

# Regional Seas Programme and activities in high seas

Takehiro Nakamura

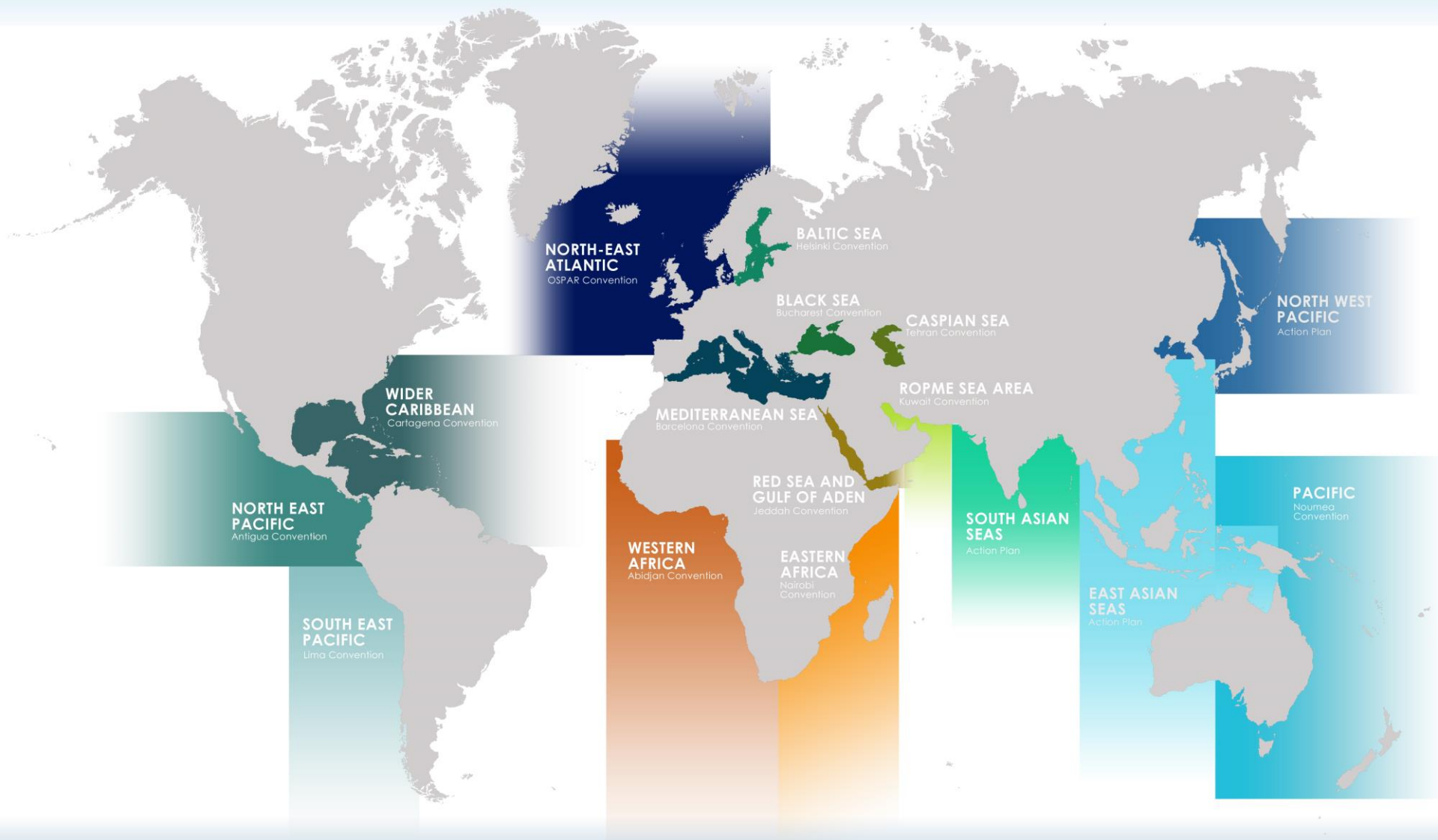
Chief, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems  
Unit

United Nations Environment Programme



# 18 Regional Seas

- 7 regional seas UN Environment directly administers  
Northwest Pacific, East Asian Seas, East Africa, West, Central and Southern Africa, Mediterranean, Wider Caribbean, Caspian Sea
- 7 regional seas established under the auspices of UNEP  
South Asian Seas, Pacific, Southeast Pacific, ROMPE sea area, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Black Sea, Northeast Pacific
- 4 regional seas under UNEP's general coordination  
Northeast Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Arctic, Antarctic



**NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC**  
OSPAR Convention

**BALTIC SEA**  
Helsinki Convention

**BLACK SEA**  
Bucharest Convention

**CASPIAN SEA**  
Tehran Convention

**NORTH WEST PACIFIC**  
Action Plan

**WIDER CARIBBEAN**  
Cartagena Convention

**MEDITERRANEAN SEA**  
Barcelona Convention

**ROPME SEA AREA**  
Kuwait Convention

**NORTH EAST PACIFIC**  
Antigua Convention

**RED SEA AND GULF OF ADEN**  
Jeddah Convention

**SOUTH ASIAN SEAS**  
Action Plan

**PACIFIC**  
Noumea Convention

**SOUTH EAST PACIFIC**  
Lima Convention

**WESTERN AFRICA**  
Abidjan Convention

**EASTERN AFRICA**  
Nairobi Convention

**EAST ASIAN SEAS**  
Action Plan

**ANTARTIC**  
Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

# Five Regional Seas with ABNJ included in their geographic coverage

## Mediterranean – Barcelona Convention

Biodiversity Protocol – Specially Protected Areas for Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and inter-sectoral cooperation

## Northeast Atlantic – OSPAR

High Seas MPAs and inter-sectoral cooperation

Pacific – Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Noumea Convention – High Seas pockets

Antarctic – Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Comision Permanente del Pacifico Sur – as far as pollution affects



# Other Regional Seas working on ABNJ

## West, Central and Southern Africa – Abidjan Convention

COP decision to establish a Working Group; study on the ecosystem connectivity and legal issues

## Southeast Pacific – Comision Permanente del Pacifico Sur (CPPS) and Lima Convention

Commitments of Galapagos, Integrated Ocean Policy, pilot region of ABNJ area-based planning

## Western Indian Ocean/East Africa – Nairobi Convention

COP decision on EBSA and related MPAs; pilot region of ABNJ area-based planning



# United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 2/10: Oceans and Seas

Encourages the contracting parties to existing regional seas conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of those instruments in accordance with international law (paragraph 13).

# African Ministerial Conference on Environment

Cairo Declaration – March 2015, 15<sup>th</sup> session

8. To reiterate our support for the regional seas programmes in Africa as regional platforms for the implementation of the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-based Management Approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters;



# Discussion

1. Regional seas conventions and action plans that do not include the areas beyond national jurisdiction are encouraged to bring the issue of increasing geographic coverage to their Parties/member States;
2. Regional seas conventions and action plans continue to provide information to their member States at the Preparatory Committee on the internationally legally binding instrument
3. Four regional seas conventions related to Africa, plus CCAMLR, continue to cooperate for the development of the African ocean governance strategy



Thank you

[www.unep.org/regionalseas](http://www.unep.org/regionalseas)

[www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/](http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/)

**REGIONAL SEAS BBNJ webpage**

<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/KeyIssues/BBNJ/tabid/1061569/Default.aspx>

