

# Review of the Regional Governance mechanisms for marine environment



# Regional Ocean Governance

- Regional Seas Programme coordinated by UNEP
- Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) coordinated by FAO; and
- Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions (LME commissions) facilitated by GEF IW funded projects.

Geographical coverages, mandates, and approaches differ among these three.



# Objective of the review

- to review the existing governance frameworks in various regions including within and beyond national jurisdiction;
- to provide information to UNEP member countries and regional seas programmes on existing mechanisms and possible gaps in the existing governance mechanisms when governments would like to take an ecosystem-based approach.
- The term “governance” is defined as *“the structures, functions, processes, and organizational traditions that have been put in place within the context of a program’s authorizing environment to define and achieve objectives”*.

# Regional Seas

- UNEP Regional Seas Programme - 18 regional seas, some of which are regional seas associated with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.
- An action plan serves as the basis for regional cooperation and regionally coordinated action to address the issues related to and prioritised in the marine and coastal environments of these seas.
- For some of the regional seas, framework conventions and associated protocols were developed to bind the parties to achieve the common goal of realising the healthy marine and coastal environment.
- The secretariats or regional coordinating units were established to implement the action plans and were designated as the bodies to oversee the implementation of the conventions.



# Regional Seas

- The regional seas programmes, in their scope of work, historically included monitoring and assessment of coastal and marine environment, land-based sources of pollution, ship-based pollution, marine biodiversity, and capacity building for monitoring, assessment and management of the marine and coastal environment. The regional seas programmes are requested to cover wider range of issues related to sustainable development of marine and coastal areas.
- The regional seas programmes are requested to cover wider range of issues related to sustainable development of marine and coastal areas, with an example of Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

# Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs)

- Historically fishery issues were handled by Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and regional seas programmes generally did not include in their scope of programmes these issues.
- There are 30 active RFBs. Seven of them have been established under the FAO Constitution, and FAO facilitated establishment of several of the other bodies and serves as depository for the instrument of acceptance of such bodies.
- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, Deep Sea fishery guidelines – impacts of fisheries on marine and coastal ecosystems

# Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions

- Global Environment Facility (GEF) has supported Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approaches to transboundary marine and coastal environment, on which establishment of coordination and institutional frameworks for LMEs has been supported in a number of them.
- The LME projects adopt an “ecosystem approach” and application of ecosystem-based assessment and management in addressing the transboundary concerns jointly identified by littoral States.
- Depending on the initial transboundary, ecosystem-based diagnostic analysis, strategic action programmes of the LME projects includes addressing the issues that both regional seas programmes and RFBs cover.



# Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions

- The geographic coverage of the LME projects was defined, and there are 64 LMEs identified by US NOAA.
- Some of these projects are proceeding with establishment of LME commissions following the NOAA LME module on governance and based on the needs of the involved and participating States. Benguela Commission and PEMSEA are examples.



# Review methodologies

- Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), in consultation with Global Environment Facility Secretariat (GEF), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America, Institute of Marine Resources (IMR) of Norway and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Two independent consultants.
- A Consultation Group (CG) will be formulated and comprised of UNEP, GEF, NOAA, IMR and FAO as well as one member from each of Regional Seas Programme, RFBs and LME Governance mechanism.

## Review items

- Compile the information primarily on institutional and legal frameworks to cover UNEP regional seas programmes (including UNEP-administered regional seas programmes and non-UNEP administered regional seas programmes), regional fishery bodies (including FAO-administered RFBs and non-FAO RFBs) and Large Marine Ecosystem projects (mainly funded by GEF).
- (i) legal basis: Conventions, protocols, agreements, MOUs and action plans - mandates, geographic coverage, parties/member states, coverage of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ);
- (ii) institutional framework (commissions, convention secretariats, inter-governmental bodies, etc.) – staffing, secretariat location, governing bodies, decision-making process; and
- (iii) financial arrangements to maintain the institutional framework and to implement the programmes - trust fund, link with investments, use of economic instruments, etc. and amount of expenditures and income sources

## Review items

- Develop options for conceptual governance mechanisms for ecosystem-based management of regional marine/coastal areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.
- The options may be based on the existing governance mechanisms or may be associated with creating a new mechanism with programmatic and institutional linkage with the existing mechanisms.
- The idea of developing conceptual governance options is to make the most use of the existing mechanisms, while enhancing efficiency of these existing mechanisms or as necessary modifying these mechanisms.

## Regional case studies

- (i) East Asia region, including the Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), Northwest Pacific Action Plan, Partnership for the Environment Management of Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and its Partnership Council, Southeast Asia Fishery Development Centre (SEAFDEC); and
- (ii) Central and West Africa Region, including the Abidjan Convention and WACAF Action Plan, Sub-regional Commission on Fisheries, Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea, Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, Benguela Current Commission, Canary Current LME project and Interim Guinea Current Commission.

## Regional case studies

- mandates of the existing and planned institutional mechanisms in the regions, and the level of political and financial commitment to pursue the given mandates;
- existing cooperation mechanisms among the institutional mechanisms;
- financial arrangements for the existing mechanisms and analyse possible use of investments in the region for effective implementation of ecosystem-based management; and
- possible forms of effective governance pursuing the ecosystem approach and management of transboundary regional seas/large marine ecosystems, based on the existing mechanisms and commitments from the participating governments.

# Discussion items

- Information mobilisation – regional seas, regional fishery bodies and LME commissions;
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- Regional Seas representation in the Consultative Group; and
- Eventually contributing to the discussion on Regional Ocean Management Organisations.

Looking forward to working with regional seas

