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Capacity Building on EBM/EBA

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UNEP Capacity Development on Marine & Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management and Adaptation in Regional Seas

Discussion Note for the 14th Global Meeting of RSCAP's

Synopsis

Responding to essential goals and commitments of countries and regions on good environmental status and sustainable development for dependent communities and societies, UNEP's EBM Capacity Development Programme assists Regional Seas Conventions & Action Plans develop and implement ecosystem-based management of oceans and coasts.

The EBM Programme works with national, regional and global partners to develop tools, guidance and customized solutions across Regional Seas – from tropical coasts to temperate estuaries and polar seas.

Thematic areas include integrated marine and coastal environment and resource management; ecosystem service valuation and trade-off evaluation; cross-sectoral spatial planning and management, for example zoning of marine protected areas and other uses; governance of effective and equitable MPA networks; Integrated Coastal Zone Management & climate change for ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA).

Capacity development activities include:

- Practical decision-support, planning and management tools
- Training, technical guidance and policy advice
- EBM demonstration activities
- Synthesis and sharing of good practices across Regional Seas

This Discussion Note briefly outlines the EBM programme strategy and invites Regional Seas Secretariats to review and provide guidance on regional priority issues, capacity needs, services and implementing modalities (summarized in §21). This includes an invitation for engagement and feedback on a proposed process to develop a knowledge-platform providing advice on marine and coastal spatial planning across Regional Seas, and synthesis of good practices on effective regional MPA networks for IMPAC3 [details in §19d and Annex 1 & 2].

Annex 1: Knowledge platform addressing CBD-SBSTA16 recommendation on capacity building on MSP; Annex 2: Proposal for Regional Seas Day on MPA Networks at the 3rd International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC3).

Rationale and program objectives

1. Healthy oceans and coasts provide wide-ranging social and economic benefits and ensure food-security for large populations. They are key to climate processes and provide essential climate change adaptation capacity. These ecosystem services are facing wide-spread decline largely due to increasing cumulative effects of human activities¹. The decline is exacerbated by current in-effective sector-by-sector approaches to marine and coastal management, whereby different human activities are addressed largely in isolation from one another. Linking sectors in truly integrated management efforts is becoming more and more imperative to achieving long-term sustainable ecosystem service delivery. A comprehensive focused effort is required to adopt integrated ecosystem-based management via practical cross-sector planning, management and policy instruments.
2. The Regional Seas Programme provides a global platform of regional, intergovernmental mechanisms for delivering environmental protection and sustainable management and development. They work towards common goals and objectives on maintaining healthy oceans and coasts as specified in Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. The Global Strategic

¹ Regional Seas Marine Biodiversity Assessment & Outlook Series, Global Synthesis (UNEP 2010)

Directions for the Regional Seas Programme 2008-2012², as well as the draft Strategic Direction 2013-2016, emphasize the adoption of ecosystem-based management approaches, implementation of the Manila Declaration (2012), and building relevant capacity here for.

3. UNEP's **Capacity Development Programme on Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management** (hereafter referred to as the '*EBM Programme*') was initiated in 2010 in response to the UNEP GC 2010 Decision on Oceans, as further articulated in UNEP's Marine & Coastal Strategy for implementation of UNEP's Medium Term Strategy 2010-13 on Ecosystem Management.
4. The **strategic goal** of the EBM Programme is to enable countries and regions develop and implement EBM principles as effective means to sustain healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and natural resources ensuring long-term food production and other ecosystem services for dependent communities and societies. The EBM Programme works with a sustainable development perspective - linking environmental, social and economic dimensions.
5. The EBM Programme focus on the essential link between ecosystem health and sustainable development articulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, 'The Future We Want'³, paragraph 4: "We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by ...promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports inter alia economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges".
6. Ecosystem-based Management principles form the operational basis to deliver the new UN "Ocean Compact"⁴, an initiative to set out a strategic vision for the UN system to deliver on its ocean-related mandates, consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document, in a coherent and effective manner.
7. The EBM Programme supports countries and regions address the CBD Strategic plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020⁵ and a range of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, notably Target 6 on ecosystem-based management of fish and invertebrate stocks; Target 8 on coastal pollution; Target 10 on maintaining integrity and function of vulnerable ecosystems; and Target 11 on effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other areas-based management measures.
8. The programme also support countries implement the Rio Conventions – notably CBD-UNFCCC's evolving strategic focus on ecosystem-based adaptation.

Focus and approach

9. The EBM Programme serves to enhance national and regional capacities for EBM development and implementation across all Regional Seas – from tropical coastal ecosystems to temperate estuaries and polar seas.
10. The EBM Programme follows the four thematic streams of *UNEP's Marine & Coastal Strategy*⁶:
 - *Marine Ecosystems for Human Well Being* - Ecosystem services identified, assessed and valued to contribute to human well-being
 - *Land-Ocean Connections* - Clean, healthy & functioning ecosystems, integrated watershed-coastal-marine management

² UNEP(DEPI)/RS.9/6

³ <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html>

⁴ https://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/oceans_compact.htm

⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf>

⁶ http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/UNEPs_Marine_&_Coastal_Strategy_Executive_Summary.pdf

- *Reconciling Use & Conservation* - Harmonizing marine resource use with conservation objectives via integrated responses
 - *Vulnerable People and Places* - Empowering local communities, SIDS, access & benefit sharing, vulnerable ecosystems, ecosystem adaptation
11. Ecosystem-based management is a holistic approach that takes into account the interactions within and among ecosystems; between land and sea; between humans and nature; and between uses of coastal resources and the ability of ecosystems to serve those uses. EBM centers around five core elements: (I) Recognizing connections within and across ecosystems; (II) Applying an ecosystem services perspective; (III) Understanding and addressing cumulative impacts; (IV) Managing for multiple objectives; and (V) Embracing change, learning, and adapting (UNEP 2011⁷).
- Key UNEP operating principles are: EBM includes people and promotes equity; EBM concerns all maritime sectors, not environment alone; One size doesn't fit all - in order for EBM to realize its full potential capacity needs to be built for context-specific planning and governance; There is no single 'correct' approach – there are many different paths toward EBM; EBM is incremental – it can develop gradually building on existing management structures and evolve from present approaches rather than reinventing them; ICZM, MPAs, fisheries management are all part of EBM (particularly when planned coherently); countries and regions are different and have different priority issues and incremental capacity needs.
12. The EBM Programme provides a coordinated capacity development platform across Regional Seas to advance sustainable development of oceans and coasts. Specific outputs include strengthened national and regional capacities for cross-sectoral EBM policy-formulation, development and implementation of integrated management plans for equitable environment and natural resource management. The Programme addresses critical ecosystem connections and upstream-downstream interactions. Particularly emphasis is placed on multiple-objective EBM planning across environment, fisheries, energy, transport, tourism and other relevant maritime sectors, emphasizing effective stakeholder participation for cohesive sustainable development.
13. By sustaining resilience of ecosystem and vulnerable communities, EBM is also a key vehicle to deliver ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) responses to climate change. The EBM Programme is addressing such aspects as an integral part of the capacity development approach.

Modalities of work

14. The EBM Programme works closely with Regional Seas Secretariats in planning, design, cost-sharing and coordination of EBM trainings, preparation and translation of regionally customized tools and guidance, design of demonstration activities, and collation and synthesis of practical experiences.
15. An interdisciplinary *EBM Advisory Group* of experts and Regional Seas representatives are proposed to provide regular advice and strategic direction on development of EBM capacity development activities, including evolving issues and regional priorities, and assist synthesis of regional experiences and good practices for global knowledge-sharing and learning. The *EBM Advisory Group* will also provide technical assistance in delivery of national and regional training, EBM demonstration projects and policy advice.
16. The EBM Programme collaborates with governments, agencies, national and regional organisations, academia, other UN agencies and NGOs to develop, coordinate and implement marine and coastal EBM capacity development activities and projects.

⁷ UNEP 2011: 'Taking Steps Toward Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management – An Introductory Guide' (http://www.unep.org/pdf/EBM_Manual_r15_Final_high.pdf).

17. Internally in UNEP, the EBM Programme is anchored within DEPI/FMEB Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Unit and coordinated closely with other marine and coastal activities, including the Regional Seas Programme, GPA, the EARS indicator initiative; Island Ecosystem initiative; Coral Reef Partnership; Regular Process; and the Blue Carbon initiative. It works closely with UNEP/DEPI Climate Change Adaptation Unit on Ecosystem-based Adaptation and with DEPI/FMEB Freshwater Ecosystems Unit on integrated coastal catchment management.

Capacity development activities

18. As regional priorities and needs vary, feedback and guidance are sought from Regional Seas Secretariats on priority activities and recommended foci of the EBM Capacity Development Programme. It currently covers four mutually-supporting areas enabling decision-makers, planners and practitioners develop and implement ecosystem-based management plans and interventions. These are:

- a. **Practical decision-support, planning and management tools** – Focus areas include development of spatial trade-off analyses and spatial planning and zoning of human uses in coastal and marine areas; participatory approaches to effective and equitable MPA governance combining top-down, bottom-up and market-based approaches, multiple-use MPAs embedded in wider marine and coastal spatial planning, and coastal ecosystem-based adaptation planning.

Examples of evolving tools are: (i) Ecosystem-based Adaptation – Decision Support Framework; (ii) Resilience Mapping for Marine Spatial Planning.

- b. **Training, guidance and policy advice** – Training and guidance is provided to enhance in-country capacity for policy formulation and design and implementation of cross-sectoral management responses. Activities include including regional training of national planners, advice and mentoring, technical support in assessment and science-policy interfacing under the Regular Process, ecosystem service evaluation, scenario-building, formulation of multi-objective policies, target-setting and management planning.

Recent guidance resources and training courses include: (i) “*Taking Step Towards Marine and Coastal EBM – An Introductory Guide*” (UNEP 2011) [available in English – forthcoming in Spanish, French, Arabic]; (ii) “*Governing MPAs– Getting the Balance Right* (UNEP 2011); (iii) Regional EBM courses, incl. design of EBM demonstration projects; (v) Technical support to SIDA-COBSEA Coastal Spatial Planning; (iv) Regional workshops on Regular Process methodologies.

- c. **EBM demonstration activities** – Working through Regional Seas Programmes with governments and relevant stakeholders to develop practical scenario-building using available assessment information and preparation of integrated management plans. This include MPA-network design through multi-objective spatial planning identifying and reconciling objectives and performance criteria of competing sectoral uses of ecosystem services. This is approached through an adaptive cycle of ecosystem valuation; culturally appropriate processes of community involvement, a cyclic process of evaluation of achievements against objectives and review of implementation arrangements resolving cumulative and interactive human impacts.

Recent/ongoing activities include: (i) EBM framework in Papua New Guinea; (ii) LifeWeb Marine Corridor project in Caribbean and East Pacific, Mangrove protected areas in Guinea Bissau and MPA-network for turtles in West Africa; (iii) Management Plan for Silverbank Humpback Sanctuary, Dominican Republic; (iv) Ecosystem-service valuation in Southeast Pacific, (v) EBA Cost-benefit Analysis, Fiji.

- d. **Synthesis of good practice, regional knowledge-sharing and learning** – An import, yet currently slightly under-utilised feature of the Regional Seas network, is its potential to

collate and review good (and bad) marine & coastal management experiences, and share good EBM practices through south-south and north-south knowledge-sharing, learning exchanges and peer network-building. This include cross-sectoral knowledge-exchanges linking decision-makers across resort ministries, sector agencies across Regional Seas through a global EBM partnership mechanism. The EBM Programme has as a core priority to further evolve such aspects in collaboration with Regional Seas Secretariats. Examples of recent south-south exchanges includes: regional EBM training workshop between Red Sea – Arabian Sea, and a large inter-regional workshop on marine corridors engaging national planners and experts across Caribbean and East Pacific.

*NOTE: A new activity proposed by the EBM Programme is a coordinated effort to collate and review regional experiences and good practices on effective and equitable MPA network design and marine spatial planning systems. A review process is proposed for consideration by Regional Seas Secretariats, including a knowledge-platform on good practices is outlined in **Annex 1**, and preparation of a One-day Session on MPA networks in Regional Seas at the forthcoming 3rd International MPA Congress (IMPAC3) in **Annex 2**.*

Question: From above 'menu' of EBM capacity development services, which type of activities is regarded of specific interest and high priority to Parties of RSCAPs?

EBM thematic areas

19. Feedback and guidance are also sought from Regional Seas Secretariats on priority issues, capacity needs and future thematic areas that could be addressed by the EBM Programme. Ongoing and evolving working areas include the following, with additional areas to be identified:
 - a. **Marine spatial planning: Focus 1:** Development of a practical tool for mapping coral reef resilience to climate change to guide marine spatial planning for ecosystem-based adaption; **Focus 2:** Collaboration with CBD Sec and other partners to collate and synthesize national and regional experiences from RSCAPs on marine spatial planning to develop guidance and policy advice on MSP as a means to implement ecosystem-based management, incl. future demonstration projects and training activities. The effort will address *CBD-SBSTTA16 Rec. XVI/6 (Annex 1)* by reviewing practical experience and use of marine spatial planning to facilitate cross-sectoral efforts for integrated management, incl. design and establishment of marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts.
 - b. **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Focus 1:** MPA Governance. Development of guidance to assist countries develop more holistic, effective and long-term sustainable MPAs. This include a recent study, 'Governing Marine Protected Areas– Getting the Balance Right'⁸, which in turn has led to development of a MPA governance framework to assist planners and practitioners combining top-down, bottom-up and market approaches in design of effective and equitable governance of MPAs in different context. Future testing and demonstration of the framework is proposed across Regional Seas. **Focus 2:** MPA and fisheries. Development of guidance on using MPAs as a fisheries management tool⁹ in collaboration with FAO, including pursuing compatible objectives between conservation and fisheries via holistic marine spatial planning and zoning of area-based measures. **Focus 3:** A related line of work aims to further evolve and build national capacity for development of networks of coastal 'fish refugia' aiming at protecting biodiversity and essential fish habitats (e.g. mangroves, seagrass beds, estuaries, coral reefs) underpinning fish-stock recruitment as prerequisite for food-security of tropical coastal communities. **Focus 4:** Marine Corridors. UNEP is currently implementing a set of MPA network demonstration projects in West

⁸ "Governing MPAs – Getting the Balance Right", Technical Report, UNEP 2011 (www.mpag.info).

⁹ The role of MPAs in Reconciling Fisheries Management with Conservation of Biological Diversity (Ocean & Coastal Management, In press).

Africa, Caribbean and East Pacific, including innovative approaches to management of long-distance migration corridors and essential habitats of large marine mammals.

- c. **Island Ecosystem Management:** UNEP has initiated an effort on EBM in SIDS to address the needs for island specific ecosystem management approaches. This includes valuating of ecosystem services and trade-off analysis to guide holistic island ecosystem management across Regional Seas. Based on previous/ ongoing activities, including integrated coastal area and river-basin management (ICARM) and integrated water resources management in SIDS. It covers: 1: Guidance document and good practice case studies on island ecosystem management approach, 2: Pilot application of guidance to selected sites; 3: Collation and dissemination of experiences, replication of good practices across SIDS.
- d. **Biodiversity and Sustainable fisheries:** UNEP is working with CBD Sec, FAO, IUCN and other partners to address biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries. This include e.g. preparation of technical advice reviewing and synthesizing current knowledge and possible ways forward to address effects of fisheries¹⁰, incl. recommendations on policy-making and management aiming at the mitigation, reduction and, where possible, elimination of impacts of fisheries on biodiversity and habitats. Future planned activities may include review of impacts of fisheries on biodiversity and ecosystems in Regional Seas, and collaboration with RFMO's on development of management and governance systems to reduce fisheries impacts on biodiversity.
- e. **Ecosystem-based Adaptation Decision Support:** The EBM Programme assist countries develop effective ecosystem-based adaptation responses through new decision-tools, guidance, training and demonstration activities building resilience of ecosystems and dependent communities to climate change. An Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Decision-Support Framework (EBA-DSF)¹¹ is in development to assist planners and decision-makers select, design, implement and track EBA measures. Future steps include testing by national planners and practitioners in a pilot projects and development of a training package to support future national NAP implementation. Evolving pilot projects include coastal EBA in SIDS and a EBA-DSF for tropical coastal areas. Other evolving EBA work includes a new tool for coral reef resilience mapping for marine spatial planning.
- f. **Integrated Community Based Adaptation (CBA) – Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA):** New effort to develop guidance on practical integration of EBA and CBA, particularly emphasizing participatory adaptation planning. Aim is to stimulate longer-term innovation of CBA-EBA solutions through interdisciplinary discussions, outlining avenues and evidence-based program practices for integrated EBA-CBA; identify strategic initiatives for demonstrating EBA-CBA interventions in practice, including participatory vulnerability assessment and M&E; and advance integrated CBA-EBA programming and policies.
- g. **Other EBM disciplines:** A range of other thematic areas and disciplines enabling planning and implementation of EBM could be addressed by the EBM Programme, some of which are listed in Figure 1. Guidance is sought from Regional Seas Focal Points on specific capacity gaps and priority needs.

¹⁰ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/6

¹¹ 'EBA Guidance – Moving From Principles to Practice' (Working Document, UNEP 2012)
<http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/Default.aspx>

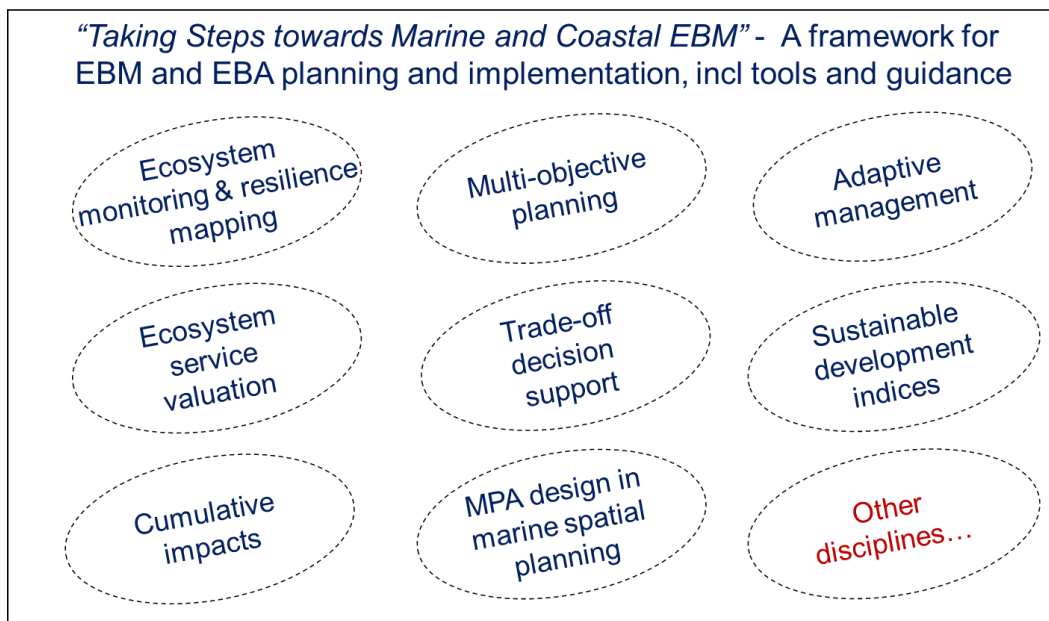


Figure 1: Examples of current and future components of the EBM Capacity Development Programme

Potential deliverables 2013-2016

20. Feedback and guidance are sought from Regional Seas Secretariats on working priorities and deliverables under the RSP Strategic Direction 2013-2016. Tentative suggestions are:

- Development of partnership to support and implement EBM capacity development for Sustainable Development of Oceans and Coast across Regional Seas (2013-2014).
- Establishment of south-south and north-south learning mechanism for good practice and knowledge-sharing on marine and coastal EBM (2013-15).
- Development of EBM tools, for example objective identification, trade-off analysis and spatial planning decision-support tools and associated guidance (2013-15).
- National/regional training courses, technical support, demonstration activities (on trade-off analysis and multi-objective spatial planning scenarios) and cross-sectoral consultations in three regions involving at least 15 countries (2014-16).
- Draft management and implementation plans and policies with cross sectoral objectives and

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