

Distr.: General

29 May 2025

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



**Twenty-Fourth Global Meeting of Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs)**
France, Nice, 11 June 2025

**Report of the Meeting: Workshop on strengthening synergies between common
areas of work and priorities of G7 and the Regional Seas Conventions and
Action Plans**

Workshop on strengthening synergies between common areas of work and priorities of G7 and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

Piraeus, Greece, 9-10 October 2024

Meeting Report

Introduction

1. Representatives of G7 Countries, representatives of the Ecosystems Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Coordinators and Executive Secretaries of Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans (RSCAPs) met in Piraeus, Greece on 9 and 10 October 2024, on the occasion of the “G7 Workshop on the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in ocean governance” (hereinafter the Workshop) organized in the framework of the 2024 G7 Italian Presidency. The Workshop was held in a hybrid manner. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
2. The Workshop was co-organized by the Italian G7 Presidency and the Coordinating Unit of UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan–Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP), generously supported by the Government of Italy and hosted by the Government of Greece
3. In preparation for the Workshop, inputs from RSCAPs on their priorities and achievements in relation to the key priorities and thematic areas of the 2024 Italian G7 Presidency, as well as outlining proposals from the RSCAPs on potential enhanced synergies with G7 actions were collected and compiled in a background document, attached as Annex II to this report.
4. This Meeting Report includes the outcomes of the discussion of the sessions of the RSCAPs and the joint session of the RSCAPs and G7.

Day 1

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the workshop

5. The session held on Wednesday, 9 October 2024 was opened by Ms. Susan Gardner, Director of the UNEP Ecosystems Division, with the attendance of representatives of sixteen RSCAPs and UNEP Ecosystems Division.
6. Mr. Bruno Pozzi Deputy Director of the UNEP Ecosystems Division made opening remarks addressing the overall organization of the workshop complemented by Ms. Tatjana Hema in her capacity as Officer in Charge of the Regional Seas Branch and Coordinator of the UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinator hosting this workshop in Greece.

Agenda Item 2: Timeline for the preparation of the updated strategic direction of the Regional Seas.

7. Under this agenda item Ms. Hema presented a draft timeline for the preparation of the updated Strategic Directions of the Regional Seas. Following discussions, a timeline was agreed by the meeting participants and is presented in (Annex III).
8. Ms. Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma, Head (Officer in Charge) of the Marine and Freshwater Branch presented UNEP's Roadmap to the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), to be held in Nice, France, in June 2025.
9. Meeting participants appreciated the vision of UNEP regarding its contribution to UNOC3 and expressed their interest in fully participating in this process.

Agenda Item 3: Group Discussion on the potential main elements of the updated strategic direction of the Regional Seas

10. Under this agenda item, Ms. Hema presented a number of questions to trigger discussions in six thematic areas as included in Annex IV.
11. Meeting participants were split into three groups. The results of the discussions are outlined below and grouped by thematic area.

Timeline of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD)

12. In the past, the RSSD adopted a 3-year timeframe but in consideration of the conclusion of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline, there was discussion about extending the period covered to 2030, which would entail a 4-year range. From the breakout discussions, there were mixed views about proceeding with a 4-year timeline and considerations for mapping alongside UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) (2026-2029) and Programme of Work (PoW) (2026-2027). It was agreed to further reflect on the matter.

Synergies with Existing Global Frameworks and Legal Agreements

13. Participants urged integration of outcomes from other recently adopted global frameworks including:
 - The new 10-year action plan for Small Island Developing States entitled the "Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)" adopted by the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (May 2024, Antigua and Barbuda).
 - Relevant outcomes, decisions and resolutions of governing bodies of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (including but not limited to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Agreement under the United

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement); the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution) and the United Nations Environment Assembly.

14. It was also recommended to consider the outcomes of the UN Water Challenge and Global Strategy on Water, including Integrated Water Resource Management approaches and Source to Sea approaches.
15. Many participants brought to the attention of the meeting that collaboration in the framework of RSCAPs has proven to be an efficient scale of implementation, also for global frameworks and commitments. To this aim, it would be important to formalize this role and contribution within global frameworks through clear mandates from RSCAPs' Member States and Contracting Parties.
16. Participants agreed that it is important for RSCAPs to be visible at relevant global or regional meetings to enhance presence and synergies between RSCAPs and global frameworks.
17. It was also agreed that the newly established UNEP Regional Seas Branch should have a strong vision and programme and participants discussed whether that should include, among others, the coordination of joint action of RSCAPs within global frameworks such as UNFCCC, BBNJ, KMGBF and INC; and the coordination of quality status assessments and monitoring programmes to address environmental challenges.

Integrating Actions & Mobilizing Resources in Response to Climate Change including Nature-Based Solutions and Adaptation

18. The meeting identified the need for a community of practice to support ocean and coastal climate action using the Regional Seas platform. Participants recommended exploring fundraising from climate related initiatives (e.g., Green Climate Fund) and agreed on applicability of proposed Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).
19. Participants recognized that Member States and Contracting Parties require support on ocean and coastal climate actions; to access funds from, inter-alia, climate related initiatives and funders such as the GCF; and in contextualizing nature-based solutions into actions/best practices.
20. Additionally, participants valued the outcomes of the French Coastal Protection Agency's (Conservatoire du littoral) workshop "On the road to UNOC3: Accelerating coastal adaptation with Regional Seas" held on 8 October 2024 in Piraeus, Greece, noting that coastal adaptation to enhance resiliency is critical to addressing the impending impacts of climate change – from more extreme and more frequent storm events to coastal inundation

from sea level rise, to impacts on freshwater tables due to salt water intrusion, among myriad other climate related impacts to oceans and coasts.

Integrated and coordinated response to the implementation of UNEA Res 6/15 para 4c

21. Ms. Jimma introduced the main elements of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 6/15 “Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution” which provides a strong message from UNEP Member States on the role of RSCAPs in global frameworks and invites RSCAPs to undertake joint actions. As such, RSCAPs require UNEP’s support in providing a strong message to Member States and Contracting Parties on the importance of the streamlining of efforts towards the implementation of MEAs including RSCAPs.
22. Participants noted the relevance of the UNEA resolution 6/15 and discussed ways to integrate the objectives of this resolution into the RSSD. For example, regarding environmental assessments, some felt that there could be better synergy with the existing and under development World Ocean Assessments (I, II and III) across the global platform of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) reporting.
23. RSCAPs work can be better reflected in the World Ocean Assessments and coordinated efforts incorporating best practices from respective quality status assessments and monitoring programmes of RSCAPs should be considered in future versions. For example, utilizing existing indicators and approaches, from the Quality Status Reports prepared by OSPAR, HELCOM and UNEP/MAP, as well as exploring the possibility to replicate the development of similar reports and related indicators across other RSCAPs/MEAs (e.g., the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)). Socio-economic indicators should also be developed and considered as well as a myriad of other indicators that could be aggregated globally to form the basis of an evaluation of the effectiveness of the RSP. More capacity building on technical tools by exchanging experiences between RSCAPs would also be beneficial.

Monitoring, Review and Reporting on Implementation of RSSD

24. There was resounding agreement that within the framework of updating the RSSD the Global Regional Seas Working Group on Indicators should be re-established to continue working on further development of qualitative and quantitative indicators related to the status of marine and coastal environment as well as on indicators of the current RSSD. This would provide good grounds for assessing and evaluating the implementation of the updated RSSD.
25. The Indicators Working Group could conduct an indicator mapping exercise to determine what global/regional/national indicators are already in use, which ones are relevant across all the Regional Seas (as a metric for global reporting), and which ones are more regionally

or country specific. Participants also suggested creation of a simplified and consistent reporting template to capture progress on indicators and consider those already in use.

26. Other considerations in the formulation of these indicators may include:

- Identifying relevant indicators within the existing RSSD Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and harmonize these with updated RSSD (noting RSP delivers more than SDG 14 but also sustainable consumption and production, freshwater, and beyond).
- Identifying indicators that can also tie into to the UNEP MTS (2026-2029) performance monitoring indicators as required in the PoW delivery.
- Maximizing coherence between RSP Indicators, MTS Indicators and PoW Indicators, for efficiency in monitoring/tracking and reporting (with aim to reduce burden on Secretariats and help streamline reporting).
- Linking indicators to other related/existing reporting tools (e.g., SDGs, MEAs, National Indicators, KM-GBF, IPBES, UNGA and UNEA Resolution Reports, and UNEP IPMR Monitoring Portal).

27. Participants agreed that it's paramount that the Regional Seas Programme may develop inter alia the following:

- Release a regular publication (e.g. Scorecard) at each UNEA cycle. Report out on progress of Regional Seas Programme using the global indicators as measure of progress/success toward the RSSD Goals and Targets. (UNEA-7, Dec 2025, UNEA-8 (2027))
- Consider showcasing Regional Seas progress at the meetings of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) as appropriate (quarterly meetings in Nairobi).
- Provide annual updates against indicators, as appropriate, at each periodic Regional Seas Meeting.
- Consider conducting a Mid-Term Review (2028) and Prepare a Terminal evaluation (2029 or 2030).
- Raising the profile of Regional Seas through Advocacy and Global/Regional Champions

28. Participants agreed that a global "Regional Seas Champion" is needed to elevate the global profile of Regional Seas at major global fora similar to the role of the UN Special Envoy for Oceans but with a far more specific objective.

29. A committee may be established to discuss and decide the criteria for selection of such a champion.

30. Some ideas on the way forward may include:

- Reviewing existing suite of UNEP Global Ambassadors and Goodwill Advocates and determine what the existing UNEP procedures are for nominations and selection.
- Considering reviewing success/impact of UNEP's current advocacy strategy on oceans.

- Considering having regional level champions who are more familiar with the cultural, political and sociological influences and undertones while also identifying one global champion/ambassador.
- In addition to identifying an individual, consider whether an entire campaign is needed for Regional Seas and align with existing MEA targets, UNEA Reporting, with a focus on enhancing the visibility and impact of Regional Seas.
- Considering who the intended audience would be (i.e., general public, decision makers, leaders, funders, others).
- Considering timeframe for the Champion. Rotate champions every 2-3 years, one RSCAP at a time, or with every RSSD cycle? Retain for continuity? Review effectiveness?

31. It was agreed that every effort should be made for holding joint events on Regional Seas at every major ocean/governance event (MEA CoPs, UNEA, GEF, UNOC, etc.).

32. Discussions also touched upon the possibility of creating an official global “Regional Seas” Day.

33. Finally, there was agreement that Contracting Parties/Member States should be encouraged to play a greater role in raising the profile of RSCAPs whenever possible as they are critical to enhancing awareness and building political support.

Agenda Item 4: G7 Declaration on the Role of RSCAPs in the Implementation of Global Ocean-related Policies and Targets

34. This session of the meeting was dedicated to the Joint Workshop between G7 Representatives the RSCAPs. This session was chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy (MASE), in the framework of the 2024 Italian G7 Presidency.

35. Opening remarks were made by: Mr. Roberto Giangreco, Coordinator of Division VII of the Directorate General for Biodiversity and Sea Protection, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of Italy; Mr. Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Ministry of the Environment and Energy of Greece, host of the meeting; and Ms. Gardner, Director of the UNEP Ecosystems Division.

36. Several RSCAPs expressed appreciation for organizing such a joint workshop and thanked the Government of Italy for the support provided.

37. Following a brief overview of the draft G7 Declaration given by the representative of Italy, several RSCAP provided inputs and feedback on common priorities which were duly considered in the negotiation session among G7 members on the following day.

Day 2

Agenda Item 5: draft road map and strategic engagement of RSCAPs at the UN Ocean Conference in 2025 and/or other relevant global events relating to Oceans

38. Under this agenda item presentations were made on the strategic engagement of UNEP at UNOC-3 and the main elements of the agenda of the 24th Regional Seas Global Coordination Meeting (Annex V).
39. Following the discussion, the main elements of the agenda were agreed in principle as follows:
- Common action to implement Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025
 - Updated Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026-2029/2030
 - Implementation of UNEA Resolution on Ocean Governance
 - Harmonized approaches for monitoring and assessment
 - UNEP MTS and Regional Seas
 - UNEA 6 strategic participation of Regional Seas Programme
40. Meeting participants provided feedback and discussed their proposals for UNOC3 and other relevant global events on the ocean to build momentum for a stronger engagement, visibility and impact.

Agenda Item 6: Closure of the Workshop

41. The meeting was concluded with a joint session attended by representatives of the G7 countries, UNEP, RSCAPs and co-chaired by Italy and UNEP.
42. The representatives of Italy provided a brief summary of the day's closed negotiations on G7 Declaration.
43. Mr. Giangreco and Ms. Gardner closed the meeting extending the usual courtesies to the organizers, Greece and the Coordinating Unit of UNEP/MAP at 13:00 on 10 October 2024.

Annex I: List of Participants

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Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region Secretariat (Cartagena Convention Secretariat)	Mr. Christopher Corbin Coordinator E-mail: Christopher.corbin@un.org
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**Mapping of RSACP and G7 relevant priority actions
Greece, 9-10 October 2024**

Athens, October 2024

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Abidjan Convention Secretariat, UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat; Black Sea Environmental Programme; Cartagena Convention Secretariat UNEP-CAR/RCU; Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA); Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), Nairobi Convention; Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP); OSPAR Commission/Bonn Agreement; Pame International Secretariat; Plan de Accion para la Proteccion del Medio Marino y Areas Costeras del Pacifico Sudeste (CPPS); Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP); and Tehran Convention Secretariat.

1. Abidjan Convention Secretariat

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	• Abidjan Convention Decision CP13/16 on Marine Plastic Waste; • Abidjan Convention Regional legal framework against marine litter including plastics and microplastics. • National Action Plans against plastic pollution. • Best practices for Abandoned Lost Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFGs.) • Raising awareness on plastic pollution amongst primary-middle school students. • Development of the Bassam Protocol on pollution from land-based sources and activities.	• Facilitate technology and transfer of innovation • Support research exchange • Exchange of best practices among Parties and other RSCAPs; • Identify needs for capacity building in implementing the provisions of the Bassam protocol and the global frameworks against pollution; • Develop joint programs amongst RSCAPs. •
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	• Development and use of Ocean Observation Tools (applications for monitoring: pollution, IUU, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss including mangroves ecosystems, sustainable management, forecast, security and safety...)	• Facilitate technology and transfer of innovation • Facilitate data access • Support exchange programs in the field of research.

The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	• Decision - CP 12/5: on the development of a Protocol on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) • Bassam Protocol on pollution from land-based sources and activities • Calabar Protocol on sustainable management of mangroves • Malabo Protocol on offshore oil and gas activities • Abidjan Convention Regional Ocean policy • Decision CP13/13 on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of Marine Areas beyond Domestic jurisdictions (ABNJ)	• Enhance the cooperation to assist Parties to better implement the international commitments; • Ratification and implementation of all the new protocols under the convention;
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	• Promoted the use of centers of expertise in the Abidjan Convention region to assist contracting parties in the development and implementation of their marine and coastal environment management policies.	• Develop community of practices
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	• Assistance provided in creating and/or enhancing the MPAs network in the Abidjan Convention region. • Adoption of the Calabar protocol on sustainable management of mangroves ecosystems including halting wood cutting in mangrove forests (for source of energy, construction...)	• Share best practices to monitor the effectiveness of the protection, and financing.

2. UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	• Ongoing implementation of the UNEP/MAP Land Based Sources and Activities Protocol 6 Regional Plans, namely Regional Plan on Urban Wastewater Treatment, Regional Plan on Marine Litter, Regional Plan on Agriculture Management, Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management, Regional Plan on Runoff Management. These are legally binding measures which require investment at large scale. • Regional Policy on SCP in place since 2016. Implementation ongoing. Targeted pilots have been implemented in several countries during 2016 – 2023 with a focus in phasing out single-use plastic (SUP) bags and enhancing Extended Producer Responsibility schemes with a focus on food and beverage containers. Plans for targeted pilots focusing in reducing the use of SUPs from the hospital sector will be carried out during 2024-2027.	• Interest in exploring synergies on: (a) nutrient management, implementation of Regional Plans, as well as implementation of National Action Plans; (b) addressing plastic pollution, including through a coordinated approach towards the establishment of the global treaty to control plastic pollution; (c) coordination and harmonization in monitoring pollution and marine litter across the RSCAPs. • More support to countries with financial and technical assistance and know-how of innovative technologies • Exchanging best practices and knowledge on sustainable consumption and production models and replicating/upscaling the WeMedAward flagship initiative • Mobilization of all actors concerned including the private sector

Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	• Monitoring and assessment of the marine and coastal environment is a Key mandate of MAP Barcelona Convention. There are clear obligations for Contracting Parties to monitor and report related data and deliver periodic assessments at regional and national level. • MAP has a coordinated integrated monitoring programme at Mediterranean level and work is ongoing for its implementation by all Contracting Parties.	• Need for harmonized approaches to the extent possible for preparing regional assessments; and for improving and reporting systematic data aiming to produce policy decision documents and assessment such as QSRs. • More support to countries in building and strengthening their technical infrastructure for monitoring and assessment through harmonized approaches to the extent possible
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	• The UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (2022-2027) aims to contribute to a “green recovery” in the Mediterranean that will effectively tackle this triple crisis. Furthermore, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 provides an integrative policy framework to translate the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in the Mediterranean region – directly contributing to addressing the triple crisis. • The UNEP/MAP 2016-2025 Regional Climate Change, currently in the revision process of the Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas defines a regional strategic approach to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal natural and socioeconomic systems to the impacts of climate change, assisting policy makers and stakeholders at all levels across the Mediterranean in the development and implementation of coherent and effective policies and measures. • Through Decision IG.26/12 in December	• Interested in working towards a holistic approach to address on the ground the three elements of the triple crisis to better support countries in meeting their obligations under the various international frameworks that cover climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. • Interested in exploring synergies and future collaborations with other Regional Seas Conventions, in particular by promoting exchange of information on climate change adaptation pilots that have been successfully implemented in other RSCs, as well as on resources mobilisation approach and action plan to tackle climate change adaptation and monitoring and evaluation system with indicators/targets. • Need to strengthen country capacity to absorb and benefit from international assistance programme on climate change adaptation • Need to collaborate to understand and assess the impact of marine renewable energies on marine and coastal environment • Technical assistance and best practice sharing

	2023, COP23 decided to establish a Climate Change Regional Activity Centre (CC/RAC) of UNEP/MAP hosted by Türkiye.	
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	Science Policy Interface is a priority area for UNEP/MAP -Barcelona Convention. MAPis working with several platforms to collect data, which is used by relevant actors. Also, UNEP/MAP is producing dissemination products which collect the best available science and communicate them to specific target audiences.	- Interested in exploring synergies in disseminating technical and scientific products to broader audience, as well as in preparing tailoring assessment products. - Interested in developing capacity of stakeholders in the use of digital and space technologies for monitoring and assessment.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	- Ongoing Implementation of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. Since 2021 the Post-2020 SAPBIO is in place focusing on three principle goals (a) reduce the threats to biodiversity; (b) ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people's needs; and (c) enable the necessary transformative change, putting in place tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming. - It includes tailored actions at national and regional levels. - Mediterranean region is committed to the full achievement of 30 by 30 MPA target - Project concepts have been prepared and resources need to be mobilized for their implementation	Interested in strengthening ties and exploring opportunities for exchange of experiences and practices on the implementation of relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through RSCAPs.
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration	Ongoing Implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol provides the regional framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Mediterranean. Under the Protocol, Parties are called to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value, through the establishment of	Interested in capacity building and exploring synergies and future collaborations with other Regional Seas Conventions in this area.

of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) or Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), and to protect the threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna listed in the Protocol's Annexes. • Ongoing implementation of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean includes provisions on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, including in transboundary contexts. • The Mediterranean Forest Initiative (MFI) is under development and during May-July 2024 conducted consultations with a large number of governments in the Mediterranean Basin (ministries of environment, agriculture and civil protection), as well as other actors such as NGOs in order to identify needs and challenges on forest protection and management. Furthermore, communication materials, resource mobilization strategy and project documents are under preparation. The next step is to continue the development of the project design together with the governments and other actors in the Mediterranean Forest Week in November 2024.	
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Black Sea Environmental Programme

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Stepping up actions for sustainable consumption and production through circular economy and resource efficiency nr. 1-6 (p.21) Resource efficiency and circular economy, and material resources extraction, processing and waste, and textile and apparel production.	• Launching of the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and its Implementation Plan prepared by the Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action Black Sea (CONNECT) in agreement with national governments of the region; • The Implementation Plan includes specifically designed research and innovation actions, aimed at building vital support systems and innovative research infrastructure, enhancing education, and building, developing and strengthening capacity; • The Implementation Plan of the SRIA, as scientific pillar of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, offers a framework for academia, funding organisations, industry, policy makers, and society to address the fundamental challenges of the Black Sea through strategic joint actions. • The shared objectives and activities set in the Implementation Plan build on synergies with existing EU strategic initiatives, such as Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, and in particular its Danube-Black Sea lighthouse, and the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, and contribute to the EU Global Approach to R&I as an example of science diplomacy and regional scientific cooperation initiative.	• Enhanced coordination and with relevant scientific and research mechanisms in other basins, i.e. BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda etc.
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	• Elaboration of Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) and tables of indicators of annual reporting compatible with MSFD requirements; • Adoption of Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter management in the Black Sea (October 2018) and draft ML Monitoring Guidelines; • Regional ML Assessment for the Black Sea;	• To support the necessity to continue the work of the Global Working Group on Indicators led by UNEP and to continue coordination of WOAIII Report on the basin level; • To support the preparation of harmonized global and regional thematic

	• Separate ML Chapter of our BSIMAP; • ML baselines adapted for the needs of Black Sea; • Drafts of National ML Monitoring Programs for Georgia and Ukraine; • Adopt the Beach activities successfully implemented in Georgia; • To advance implementation of Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter management in the Black Sea and possibly amend it.	assessments with a focus on marine litter and pollution indicators; • To further introduce riverine component into the relevant work on marine litter.
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	• Elaboration and management of the Black Sea Information Policy and functioning of the Black Sea Regional Pollution Database (BS RDB-P); • Introduction of biological component into BS RDB-P; • Introduction of indicators and data on climate changes.	• Elaboration of global and regional guidelines to address key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	• Adoption and implementation of Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (2011); • Cooperation with CBD Convention on the assignment of EBSA sites in the Black Sea area. • Introduction of indicators and data on climate changes	• To elaborate global and regional indicators to assess the of triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; • To further strengthen collaboration with RFBs and other bodies within SOI Initiative • Introduction of global indicators and coordinated reports with data on climate changes.
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	• Launching of the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and its Implementation Plan prepared by the Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action Black Sea (CONNECT) in agreement with national governments of the region; • The Implementation Plan includes specifically designed research and innovation actions, aimed at building vital support systems and innovative research infrastructure, enhancing education, and building, developing and strengthening capacity; • The Implementation Plan of the SRIA, as scientific pillar of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, offers a framework for academia, funding organisations, industry, policy makers, and society to address the fundamental challenges of the Black Sea through strategic joint actions. • The shared objectives and activities set in the Implementation Plan build on synergies with existing EU strategic initiatives, such as Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, and in particular its Danube-Black Sea lighthouse, and the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, and contribute to the EU Global Approach to R&I as an example of science diplomacy and regional scientific cooperation initiative.	Enhanced coordination and with relevant scientific and research mechanisms in other basins, i.e. BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda etc.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28)	• Adoption and implementation of Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (2011).	

Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.		
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	• Elaboration and implementation of ICZM Guidelines for the Black Sea; • Introduction of MSP Concept into the main documents of the Black Sea Commission; • Introduction of NBS into activities and reports.	• Coordination of efforts in addressing the ICZM, MSP and MPA management between the RSCs.

Cartagena Convention Secretariat

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the “Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué”	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	This is a primary area of focus of the Cartagena Convention through its Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Oil Spills Protocols. Relevant existing strategies that can be built upon include a Regional Marine Litter Action Plan, Regional Marine Litter Strategy, Regional Action Plan on Waste Management, Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy. With financial support from the Global Environmental Facility, the Secretariat has recently started implementation of a GEF LAC Cities project with the aim of improving plastics management in 6 cities of Latin America and the Caribbean.	Continued strengthening of the enabling environment - policy, institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks for enhancing enforcement. There is also a need for training and capacity building to enable to formulation and maintenance of pollution monitoring and assessment programmes and transfer of knowledge and technology.
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	The Secretariat collaborated with GRID Geneva to develop its first Regional Information Management System in 2023. There is a goal of expanding the use of digital systems and remote sensing to improve existing monitoring and assessment programmes.	There is an opportunity to work with selected Regional Partners that might enable them to become Centres of Excellence for application of these technologies.
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and	The Cartagena Convention Secretariat has been recently involved in promoting circular economy approaches for improving solid waste management and wastewater management. This is a relatively new area of focus for the Convention and reflected in recent projects in integrated	There is a significant opportunity for working with Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Wider Caribbean Region to promote more sustainable production practices. Sustainable Production will require a major focus on enhancing partnerships with key economic and industry

pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	water and wastewater management and solid waste and plastic waste management. Major achievements have been more on the compilation of best practices for waste and wastewater management including for wastewater reuse as part of the GEF CReW+ Academy. The Cartagena Convention was developed in direct response to the need to control, reduce and prevent marine pollution and to ensure the sustainable use and management of coastal and marine biodiversity. Biodiversity and Pollution are two of the main pillars for the 2023-2030 Strategy and several national, sub-regional and regional projects continue to work to address this crisis in an integrated manner.	sectors such as manufacturing, mining, tourism agriculture and oil exploration. On the Sustainable Consumption side, there remains a major need for greater engagement with the general public with a focus on behavioral change and provision of alternatives for current resource exploitation. The main proposal here is that for many SIDS and coastal countries, its important that proposed interventions are more integrated in nature so that these three areas of need can be addressed through more holistic interventions.
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	The Secretariat is supported by 4 Regional Activity Centres and a network of partner agencies including NGOs, CBOs, Universities and Research institutes that form	There is a need to building capacity of such regional centre of excellence, expanding North South cooperation and expanding opportunities for use of indigenous and traditional knowledge including improved documentation of such knowledge into national, sub-regional, regional and global databases.

Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	The Convention through its SPAW Protocol and COP Decisions has received a strong mandate to support the objectives of the GBF Targets with a primary focus on the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity. The development and adoption of a Regional Marine Habitat Strategy and Action and several thematic action plans for the improved management and selected marine species forms the basis for this work. A feasibility study was recently conducted to assess how the Secretariat could support countries in ecosystem restoration and in partnership with other regional agencies, manuals and guidelines have been developed for coral reef and mangrove restoration.	
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	The Cartagena Convention Secretariat pioneered projects for Caribbean SIDS that promoted an Integrated Approach to Ecosystem Management. The successful development of the GEF IWCAM and now IWEco projects have resulted in the successful implementation of projects that have covered issues such as land degradation, watershed management, climate change adaptation and ecosystem restoration. More recently nature-based solution and compilation of multiple case studies have been completed.	For more integrated approaches to the use of natural resources, a need to address multiple sectors is needed.

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	<u>[Plastic pollution - Marine Litter]</u> • COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027, thematic area 1: <i>Marine Pollution Prevention, Reduction and Control</i> guides COBSEA's work in plastic pollution, ghost (fishing) gear, and nutrients pollution • Recognizing the urgent need to address marine litter in the East Asian Seas region, COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) was adopted at the IGM 24 in 2019, and biennial workplan for its implementation is endorsed at IGM • Webinars on the Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes (18 June 2024, 15 September 2024) • Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S) as a COBSEA Regional Activity Centre (RAC) on Marine Pollution was formally established as the first COSBEA RAC by the resumed session of IGM 25 in October 2022. • SEA circular project (2018-2024): Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia • MA-RE-DESIGN (2023-2025): Marine Litter Prevention through Reduction, Sustainable Design and Recycling of Plastic Packaging (MA-RE-DESIGN) aims at reducing plastic waste leakage into the sea. • COBSEA established a digital web platform, The East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML), to share knowledge, best practices, resources, including Ghost Gear Toolbox, and provide networking space for stakeholders to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution in East Asia Seas. • Launch of Marine Litter Monitoring Training Handbook and Videos, 9 February 2023 • Launch of a Ghost Gear Toolbox, 23 August 2023, that addresses abandoned, lost, and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ghost gear) in the region. • Development of Regional Statements on behalf of the Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) to INC-2, INC-3, and INC-4 <u>[Chemical pollution – Nutrients Pollution]</u> • Annual webinars on land-based marine pollution, the impacts of nutrient waste, sediments, and wastewater in the East Asian Seas (22 March 2023 and 22 March 2024)

	COBSEA's nutrient reduction strategy and action plan 'Regional Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (RENEWSEAS)' was updated to incorporate recent developments, which will be presented for IGM 26 consideration. • GEF8 Clean and Healthy Oceans Integrated Programme (CHO-IP) entitled "Seeding a Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand" (2026-2031) aims to reduce nutrient pollution in the coastal waters in Thailand, currently in the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase.
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	• COBSEA established a digital web platform, The East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML), to share knowledge, best practices, resources, including Ghost Gear Toolbox, and provide networking space for stakeholders to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution in East Asia Seas • Webinar on Marine Mammal Management Toolkit, 29 November 2023. In collaboration with the North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN), COBSEA hosted a webinar under the Marine Mammal Twinning, part of the EU-funded Ocean Governance Project. The webinar introduced the Marine Mammals Management Toolkit, an innovative tool for the effective management of marine mammals in and around MPAs across the East Asian seas.
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	• COBSEA Strategic Directions 2023-2027, adopted in December 2023, has three thematic programmes which reflect the triple planetary crisis: 1) Marine <i>pollution</i> prevention, reduction and control; 2) Marine and coastal <i>biodiversity</i>, ecosystem conservation and management; and 3) <i>Climate</i> action. Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MCE) Framework, adopted on April 2023, has three thematic areas of work with an overarching theme of Blue Economy: 1) Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning; 2) Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Network, including Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs); and 3) Marine and Coastal Habitat Conservation and Rehabilitation. • COBSEA is developing and engaging with relevant partners in UNEP, UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia-Pacific (ESCAP), Korea Blue Carbon Centre to initiate efforts on Ocean-based Climate Action. • In relation to this, COBSEA participated in several side-events and workshops related to Climate Action to activate this work, including participation in: ○ Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea, Sep 2023 ○ Asia-Pacific Climate Week in Malaysia, November 2023 ○ Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok, Thailand, Feb 2024 ○ Discovering the Blue Economy around Sihwaho in Siheung, Republic of Korea, Aug 2024. • The topics on these side-events reiterated the linkages between blue carbon, resilience, nature-based solutions, and blue economy.
Science (p. 1-2)	• The Regional Node and RAC are mechanisms to guide effective and coordinated action at regional level towards global goals, to share knowledge, replicate good practices, provide access to best available science and data,

Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	and build capacity for harmonized approaches. • COBSEA Strategic Direction 2023-2027, 5.1/54. explains its goal “COBEA will aim to strengthen science-policy dialogue in coordination with relevant academic and research institutions and networks in the region to share research findings on priority marine environmental issues with COBSEA Working Groups.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	• Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MCE) Framework (support guidance to achieve Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (K-M GBF) targets) adopted on April 2023, has three thematic areas of work with an overarching theme of Blue Economy: 1) Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning; 2) Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Network, including Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs); and 3) Marine and Coastal Habitat Conservation and Rehabilitation. • MCE Framework established a Working Group on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (WGMCE) in September 2023. • GEF ‘Implementing the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP)’ Project (2018-2026) aims to reduce habitat degradation and loss via national and local reforms to achieve Strategic Action Programme targets for coastal habitat management in the SCS. • Mainstreaming coral reef tourism code of conduct at regional, national, and local levels using Green Fins Best practice (2023-2025): together with Coral Triangle Centre and Reef-World Foundation, this project aims to strengthen Green Fins’ value proposition and investment readiness of sustainable marine tourism efforts in coral reef MPAs management. Green Fins is a joint UNEP-RWF global effort engaging governments to reduce threats to coastal ecosystems through on-site impact assessments, consultations & training to dive & snorkel operators. • ADEX: Sustainable Diving Dialogue: Transforming your business for a Blue Economy (April 2023, April 2024), co-hosted a public Q&A and discussion event for preventing plastic pollution, conserving coral reefs, and promoting sustainable business models.
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	• COBSEA’s nutrient reduction strategy and action plan ‘Regional Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (RENEWSEAS)’ was updated to incorporate recent developments, which will be presented for IGM 26 consideration. • GEF8 Clean and Healthy Oceans Integrated Programme (CHO-IP) entitled “Seeding a Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand” (2026-2031) aims to reduce nutrient pollution in the coastal waters in Thailand, currently in the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase. • Mainstreaming coral reef tourism code of conduct at regional, national, and local levels using Green Fins Best practice (2023-2025) aims to strengthen Green Fins’ value proposition and investment readiness of sustainable marine tourism efforts in coral reef MPAs. • Global MPA capacity building and MPA networks (March 2023, August 2024), COBSEA participated in the global workshop Phase 1 and 2 “Scaling Global MPA Capacity to Reach 30x30”, and COBSEA and the SCS-SAP Project are aiming to bring this initiative to the East Asian Seas as a regional network/ node.

Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	<u>2021 BSAP</u> ecological objectives for eutrophication (with 36 actions by 2030): - Concentrations of nutrients close to natural levels - Clear waters - Natural level of algal blooms - Natural distribution and occurrence of plants and animals - Natural oxygen levels 2021 BSAP ecological objectives for hazardous substances and litter (with 32 actions by 2030): 1. Hazardous substances - Marine life is healthy; - Concentrations of hazardous substances are close to natural levels; - All sea food is safe to eat; - Minimal risk to humans and the environment from radioactivity. 2. Marine litter - No harm to marine life from litter 2021 BSAP management objectives for sea -based activities – Minimize the input of nutrients, hazardous substances and litter from sea -based activities – Enforce international regulations – No illegal discharges – Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution –Minimize harmful air emissions – Zero discharges from offshore platforms 2021 Revised Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML)	Harmonized/coordinated implementation with similar commitments in other RSCAPs where appropriate and feasible. Continual consultation among RSCAPs to that end as appropriate.

Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	HELCOM Monitoring: https://helcom.fi/action- areas/monitoring-and-assessment/	Cf. above
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	BSAP 2021 (HT 1) Using the HELCOM/Baltic Earth Joint Expert Network on Climate Change as a platform and through committed implementation of the HELCOM Science Agenda, improve the access of policy-makers to scientific information on the impacts of climate change together with multiple other pressures on the Baltic Sea marine environment through periodic updates of the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheet, and incorporate the possible effect of climate change into the holistic assessment of status as well as effectiveness of measures by 2030 at latest.	Cf. above
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	HELCOM Science Agenda https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HELCOM-Science- Agenda.pdf	Cf. above

Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	BSAP ecological objectives; – Viable populations of all native species – Natural distribution, occurrence and quality of habitats and associated communities; – Functional, healthy and resilient food webs. BSAP (B1) By 2030 at the latest, establish a resilient, regionally coherent, effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well - connected system of HELCOM marine protected areas (MPAs), supported by those other spatial conservation measures, under alternative regimes for marine protection, which can contribute to the coherence of the network. Where scientifically justified, special attention should be given to offshore areas beyond territorial waters. <u>HELCOM Thematic assessment of biodiversity 2016-2021 (Main report compressed)</u>	Cf. above
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	2021 BSAP eutrophication segment: 15 agriculture related actions, 7 nutrient recycling related actions. 2021 BSAP hazardous substances and litter segment: HL1 - Develop a regional strategic approach and, on the basis of that approach, an action plan for HELCOM work on hazardous substances. HL4 - Strengthen and update HELCOM recommendations for industrial releases of hazardous substances [...]. HL10 - Establish a mechanism for managing the HELCOM list of priority substances [...]. All actions with specific criteria for achievement, responsible bodies and target years (to be implemented by 2030 at the latest).	Cf. above

Nairobi Convention

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	- Contracting Parties have adopted a land based sources and activities protocol - Adopted a strategic framework for coastal and marine water quality management - Adopted Guidelines for Setting Water and Sediment Quality Targets for Coastal and Marine areas - Developed a regional action plan on marine litter - Supported several projects on the application of nature-based solutions on managing wastewater	Sharing of experiences with other RSCAPs
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	- Developed a climate change strategy for the Convention area - Developed a climate change vulnerability toolkit and dashboard - Toolkit above used in 4 countries to assess resilience of ecosystems and dependent communities climate change related impacts and management/policy recommendations given to enhance resilience. - Regional guidelines for water quality monitoring developed - Conducted capacity building on water quality monitoring for 5 countries - Five countries have developed their respective national water quality monitoring frameworks	Development of a sustainability plan/Resource Mobilization Strategy as a basis of engagement with development partners.

Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	• Established a science to policy platform (SPP) to ensure evidence-based management/policy decision making. • The SPP has become the basis for COP Decisions under the Convention • Established thematic experts working groups to provide needed science to countries in critical habitats, MSP, water quality, regional ocean governance and sustainable river flow management	Sharing experiences with similar scientific structures and think tanks in the global north and south as well.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	• Developed regional ecosystem restoration guidelines for seagrass and mangrove ecosystems • Supported 15 ecosystem (coral reefs, seagrass and mangrove) restoration projects in 9 countries between 2020 and 2024. Some completed and some still ongoing. • Supported strengthening of MPA management • Support development of ecosystem management plans in four countries	Linkage with the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration initiatives and also GBF related investments
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	• Developed environmental flow assessment guidelines for the region • Supported policy and technical level capacity building on the application of environmental flow assessment guidelines • Supported three projects on the application of environmental flow assessment guidelines in three countries. • Generated S2S policy recommendations leading to S2S COP Decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties in August 2024.	Shared learning established and mature S2S initiatives in the global north and south.

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (2008, upd 2022), Regional Working Group on Marine Litter, Regional Node of GPML (Beijing, China), International/National Beach Clean-up campaigns; New Mid-Term Strategy 2025-2030	
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) – based on Google Earth Engine – satellite-based technology for eutrophication assessment (chlorophyll-a); Environmental DNA methodology for biodiversity assessments	
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	New Regional Action Plan on Biodiversity (RAP BIO), Special Project on Indicator Species, Red Books,	

OSPAR Commission / Bonn Agreement

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	Tackling pollution, both chemical and plastic, of the marine environment is at the heart of what OSPAR does. The OSPAR North-East Atlantic Strategy 2030 (agreed in 2021) sets out the commitments made by OSPAR Contracting Parties (including France, Germany and the United Kingdom). <u>OSPAR Strategic objectives (goals) for plastic and chemical pollution</u> Preventing pollution by hazardous substances, by eliminating their emissions, discharges and losses, to achieve levels that do not give rise to adverse effects on human health or the marine environment, with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining concentrations in the marine environment at near background values for naturally occurring hazardous substances and close to zero for human made hazardous substances; Prevent inputs of and significantly reduce marine litter, including microplastics, in the marine environment to reach levels that do not cause adverse effects to the marine and coastal environment with the ultimate aim of eliminating inputs of litter. To deliver these strategic objectives, OSPAR has a comprehensive programme of measures to address both chemical pollution and marine litter, as well as related monitoring and assessment of their impacts. OSPAR's latest holistic assessment of the status of the marine environment (Quality Status Report 2023 - OSPAR-OAP (Prod)) showed that hazardous substances remain a cause for concern (despite decreases in most legacy substances) and that levels of marine litter remain high despite signs of improvement	Tackling pollution was the primary reason for the establishment of OSPAR. OSPAR and some other RSCs have a long history of assessing and monitoring pollution and it is clear that despite improvements pollution remains a significant threat to the state of the marine environment across the globe. Capacity building and the sharing of experience and lessons learned could help tackle marine pollution across the globe. Typically, our Contracting Parties are willing to share this information but lack the time and resources to do so. A specific programme dedicated to supporting capacity building between regional seas conventions could significantly increase the level of exchange at regional seas level.

	(decreases in plastic found on beaches). Measures Action to reduce hazardous substances in the OSPAR maritime area is based on specific OSPAR measures, EU regulations, global treaties and national legislation. Looking forward, OSPAR continues to identify contaminants of emerging concern and prioritizing them for action. For example, OSPAR has agreed to put PFAS on its list of chemicals for priority action – which means that OSPAR will be looking to see what action it can take eliminate PFAS from the marine environment. For marine litter, including plastic pollution, OSPAR has a marine litter action plan RAP ML. The plan includes actions: • tackling litter from rivers • phasing out additional single use plastic items • reducing microplastic releases from shipping • addressing litter from aquaculture and commercial and recreational fishing • developing measures to control or phase out plastic substances contained in offshore chemicals. Target By 2025 OSPAR will reduce by at least 50% the prevalence of the most commonly found single-use plastic items and of maritime-related plastic items on beaches in order to contribute to the achievement of relevant regional and EU threshold values building upon requirements for EU Member States in the EU Single Use Plastics Directive (Directive 2019/904), and by at least 75% by 2030.	
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural	Digital and space technologies are a growing feature of OSPAR's assessment and monitoring work. Use of satellite information is an important aspect of OSPAR's work on eutrophication.	

resources and ecosystems.		
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 OSPAR Commission and the Cascais Ministerial Declaration Declaration commit OSPAR to tackling the triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in the North-East Atlantic and achieve OSPAR's vision of "a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification." The Strategy is implemented through an implementation plan Implementation Plan 2030 that identifies the individual task to deliver the objectives set out in the NEAES 2030.	OSPAR's NEAES 2030 is what guides OSPAR's work – it is agreed by OSPAR Ministers, the highest level of Governance in OSPAR. It set the objectives and targets for OSPAR's work and can help to drive ambition and progress in tackling impacts on the marine environment. Political will (or lack of it) is often cited as one of the barriers to better, more effective protection of the marine environment. At the same time, given the transboundary nature of the marine environment, action at regional, rather than national, level is recognized as what is needed to tackle marine issues. Is there scope for greater alignment of the commitments and targets agreed between regional seas so as to help drive action on the global level.
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	Science, data and evidence are fundamental to the work of OSPAR. It's credibility and success relies on the quality of the science that underpin the assessments in produces and the measures that it implements. OSPAR is guided by the ecosystem approach that relies on the use of the best available scientific knowledge. Management decisions are knowledge and science based. Research and increased knowledge are needed to deliver improved understanding of how the marine environment functions, the impacts of individual and combined effects of human activities, and to assess the effectiveness of measures. To support this OSPAR establishes complementary or joint programmes of scientific or technical research guided by the OSPAR Science Agenda.	Another area that could really benefit from better capacity building, sharing of experience and lessons learned.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of	One of OSPAR's 5 main thematic committees is responsible for addressing biodiversity in the OSPAR maritime area. The overall objective of the Committee is to support the achievement of	Sharing of experience, particularly in relation to establishment of measures. How do we make sure our MPAs are ecologically coherent at a global level

biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	biologically diverse and healthy seas <u>OSPAR Strategic objectives (goals) for biodiversity:</u> Protect and conserve marine biodiversity, ecosystems and their services to achieve good status of species and habitats, and thereby maintain and strengthen ecosystem resilience; Restore degraded habitats in the North-East Atlantic when practicable to safeguard their ecosystem function and resilience to climate change and ocean acidification. Measures OSPAR identifies species and habitats in the OSPAR maritime area in need of conservation and protection. The species and habitats are included in the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or declining species and habitats (Agreement 2008-06). The list guides the actions of the OSPAR Commission in setting priorities for its further work on the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity. Marine Protected Areas OSPAR works to promote the establishment of a network of marine protected areas. The OSPAR network of MPAs aims: • to protect, conserve and restore species, habitats and ecological processes which have been adversely affected by human activities; • to prevent degradation of, and damage to,	and not just regionally. Often the mandates of regional seas conventions do not cover the activities/industries sectors that impact on the marine environment. How can we strengthen/improve the links between those with a mandate for the protection of the marine environment and those that rely on it for jobs, food and other services.
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species, habitats and ecological processes,
following the precautionary principle;

- to protect and conserve areas that best represent the range of species, habitats and ecological processes in the maritime area.

Importantly, OSPAR also has the mandate to designate MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Target

By 2030 OSPAR will further develop its network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) to cover at least 30% of the OSPAR maritime area to ensure it is representative, ecologically coherent and effectively managed to achieve its conservation objectives.

Pame International Secretariat

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the “Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué”	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic (ML-RAP 2021) highlights coordinated actions to address these issues. Achievements include advancing a legally binding international agreement on plastic pollution, which aims to address the full life cycle of plastics, from production to disposal. Efforts have been made to promote sustainable materials management, improve waste management practices, and enhance international cooperation to reduce marine litter, especially in the Arctic. The Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) project serves as an implementation activity under one of the strategic actions related to addressing ALDFG in the <i>ML-RAP</i> by offering a baseline understanding of existing fishing activity and gear use in a given area. The overall goal of the project is to increase understanding and develop reliable informational resources of fishing activity in the Arctic and near-Arctic, in order to inform gear identification as part of monitoring or removal. This additional knowledge could help inform ALDFG prevention and intervention efforts by understanding differences in gear The “Plastic in a Bottle” project by PAME aims to raise awareness about marine litter, particularly plastic pollution, in the Arctic. The project involves deploying GPS-equipped plastic bottles into the ocean to simulate the journey of plastic waste. These bottles, tracked in real-	1. Strengthen International Cooperation: Promote collaboration between Arctic states, Indigenous Peoples, and global organizations to align efforts on marine litter reduction, circular economy practices, and sustainable resource management. 2. Integrate Sustainable Materials Management: Develop and share best practices for sustainable materials use, recycling, and waste reduction, focusing on critical sectors like fisheries, aquaculture and textiles. 3. Harmonize Monitoring and Research: Implement harmonized approaches for monitoring marine litter and resource use, fostering shared data, research, and knowledge to understand regional and global environmental impacts better. 4. Promote Innovation and Technology: Support the development and deployment of new technologies and innovations for waste management, energy efficiency, and sustainable materials, particularly in remote and challenging Arctic environments. Foster Community Engagement and Education: Enhance outreach and education programs to involve local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and youth in sustainability initiatives, ensuring inclusive participation in environmental stewardship and decision-making processes. From ML-RAP Strategic Actions 55-59: 1. Communicate and exchange information on marine

	time, demonstrate how marine litter travels across vast distances, reaching remote and vulnerable Arctic regions. The initiative seeks to highlight the global nature of plastic pollution and its impacts on the Arctic environment. Developed and approved the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic (ML-RAP 2021) which sets out a range of 59 Strategic Actions that address both land- and sea-based sources of marine litter in the Arctic region and focuses on reducing marine litter from land and sea-based sources in the Arctic through cooperation among Arctic states, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders. Achievements include developing best practices for waste management, enhancing monitoring and research efforts, and promoting sustainable materials management. The plan emphasizes reducing litter inputs from fisheries, aquaculture, ships, and offshore structures and fostering international cooperation.	litter with regional seas programs and other relevant fora on the development of best practices and policy frameworks. 2. Cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations, non-profits, and the private sector on initiatives that address prevention, reduction, and removal of marine litter. 3. Promote and support complementary efforts that address marine litter and strengthen cooperation among Arctic States and relevant institutions. 4. Encourage the sharing of scientific research and monitoring activities, data, and results relevant to marine litter in the Arctic to enable decision-making based on the best available scientific information. 5. Participate in international events on marine litter issues to highlight the work on and management of marine litter in the Arctic and the interlinkages of marine litter to other regions.
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	The Arctic Ship Traffic Database (ASTD) is a comprehensive tool designed to monitor and analyze ship traffic within the Arctic region. It was established to improve understanding of shipping activities, their impacts, and risks in the Arctic marine environment, given the increasing accessibility of Arctic waters due to climate change. The database facilitates adaptation by enhancing the capacity of Arctic states to manage and respond to increased shipping due to melting sea ice. It informs policy decisions that promote safe and sustainable shipping practices, protecting the Arctic marine environment, and fostering cooperation among Arctic states and international organizations. By providing reliable and comprehensive data on Arctic ship traffic, the ASTD helps address the unique challenges	1. Leverage Satellite and Remote Sensing Data: Utilize satellite and remote sensing technologies to monitor environmental changes, track emissions, and observe land and marine ecosystems. The ASTD can complement this data by providing detailed, real-time information on ship movements in the Arctic, which helps correlate shipping activities with observed environmental changes, such as ice melt and pollution. 2. Promote Data Integration and Sharing: Encourage the integration and sharing of data across digital platforms to improve decision-making for climate mitigation and resource management. The ASTD can serve as a data source by sharing Arctic shipping information with other databases, enhancing cross-sectoral analysis and international cooperation.

	posed by shipping in this sensitive and rapidly changing region and regularly publishes topic specific Arctic Shipping Status Reports which provide a snapshot of Arctic shipping activities by utilizing ASTD to generate topical, fact-based, user-friendly reports on Arctic shipping activities that describe notable trends, highlight important developments, and depict interesting and important information.	
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	PAME has developed several strategic initiatives, such as the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP), which aims to enhance marine conservation and promote sustainable use of Arctic marine and coastal environments. Efforts focus on reducing pollution, mitigating climate change impacts, and protecting biodiversity by improving governance, research, and community involvement. Achievements include the creation of the Arctic Ship Traffic Database (ASTD) to monitor shipping activities, contributing to pollution prevention and safer navigation in the Arctic. Additionally, PAME has advanced the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic (ML-RAP) to tackle plastic and other debris in Arctic waters and developed the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard critical habitats and species. Goals moving forward include enhancing international cooperation to mitigate climate change impacts, furthering efforts to reduce pollution and advancing marine spatial planning to protect Arctic ecosystems. PAME aims to strengthen its initiatives and collaborate with Arctic states, Indigenous communities, and global organizations to ensure sustainable management of the Arctic's marine resources.	1. Integrate Data and Monitoring Systems by combining satellite, remote sensing, and maritime databases like the ASTD to monitor climate impacts, biodiversity changes, and pollution levels, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of environmental changes. 2. Expand and Connect MPAs and Area-Based Conservation: Increase the network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other area-based conservation measures to protect critical habitats, mitigate climate change impacts, and prevent biodiversity loss. 3. Adopt Ecosystem-Based Approaches (EAs): Integrate ecosystem-based approaches in management plans to address cumulative impacts on Arctic ecosystems. 4. Utilize Advanced Monitoring Technologies: Employ digital and space technologies for real-time monitoring of environmental changes, and exploring the application of existing platforms to gather data on sectors and pollution, enhancing the ability to implement adaptive measures for ecosystem conservation and climate resilience.
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of	The Arctic Council emphasizes incorporating Indigenous knowledge alongside scientific data to provide a holistic understanding of Arctic ecosystems. The co-production of knowledge enhances the relevance and accuracy of	1. Promote Collaborative Frameworks and Dialogues with indigenous communities to create frameworks that merge scientific research with Indigenous knowledge. This includes joint efforts in

Indigenous Peoples.	environmental assessments and policy recommendations. The Council supports frameworks that include Indigenous Peoples' perspectives in decision-making processes, ensuring that their insights guide climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource management initiatives. Efforts are made to empower Indigenous communities through capacity-building initiatives, enabling their active participation in research, monitoring, and policy development to address the unique challenges of the Arctic environment.	environmental monitoring, climate adaptation, and sustainable development practices, ensuring all perspectives are incorporated into decision-making. 2. Establish platforms for sharing scientific data and Indigenous knowledge, focusing on open-access repositories and collaborative research networks. 3. Develop Inclusive Policy and Governance Models. Encourage policies that recognize and integrate Indigenous knowledge systems and the best available science.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	Achievements include developing guidelines and frameworks to promote sustainable marine practices, such as the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) the implementation of the Arctic Council's Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approaches, Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas which aims to inform the development of MPAs and networks of MPAs that are located within the national jurisdiction of Arctic States, and chart a course for future collaborative planning, management and actions for the conservation and protection of the Arctic marine environment.	1. Strengthen Collaborative Conservation Efforts by leveraging international cooperation to promote biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. 2. Collaborating on cross-regional strategies that include biodiversity mapping, habitat conservation, and ecosystem restoration can leverage both frameworks to create a robust, globally coherent approach to preserving sensitive environments like the Arctic. 3. Sustainable Resource Management noting the importance of sustainable use and management of natural resources.

Plan de Accion para la Proteccion del Medio Marino y Areas Costeras del Pacifico Sudeste (CPPS)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the “Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué”	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	Achievements: - Coordinated Program for Research, Surveillance and Control of Marine Pollution in the Southeast Pacific (CONPACSE). Goals: - Enhance the scientific knowledge and the measures for control and surveillance.	- Enhance collaborative efforts to manage marine pollution through joint initiatives with G7 countries to address land-based sources of pollution. - Promote regional collaboration to pool resources, knowledge, and expertise, leading to more efficient and cost-effective solutions. - Promote the alliances with IMO Projects.
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	Achievements: - Regional Atlas to achieve South-East Pacific Data and Information Network to support ICM. - Ocean Biogeographic Information System Node. Goals: - Promote the exchange of scientific research and traditional knowledge across the region.	- Improved standardization, enhanced technical and financial resources, effective stakeholder engagement, robust data governance, and ongoing capacity building. - Identify networks and platforms for sharing data, research findings, and best practices. - Pay attention to obsolescence of software in order to avoid losing data.
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution	Achievements:	Regional Marine Conservation

(p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	• Implementation of regional project on migratory species "Save The Blue Five" for building capacities in the Pacific region, for example: Blue Economy. • Regional Program for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Southeast Pacific. • Regional Program for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Southeast Pacific. • Regional Network of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Southeast Pacific. • Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Sharks, Rays and Chimeras in the Southeast Pacific. • Implementation of the Strategic Plan for "El Niño" phenomenon. Goals: • Protection of marine areas and initiatives to address marine pollution. • Marine conservation efforts including protected marine areas and sustainable fisheries. • Efforts to protect marine ecosystems and reduce pollution. • Prepare basis for future implementation of BBNJ.	Strategy to develop a coordinated approach to protect marine biodiversity and manage marine ecosystems across the five countries. • Improve regional collaboration on marine pollution and ecosystem management by joint Marine Pollution Reduction Projects in coastal areas. • Strengthen regional marine protected areas by integrating G7's marine biodiversity goals and pollution reduction strategies. • To push the approach in the understanding of key zones in the ocean as "Ecoregions" (areas where social, science, and legal issues are milestones to be replicated).
Science (p. 1-2)	Achievements:	Promote participatory management by

Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	• Implementation of oceanographic cruiser program. • The Tsunami Ready program seeks to build resilient communities through awareness and preparedness strategies that will protect life, livelihoods, and property from tsunamis in different regions. Goals: • Support sustainable Development and Community Well-Being (for example: insular communities in the Pacific, Rapa Nui).	the involvement of Indigenous communities in the management of MPAs and coastal zones.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	Achievements: • Implementation of Conservation Plan of Mangroves (PAR-Mangroves). • Implementation of Cross-Border Conservation Projects to protect shared ecosystems and migratory species (STB5, Globallast, Glofouling). • The Biodiversity Strategy (2022 -2030) accentuates actions in six axes that impact on marine biodiversity: marine pollution, climate change, international ocean governance, coastal marine biodiversity, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing&	• Enhance regional marine research and monitoring efforts in collaboration with G7 countries to track ocean health and protect marine ecosystems. • Regional Biodiversity Conservation Network for collaborative research, monitoring, and conservation of biodiversity.

	education and training. • Regional Ocean Governance, through “new capacity building” with an Ecosystem approach. • PAR-Mangroves Project supports the participating governments to strengthen their policies and programs for the protection, recovery and sustainable use of mangroves in the region Goals: • Improve regional coordination on biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts across the five countries. • Strengthen marine biodiversity conservation.	
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	Achievements: Regional Program for the Comprehensive Management of Marine Litter in the Southeast Pacific.	• Promote the dialogue on states jurisdiction beyond 200 nautical miles on environmental interest (oceanic biozone)

Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	ROPME is the first organization in the region to call Member States for paying attention to the problem of marine micro-plastics and litters and to impacts of pollution from land-based sources.	
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	ROPME has established a remote sensing unit since 1996 and installed an x-band satellite receiving station for regular monitoring environmental hazards of the and support sustainable management of the coastal zone and natural resources. Among other goals, ROPME aims to improve the time factor, accuracy and reliability of marine environmental monitoring through application of AI and other modern techniques / tools.	Making an inventory for major remote sensing centers in the region and assessment of their capabilities and existing human resources in this field. Initiating collaborative programmes for capacity building of remote sensing specialists in the region. Utilization of regional remote sensing capabilities and available data and technologies for establishment of a regional early warning system for harmful algal blooms, which is defined as one of most alarming marine risks in ROPME Sea Area.
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	ROPME in cooperation with some other international institutions and agencies e.g CEFAS has published some technical reports, information books and outreach material on marine climate change dimensions, state of the marine environment in ROPME Sea Area. Addressing of climate change issues in the ROPME Sea Area throughout carrying out a technical assessment to climate change risks (in cooperation with CEFAS).	Development of a regional "Protocol concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Protected Areas" which is still not formally adopted or ratified.

	Completion of a Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment for the ROPME Sea Area across a range of sectors, which is can be considered as the first of its kind in the region. Issuing policy briefs for means of climate change adaptation in the ROPME Sea Area.	
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	Applicable only on marine biodiversity: In this regard, ROPME has taken many actions to adopt action plan for conservation of marine biodiversity and productive ecosystems in the ROPME Sea Area. ROPME also has published some technical reports and assessments on status of coral reefs ecosystem in the same regional sea Area. ROPME also coordinated a regional-scale analysis of the extent and location of blue carbon ecosystems in the ROPME Sea Area, and compiled a data on the amount of carbon they capture and store which collated in a special report for “Blue Carbon Inventory for the ROPME Sea Area”.	Establishment of a task force for studying status of marine biodiversity and major natural coastal habitats. Setting out an Environmental Conservation and Management Programme for Mangrove Resources in the region. Organization of many technical workshops on transplantation methodologies, data and information management of mangroves and on other relevant marine biodiversity issues. Supporting one of Member States which is Oman in establishment of a Regional Centre for Mangrove Information and Resources in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the “Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué”	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	• Pacific Preparatory Process for INC led by SPREP supported through Australian Funding and technical advice from Partners • Bridge to Busan endorsed by Pacific Leaders and SPREP Executive Board • Pilot work on circular economy through SPREP Waste Projects to support Pacific Islands in transition towards circular economy models, focusing on waste reduction, resource efficiency and recycling. • Container deposit legislation, policy and schemes in all Pacific Island Countries or in process. • PacWaste Plus programme to improve the management of hazardous waste, e-waste, organic waste, and recyclables, promoting resource efficiency and waste minimization in 14 Pacific Island countries. • Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy • Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) provides support to Pacific countries to develop strategic roadmaps/pathways for targeted actions on single-use plastics. • Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter • Supporting Pacific countries to host plastic free events eg, Pacific Islands Leaders Forum Meeting in Tonga, 2024, Pacific Games in Solomon Islands, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) • Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) Resilience project to support countries to improve their response capabilities and preparedness to respond to oil spill disasters	• Support for Pacific processes and funding opportunities in INC and implementation.

Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	• National and Regional Data Hubs and Portals in place (SPREP and SPC) • Utilizing Digital Earth Pacific • Sustainable Development Roundtable approved and Sustainable Development Working Group convened. • Pacific Climate Change Portal that provides access to climate data, information, and tools to assist Pacific Island countries in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning. • Through the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific Phase 3 aims to deliver on useful and usable climate and ocean information services to enable all Pacific peoples to remain resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters • GIS training provided to enhance data analysis and mapping capacities for Pacific countries.	
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	• 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy has 7 thematic areas including Climate Change/Disaster and Ocean/Environment in which SPREP is the lead • Roundtables exist – CC, Biodiversity and Waste each with their own regional framework. • Regional strategies and frameworks that have been developed and endorsed by SPREP Members that addresses climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution eg, Pacific Islands Marine Species Programme and Action Plan, Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan, Cleaner Pacific Strategy • Many climate change adaptation projects that have been listed eg, PEBACC+, Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change, GCF-Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development, Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA), Addressing Climate Change Loss and Damage – Pacific Regional Partnership • Access to Finance capacity strengthened • 2 Pacific Regional accredited entities for GCF and AF • Pacific Climate Change Center (PCCC) that serves as a regional center for climate change capacity building, adaptation planning, and climate finance access. Through the PCCC, SPREP supports Pacific Island countries in accessing international climate funds to respond to climate-related loss and damage.	• Support on BBNJ, CBD, INC implementation • Alignment to priority areas identified under the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy and other relevant regional frameworks • Support to fund and respond to loss and damage. • Enhance adaptation actions and support for coastal ecosystems and responses to sea level rise.
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available	• Pacific Climate Change Centre coordinates work on climate science and traditional knowledge • Regional State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands Report	• Regional knowledge, sharing of information and networks

science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.		
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	• Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation - network • Framework for Nature Conservation in the Pacific – regional plan • Noumea Convention Action Plan • 15M Australian Resilient Reef Initiative Phase 2 Project to support the implementation of the Pacific Coral reef Action Plan with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and Philanthropic. • Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land- Seascapes Programme contributes to the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS by supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. • Promoting Pacific Islands Nature-based Solutions (PPIN) to support the development of policy and legislation for Nature-based Solutions (NbS), build awareness and capacity, and strengthen regional cooperation amongst Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTS) on NbS • PRISMSS Restoring Island Resilience funded by NZMFAT and aims to deliver flagship island-scale programmes in countries considered by the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) to be high priority from a climate change and biodiversity protection perspective. • Management of blue carbon ecosystems in the Pacific Island Countries strengthening coastal biodiversity conservation and management through the protection and rehabilitation incentives for coastal carbon sinks in Pacific Island countries • Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change – PEBACC+ is to strengthen the resilience of the ecosystems, economies and populations of Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna to the effects of climate change. The specific objective of the PEBACC+ project is to develop, sustain and institutionalize the ecosystem-based approach to climate change adaptation in the target countries and territories.	• Synergies to strengthen and/or scaling of existing projects, activities and initiatives to address protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems.	• Work through Land Resources Division of SPC • Kiwa Initiative • SPREP Projects on biodiversity, protected areas and chemicals and waste. • Promoting Pacific Islands Nature-based Solutions (PPIN) to support the development of policy and legislation for Nature-based Solutions (NbS), build awareness and capacity, and strengthen regional cooperation amongst Pacific	

Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	Islands Countries and Territories (PICTS) on NbS	
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South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	SACEP is currently implementing the "Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia Project" in our member states with the funding support from the World Bank. The projects aims to catalyze actions that reduce the flow of plastic pollution into South Asian Seas.	Under the components 1 and 2 of the project SACEP is • Supporting circular plastic economy solutions to reduce plastic waste by providing Regional Competitive Block Grants ("RBGs") to eligible organizations in South Asia ("Eligible RBG Beneficiaries"). • Facilitate exchange of circular plastic economy knowledge between Eligible RBG Beneficiaries and selected South Asian countries and promoting awareness raising activities. • Leveraging Public and Private Sector Engagement and Solutions • Supporting development of strategies, action plans, policies, and standards to harmonize plastic pollution mitigation measures through: (a) developing and implementing a multi-year plastic policy support program, working with leading universities and organizations; (b) developing a database for lifecycle analysis, data collection, and modelling related to plastic across selected industry value chains; and (c) supporting communication activities. • Supporting circular use of plastic in the economy through regional public private collaboration and engagement in South Asia, including designing and organizing annual or more frequent meetings of representatives from public and private sectors.
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2)	All the members of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) endorsed and adopted the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution	

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	Contingency Plan for South Asia. SACEP prepared a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for SAS region. This strategy provides a framework for coordination and coherence between countries' efforts towards the implementation of NBSAPs, leading to enhanced national and regional interventions for the achievement of the strategic plan.	
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28) Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.	SACEP successfully implemented Healthy landscapes: Managing agricultural landscapes in socio ecologically sensitive areas to promote food security, well-being and ecosystem health in Sri Lanka. This project showcased management strategies for strengthening the restoration and sustainable management of selected Village Tank Cascade Systems (VTCSs) in cascade landscapes for the enhanced provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity.	The project will deliver global environmental and socio-economic benefits through a package of measures – practices, knowledge management and awareness – that ensure future land use and production sector practices and decisions do not compromise biodiversity and ecosystem functions and recognize the importance of biodiversity, agriculture and health linkages.
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	SACEP has been working with the GCRF South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH) and have cooperated in preparing the draft "South Asia Roadmap for Sustainable Nitrogen Management" which will serve as an initial step towards promoting policy coherence and coordinated actions within the region.	In partnership, UNEP and the Government of Sri Lanka, launched the UN Global Campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen Management and the Colombo Declaration on UN Day, 24 October 2019. The Colombo Declaration adopted an ambition to halve nitrogen waste by 2030 and for this purpose calls on the Member States to develop and implement comprehensive policies and roadmaps on Sustainable Nitrogen Management. This was followed up by adoption of a second resolution on Sustainable Nitrogen Management at UNEA-5 in March 2022 under the lead of Sri Lanka.

Tehran Convention Secretariat

Thematic areas: G7 Priorities from the "Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué"	RSCAP goals and priority actions in this area	Proposals for enhanced synergies
Tackling global pollution for nature and people nr. 7- 14 (p.22-24) Plastic pollution and chemical pollution.	Legal instruments developed under the Tehran Convention help promote measures to reduce marine pollution, including means to combat oil spills and minimize discharges of pollutants from land-based sources. Regional monitoring of plastic waste and pollution sources along the Caspian coast is supported by a dedicated regional project.	Leverage G7 expertise in reducing plastic pollution and support for innovative pollution control technologies. Engage in data-sharing mechanisms with G7 countries to enhance chemical pollution monitoring and mitigation strategies.
Global Environment Monitoring Technologies nr. 37-39 (p. 31-32) Digital and Space technologies are key tools to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.	Regional cooperation for environmental monitoring in the Caspian Sea is still at an early stage, with a Protocol being negotiated on monitoring and data exchange among the Contracting Parties.	Collaborate with G7 nations on integrating digital and space-based technologies for regional environmental monitoring. Share best practices in using these technologies for marine and coastal ecosystem management.
The triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (p. 1-2) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land, soil and ocean degradation and water scarcity, drought and deforestation.	The Tehran Convention addresses these interconnected crises by focusing on climate resilience projects, biodiversity conservation, and pollution control, especially in vulnerable coastal ecosystems. Special attention is given to the preservation of Caspian Sea biodiversity and combating climate-induced sea level decline in the Caspian Sea. The Tehran Convention has been actively working to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities in the	Partner with G7 countries to co-finance projects aimed at restoring degraded marine and coastal habitats. Strengthen technical cooperation on addressing pollution impacts on biodiversity hotspots. Partner with G7 countries to mobilize adaptation finance that can be directed towards enhancing the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities in the Caspian region. Collaborate on developing comprehensive investment plans

	Caspian region, which are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as declining sea levels, extreme weather events, and drought. Efforts include capacity-building initiatives focused on climate adaptation, the development of regional climate resilience strategies, and early warning systems for vulnerable populations. The Secretariat promotes collaboration among Caspian states to identify and prioritize vulnerable groups and areas for targeted climate adaptation interventions.	for adaptation, particularly in sectors like fisheries, agriculture, and infrastructure, which are vital for the livelihoods of at-risk populations. Work with the G7 to access international climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund, to support projects aimed at reducing loss and damage from climate-related disasters.
Science (p. 1-2) Consideration of the best available science as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.	The Tehran Convention Secretariat places a strong emphasis on using the best available scientific knowledge to inform policy and decision-making processes regarding the environmental management of the Caspian Sea. Collaborative research efforts between regional academic institutions and international partners have been promoted to ensure that environmental governance is based on robust scientific findings.	Collaborate with G7 countries to enhance the use of cutting-edge scientific research and technological innovations for improved environmental monitoring, climate adaptation, and biodiversity conservation in the Caspian region. Establish platforms for knowledge exchange between scientists and policy-makers from G7 countries and the Caspian region to bridge traditional knowledge with modern scientific methods, particularly in sustainable resource management and conservation practices. Seek partnerships with G7 institutions to expand research on emerging environmental challenges such as sea level decline, microplastic pollution, and the impacts of climate change on the Caspian Sea's biodiversity. Promote joint capacity-building programs that enhance the scientific and technical capabilities of local experts and Indigenous communities, ensuring their involvement in regional environmental governance and decision-making.
Strengthening and accelerating protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystems nr. 15-26 (p. 24-28)	The Tehran Convention has a Biodiversity Protocol adopted by all Contracting Parties which creates the legal framework for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity through various protected area initiatives and restoration programs for sensitive ecosystems in the Caspian Sea.	Establish stronger financial partnerships with G7 countries to scale up restoration projects in critical habitats. Create a joint task force to enhance biodiversity monitoring and share insights on best conservation practices.

Biodiversity on land, in freshwater and in the ocean. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Leveraging private and philanthropic finance for biodiversity. Deforestation, forest loss and forest degradation. Health of our ocean and seas.		
Sustainable management of natural resources: land and water nr. 27-33 (p.28) Safe water, healthy soils, and ecosystems. Conservation and protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable use and management of land and landscapes and accelerating restoration of degraded lands. Sustainable solutions, including nature-based solutions, agroecological and other sustainable approaches.	The Tehran Convention prioritizes the conservation of water resources in the Caspian Sea basin, focusing on pollution prevention, integrated water management, and the preservation of water quality. The Secretariat has also been actively promoting nature-based solutions to address ecosystem degradation, including wetland restoration and sustainable agriculture practices in coastal areas.	Partner with G7 countries to enhance technical and financial support for large-scale land restoration projects, particularly in regions affected by erosion, soil degradation, and drought. Collaborate on joint research projects to explore sustainable agroecological practices and nature-based solutions that benefit both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the Caspian region. Seek assistance in advancing the use of innovative water management technologies and approaches to improve water use efficiency and protect against pollution in both urban and rural areas.

Annex III: Proposed Timeline for Updating the Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas

- Preliminary table of content - October 2024, Athens, Greece
- Mobilization of external expertise to support the process - October 2024
- First draft document - Annotated table of content for review by the RSCAPs and UNEP - December 2024
- First draft document - End of February 2025
- Online consultation - March 2025
- Review and endorsement of the final draft - June 2025
- Any adjustments required - July/September 2025
- Publication, dissemination - September- December 2025
- Presentation as an information document to UNEA 7 - December 2025

Annex IV: Guiding Questions

1. What would be the timeline of the updated Regional Seas Strategic Directions? It should be aligned with UNEP MTS or until 2030? Is there a need to revise the goals or only to adjust the table of actions for each goal?
2. To what extent the collaboration and synergies with the existing global relevant mechanisms of the new global treaties and policies should take place in the updated strategic directions. What would be the best approach for the RS to contribute to and align their work in the most effective way? (BBNJ, Plastics treaty, GBF)?
3. How to strengthen and streamline concrete actions related to adaptation to climate change and nature-based solutions in the work of the regional seas including related resource mobilization?
4. How to translate into concrete strategic and operational actions of para 4 c of UNEA resolution 6/15 regarding to the development and implementation of joint strategies and work on qualities status assessments and monitoring programmes to address environmental challenges in a coordinated effort?
5. What would be the best approach to review the progress on implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions, the periodicity, and tools?
6. Ways and means to strengthen advocacy and impact of Regional Seas: The concept of a "Champion" for the Regional Seas.

Annex V: Provisional Agenda of the Regional Seas Global Coordination Meeting, Nice, June 2025

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Organizational of the meeting
- Update on progress from the last Meeting
- Common action to implement Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025
- Updated Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026-2029/2030
- Implementation of UNEA Resolution on Ocean Governance
- Harmonized approaches for monitoring and assessment
- UNEP MTS and Regional Seas
- UNEA 6 strategic participation of Regional Seas Programme
- Date and Venue for the next meeting
- Meeting Declaration
- Closure of the Meeting