

Working group on **Governance**

Starting points:

1) **Strategic Direction** on Governance:

RSCAPs are **more effective** at taking **consensus-achieved, results-based actions** and **enforce decisions** that maintain or improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment in order to ensure increased human wellbeing.

2) Governance is **one of the 4 important topics** for the future of the RSCAPs.

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The key result – “RSCAPs are **more effective**” – orientation on the process, not topic.

Main constraints:

- limited **resources** (human and funds)
- geographical **overlaps** (too many players and processes, “clean up” is needed)
- strategic directions to be “**more strategic**”, allowing to address activities collectively (ecosystem approach, Marine Spatial Planning etc., but **not imposing concrete tool**)

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The key result – “RSCAPs are **more effective**” – orientation on the process, not topic

Main constraints cont.:

- **strategic goals, not tools** (regions and policies diverse)
- **integrated ocean policy and ecosystem-based approach** (strategic goals to be set intersectorally and coordinated, including the collaboration with other regional players, i.e. GFCM, CBD etc.)

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The key result – “RSCAPs are **more effective**” – orientation on the process, not topic

Main constraints cont.:

- need to expand the cooperation (create a **platform**) between the regional players and RSCs
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be **closer to reality** (role of RSCs to translate/interpret the SDG targets to individual governments to help to achieve these targets nationally)

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The key result – “RSCAPs are **more effective**” – orientation on the process, not topic

Main constraints cont.:

-- enforcement (regional target are secured at a national level)

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-Our main strategic direction - the “**more effective**” role of RSCAPs - is achieved by securing prioritization and improvements on **3 main levels/processes**:

- 1) Consensus/decision-making
- 2) Results-based actions
- 3) Enforcement/compliance

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-Consensus/decision-making:

- 1) Science- and evidence- based decisions
(Advisory Groups, *ad hoc* bodies etc.)
- 2) Science-policy dialogue (interpretation and actions)

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-Results:

- 1) Increase in **capacity-building, educational and training activities**
- 2) Support to governments to **improve the national legislation**
- 3) Ensure the **policy coherence and sustainability** (i.e. following the “blue economy” principles)
- 4) **Increase in visibility** of the RSCs as regional governmental bodies

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-Results cont.:

- 1) Increase in **multi/stakeholder participation** (NGOs and private sector)
- 2) Facilitate the **supra/interregional cooperation towards common goals** (i.e. political – African Ocean Governance; ecosystem connectivity – BSC–Tehran Convention; MSFD provisions)

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-**Enforcement/compliance cont.:**

- 1) Increasing **responsibility** (Compliance Committees, infringement procedures, “name and shame” approach etc.)
- 2) Facilitation of the **MS involvement into activities of different sectoral organizations** (i.e. Espoo Convention, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, ratification of IMO MARPOL Annexes etc.)

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-Enforcement/compliance cont.:

- 3) Strengthening of the **mandate of the RSCAPs** (involvement into socio-economics).

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-In order to achieve the final goal of being “more effective”, the **Review of the RSCAPs effectiveness** is needed (self-assessment, check-lists).



*Thank you for your kind
attention!*