areas of work.

#### **Session 1 Day 1: Setting the oceans scene**

4. Session 1 was chaired by Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator, Caribbean Environment Programme (Cartagena Convention). It focused on presentations with particular reference to providing a context of current ocean affairs at the international and regional level.

5. Jacqueline Alder, Head, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, UNEP presented on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. She began by recalling the outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, "The Future We Want" which demonstrated the growing interest and commitments by member states to address the alarming degradation of oceans and seas including its living resources and ecosystems services. She explained that additionally, Heads of State and high-level representatives resolved to "establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly" (Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 248). In this sense, the outcome document mandated the creation of an intergovernmental open working group that would submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action. The Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) is developing the goals and targets for sustainable development for the next 10 years and the ocean is included in this process.

6. She presented the ongoing discussions related to the Ocean Goal, in which member states maintain the importance of this goal by proposing that it stays as a stand-alone goal and associated targets. The proposed goal is: Attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas.

7. Takehiro Nakamura, Coordinator, Marine Ecosystems Unit, FMEB, UNEP, presented an overview of the Regional Ocean Governance review, suggesting recommendations on possible collaboration model between RFMOs, RSCAPs and LME commissions. He began by outlining the objectives of the paper, which was to (1) analyse the legal, institutional and scientific foundations of these regional mechanisms,

exploring their respective mandates and ways of intervention; (2) assess their successes and challenges, particularly in terms of cooperation and coordination; and (3) propose options for better regional oceans governance. In terms of the recommendations he called to avoid bypassing existing regional oceans governance mechanisms, in spite of their weaknesses and the temptation that represented the creation of new mechanisms. Similarly, he called on avoiding the development of action plans / protocols without considering future implementation programmatically and financially. In terms of the way forward, a revision of the mandates of key mechanisms should be made, for instance, the RFMOs' coverage of the high seas. Similarly, he called to strengthen individual mechanisms and finally to promote informal cooperation and coordination arrangements, acknowledging that a unification of the three systems remains highly unlikely to occur.

8. Nicholas Hanley, Freshwater and Marine, International, Regional and Bilateral Relations Unit, DG Environment, European Commission, presented an overview of EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. He began by giving historical background to the Marine Directive and its aims, which is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe by achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU marine waters by 2020 and by protecting the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. To achieve these objectives the Directive establishes European marine regions (the Baltic Sea, the North East Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea) on the basis of geographical and environmental criteria.

9. Discussions ensued on the 3 presentations. Regarding the post 2015 development agenda, the participants thought that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans do have an important role to play given the regionalization nature of the Rio+20 Outcome Document. Secondly, they believed that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Oceans will also provide an important framework that will guide member states towards enhanced implementation of already existing commitments. In this sense, it was viewed that the discussion on the SDG on Oceans should continue to be monitored and where possible to identify potential roles for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans at this early stage. The discussion on the SDG lead to a wider discussion on ocean governance and how it needed to be addressed to alleviate the systemic failures in cooperation and coordination amongst the different organizations/institutions working with oceans and coasts.

10. The participants welcomed the report on regional oceans governance and look forward to the final version. The discussed on the suggestions to better cooperate and coordinate with the Regional Fishery

Bodies and the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects. With regards to the latter one, they mentioned that the assessment of cooperation and coordination needed to be viewed on a case by case basis as some Regional Seas are actually implementing some components of the LME projects. At the same time, it was viewed that the model being utilised in the Abidjan Convention with the integration of the Guinea Current Commission as a protocol of the Convention is an interesting precedent to be considered towards the future. With regards to the Regional Fishery Bodies, the participants mentioned that more coordination can be done; highlighting that there is ongoing cooperation between the 2 frameworks. Lastly, participants welcomed the presentation from the European Commission and mentioned that the framework of the Marine Directive is valuable because it sets the benchmark to which 4 Regional Seas can assist their member states to implement this Directive.

11. Gail Lugten, Secretary of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network, FAO, presented on the FAO frameworks and their Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. She began the presentation recalling some of the outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network that took place in Rome, Italy, 14 June 2014. In this sense, she summarised that (1) all Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) observed that there was a need to reinforce science-based decision making and to encourage communication between organisations to overcome barriers to cooperation; (2) NEAFC observed that the ability to recognise and appreciate the differences was a key to their success; (3) NAFO congratulated OSPAR / NEAFC for their greater policy coherence and would like to see a similar arrangement in the west Atlantic' and (4) FFA – was deeply interested in the collaboration in relation to the Pacific Oceanscape Framework. In particular, she presented the question to the participants if the OSPAR / NEAFC model could be applied to other RFBs and Regional Seas. For now, she mentioned that the Norwegian government is funding a UNEP-FAO project looking at food security in West Africa and that the success of this project would open the doors for many regions to replicate the potential benefits.

12. Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, presented on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. She provided an overview of how UNCLOS provides a basis for cooperation at the regional level for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. She also highlighted ongoing discussions at the United Nations General Assembly regarding marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, in particular the process initiated within the 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 to prepare for the decision of the Assembly on the possible development of an international instrument under UNCLOS. She emphasized that all issues under consideration by the Working Group (namely marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology) were being considered as a package. She also drew attention to some opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation based on UNCLOS and the calls made in the General Assembly resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea.

### **Session 2 Day 1: Future Trends**

13. Session 2 was chaired by Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal. This session consisted in the division of participants into 4 work groups. The chair asked Alberto Pacheco Capella, Coordinator, RSP, UNEP, to explain the modalities and objectives of the working groups. He explained that the working groups would discuss the emerging key issues related to oceans that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans should become/continue to engage, in order to address the growing degradation of the marine environment. In this sense, topics such as climate change /ocean acidification, seabed mining, ABNJ, NBSAPs, accountability would be discussed. He suggested that each group consolidates the top 3 - 4 relevant future trends that would need the engagement of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and what role would be envisioned for them.

14. The four groups selected a rapporteur to present the outcomes of each group at the plenary session.

15. The rapporteurs of each group presented the 4 key future trends and the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. The plenary discussed the implications of the role in each one of the proposed future trends. In this sense, some participants questioned whether the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans would have the mandate from their member states in order to absorb some of the proposed topics. For instance the topic of fisheries was discussed at length. The Coordinators were certain that the Convention text does not include fisheries and stated that this is the mandate of FAO and Regional Fisheries Bodies. At the same time, they acknowledge that it was a

strange proposition that fisheries, are impacted by all the key drivers that are governed by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans such as land-based pollution, specially protected areas, oil spills, marine protected areas, amongst others, and in some regions they are managed in completed isolation and without a cross sectorial/ecosystem management approach.

16. Another key discussion was related to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. In this sense, it was the opinion of the participants that the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans would be limited to adaptation responses. While many participants agreed, a UNEP representative reminded participants that through the work over the past 2 years on the green economy for oceans and SIDS, there have been sectorial resource efficient measures being proposed that are on the mitigation and sustainable consumption and production side. In this sense, he proposed that if this area is considered in the final consolidation of priorities then it would be convenient to leave open both adaption and mitigation.

17. After plenary discussions, the Chair proposed that he would work with Alberto Pacheco Capella, Coordinator, RSP, UNEP to identify the commonalities of key areas presented by all the groups, in order to present a consolidated priority matrix at the start of the following day's session for further discussion.

### **Session 3 Day 2: Roadmap vs. Strategic Directions**

18. Session 2 was chaired by Darius Campbell, Executive Secretary, OSPAR Commission. He began thanking all the participants for the rich discussions held at the afternoon plenary session. He invited the Yannick Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal, as the Chair of the previous session to present the consolidated matrix of priorities for further discussion in plenary.

19. Yannick Yannick Beaudoin, Head, Marine Division, GRID-Arendal presented the consolidated matrix, saying that his perception, along with that of the Regional Seas Coordinator, was that broadly 4 key trends could be identified in for each group. These were: extraction (living and non-living), governance, pollution and climate change including ocean acidification. At the same time, cross cutting such as communications and financial investment were also identified.

20. The participants discussed the consolidated matrix, mentioned that it capture very much the discussions presented in each group. At the same time they mentioned that it would be valuable to have

a more detailed matrix that would allow for more of a visioning exercise as to what would be the intended outcomes if the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were to become engaged in the identified priority areas. Additionally, who would be the main partners/building blocks to help implement potential activities and what could be the reference indicators.

21. The session Chair proposed that as plenary an expansion of the matrix to be more results-oriented could be worked on to include: (1) thematic areas; (2) inputs (building blocks, resources; partnerships); (3) activity areas/outputs; (4) outcomes 5-10 years window; (5) outcome indicator; (6) impacts 10+ years; (7) impact indicators.

22. The participants agreed to the proposed approach. Furthermore, UNEP proposed that the workshop focuses on the finalisation of the extended matrix and that the process of a roadmap be delegated to the 16<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans that would take place from 29 September to 1 October 2014 in Athens, Greece.

23. Following the proposals, the workshop continued with the development and discussions regarding the extended matrix.

24. The workshop participants agreed on the following key priority areas for the 10+ years: (1) Extraction (living and non-living); (2) pollution; (3) governance; and (4) impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

#### **Session 4 Day 2: Next steps**

25. Jackie Alder, Head, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UNEP, mentioned that following the agreement by the participants, the finalisation of the visioning roadmap would be undertaken at the 16<sup>th</sup>

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_12367](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_12367)

