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**Regional Seas Programme contributions to achieving the Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)**

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Foreword

The health of our oceans is inseparable from the future of life on Earth. Marine and coastal ecosystems provide vital services—from climate regulation and carbon storage to food security and livelihoods for billions of people. Yet these ecosystems are increasingly threatened by the triple planetary crisis: unsustainable exploitation, escalating pollution, and the accelerating impacts of climate change.

In response, the international community has adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF), setting ambitious targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. With just six years remaining, intensified and coordinated action is urgently needed to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage marine and coastal biodiversity.

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) play a pivotal role in turning these global commitments into regionally grounded action. Through decades of collaboration, RSCAPs have built trust, expertise, and shared governance mechanisms among countries with common marine and coastal ecosystems. These efforts have laid the groundwork for regionally tailored implementation of the KM GBF. However, realizing the full ambition of the Framework will require strengthened coordination, targeted capacity building, and enhanced transparency across all regions.

This report presents the first comprehensive review of how RSCAPs are aligning with and contributing to the KM GBF. It assesses regional policies, protocols, monitoring frameworks, and indicators—focusing in particular on Targets 1 to 11 and 21. It highlights where progress is accelerating, where critical gaps persist, and where new opportunities are emerging to improve data harmonization, bolster regional monitoring, and scale up collective action for nature.

As countries prepare for the first global stocktake under the KM GBF, RSCAPs have the opportunity to demonstrate regional progress and contributions. By enabling countries to cooperate across borders and act at scale, RSCAPs are well positioned to help deliver on the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Introduction and objective of the report

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) have consistently demonstrated their critical role in advancing marine and coastal biodiversity conservation. Under the umbrella of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, RSCAPs act as regional platforms, facilitating collaborative actions among member states to address transboundary challenges while contributing to global biodiversity goals. By leveraging their established governance structures and regional expertise, RSCAPs are uniquely positioned to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF).

Building on previous UNEP reports (UNEP 2021a; UNEP 2023), this study provides a comprehensive analysis of RSCAPs' contributions to the KM GBF and presents recommendations to enhance alignment and mutual compatibility. It also aims to inform the ongoing revision of UNEP's Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) and identify capacity building measures to strengthen regional and national policy frameworks.

The report is structured as follows:

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the KM GBF Framework, including monitoring and reporting. It also discusses COP16 developments that are relevant to RSCAPs' work.

Chapter 2 examines the Regional Seas Strategic Directions and Regional Seas Core Indicators in light of the KM GBF, in particular Targets 1-11 and 21.

Chapter 3 discusses a comprehensive review of RSCAP policies, targets and indicators. It discusses how strategic objectives, targets and indicators adopted at the level of RSCAPs align with the KM GBF.

The methodology for this reports and **data limitations** are provided in **Annex 1**.

Abbreviations

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
EBA	Ecosystem-based Approaches
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
FERM	Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FAO)
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMO	International Maritime Organization
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
KM GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
OECD	Other Effective Conservation Measure
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
RFBs	Regional Fisheries Bodies
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
RSCAPs	Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
RS CI	Regional Seas Core Indicator
RSP	UNEP Regional Seas Programme
RSSD	Regional Seas Strategic Directions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

Executive Summary

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework (**KM GBF**) seeks to **halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030**, with the vision of achieving “living in harmony with nature” by 2050. The framework establishes four long-term goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030, including key targets for conserving marine and coastal biodiversity. Important cross-cutting themes of the KM GBF include acknowledging indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity, ensuring intergenerational equity, promoting a human rights-based approach, and incorporating the One Health Approach.

CBD COP 15 established a mechanism to guide the **planning, monitoring, and reporting** of the KM GBF, requiring standardized national reports in 2026 and 2029 and global stocktakes at COP17 and COP19 (CBD Decision 15/5). The Monitoring Framework foresees four categories of indicators: mandatory headline indicators for high-level progress, binary indicators for assessing specific national actions, voluntary component indicators for detailed monitoring of KM GBF targets, and complementary indicators for in-depth thematic analysis. These indicators can apply at the national, regional, and global levels, encouraging harmonized regional monitoring for a broader understanding of biodiversity trends. The framework also encourages the development of regional biodiversity monitoring mechanisms.

UNEP's Regional Seas Programme

UNEP's Regional Seas Programme (RSP) is an umbrella for **18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs)**, which bring together countries sharing marine and coastal areas to collaboratively manage and protect their shared marine and coastal environment. By leveraging their established governance structures and regional expertise, RSCAPs are uniquely positioned to support the implementation of the KM GBF.

The **Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025 (RSSD)** provides a unified vision for the Regional Seas Programme, guiding RSCAPs in addressing global and regional environmental challenges. The RSSD aligns with the post-2020 biodiversity framework. It integrates the ecosystem approach and promotes increased spatial planning (KM GBF Target 1). It focuses on conserving critical habitats (KM GBF targets 1 and 2), expanding MPA/OECM coverage (KM GBF Target 3) and covers climate change and pollution issues (KM GBF Targets 7 and 8). A full mapping of the RSSD against the KM GBF is provided in **Annex 2**.

RSCAPs play a critical role in **monitoring** the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, using a wide range of indicators. In an effort to harmonize monitoring, UNEP Regional Seas developed a set of 22 Core Indicators (UNEP/WBRS.18/INF9). The Regional Seas Core

Indicators align with several important KM GBF targets, including integrated planning (Target 1), ecosystem extent (Target 1), MPA coverage (Target 3), sustainable fish stocks (Target 5), and ocean acidification (Target 8). However, gaps remain for areas such as OECMs (Target 3), ecosystem restoration (Target 2), invasive alien species (Target 6), and eutrophication (Target 7). In some areas, the Regional Seas Core Indicators address gaps in the KM GBF indicator framework, for example with indicators for chemical and plastic pollution, or ocean warming. A full mapping is provided in **Annex 3**.

Alignment of regional protocols, policies and strategies with the KM GBF

A comprehensive review of protocols, policies, strategies, and indicators was undertaken for all 18 RSCAPs. The aim of this review is to assess alignment with the KM GBF Targets most critical to RSCAPs' mandate (KM GBF Targets 1–11 and 21) and identify biodiversity protection gaps. The methodology for this review is detailed in **Annex 1**.

A. Key findings:

- 1. Challenges in accessing up-to-date documents from RSCAPs persist. While foundational documents, such as conventions and protocols, are generally accessible online, more recent or detailed resources are often unpublished or unavailable. These limitations hinder a thorough assessment of RSCAP contributions. Enhanced transparency and accessibility of RSCAP documentation are essential to raise awareness of their work and contributions to international agreements, including the KM GBF.**
- 2. Overall, KM GBF Targets 1 – 8 and 21 are well covered across all RSCAPs. All RSCAPs have integrated Target 1 (integrated spatial planning and management), Target 3 (MPAs and OECMs), and Target 4 (species conservation and recovery), most often backed by indicators to track progress. Most RSCAPs have set objectives aligned with Target 2 (ecosystem restoration), Target 5 (sustainable harvesting and use of wild species), Target 6 (invasive alien species), Target 7 (pollution), Target 8 (climate change).**
- 3. However, the degree to which different elements in KM GBF Targets are covered (e.g. quantitative targets or qualitative criteria) varies. Few RSCAPs have integrated the quantitative targets included in the KM GBF, such as halting the loss of areas of high biodiversity (Target 1) and restoring 30% of degraded marine and coastal ecosystems (Target 2). Five adopted a 30% target for MPA and OECM coverage (Target 3). Two RSCAPs have set a quantitative target to reduce the rates of introduction of invasive alien species. The adoption (and tracking of progress towards) qualitative criteria - such as effective management, connectivity or equitable governance of MPAs and OECMs – also varies significantly across RSCAPs.**

4. Emerging areas of work for RSCAPs include Targets 9 (manage wild species to benefit people), 10 (aquaculture) and 11 (nature contributions to people). Less than half of RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives aligned with these global goals. Generally, RSCAPs lack indicators to monitor progress against these targets.
5. RSCAPs can play a key role in strengthening the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), for example through inclusive governance structures, stakeholder engagement, promoting respect for local and indigenous rights of territories and natural resources, recognition of traditional knowledge, supporting decentralized and IPLC-led conservation initiatives.
6. RSCAPs show considerable variation in the scope and extent of their monitoring programs, influenced by regional capacities, resources, and priorities. Currently, 14 RSCAPs have operational monitoring plans. While some, like HELCOM, MAP and OSPAR, have comprehensive multi-thematic monitoring frameworks, others focus on specific areas such as plastic pollution or biodiversity due to resource constraints. These differences extend to the indicators and methodologies adopted, with some RSCAPs using well-established frameworks, while others rely on less standardized or narrower approaches.

Table 1 offers a detailed analysis of biodiversity protection gaps across RSCAPs, highlighting the extent to which various KM GBF elements are addressed and whether corresponding indicators are in place.

B. Recommendations:

RSCAPs:

- Improve transparent and public access to relevant RSCAP Regional Action Plans, Strategies and policies, monitoring manuals, indicator meta data, and ecosystem monitoring data, as appropriate.
- Close the biodiversity protection gaps in regional protocols, policies, strategies and monitoring frameworks. Reference can be made to Table 1.

UNEP Regional Seas Programme:

- Design and implement a capacity building action plan to support RSCAPs in closing their biodiversity protection gaps within legal and policy frameworks.
- Update the Regional Seas Strategic Directions, taking consideration of the collective RSCAP strengths and biodiversity protection gaps provided in Table 1.
- Re-establish the RSP Indicator Working Group to streamline the Regional Seas Core Indicators to the KM GBF indicator framework. The Working Group should prioritize a sub-set of indicators for adoption by all RSCAPs. A suggested priority list is provided in Chapter 2. It should also develop clear, standardized methodologies and guidelines

for data collection and disaggregation for conservation data, ensuring alignment and comparability of global and regional datasets.

Table: Mapping of RSCAP policies, targets and indicators against the KM GBF

	RSCAP set a quantitative target
	RSCAP set a qualitative objective or target
✓	RSCAP is monitoring relevant indicators or data parameters
(✓)	RSCAP does not monitor an indicator, but has carried out (a) relevant assessment(s)
*	monitoring framework and indicators under development / not operational

Global 2030 Targets and criteria	Supporting Regional objectives	CCAMLR	Arctic Council	HELCOM	Black Sea Commission	Tehran Convention	Nairobi Convention	COBSEA	MAP	OSPAR	Antigua Convention	NOWPAP	PERSGA	ROPME	SACEP	SPREP	CPPS	Abidjan Convention	CEP
1 (a) Bring all marine and coastal areas under spatial planning and effective management	Apply the EcAp																		
	Promote ICZM and/or MSP			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				
1 (b): Bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity close to zero by 2030		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	(✓)		✓	✓		✓	✓	(✓)	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓*
2 (a) Restore 30% of degraded coastal and marine ecosystems				(✓)			(✓)		✓	(✓)			✓				✓*	✓	✓*
3 (a) Conserve 30% of marine and coastal ecosystems through MPAs & OECM systems	Promote the creation of national/regional MPA(s) (networks)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
	Map existing OECMs			(✓)			(✓)		(✓)	(✓)									
3 (b) Include areas of high biodiversity		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					✓	(✓)	✓		✓*
3 (c) Effective management				✓	✓		(✓)		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
3 (d) Ecological representativeness		✓		✓	(✓)		(✓)		✓	✓					(✓)				
3 (e) Connectivity			(✓)	(✓)					✓	✓									✓*
3 (f) Equitable governance			(✓)*						✓							(✓)			
3 (g) Integration into wider seascapes							(✓)		✓							✓			
3 (h) Respect and protect local / indigenous community rights							✓		✓										✓*

Global 2030 Targets and criteria	Supporting Regional objectives	CCAMLR	Arctic Council	HELCOM	Black Sea Commission	Tehran Convention	Nairobi Convention	COBSEA	MAP	OSPAR	Antigua Convention	NOWPAP	PERSGA	ROPME	SACEP	SPREP	CPPS	Abidjan Convention	CEP
3 (f) Regulate sustainable use			✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓*		✓
4 (a) Enable the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	(✓)		✓	✓		✓	✓	(✓)	✓	✓	✓		✓
4 (b) Halt human induced extinction of known threatened species				✓	✓					✓									
4 (c) Maintain and restore genetic diversity of wild species																			
4 (d) Effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflicts for coexistence																			
(5) (a) Apply the EcaP																			
(5) (b) Ensure that the use and harvesting of wild species is sustainable, preventing exploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems	Promote sustainable fisheries	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓		✓*	✓	✓*		
	Promote sustainable marine and coastal tourism																		
5(c) Ensure that the use and harvesting of wild species is legal	Combat IUU fishing	✓													✓				
5 (d) Ensure that the use and harvesting of wild species is safe, reducing the risk of pathogen spillover																			
6 (a) Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity									✓			✓							
6 (b) Identify and manage the pathways for introduction			✓	✓	✓				✓				(✓)		✓		(✓)		✓
6(c) Prevent the introduction of priority invasive species				✓															
6 (d) Reduce the rates of introduction invasive species			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					✓				✓

Global 2030 Targets and criteria	Supporting Regional objectives	CCAMLR	Arctic Council	HELCOM	Black Sea Commission	Tehran Convention	Nairobi Convention	COBSEA	MAP	OSPAR	Antigua Convention	NOWPAP	PERSGA	ROPME	SACEP	SPREP	CPPS	Abidjan Convention	CEP
6 (e) Eradicate or control invasive alien species, especially on priority sites, such as islands					✓											✓			
7 (a). Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem services, considering cumulative effects	Reduce the impact of pollution on marine and coastal ecosystems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 (b) Reduce excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through nutrient recycling		✓	✓	✓	(✓)		(✓)	(✓)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓*		(✓)
7(c) Reduce the overall risk from pesticides by at least half	Reduce the risk from pesticides on marine and coastal ecosystems																		
7 (d) Reduce the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals by at least half	Reduce the risk from hazardous chemicals on marine and coastal ecosystems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓
7 (f) Work towards eliminating plastic pollution.		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓*	✓	✓		
8 (a) Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity	Minimize the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal biodiversity	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
8 (b) Minimize the impacts of ocean acidification	Minimize the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓*	✓		✓	✓		(✓)
8 (c) Use NbS or the EcaP to mitigate climate change													(✓)						✓*
8 (d) Minimize the negative and optimize the positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity	Minimize the negative and optimize the positive impacts of climate action on marine and coastal biodiversity																		

Global 2030 Targets and criteria	Supporting Regional objectives	CCAMLR	Arctic Council	HELCOM	Black Sea Commission	Tehran Convention	Nairobi Convention	COBSEA	MAP	OSPAR	Antigua Convention	NOWPAP	PERSGA	ROPME	SACEP	SPREP	CPPS	Abidjan Convention	CEP
9 (a) Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations	Promote sustainable small-scale fisheries																✓		
9 (b) Protect and encourage customary and traditional use)	Protect and encourage customary and traditional use																		
9 (c) Ensure benefits to people through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity	Promote biodiversity-based enterprises																		
10(a) Ensure that areas under aquaculture are managed sustainably					✓								✓		✓*		✓		
11 (a) Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature	Apply the EcAp																		
	Promote NbS																		✓
	Promote a Sustainable Blue Economy																		
	Promote the valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services at regional or national level		(✓)	(✓)			✓		(✓)	(✓)			✓*				(✓)		✓*

Chapter 1.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework

A. The KM-GBF Goals and Targets

Adopted at COP15, the KM GBF represents an ambitious global effort to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Taking a whole-of-government approach, the framework outlines the vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050” and the mission to take urgent actions to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems and ensure the equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. The K-M GBF has **four long-term goals for 2050**:

- **Goal A:** maintaining the integrity, connectivity, and resilience of all ecosystems, including ecosystem restoration, reduction of extinction risks for all species and safeguarding genetic diversity;
- **Goal B:** ensuring biodiversity is sustainably used and its contributions to people are valued;
- **Goal C:** fairly and equitably sharing benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge; and
- **Goal D:** securing adequate means of implementation (financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology) to support the implementation of the framework, including covering of biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year.

The 2050 Goals will be achieved through **delivery of 23 global targets for 2030**, including key goals for marine and coastal ecosystems, such as restoring 30% of degraded marine and coastal areas (Target 2), protecting 30% of the world’s ocean by 2030 (Target 3) and ensuring the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (Targets 5 and 9). Other focus areas of the KM GBF include acknowledging Indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity, ensuring intergenerational equity, promoting a human rights-based approach, and incorporating the One Health Approach. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) remain the primary instrument for implementing the KM GBF at the national level.

At COP 16, Parties adopted **three key texts for marine and coastal biodiversity**. First, a long-awaited process for modifying existing and identifying new Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), recognizing the importance of updating them. While EBSAs have a purely descriptive status, they help to inform policy measures such as marine protected areas and the implementation of Targets 1 and 3 (CBD COP Decision 16/16). Second, a decision on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. This decision outlines the areas of work related to marine, coastal and island

biodiversity requiring further focus, and recognizes the role of RSCAPs (CBD COP Decision 16/17). Finally, a decision on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which is a major driver for marine and coastal biodiversity loss (CBD COP Decision 16/18).

Another significant outcome of COP16 was the creation of a subsidiary body dedicated to the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), ensuring their perspectives are integral to future conservation decisions. Finally, the CBD COP adopted a revised resource mobilization strategy for 2030, and a roadmap towards the establishment of a permanent financial mechanism (COP 16/34).

B. The KM GBF Monitoring and Reporting Framework

The KM GBF Monitoring Framework (CBD COP Decisions 15/5 and 15/6) requires (i) submission of standardized national implementation reports (in 2026 and 2029), and (ii) a global stocktake based on information from national reports and other sources (e.g. regional contributions) at COP 17 and COP 19.

The Monitoring Framework is structured around **four categories of indicators** to capture progress at global, regional, and national levels:

1. **Headline Indicators:** a core set of high-level indicators to track overall progress toward KM GBF goals and targets.
2. **Binary Indicators:** yes/no responses in national reports to assess specific actions undertaken by countries.
3. **Component Indicators:** optional indicators to cover specific components of KM GBF goals and targets.
4. **Complementary Indicators:** optional thematic or in-depth indicators for detailed analysis.

These indicators can apply at the national, regional, and global levels, encouraging harmonized regional monitoring for a broader understanding of biodiversity trends.

An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators was established to develop a comprehensive set of indicators under the new framework, including their meta data. These indicators were adopted by the CBD at COP 16.2 (CBD COP 16/31). While the methodology for most Headline Indicators was finalised, further work remains to be done for a few (e.g. KM Headline Indicator 1.1). Where no Headline Indicator is available yet, Binary Indicators are proposed. The meta data can be found online at gbf-indicators.org. The Headline and Binary Indicators currently do not encompass all sub-elements of the KM GBF Targets. However, the inclusion of voluntary component and complementary indicators significantly improves this coverage.

Chapter 2.

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme (RSP) is an umbrella for 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), which bring together countries sharing marine and coastal areas to collaboratively manage and protect their shared marine environment. By leveraging their established governance structures and regional expertise, RSCAPs are uniquely positioned to support the implementation of the KM GBF targets and elements relevant for marine and coastal biodiversity.

Table 2: Overview of RSCAPs

Region	Regional Sea Conventions and Action Plans	Administrative and coordinating body
Antarctic Ocean	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
Arctic	Arctic Council	Arctic Council
West, Central and Southern Africa Region	Abidjan Convention	UNEP/Abidjan Convention Secretariat
Baltic Sea	Helsinki Convention (HELCOM)	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (referred to as HELCOM)
Black Sea	Bucharest Convention	The Black Sea Commission
Caspian Sea	Tehran Convention	UNEP/Tehran Convention Secretariat
East Asian Seas	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)	COBSEA Secretariat
Mediterranean	Barcelona Convention	UNEP/MAP
North-East Atlantic	OSPAR Convention	OSPAR Commission
North-West Pacific	Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)	UNEP/NOWPAP RCU
Northeast Pacific	Antigua Convention	UNEP (interim)
Pacific	Noumea Convention	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Red Sea and Gulf of Aden	Jeddah Convention	Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)	Kuwait Convention	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)
South Asian Seas	South Asian Conservation Environment Programme (SACEP)	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Southeast Pacific	Lima Convention	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
Eastern Africa (Western Indian Ocean)	Nairobi Convention	UNEP/Nairobi Convention
Wider Caribbean Region	Cartagena Convention	UNEP/Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)

A. Regional Seas Strategic Directions

The Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025 (RSSD) provides a unified vision for the Regional Seas Programme, guiding the RSCAPs in addressing global and regional environmental challenges. The RSSD is aligned with the post-2020 biodiversity framework. It integrates the ecosystem approach and promotes increased spatial planning (KM GBF Target 1). It also focuses on conserving critical habitats (KM GBF targets 1 and 2), expanding MPA/OECM coverage (KM GBF Target 3) and comprehensively covers climate change and pollution issues (KM GBF Targets 7 and 8). A mapping of the RSSD against KM GBF Targets 1 to 11 and 21 is provided in **Annex 2**.

B. Regional Seas Core Indicators

Many RSCAPs have developed marine and coastal biodiversity monitoring frameworks, though their scope, implementation, and comprehensiveness vary across regions. These frameworks aim to track key aspects of marine and coastal ecosystems, such as habitat health, the status of important species, and the impacts of human activities like pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction. RSCAPs thus play a critical role in regional and global biodiversity efforts by providing valuable data for policymaking.

In a significant attempt to harmonize RSCAP reporting, UNEP established a **Working Group on Regional Seas Indicators** in 2015. This initiative led to the creation of a **Core Set of 22 Indicators**, designed to align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14. The Core Indicators focus on critical aspects of marine conservation and sustainable use, including marine pollution, biodiversity, and protected areas. However, the implementation of the Regional Seas Core Indicators faces several challenges related to financial resources, significant capacity and training needs, geopolitical tensions, differences in regional priorities and lack of harmonized methodologies. These variations have limited the ability to achieve globally comparable and regionally applicable monitoring outcomes. It has therefore been suggested to prioritize a limited subset of indicators for adoption by all RSCAPs (UNEP, 2021b).

Annex 3 maps the Regional Seas Core Indicators against the KM GBF Indicators. It provides an overview of key gaps and opportunities for prioritizing the adoption of a subset of indicators by all RSCAPs, as appropriate. The Core Indicators show strong alignment with several KM GBF indicators, particularly on integrated planning and critical ecosystems (Target 1), MPA coverage (Target 3), sustainable fish stocks (Target 5), and ocean acidification (Target 8). Gaps remain, including for ecosystem restoration (Target 2), invasive alien species (Target 6), and nutrient input-based eutrophication measurement (Target 7). In several areas, the Core Indicators go beyond or complement the KM GBF framework – offering additional insights on coastal modification, Red List species distribution, fisheries management, marine pollution, and aquaculture. A summary is provided in **Table 3**.

Annexes 7 to 9 provide an overview of the adoption by RSCAPS of the Regional Sea Core Indicators and KM GBF Indicators respectively. More than half of RSCAPs has adopted indicators, or has conducted in-depth studies related to (1) MPA coverage, (2) the extent of critical ecosystems and habitats, (3) the status of threatened species, (4) pollution (including nutrients, harmful chemicals and beach litter), and climate change and ocean acidification indicators such as sea surface temperature and Ph. A summary is provided in **Table 4**.

Table 3: Alignment of Regional Seas Core Indicators with KM GBF Headline Indicators, Component Indicators and Complementary indicators

✓	Regional Seas Core Indicator available and aligned with the methodology/meta data of KM GBF Indicators
X	No Regional Seas Core Indicator available or; a Regional Seas Core Indicator is available but adopts a different methodology than the KM GBF Indicators
N/A	No KM GBF Indicator available

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline Indicator	KM GBF Component Indicator	GBF Complementary indicator
1. (a) Ecosystem-based management/ICZM/MSP (binary indicator)	✓	X	X
1. (b) Red list of ecosystems	X	X	X
1. (c) Extent of ecosystems	X	✓	X
2. Restoration	X	X	X
3. Conservation	✓ (partially)	X	X
4. Species protection and recovery	✓ (partially)	X	X
5. Sustainable use of marine resources	✓	X	X
6. Invasive alien species	X	X	X
7. (a) Pollution (all)	N/A	✓	✓
7. (b) Pollution (nutrients)	X	X	✓
7. (c) Pollution (pesticides)	X	X	X
7. (d) Pollution (chemicals)	N/A	X	✓
7. (e) Pollution (plastic)	N/A	✓	✓
8. Climate change	X	✓	✓
9. Wild Species	X	X	X
10. Aquaculture	N/A	N/A	✓
11. (a) Nature's contributions to people	X	✓	X

Table 4: RSCAPs monitoring KM GBF Headline, SDG 14 and Regional Sea Core Indicators (summary)

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline Indicators	SDG 14 Indicators	Regional Seas Core Indicators	RSCAPS monitoring
1. Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss	1.1 Per cent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans (under development)	14.2.1: Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas	RS CI 22: National ICZM guidelines and enabling legislation adopted	7
	1.b. Number of countries using participatory, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes to address land and sea use change			
	A.1 Red list of ecosystems KM headline indicator	N/A	N/A	4
	A.2 Extent of Ecosystems	N/A	RS CI 15: Trends in critical habitat extent and condition	14
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 8: Length of coastal modification and km2 of coastal reclamation	2
2. Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	2.2: Area under restoration	N/A	N/A	1
3. Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs.	14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	RS CI 21: % Marine protected areas designated	15
4. Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts	A.3: IUCN Red List Index	N/A	N/A	0
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 14: Distribution of Red List Index species	13
	A.4: proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	N/A	N/A	7
5. Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks w/ biologically sustainable levels	14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	RS CI 12: FAO stock status: % stocks overfished compared to MSY	5
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 5: Fish catches within EEZs	8
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 13: Marine trophic index	2
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 6: Application of risk assessment to account for pollution and biodiversity impacts	0
	N/A	14.6.1: Degree of implementation of international instruments to combat IUU fishing	RS CI 20: Fisheries measures in place	Not assessed
	N/A	14.b.1: Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/ policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	N/A	Not assessed
	N/A	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a % of GDP in SIDS, LDCs, and all countries	N/A	Not assessed

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline Indicators	SDG 14 Indicators	Regional Seas Core Indicators	RSCAPS monitoring
6. Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact	6.1: Rate of invasive alien species establishment	N/A	N/A	6
		15.8.1: Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species.		Not assessed
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (all)	N/A	N/A	National Action Plans to reduce input from LBS: % National action plans ratified 14.1 / operational	10
	N/A	6.3.1: Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated.	RS CI 17: 1) % coastal urban population connected to sewage facilities; 2) % of wastewater facilities complying with adequate standards; 3) % of untreated wastewater.	6
	N/A	11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities. [UN-Habitat, DESA-UNSD] 12.5.1: National recycling rate, tons of material recycled. [UNEP]	RS CI 18: 1) % port waste reception facilities available; 2) Incentives to reduce land-based sources; 3) Amount of recycled waste on land (%).	3
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 10: Pollution hot spots 1) Concentration of Status of selected pollutant contamination in biota and sediments and temporal trends 2) Number of hotspots	8
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (nutrients)	N/A	14.1.1a Index of coastal eutrophication (Chl-A)	RS CI 1: Chlorophyll a concentration as an indicator of phytoplankton biomass.	12
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 9: Locations and frequency of algal blooms reported	4
	7.1: Index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP)	14.1.1a Index of coastal eutrophication (ICEP)	N/A	6
	N/A	N/A	RS CI 6: Aquaculture: application of risk assessments	
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (Pesticides)	7.2. Aggregated Applied Toxicity	N/A	N/A	0

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline Indicators	SDG 14 Indicators	Regional Seas Core Indicators	RSCAPS monitoring
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (chemicals of concern)	N/A	N/A	RS CI 2: Trends for selected priority chemicals including POPs and heavy metal.	11
	N/A	12.4.1: Number of parties to MEAs on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement. [UNEP].	N/A	Not assessed
	N/A	12.4.2: Hazardous waste generated per capita; and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment [UNEP].	N/A	Not assessed
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (plastic pollution)	N/A	14.1.1.b: Plastic debris density	RS CI 3: Overall levels of marine litter Quantification of beach litter items	13
8. Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	8.b: Number of countries with policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and to minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.	N/A	RS CI 19: 1) % national adaptation plans in place, 2) Sector based national adaptation plans, 3) Number of existing national and local coastal and marine plans incorporating climate change adaptation.	3
			RS CI 4: Annual mean sea surface temperature (25m below the surface)	10
			RS CI 11: Ocean Acidification (Aragonite saturation; pH; Alkalinity)	9
9. Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People	9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species: no meta data is available yet for this indicator, so a binary indicator has been proposed: 9.b Number of countries with policies to sustainably manage, use [and trade] wild species, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and that protect and encourage	N/A	N/A	0
	N/A	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a % of GDP in SIDS, LDCs, and all countries	N/A	Not assessed
10. Aquaculture	N/A	N/A	RS CI 7: Destruction of habitat due to aquaculture	1
11. Nature's Contributions to People	B.1: Ecosystem services	NA	N/A	6

C. Prioritizing indicators for adoption by all RSCAPs

Given the differences in capacity and priorities between RSCAPs, there is value in prioritizing a more limited sub-set of indicators, for which clear, standardized methodologies and guidelines for data collection and disaggregation for conservation data are developed. This would ensure alignment and comparability and tracking of regional progress against global targets.

The Regional Seas Core Indicator Working Group should be re-established to identify this priority sub-set. Recommendations for the working group include:

1. **Prioritize indicators for which RSCAPs have been proposed as data custodian under the KM GBF. For example:** eutrophication potential (ICEP).
2. **Prioritize indicators for which a globally standardized methodology is available under the KM GBF,, as long as the global methodology is appropriate at regional level. For example, to measure MPA coverage, prioritize KM Headline Indicator 3 over RS CI 21, as the methodology for KM Headline Indicator data is established and more comprehensive than RS CI 21.**
3. **Prioritize indicators which are already in use by a significant number of RSCAPs. For example:** the extent of ecosystems or critical habitats (KM Headline Indicator A.2; RS CI 15), invasive alien species (KM Headline Indicator 6.1) or beach litter (RS CI 3).
4. **Address critical gaps in the Regional Sea Core Indicators, for example on restoration and invasive alien species.**
5. **Coordinate with other UNEP Agencies which have been identified as data custodian under the KM GBF, for example FAO for restoration and fisheries indicators.**

Additionally, the Working Group could **provide input into the CBD process of further refining and closing the existing gaps in the KM GBF indicator framework**, leveraging RSCAP experience with monitoring and reporting – for example, in relation to marine pollution.

Suggested priority list for the Working Group:

KM GBF Target	Indicators	Considerations
1. Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss	SDG 14.2.1: Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas RS CI 22: National ICZM guidelines and enabling legislation adopted	SDG 14.2.1 methodology refers to RS CI 22; RS methodology not available online
	KM Headline A.2 Extent of Ecosystems RS CI 15: Trends in critical habitat extent and condition	High degree of adoption by RSCAPs ; RSP WG to identify which indicator is more appropriate (use different typologies)
2. Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	KM Headline 2.2: Area under restoration	While many RSCAPS have strategic objectives related to restoration, monitoring and assessment is not common yet and not aligned with KM GBF; Potential to work with FAO/FERM as data custodian
3. Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	KM Headline 3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs	KM GBF 3.1 is more complete than RS CI 21 (covers OECMs and has optional disaggregations) High degree of adoption by RSCAPs
4.Species protection and recovery	RS CI 14: Distribution of Red List Index species	High degree of adoption by RSCAPs
6. Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact	KM Headline 6.1: Rate of invasive alien species establishment	Many RSCAPS monitor invasive alien species trends, but methodologies vary
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (all)	RS CI 16: National Action Plans to reduce input from LBS: % National action plans ratified 14.1 / operational	High degree of adoption. By RSCAPs
	RS CI 10: Pollution hot spots 1) Concentration of selected pollutant contamination in biota and sediments and temporal trends 2) Number of hotspots	Many RSCAPS monitor pollution hot spots, but methodologies vary
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (nutrients)	RS CI 1: Chlorophyll a concentration as an indicator of phytoplankton biomass	High degree of adoption by RSCAPs
	KM Headline 7.1: Index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP)	RSCAPs have been identified as data custodian under the KM GBF for KM Headline 7.1
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (chemicals of concern and plastic pollution)	RS CI 2: Trends for selected priority chemicals including POPs and heavy metal.	Many RSCAPS monitor trends for priority chemicals, but methodologies vary
7. Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity (plastic pollution)	RS CI 3: Overall levels of marine litter Quantification of beach litter items 14.1.1.b: Plastic debris density (beach litter)	High degree of adoption by RSCAPs
8. Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	RS CI 4: Annual mean sea surface temperature (25m below the surface)	High degree of adoption by RSCAPs
	RS CI 11: Ocean Acidification (Aragonite saturation; pH; Alkalinity)	High degree of adoption by RSCAPs

Chapter 3.

Review of regional protocols, policies, strategies and indicators

Many RSCAPs have or are proactively taken steps to align their protocols, regional strategies, thematic priorities, and indicators with the KM GBF. These efforts aim to ensure coherence and identify gaps, enabling them to better support member states in implementing the GBF's marine and coastal biodiversity targets.

BOX 1: Examples of efforts to align regional protocols, policies and strategies with the KM GBF

- In the context of the Bern II process, the **Cartagena Convention** conducted a cross-mapping with the KM GBF.
- The **Nairobi Convention's** Protocol on Wild Flora and Fauna in the Western Indian Ocean Region is currently being amended to align with the KM GBF and the BBNJ Agreement. In addition, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat is finalizing a new Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP), proposing indicators aligned with the KM GBF indicator framework.
- **SPREP's** Pacific Island Framework for Nature Conservation (2021-2025) provides guidance and best practices for the development of national policies, programs and priorities, including NBSAPs. The document provides a cross-mapping of SPREP's strategic objectives against the draft post-2020 GBF Targets.
- In December 2012, **SACEP** signed a small-scale funding agreement with UNEP to develop a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas region, which was finalised in 2019. The strategy complements and supports the national biodiversity strategies and action plan process and provides a framework for coordination and collaboration between the countries to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14.
- **CPPS's** Strategic Plan 2022-2030 sets as a strategic objective to "Enhance capacities to achieve the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, aligned with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, SDGs, and other instruments, through at least one regional workshop or training every two years."

A comprehensive review of the protocols, policies, strategies, and indicators of all 18 RSCAPs was undertaken to assess their alignment with the KM GBF targets most critical to RSCAPs' mandate: KM GBF Targets 1–11 and 21. The review aimed to identify key **biodiversity protection gaps** at the RSCAP level and regional differences in implementation. The methodology for this review is detailed in **Annex 1**.

A. Key findings

- 1. Challenges in accessing up-to-date documents from RSCAPs persist.** While foundational documents, such as conventions and protocols, are generally accessible online, more recent or detailed resources are often unpublished or unavailable. For some RSCAPs, websites are been under construction or inaccessible, restricting general access to documents. For several RSCAPs, updated strategies, work programs, monitoring plans or indicator manuals are not available online, out of date or incomplete. Enhanced transparency and accessibility of RSCAP documentation are essential to raise awareness of their work and contributions to international agreements, including the KM GBF.
- 2. Overall, KM GBF Targets 1 – 8 and 21 are well covered across all RSCAPs.** All RSCAPs have integrated GBF Target 1 (integrated spatial planning and management), Target 3 (MPAs and OECMs), and Target 4 (species conservation and recovery), most often backed by indicators to track progress. Most RSCAPs have set objectives aligned with Target 2 (ecosystem restoration), Target 5 (sustainable harvesting and use of wild species), Target 6 (invasive alien species), Target 7 (pollution), and Target 8 (climate change).
- 3. However, the degree to which different elements in KM GBF Targets are covered (e.g. quantitative targets or qualitative criteria) varies.** Few RSCAPs have integrated the quantitative targets included in the KM GBF, such as halting the loss of areas of high biodiversity (Target 1) and restoring 30% of degraded marine and coastal ecosystems (Target 2). Five adopted a 30% target for MPA and OECM coverage (Target 3). Two RSCAPs have set a quantitative target to reduce the rates of introduction of invasive alien species. The adoption (and tracking of progress towards) qualitative criteria - such as effective management, connectivity or equitable governance of MPAs and OECMs – also varies significantly across RSCAPs.
- 4. Emerging areas of work** for RSCAPs include Targets 9 (manage wild species to benefit people), 10 (aquaculture) and 11 (nature contributions to people). Less than half of RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives aligned with these global goals. Generally, RSCAPs lack indicators to monitor progress against these targets.
- 5. RSCAPs can play a key role in strengthening the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs),** for example through inclusive governance structures, stakeholder engagement, promoting respect for local and indigenous rights of territories and natural resources, recognition of traditional knowledge, supporting decentralized and IPLC-led conservation initiatives.
- 6. RSCAPs show considerable variation in the scope and extent of their monitoring programs,** influenced by regional capacities, resources, and priorities. Currently, 14 RSCAPs have operational monitoring plans. While some, like HELCOM, MAP and OSPAR, have comprehensive multi-thematic monitoring frameworks, others focus on specific areas such as plastic pollution or biodiversity due to resource constraints. These differences extend to the indicators and methodologies adopted, with some RSCAPs using well-established frameworks, while others rely on less standardized or narrower approaches.

Table 1 offers a detailed analysis of biodiversity protection gaps across RSCAPs, highlighting the extent to which various KM GBF elements are addressed and whether corresponding indicators are in place.

B. KM GBF Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land - and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Marine and coastal ecosystems face increasing cumulative impacts from human activities. Integrated spatial planning enables countries to allocate activities across environments to balance ecological, social, and economic objectives. Target 1 requires that all marine areas are under integrated spatial planning or effective management processes by 2030, to halt the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance.

Integrated spatial planning and/or other effective management processes

The **Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)**, endorsed by the CBD COP, serves as a guiding framework for integrated management of land, water, and living resources (CBD COP/V/6 and CBD COP/VII/11). It emphasizes the interconnectedness of ecosystems and human activities. RSCAPs have played a key role in promoting the implementation of the EcAp to ensure the health and sustainability of marine and coastal environments. In 2016, UNEP produced guidance on “Ecosystem Approaches to Regional Seas”. Recognising the variation in regional scales of different RSCAPs, the guidance document identified a set of elements constituting an EcAp to Regional Seas, barriers that might have obstructed the introduction of the EcAp and a set of recommended actions.

EcAp often serves as a foundation for other tools such as **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)**, which address competing human uses, sustainable resource management, and biodiversity conservation. Most (15) RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives to advance ICZM, including through legally binding protocols (**see Annex 5**), common regional frameworks, and voluntary guidelines. Five RSCAPs have set targets to promote MSP, providing regional guidelines for implementation at national level.

Seven RSCAPs have adopted indicators to monitor progress on ICZM or MSP plans by their Contracting or Member States. For example, HELCOM’s 2023 Holistic Assessment Report notes that all Baltic Countries that are EU members have implemented their first or second generation of maritime spatial plans, outlining important topics for future iterations (e.g. climate change, monitoring and evaluation). However, only MAP has set a quantitative “area-based” target for spatial planning: MAP’s POST-2020 SAPBIO requires that “by 2030,

100% of MPAs and as appropriate OECMs, and 50% of the remaining marine areas are sustainably managed by applying ecosystem-based approaches including biodiversity and climate change-informed marine spatial planning, and by conducting environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.”

No RSCAP has adopted a quantitative target to bring all areas under ecosystem-based management, including ICZM or MSP.

Bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030

There is no single definition of areas of high biodiversity importance. They may include Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs; CBD), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs; IUCN), Important Bird Areas (IBAs; Birdlife International), Ramsar Sites (Ramsar Convention), Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs; FAO), Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs; IMO), World Heritage Sites (IOC-UNESCO), Natura 2000 sites (EU), Alliance for Zero Extinction sites or – regardless of their official classification - other biodiversity-rich ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds. Some RSCAPs have developed region-specific frameworks, such as MAP’s *Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)* and CEP’s *SPAW Protocol*, which include criteria for site designation based on ecological, biological, and socioeconomic factors.

Two RSCAPs (SACEP and the Nairobi Convention) have adopted quantitative, time-bound targets to halt habitat loss. For example, SACEP aims to halt habitat loss by 2030, aiming to restore at least 10% of coastal habitats and ensure no net loss of coral reefs or seagrasses by reducing anthropogenic pressures. The Nairobi Convention’s WIOSAP (2009) sets a long-term target (15 to 25 years) to fully protect critical habitats, halt the trend in the net loss of critical habitats and reverse and/or offset ecosystem services.

BOX 1: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine areas (EBSAs)

In 2008, the CBD COP adopted scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine and coastal areas. These criteria include uniqueness or rarity, special importance for life history stages of species, and importance for threatened, endangered, or declining species and/or habitats, among others. Currently, 338 EBSAs cover 20.3% of the ocean, spanning areas within national jurisdictions, areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) (CBD, 2021) and regions that straddle both. At COP 16, member states adopted a decision allowing for the modification and addition of EBSAs, ensuring they reflect the latest science. Proposals for updates can be submitted by States or competent intergovernmental organizations, emphasizing regional collaboration and addressing variations in data availability (CBD COP 16/16).

Many RSCAPs have in the past collaborated with the CBD Secretariat to identify and describe EBSAs, contributing critical scientific expertise and regional knowledge. For example, in 2017, the CBD organized a regional workshop to facilitate the description of EBSAs in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. The workshop gathered Parties to the Tehran and Bucharest Conventions, relevant organisations, indigenous peoples and members of local communities who provided relevant scientific information in support of the objectives of the workshop.

Moving forward, RSCAPs are well-positioned to support the refinement and expansion of EBSAs by facilitating data sharing, leveraging regional expertise, and fostering cross-border collaboration.

Most RSCAPs (11) have adopted indicators to track the extent and condition of ecosystems and critical habitats such as mangroves, seagrasses, wetlands, pelagic and benthic habitats or sea ice. For example, the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan contains parameters for monitoring the extent and quality of biomes, habitats and ecosystems such as sea ice, corals and the seafloor. In line with EU requirements, MAP, the Black Sea Commission, HELCOM and OSPAR developed Ecological Quality Objectives for their respective marine and coastal areas. Progress on these objectives is monitored through a comprehensive set of ecological threshold values, indicators and parameters, including habitat disturbance, pollution and eutrophication potential.

In addition, three RSCAPs have conducted in-depth assessments of critical habitats. For example, Nairobi Convention' 2024 Critical Habitat Outlook and ROPME's 2020 Report on Coral Reefs in the ROPME sea area also provide comprehensive assessment of critical ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves and wetlands. CEP's 2020 "State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean" examines the health of three habitats (coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses).

Four RSCAPs develop regional lists of threatened and/or endangered ecosystems (often using the IUCN methodology adapted to regional specificities). These include the Tehran Convention's Caspian Red Book of Ecosystems and HELCOM's Red List of Baltic Sea Underwater Biotopes, Habitats and Biotope Complexes (last updated in 2024). Others (HELCOM, MAP) also monitor physical alterations of coastlines and coastal landscapes.

C. KM GBF Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

Target 2 aims to place **30% of degraded marine and coastal areas under effective restoration** processes by 2030, thereby contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. FAO's Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) supports planning, implementing, and monitoring restoration, including for marine and coastal habitats like mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs, and wetlands.¹

Progress is tracked under **KM GBF Headline Indicator 2.2 Area under restoration**. Optional disaggregations are (i) by ecosystem functional group, (ii) by indigenous and traditional territories, (iii) by protected areas/ other effective area-based conservation measures, and (iv) by type of restoration activity.

While most (14) RSCAPs have strategic objectives to restore ecosystems, few RSCAPs have set a **quantitative target** to place degraded areas under effective restoration. MAP's POST-2020 SAPBIO requires that "by 2027 the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/ or regeneration potential (as nursery areas and/or carbon stocks) is developed and that by 2030 the restoration of most of those selected is complete." SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy requires that, by 2030, at least 10 % of coastal habitats have been restored to pre-degraded status. OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy aims to identify habitats for restoration by 2023, develop a regional approach with restoration targets by 2025, and implement actions thereafter. The EU's recently adopted Nature Restoration Law (Regulation 2024/1991) establishes a framework within which Member States shall put in place effective and area-based restoration measures to jointly recover at least 20 % of sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration (including marine and coastal habitats) by 2050.

Some RSCAPs have also developed **protocols** (Abidjan Convention), **restoration guidelines** (Nairobi Convention, CEP, CPPS) **or compilations of best practices** (HELCOM, MAP, SPREP, ROPME) for the restoration of mangroves, seagrass beds or wetlands to improve effectiveness of countries' restoration efforts.

Five RSCAPs have or are developing inventories of degraded areas and/or areas suitable for restoration, allowing to establish a baseline. The Arctic Council's CAFF programme, under the Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands (RAW project) developed a pan-Arctic inventory of protected wetlands and completed, ongoing or planned restoration projects.

¹ To aid the implementation of Target 2, FAO has developed key resources, including a Target 2 Guide, an E-learning Platform, and a national self-assessment tool to support countries in advancing ecosystem restoration efforts.

However, few RSCAPs have adopted **indicators to track restoration activities**. PERSGA's 2020 SOMERSGA report evaluates the area of restored mangroves and coral reefs. HELCOM's 2023 Holistic Assessment (HOLAS) report highlights that marine restoration in the Baltic Sea is still in its early stages and primarily focused on coastal areas. It notes a lack of consistent information on restoration effort, success rates, and trends in the region, and emphasizes the absence of a standardized definition of success.. OSPAR's 2023 Quality Status Report indicates that several Contracting Parties have reported restoration actions, particularly in intertidal zones, and points to growing experience in supporting natural recovery of inshore habitats. CEP and SACEP are in the process of developing restoration-related indicators—such as restoration activities undertaken at priority sites, area of seagrass, mangrove and coral reef with enhanced ecological integrity and function, and trends in habitat condition.

BOX 2: restoration of coral reefs

Recent research highlights the imminent threat of tipping points for coral reefs due to climate change and human activities (WWF, 2024). A staggering 77% of the world's coral reef areas have so far been subjected to bleaching-level heat stress, according to satellite data, as climate change fuels record and near-record ocean temperatures across the world. A fourth mass global bleaching event prompted a UN special emergency session on corals in the sidelines of COP16 in Colombia, after which governments pledged an additional \$30 million to the U.N. fund for coral reefs established in 2020.

In 2020, **ROPME** published a comprehensive report titled “Status and Trends of Coral Reefs in the ROPME Sea Area: Past, Present and Future.” This report provides an in-depth analysis of the health and trends of coral reefs within the ROPME Sea Area (RSA), highlighting historical data, current conditions, and future projections.

The report introduces a toolbox for restoration to guide conservation and recovery efforts. Examples from the toolbox include coral gardening and artificial reef structures designed to enhance habitat complexity. It also discusses monitoring protocols for tracking reef health and capacity-building initiatives to train local stakeholders in sustainable reef management.

D. KM GBF Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

Target 3 requires that 30% of marine and coastal areas is protected through effective systems of MPAs and OECMs.²

Currently, MPAs and OECMs cover 8.4% of the global ocean. To meet the 30% target by 2030, an additional 21.6% of marine and coastal areas must be secured, requiring a significant acceleration in the rate of expansion since 2020. Current coverage of protected areas also remains uneven, as most protected areas are within national jurisdiction (territorial seas and EEZs) and only 10 protected areas exist in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), which make up 61% of the ocean (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2024). The adoption of the BBNJ Agreement offers an opportunity to expand protections in the high seas.

RSCAPs have different legal competencies in relation to area-based conservation measures. While some RSCAPs have the legal authority to designate MPAs within their jurisdiction, others focus on supporting Member States in establishing national MPAs and/or facilitating regional cooperation through regional MPA networks.

For instance, the **CCAMLR** has legal competence to establish MPAs through binding conservation measures in the Southern Ocean. The **OSPAR Convention** also holds legal competence to designate MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). The OSPAR MPA network therefore includes both nationally designated MPAs and OSPAR-designated MPAs in ABNJ territories. The Barcelona Convention and the Cartagena Convention do not as such “designate” MPAs. However, they have established legally binding protocols under which national MPAs can be recognized as having regional importance - such as SPAMIs (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance) and SPAW (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) -listed areas). Inclusion of MPAs in the SPAMI or SPAW-list leads to enhanced levels of protection and collaboration between contracting parties. Others, such as the **Arctic Council or HELCOM**, **do not have the competence to designate or legally recognize MPAs, but have** released frameworks for regional MPA networks, such as the Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas and the Baltic Sea Protected Area Network. Lima

² For further detail, see “UNEP Regional Seas, Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (draft), 2025”.

Convention is currently in the process of creating such a coordinated regional network. Finally, few RSCAPs have competencies to conserve areas outside of their contracting parties' national jurisdiction. Examples include OSPAR Convention and CCAMLR.

All functioning RSCAPs have adopted strategic objectives on the creation of MPAs, though these objectives differ in strength and ambition. Four RSCAPs have set a **30X30 marine conservation target** (HELCOM, MAP, OSPAR and the Nairobi Convention). MAP and HELCOM go beyond GBF Target 3 by requiring 'strict' or 'enhanced' levels of protection. COBSEA also refers to the 30x30 target in its 2030 Strategic Directions. SACEP sets a **different quantitative target**, i.e. 10% of coastal habitats covered by new protected areas.

Five RSCAPs recognize the role of **OECMs** in achieving conservation targets, as well as the need to map existing OECMs in their region.

15 RSCAPS have adopted indicators to monitor MPA coverage. However, only 11RSCAPS have published baseline and progress reports or data.³ Three RSCAPs exceed 10% MPA coverage, i.e. OSPAR (10.9%), HELCOM (16.8%), and SPREP (20%), actively progressing towards the GBF Target of 30% of marine conservation. Beyond MPAs, the recognition and **reporting of OECMs among RSCAPs is still in its early stages.** Only four RSCAPs—MAP, HELCOM, the Nairobi Convention, and OSPAR—have made efforts to assess or report on actual or potential OECM coverage.⁴

While MPA and OECM coverage is a good indicator, coverage alone does not capture the quality or effectiveness of biodiversity protection and conservation. Therefore, Target 3 includes additional quality indicators to measure the effectiveness of MPAs and MPA networks, such as protection of areas of biodiversity importance, ecological representativeness, connectivity, equitable governance, and management effectiveness.

Include areas of areas of biodiversity importance and related ecosystem services

Protected area coverage alone does not give a full indication of the importance of an area in terms of biodiversity (and derived ecosystem services), for example the diversity of species that have been protected or the number of people who are benefiting from the MPA. As such, GBF Target 3 requires ensuring coverage of areas of biodiversity importance. These may include EBSAs, KBAs, IBAs, Ramsar Sites, VMEs, PSSAs, World Heritage Sites, Natura 2000 sites, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites or other biodiversity-rich ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds.

³ See Annex 1. Arctic Council/PAME, MAP, CEP, CCAMLR, HELCOM, PERSGA, CPPS, NC, SPREP, OSPAR, For the Black Sea, only 2016 data from the European Environment Agency was found. CPPS' Spincam Atlas which comprised MPA coverage data has been taken down since February 2025.

⁴ See UNEP Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (DRAFT report, April 2025)

Coverage of KBAs by protected areas is an optional indicator under KM GBF Target 3. “Proportion of KBAs in favourable condition” has been adopted as a complementary indicator. At the global level, currently 20% of marine KBAs are fully protected, while 30% remain unprotected. 44 marine KBAs have partial or full coverage through OECMs but lack protected area coverage.

At least eight RSCAPs monitor the extent to which areas of high biodiversity importance are covered by MPAs, using a variety of approaches. While some assess coverage of EBSAs, others evaluate protection of KBAs and IBAs. Several focus on specific critical ecosystems or habitats regardless of their recognition under global or regional schemes.⁵

Ecological representativeness

Well-designed networks of MPAs and OECMs aim to conserve the full spectrum of marine biodiversity by ensuring that all ecosystem types—across depths, regions, and ecological functions—are adequately represented. Representativity is essential to safeguard not only species richness but also ecosystem processes, resilience to climate change, and the continued provision of critical services such as fisheries productivity, carbon storage, and coastal protection.

While most (12) RSCAPS have adopted ecological representativeness as a criteria for MPAs and MPA networks – either in biodiversity protocols or other strategic documents.

Many RSCAPs maintain MPA databases detailing the types of natural ecosystems covered by MPAs, providing insight into habitat representation. And for at least six regions—the Mediterranean, North-East Atlantic, Baltic, Pacific, Western Indian Ocean and Black Sea—synthesized assessments are available that evaluate the representativeness and ecological coherence of MPA networks. Approaches adopted by RSCAPs to assess ecological coherence or representativeness vary. For example, **HELCOM** conducted its first assessment of ecological coherence in the Baltic Sea MPA network. It used four criteria: (1) representativeness, (2) replication, (3) adequacy, and (4) connectivity. OSPAR assesses the coherence of its MPA network using the Madrid Criteria: (1) connectivity, (2) representativity, and (3) protection of threatened species and habitats. Representativity is measured against the Dinter Biogeographic Provinces, which divide the OSPAR Maritime Area into 19 ecological regions.⁶

5 See UNEP Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (DRAFT report, April 2025)

6 See UNEP Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (DRAFT report, April 2025)

Connectivity

Connectivity in the context of MPAs and OECMs refers to the ecological linkages that enable the movement of species, energy, and ecosystem processes across the marine landscape. A well-connected network ensures that MPAs function as part of an integrated system rather than isolated units—supporting species survival, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and sustaining biodiversity. This is especially critical for migratory species that rely on multiple habitats throughout their life cycles. A well-connected network ensures that MPAs function as part of an integrated system rather than isolated units—supporting species survival, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and sustaining biodiversity. This is especially critical for migratory species that rely on multiple habitats throughout their life cycles.

Most (10) RSCAPs reflect the criteria of connectivity into their strategic objectives.⁷ For example, COBSEA's Strategic Directions note: *"Increasingly, the establishment of MPA Networks which tackles both social and ecological connectivity of MPAs, is considered as a process that increases the achievement of conservation objectives."* The vision for a Pan-Arctic Framework for Protected Area Network (2015) is *"an ecologically connected, representative and effectively managed network of protected and specially managed areas that protects and promotes the resilience of the biological diversity, ecological processes and cultural heritage of the Arctic marine environment, and the social and economic benefits they provide to present and future generations."*

⁷ UNEP, Regional Seas Progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (Draft report May 2025)

Box 3: monitoring and reporting on connectivity in the marine realm

Understanding and monitoring connectivity in the marine realm remains problematic to date. This is because connectivity becomes increasingly complicated in flowing water systems, requiring consideration of vertical linkages in water columns, longitudinal linkages (e.g., between up and downstream waters), lateral linkages (e.g., between river channels and floodplains), and 'inter-realm' linkages between freshwater, marine and terrestrial spaces. At present, several methodologies exist to measure connectivity of terrestrial protected areas, some of which have been adopted as KM component and complementary indicators (e.g. ProNet). Work is ongoing to adapt some of these methodologies to marine protected area (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2024).

In the absence of global standards, several RSCAPs have taken steps to develop regional approaches. For example:

- **The Arctic Council's PAME working group** has modelled oceanographic connectivity in the Arctic by mapping species dispersal patterns and identifying barriers to movement. This work informs the placement and minimum size of MPAs to ensure functional linkages.
- **OSPAR Convention** uses a proximity analysis of MPAs as a proxy for assessing connectivity (Madrid Criteria). Its 2023 assessment found that the MPA network is well-distributed in Regions II (North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas), but significant connectivity gaps remain in Regions I (Arctic Waters) and V (Wider Atlantic), with smaller gaps in Region IV (Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast).
- **HELCOM** also evaluates connectivity in its MPA coherence assessments, looking at how well the network supports the migration and dispersal of species. Its first assessment in 2016 found connectivity to be insufficient to ensure ecological coherence in the Baltic Sea, requiring joint efforts from HELCOM countries to improve connectivity when planning new MPAs. The next assessment is expected in 2027.

Equitable governance

Equitable governance is increasingly recognized as essential for effective and lasting biodiversity conservation. Inclusive, participatory systems that respect Indigenous and local rights enhance both legitimacy and ecological outcomes through diverse knowledge and stronger stewardship.

To assess equity, indicators such as governance type and site-level governance quality are used. Tools like SAGE (Site-level Assessment for Governance and Equity) support self-assessment of governance and social impacts. At a global level, these assessments currently cover just 0.001% of marine protected areas.

KM GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 includes an optional disaggregation by governance type, while a component indicator tracks the number of protected areas using SAGE.

Six RSCAPs have incorporated equitable governance as a criterion for protected areas. For example, SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy calls for measures ensuring effective and equitable PA management by 2030, including transboundary areas. MAP's Post-2020 MPA and OECM Strategy aims for inclusive governance delivering conservation and livelihood outcomes. Its Roadmap tracks progress through indicators such as co-management actions in development plans, stakeholder participation in national meetings, decentralised governance systems, and co-management agreements. It also recommends creating or redesignating national MPA agencies, with success measured by the number of countries establishing and resourcing such bodies.

However, only a few have undertaken assessments or reported on specific "equitable governance" indicators—such as governance type and the quality of governance at the site level (Arctic Council, MAP and SPREP).⁸

Management effectiveness

Effective management is essential to ensure that a protected area achieves the intended benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services. It depends on several factors, including the availability of management plans, adequate staffing, funding and technical capacity, the regulation of allowed activities and effective monitoring and enforcement. At the global level, only 5.7% of MPAs is actively managed or operational.

One current approach to assess the status and trends in effectiveness of management of protected areas is the Aichi 11 and GBF complementary indicator "Protected Areas Management Effectiveness", which records the number and area of assessments of management effectiveness completed by countries, and the overall management effectiveness score for each aspect of management.

Most RSCAPs also recognize the need for effective management in their objectives. For instance, the **Nairobi Convention's** Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (2024) emphasizes monitoring MPA effectiveness and collaborating with international organizations such as RFMOS to protect critical habitats. The **CEP Strategy** (2023-2030) focuses on improving MPA management processes to address community needs, envisages the creation of an MPA management network, aims to develop a manual for management effectiveness assessments, and promotes sustainable financing. Currently, seven RSCAPs have adopted **indicators to track the availability of management plans, the status of management plans and/or management effectiveness**. Notably, OSPAR conducts annual assessments of the OSPAR MPA network. Its 2023 MPA assessment notes that only **16% of its MPAs** are moving towards or achieving conservation objectives, with additional efforts and long-term monitoring still needed.

⁸ UNEP, Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (Draft report May 2025)

Finally, many RSCAPS are working to build capacity on monitoring and enforcement of MPAs, e.g. through the creation and training of MPA manager networks. The Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap aims to also build capacity for judiciary and enforcement, as well as promoting civil society vigilance.

Integrated into wider seascapes and the ocean

Integration into wider seascapes emphasizes that **protected areas should not be isolated but rather part of broader, ecosystem-based management frameworks** that encompass entire seascapes or landscapes (cf Target 1). This integration ensures that conservation efforts are effective even beyond the borders of protected areas, considering the interactions between ecosystems and human uses in these spaces.

Despite its importance, no indicator has been developed under the KM GBF to track progress on this criterion. The concept has also not yet been widely adopted by RSCAPS. However, a few RSCAPS have begun to assess the extent to which MPA and OECM planning is integrated into broader seascape-level strategies.

For example, SPREP's *Pacific Island Framework for Nature* focuses on integrating MPAs into wider seascapes. The *Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap* aims to ensure that MPA's are taken into account and integrated in coastal and marine spatial planning to reduce conservation and development conflicts. The **Nairobi Convention's** The Western Indian Ocean MPA Outlook addresses notes that only Seychelles and South Africa have developed marine spatial plans that incorporate MPAs into relevant policy frameworks. It identifies integration as a priority for the region.

Protection of traditional territories

GBF Target 3 emphasises the need to respect rights of indigenous and local communities, including rights over traditional territories. To track this, KM GBF Headline Indicator 3.1 "MPA coverage" provides for an optional disaggregation of MPA coverage by indigenous and traditional territories. Currently, no RSCAPS track and report such data. However, as noted before, six RSCAPS have incorporated equitable governance or management as a criterion for MPAs. Three have also undertaken assessments or reported on specific "equitable governance" indicators—such as governance type and the quality of governance at the site level.

Further, some RSCAPS have adopted indicators to measure the socio-economic benefits of MPAs to local communities. For example, the Nairobi Convention's 2025-2028 Programme of Work aims to track the socio-economic benefits of MPAs and OECMs. Cartagena Convention, in turn, tracks improved ecological, social, economic and administrative benefits and impacts.

Regulating sustainable use

GBF Target 3 emphasizes that all allowed use of marine resources must be sustainable and consistent with conservation outcomes. No indicator is available under the KM GBF framework to track progress on this. RSCAPs have adopted different approaches to assess compatibility of MPA uses and conservation outcomes.

First, the **level of MPA protection** (IUCN categorisation) identifies which uses are allowed. Eight RSCAPs provide information on the level of MPA protection, e.g. by using the IUCN categorization. However, few RSCAPs aggregate and analyse this information to obtain a higher-level, regional view. For example, Barcelona Convention reports that only 0.06% of MPAs are designated as strictly protected (i.e., no-go, no-take, or no-fishing areas). At the global level, only **2.8%** of all MPAs are fully or highly protected.

In addition, six RSCAPs provide detailed descriptions of **regulated activities within MPAs**, such as tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and flood protection. However, some RSCAPs report challenges in defining clear zoning, permitted uses, and enforcement procedures. For example, only 42% of national MPAs in the Mediterranean have legally defined boundaries and zoning, while just 31% have explicit regulations on permitted activities.

Integrating climate change considerations

While not explicitly referenced in KM GBF Target 3, integrating climate considerations into MPA planning and management is essential to ensure their long-term effectiveness in conserving biodiversity. The dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss demand a more forward-looking and adaptive approach—such as adjusting levels of protection in response to climate impacts or prioritizing the protection of climate refugia.

At least two RSCAPs are actively assessing climate impacts on MPAs. For example, HELCOM's HOLAS III report emphasizes that MPAs must be designed with climate change in mind to avoid investing in areas that may not remain ecologically viable.

E. KM GBF Target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

GBF Target 4 requires the adoption of management actions to halt human-induced extinction of **known threatened species**, enable the recovery and conservation of **all** species (with a focus on those threatened), and maintain **genetic diversity**. Management actions could include species reintroductions, species recovery actions (such as vaccinations, supplementary feeding, provision of breeding sites, planting and protection of seedlings) and ex situ conservation where needed.

Monitoring the conservation status of species

Different approaches are used to assess the conservation status of species. The KM GBF Monitoring Framework adopted the IUCN Red List of Threatened species and Species Population Status as the main indicators for tracking progress.

Most RSCAPs (13) compile regional Red Lists describing the conservation status of species. Often these lists use the IUCN Red List as a key reference, in addition to other regional criteria. Seven RSCAPS have also adopted comprehensive biodiversity monitoring mechanisms that allow to monitor trends (e.g. abundance, distribution and population) for a broad range of species. For example, the Arctic Council's CAFF programme tracks the status and trends of a wide range of Arctic species (fish, marine mammals and plankton). This broader approach allows for the detection of changes in biodiversity that could affect species before they become threatened and helps inform conservation strategies. Others focus on periodically reporting on the status of threatened, endangered or red-listed species. For example, CEP and SPREP monitor the population size of threatened (in the case of CEP "SPAW-listed") species.

Enabling the recovery of species, in particular threatened species

All RSCAPs have set strategic objectives to enable the recovery of threatened or endangered species. Many RSCAPs embed objectives for conserving threatened species in legally binding Biodiversity Conservation Protocols (**see Annex 5**). For example, Conservation Protocols adopted by the Nairobi Convention, MAP, the Tehran Convention,

and CEP contain measures to protect threatened or endangered species listed in an Annex which is to be regularly updated. Additionally, several RSCAPs have adopted **species-specific regional action plans, focusing especially on migratory species** such as sharks, seals, turtles and cetaceans. For example, SPREP's Marine Species Programme (2022–2026) targets dugongs, turtles, whales, and dolphins through dedicated plans with measurable indicators.

Several (8) RSCAPs have set strategic objectives for the **recovery and conservation of species more broadly (i.e. not limited to threatened or endangered species)**. For example, HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan sets a number of ecological objectives by 2030, i.e. 1) *"viable populations of all native species, 2) natural distribution, occurrence and quality of habitats and associated communities, 3) functional healthy and resilient food webs. Management objectives for 2030."* The Arctic Council aims to *"reduce stressors on migratory species range-wide, including habitat degradation and overharvesting on wintering and staging areas and along flyways and other migration routes"*, including by promoting regional migratory bird cooperation agreements.

Halting human-induced extinctions of known threatened species

At present, three RSCAPs (OSPAR, HELCOM and the Black Sea Commission) aim to **halt extinctions of known (or listed) threatened species**. For example, under its North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy OSPAR will implement agreed measures to enable the recovery of OSPAR Listed threatened and declining species and habitats, taking additional measures as needed, by 2025.

Maintaining and restoring genetic diversity of species

Strategic objectives related to the genetic diversity of native wild species were found only for two RSCAPs (SPREP and the Nairobi Convention). No evidence has been found that RSCAPs have adopted any relevant indicators to measure the preservation and restoration of genetic diversity of species.

Mitigate the human-wildlife conflict

The CBD COP identified that further work is needed to prevent, mitigate or minimize human-wildlife conflict in marine and coastal areas (CBD COP Decision 16/16). No relevant RSCAP objectives or targets have been identified in this regard.

F. KM GBF Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

GBF Target 5 focuses on the use, harvesting and trade of **wild species**. **Harvesting** the gathering, catching or hunting of wild species for human uses. **Use** of wild species includes food and non-food purposes, such as for clothing, medicinal, cultural, scientific or recreational and work-related uses. **Trade** includes the selling or exchange of live or dead wild species and/or products derived from them.

Target 5 is closely related to GBF Targets 9 and 10, which have a different focus. Target 5 covers all harvesting and use of wild species, including wild capture fisheries and marine-based tourism. **Target 9** focuses on ensuring **benefits** from sustainable use of wild species for local communities, particularly vulnerable groups. Such benefits could flow, for example, from small-scale fisheries and customary resource use. **Target 10** emphasizes integrating sustainable practices into larger-scale **production systems** such as aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry.

This section focuses on sustainable fisheries and marine and coastal tourism.

Sustainable fisheries:

Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) hold primary competence in managing fisheries and play a leading normative role in setting regulations, monitoring compliance, and serving as custodians of fisheries data and indicators.

Some RSCAPs also have **competencies in fisheries management**. For example, CCAMLR functions as both an RSCAP and a fisheries management organisation. Its mandate includes managing the sustainable harvesting of marine living resources, such as Antarctic krill and Patagonian toothfish. CCAMLR sets catch limits via legally binding conservation measures, monitors stock status to prevent overfishing. Its biodiversity monitoring program tracks predator populations and ecosystem dynamics to ensure the health and abundance of target fish populations. Similarly, PERSGA's mandate include fisheries management, which it does through its Regional Fisheries Management Plan and related initiatives. To this end, it adopted a Protocol Concerning Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Other RSCAPS also play a critical and complementary role in promoting sustainable fisheries. In total, twelve RSCAPs have **set strategic objectives specifically related to sustainable fisheries**, recognizing their importance for marine ecosystem health and regional economies. RSCAPs also actively collaborate with RFBs and RFMOs, fostering synergies through data exchange, joint capacity-building, and the development of guidelines for ecosystem-based fisheries management. More than half of RSCAPs have concluded MoUs with RFBs (UNEP, 2021b). For instance, collaborations between RSCAPs and RFMOs have enhanced the integration of biodiversity considerations into fisheries management and strengthened the application of precautionary approaches. By working together, these regional organizations contribute to more comprehensive and cohesive efforts to ensure the sustainability of marine resources and the ecosystems they support.

Finally, several RSCAPs also collect and report relevant **fisheries data** relevant to Target 5, often in collaboration with RFBs. Six RSCAPs collect and **report fish stock and MSY data** to inform maximum catch, either by collecting this data directly from national authorities (SACEP, Black Sea Commission) or vessels (CCAMLR) and/or by conducting stock assessments (CCAMLR). HELCOM and OSPAR collaborate and exchange data with ICES. Eight RSCAPs monitor **fish landings/catch data**.

Most RSCAPS have also set strategic objectives to **reduce by-catch of non-target species** and to **combat illegal and unauthorized fishing (IUU)**. For example, CCAMLR has set country reporting obligations related to authorized vessels, vessel movements, gear, catch data and IUU sightings. On this basis, it develops IUU vessel lists (Party and non-Party lists).

Sustainable marine and coastal tourism:

Several RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives related to **marine and coastal tourism**, balancing economic growth and ecosystem protection. COBSEA's Green Fins project focuses on sustainable diving and snorkelling practices, reducing the environmental impact on coral reefs through standards, training, and monitoring. MAP's Medium-Term Strategy sets an objective to develop a regional strategy on sustainable tourism and promotes initiatives like the "Green Ports" program to enhance environmental sustainability in Mediterranean ports and marinas. SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature emphasizes resource-efficient, culturally sensitive tourism that benefits local communities and preserves natural and cultural heritage, with clear indicators to measure progress.

G. KM GBF Target 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.

Invasive alien species (IAS) are a major driver of biodiversity loss in marine and coastal ecosystems, where they disrupt native species through competition, predation, and introducing pathogens, altering ecosystem structure and services like coastal protection and fisheries. Their spread is accelerated by globalization and human activities such as international shipping, ballast water discharge, aquaculture, and tourism, creating new introduction pathways.

At COP16, Parties adopted a decision on IAS (CBD COP 16/18), highlighting the challenges posed by IAS, including their links to climate change and other drivers of biodiversity loss. Drawing on guidance developed by IPBES and an ad-hoc technical expert group, the decision endorses voluntary guidance on cost-benefit analysis, managing risks from IAS, including by managing marine pathways such as biofouling on ships, offshore platforms, and ports. The decision also calls for strengthening capacity for early detection and warning mechanisms, data-sharing, stakeholder engagement, and regional collaboration, supported by the Inter-agency Liaison Group on IAS.

Box: Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

Under the CBD, an **Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species was established**. The group facilitates cooperation among relevant organizations⁹ to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of IAS. It aims to address the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks for the prevention, control and eradication of IAS.

UNEP Regional Seas collaborates with the Inter-agency Liaison Group and its member organizations through various initiatives to address IAS. For example, in 2017, UNEP RSP collaborated with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and other relevant organizations to develop a joint programme of work on marine invasive species. This has encompassed a number of UNEP Regional Seas activities on invasive species, including the development of a joint global work programme, the piloting of an introductory training course on the management of marine and coastal invasives, and the compilation of an awareness-raising brochure on invasive species in the regional seas (UNEP, 2006).

⁹ CABI, CBD, CITES, FAO, ICAO, IMO, IPPC, IUCN, WOA, WCO, WTO

Most (14) RSCAPs have set strategic objectives and targets to prevent, reduce and/or eradicate IAS, thereby managing the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Identifying and managing pathways for introduction

Target 1 first requires the **identification and managing the pathways** of the introduction of IAS. Pathways can be intentional (through different human-related activities) or accidental, such as escapes, contaminants or hitchhikers. Major pathways will vary between countries and will need to be identified to be effectively managed. Conducting a risk analysis prior to the introduction of an alien species as well as enhancing border controls and quarantine, early warning mechanisms, rapid response measures and management plans are the types of actions that could be taken to help prevent the establishment of alien species.

Most RSCAPS (12) have set objectives to **identify and manage the pathways of IAS**. These include ballast water and biofouling. Many RSCAPS support their members to implement the **IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM Convention)** and guidelines, which requires that ships manage their ballast water so that aquatic organisms and pathogens are removed or rendered harmless before the ballast water is released into a new location. For example, HELCOM, OSPAR and MAP have collaborated on developing Regional Ballast Water Management Strategies. CPPS's Regional Strategy to prevent and reduce risks and effects of marine invasive species supports countries of the Southeast Pacific in implementing IMO guidelines and other international instruments to prevent and manage marine bio-invasions effectively. Other important initiatives are the **GEF-UNDP-IMO GLO-Ballast and GLO-Fouling** programmes. Under these programmes, PERSGA has carried out regional assessments and developed Invasive alien species guidelines. Finally, **other pathways** addressed by RSCAPS include marine and coastal tourism, fisheries and aquaculture (e.g. Arctic Council and PERSGA).

Preventing and reducing the rate of establishment

The identification and managing of IAS pathways should ensure (i) **preventing** the introduction and establishment of **priority IAS**, and (ii) **reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential IAS** by at **least 50 per cent by 2030**. The rationale is that, in most countries, there are likely to be multiple pathways of introduction and several sites that require protection. Given the limited resources that exist to address this threat and the timeframe for the implementation of the Framework, Parties will need to prioritize.

Currently, most RSCAPS do not distinguish between "priority IAS" and "other known or potential IAS". While some RSCAPs have identified IAS that are particularly harmful or problematic, and list them as priority IAS, this is usually not tied to a strategic management objective to prevent their establishment.

Further, only OSPAR and HELCOM have adopted a quantitative reduction target. By 2025 OSPAR will develop a coordinated management approach to ensure the number of non-indigenous species introduced via human activity is minimised and where possible reduced to zero. HELCOM's ecological quality objective for the human-induced introduction of IAS is also zero.

Eradicating and controlling establishes IAS

Finally, Target 6 requires eradicating or controlling IAS, especially on priority sites, such as islands. Currently, three RSCAPs focus on eradicating and controlling IAS from priority sites, such as islands. SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature contains an action track 5 "battling invasive species", noting: *"Native species, priority sites, and habitats must be restored as part of invasive species management approaches, with long- term monitoring of the cascading impacts and benefits of restoration."*

Finally, several (6) RSCAPs have **established monitoring frameworks that monitor trends in IAS, including** temporal trends in arrival, spatial distribution, abundance, pathways and movement vectors, risk screenings, ballast water monitoring, impacts, management measures and effectiveness, impacts and policy responses, priority species or sites under management. On top of these monitoring schemes, HELCOM, MAP, OSPAR and the Arctic Council have built a **coordinated early warning mechanism** for IAS, allowing to rapidly address and pr set up early warning mechanisms, to be able to effectively.

H. KM GBF Target 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

Target 7 sets an overarching goal to address pollution from all sources while establishing specific sub-targets to reduce the risks associated with nutrients, pesticides, highly hazardous chemicals, and plastics. The Target focuses on the risks and impacts of pollution on biodiversity and ecosystems, rather than absolute amounts of pollutants. It does not require that all pollutants be eliminated. The point at which pollution can be considered harmful depends on the type of pollutant considered as well as the biodiversity which it is affecting. Different metrics may be needed for different types of pollution. The target also stresses that cumulative pollution effects need to be accounted for.

Reduce pollution from all sources to levels not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem services

Since their inception, RSCAPS have played a pivotal role in combating pollution in marine and coastal areas, providing regional frameworks for addressing various forms of pollution. The majority of RSCAPS have adopted legally binding protocols to (1) address pollution from land-based sources (LBS) such as agriculture and municipal or industrial wastewater, (2) provide an emergency response in case of oil or other hazardous chemical spills, (3) offshore pollution protocols and (4) protocols on transboundary hazardous waste. Additionally, some RSCAPs have integrated pollution control measures in Biodiversity Conservation Protocols. For example, CEP's SPAW Protocol prohibits disposal or discharges causing pollution in coastal areas. An overview of RSCAP Protocols is provided in **Annex 5**.

RSCAP pollution control protocols, policies and strategies generally take a **risk-based approach**, aligning with the KM GBF. These protocols often aim to reduce pollution to levels that do not harm biodiversity, ecosystems, or human health. This risk-based approach is usually further reflected in regional strategic action plans. For example, HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan notes: *"The BSAP's goals and objectives for hazardous substances will be achieved when chemicals occurring in the marine environment due to human activities do not cause any dysfunction of the marine ecosystem, such as mutations or disruption of biochemical processes or food chains. The desired state of the Baltic Sea, or good environmental status, also requires that the occurrence of hazardous substances does not jeopardize the functioning of ecosystem services and does not pose any risk to human health."*

Increasingly, RSCAPS have started to integrate the protection of **human health** from pollution as a critical objective in their targets and strategies. For example, the Cartagena Convention's LBS Protocol addresses pollution sources that directly affect human health, such as untreated wastewater and pesticide runoff, aiming to ensure safe water quality for coastal populations. OSPAR's 2023 Quality Status Report assesses pollution risks to both ecosystems and communities.

Several RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives related to **wastewater treatment** and water quality standards. For example, the Nairobi Convention's WIOSAP aims for all municipal wastewater to be treated to tertiary level before discharge within a 15-to-25-year time frame.

Target 7 also stresses the need to understand **cumulative impacts of pollution and emerging trends**. A notable example is the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), which investigates cumulative impacts on marine ecosystems from multiple human activity-induced stressors such as climate change, ocean acidification, local and long range transported pollution (land and sea-based), marine litter, noise, eutrophication, biomass overharvesting, IAS and other threats.

Reduce excess nutrients lost to the environment by half

RSCAPs have historically been instrumental in addressing nutrient pollution, including through global action. First, many RSCAPs conduct important **monitoring work to estimate marine and coastal eutrophication potential**, through various methods. Several (6) RSCAPs collect and report data on eutrophication inputs (N and P Loadings). This is important, as the RSCAPs have been identified as data custodians for reporting against KM GBF Headline indicator 7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential. A further 12 RSCAPS monitor **Chlorophyll-A** as an indicator for phytoplankton biomass (e.g. through remote sensing or spot checks), while 4 RSCAPS monitor the presence of harmful algal blooms.

In total, twelve RSCAPS have set **strategic targets to reduce excess nutrient leakage into the environment**. While no RSCAPs have adopted the quantitative target of reducing excess nutrients by 50%, several have implemented other measurable approaches to address nutrient pollution. HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan aims for a "Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication" through regional nutrient input targets (e.g., Maximum Allowable Inputs) and sector-specific measures like best available technologies. Similarly, OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 sets maximum nutrient input levels and identifies reduction needs by Contracting Parties, with progress reported regularly. CEP's Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy proposes a more equitable approach, focusing on halving nitrogen waste relative to current inefficiencies in crop production and livestock farming, with more ambitious reductions required from high-waste countries.

Some RSCAPs have adopted **specific thematic regional strategies** to address excess nutrient leakage (e.g. CEP's Regional Nutrient pollution Reduction strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region in 2021) or to improve nutrient recycling (e.g. HELCOM's Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy). Several RSCAPS have also conducted broader strategic desktop reviews about the nutrient pollution in their respective regions, to inform action. Examples include COBSEA's RENEWSEAS report (not yet available online) and SACEP's 2022 report on Nitrogen Pollution in South Asia: scientific evidence, current initiatives and policy landscape.

Finally, some RSCAPS (e.g. OSPAR) are promoting the use of **nature-based solutions** (e.g. the conservation and restoration of estuarine, coastal and marine habitats) to reinstate and safeguard the natural capacity of the ecosystem to sequester nutrients through.

Reduce the overall risk from pesticides by half

Pesticides are typically addressed under **LBS protocols**, as they often originate from agricultural runoff, which is a significant source of pollution affecting marine and coastal ecosystems. LBS protocols aim to reduce and control pollution from terrestrial activities, including the use of pesticides and other hazardous substances.

For instance, **MAP's LBS Pollution Protocol** includes provisions to reduce agricultural chemicals' impact on marine ecosystems. The **Tehran Convention's Strategic Convention Action Plan** aims to *"demonstrate through pilot projects environmentally sound agricultural practices such as soil conservation, protection of surface and groundwater, use of natural fertilizers and use of pest resistant crop strains."*

No evidence has been found that RSCAPs set measurable targets and/or use indicators to track progress against reducing pesticide pollution.

Reduce the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals by at least half

RSCAPs address hazardous chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), primarily through their legally binding LBS Protocols and associated regional action plans.

No RSCAPs have adopted a 50% risk reduction targets for highly hazardous chemicals, but many RSCAPS take **quantitative and measurable approaches to reducing hazardous chemical pollution**. The degree and specificity of these approaches vary. For example, the Baltic Sea Action Plan includes specific reduction targets for hazardous substances such as mercury, cadmium, and dioxins. It sets environmental quality standards and monitors progress using quantitative indicators, such as concentrations of hazardous chemicals in sediments and biota. OSPAR's Hazardous Substances Strategy focuses on achieving concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural background levels. It sets maximum allowable inputs for priority chemicals and monitors trends in pollutant concentrations through its Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme. The Cartagena Convention's LBS Protocol encourages measurable reductions in hazardous chemicals, including heavy metals and pesticides. It includes provisions for national action plans with quantitative targets.

Most RSCAPs report on trends for selected priority chemicals including POPs and heavy metals. The extent of reporting varies based on regional priorities, technical capacity, and the availability of monitoring data. While some (e.g. AMAP, HELCOM, OSPAR and MAP) have adopted comprehensive monitoring frameworks under which they regularly report trends in hazardous substances as part of their regional assessments, reporting by other RSCAPS may be less consistent due to resource and capacity constraints, including for national monitoring programs.

Finally, while RSCAPs often focus on established or legacy pollutants, such as heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and hydrocarbons, there is a growing recognition among RSCAPs (e.g. HELCOM) of the need to address **emerging pollutants**, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, microplastics, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Work towards eliminating plastic pollution.

RSCAPs play a critical role in addressing plastic pollution through regional action plans, protocols, and collaborative initiatives. Most (14) RSCAPs have adopted dedicated marine litter or plastic pollution action plans, with many of these plans predating the establishment of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on a global plastics treaty in 2020. The Abidjan Convention proposed a Regional Action Plan to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution in 2023 (not yet adopted). 11 RSCAPS have also adopted frameworks or guidance on beach plastic litter monitoring.

Two RSCAPS (OSPAR and HELCOM) have adopted **quantitative targets to reduce marine litter**. For example, OSPAR, by 2025, aims to reduce by at least 50% the prevalence of the most found single-use plastic items and of maritime-related plastic items on beaches.

Most Regional Action Plans primarily focus on marine macro-litter, such as plastic debris, rather than microplastics or upstream issues like harmful plastic chemicals. These plans often emphasize cleanup activities, waste management improvements, and reducing inputs of visible litter into the marine environment, such as from land-based sources, fisheries, and shipping. However, there is a growing recognition amongst RSCAPS on **emerging issues, such as hazardous plastic chemicals and micro-plastics**. For example, the Nairobi Convention's POW' 2025-2028 aims to review and update the existing regional marine litter action plan to include plastics and associated chemicals and set up a regional working group on marine plastics and associated chemicals. The Abidjan Convention's draft proposed Regional Action Plan recognizes plastics are made up of numerous hazardous chemicals, and aims to improve shared knowledge, including on monitoring of microplastics and capacity building to effectively manage the plastics life cycle.

I. KM GBF Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Target 8 has three elements: (a) minimizing the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity, (b) the contribution of biodiversity, through nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches, to climate mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction and (c) minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and **Ecosystem-Based Approaches (EBA)** are both strategies focused on using natural processes and systems to address environmental and societal challenges but differ in focus and goals. NbS aims to protect, manage, and restore ecosystems to address societal issues like climate change, disaster risk, and food security while also benefiting biodiversity. It emphasizes measurable outcomes for people, often linked to resilience and adaptation. In contrast, EBA focuses on conserving ecosystems to maintain their functions and biodiversity, prioritizing ecological health and stability, with human well-being as a secondary outcome.

Minimizing the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity

Most (13) RSCAPs have **integrated climate change into regional biodiversity and/or ICZM strategies** and set strategic objectives to minimize the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity. Examples include the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2022-2025) which aims to incorporate resilience and adaptation of biodiversity to climate change into plans for development in the Arctic, and “*develop and implement mechanisms that best safeguard Arctic biodiversity under changing environmental conditions, such as loss of sea ice, glaciers and permafrost.*” The language of MAP’s POST-2020 SAPBIO is fully aligned Target 8 requiring that, by 2030, “*all countries have adopted and started implementing short- and medium-term measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly to warming, acidification and contributing to disaster risk reduction, through reducing emissions, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and restoration as appropriate, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity, thereby also contributing to halt global warming and acidification.*”

Several RSCAPS have also developed **thematic regional strategies to address climate change impacts on marine and coastal environments and biodiversity**. For example, in 2018, ROPME launched a 3-year Regional Action Plan on Marine Climate Change Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation for the ROPME Sea Area to build the evidence

base on marine climate change impacts and adaptation options across the RSA. CPPS has developed Strategic Plan addressing the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN) program. In 2023, MAP established a Regional Activity Centre dedicated to climate change.

10 RSCAPS monitor parameters for **ocean warming** (e.g. sea surface temperature or “SST”) and 9 RSCAPS monitor **ocean acidification parameters** (e.g. Ph). For example, the Arctic Council’s Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) monitors key climate indicators related to the cryosphere (sea and land ice, snow, permafrost and more), Meteorology (including extreme weather events and teleconnections with other regions), environmental and ecosystem consequences (e.g. temperature and ocean acidification).

NbS and EBA for addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation

Most (12) RSCAPS have also developed strategic objectives to promote **NbS** for climate, including blue carbon restoration projects. For example, COBSEA’s Strategic Directions note that *“COBSEA will explore needs and opportunities to strengthen the cross-cutting benefits of NbS to both enhance resilience and strengthen and retain the blue carbon storage capacity of marine and coastal ecosystems.”*

Minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity

While efforts and activities to address climate change could have the potential to generate significant positive impacts on biodiversity and those dependent on it, they could also unintentionally result in negative impacts if they are not appropriately designed and implemented. **Only two RSCAPS (SPREP and MAP) currently discuss the positive and negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity.** SPREP’s Pacific Island Framework for Nature notes: *“NbS can have unforeseen negative impacts if applied without proper social and environmental safeguards or equity considerations. All NbS projects must be designed and implemented with demonstrable benefits for human and ecological wellbeing, where possible at multiple scales. NbS must be designed to equitably balance trade-offs between achievement of their primary goals and the continued provision of multiple benefits. NbS aiming at climate change mitigation must also have demonstrable benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.”*

J. KM GBF Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

GBF Target 9 is closely related to GBF Target 5 but **emphasizes the benefits of biodiversity for local and indigenous communities**. Wild marine species contribute to human well-being in multiple ways, including by providing nutrition, food security, medicines and livelihoods. Particular attention should be given to those people living in vulnerable situations and for whom wild species are particularly important to their well-being as they may be engaged in biodiversity-based economic activities or rely on biodiversity-based products and services. Examples include small-scale fisheries, sustainable tourism (discussed under Target 5) customary and traditional use and nature-based enterprises.

Small-scale fisheries:

Some (5) RSCAPS have developed strategic objectives to promote **sustainable small-scale fisheries** with the aim of benefiting local communities. For example:

The Nairobi Convention's Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (2024) prioritizes building sustainable small-scale fisheries in collaboration with SWIOFC, the RFB responsible for the WIO. Key actions include the use of economic and social rather than solely biological targets and interventions and support for alternative livelihoods. PERSGA's Protocol on Fisheries Management obliges parties to manage and develop small-scale fisheries responsibly to ensure just livelihoods. It emphasizes regional cooperation to conserve shared and migratory stocks, ensuring sustainable fishing effort, economic viability, ecosystem protection, and safeguarding artisanal and subsistence fisheries.

Protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities

Customary use of biological resources includes spiritual, cultural, economic and subsistence functions. Several RSCAPs have set specific objectives and targets to protect customary use by indigenous and local communities within the wide objective of sustainable management of marine resources. Others have addressed it as a cross-cutting issue (see further below).

The Arctic Council / PAME's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2021-2025) prioritizes *enhancing the economic, social and cultural well-being of Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic Indigenous Peoples and strengthen their capacity to adapt to changes in the Arctic marine environment. Actions include ensuring meaningful engagement and assessing adaptation options for Arctic coastal communities to changes in climate and the marine environment.*

Respect for community and indigenous rights is a foundational principle of SPREP's Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation & Protected Areas 2021-2025: *"Pacific Indigenous and local communities have the right to use, manage and conserve their natural resources and wider environment."*

Ensure benefits to people through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity

RSCAPs play a significant role in supporting local biodiversity projects, often addressing critical conservation needs at the community level. These projects contribute to, amongst other things, preserving habitats (Target 3), protecting species (Target 4), and building resilience against environmental challenges (Target 8). RSCAPs should ensure these projects and activities deliver tangible benefits to people while enhancing ecosystem health.

Further, CEP' has set a specific strategic objective to strengthen the development of sustainable livelihoods through **nature-based enterprises**, including by supporting local nature-based enterprises (e.g. fishing, agriculture, tourism) which provide economic opportunities particularly for rural coastal communities.

K. KM GBF Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

Target 10 partially overlaps with Target 5 but focuses on integrating sustainable practices in (larger scale) production systems such as aquaculture, fisheries and forestry. It also specifically addresses aquaculture, which is not covered by Target 5.

Many (9) RSCAPS have set strategic objectives to **promote sustainable aquaculture**. For example, MAP closely collaborated with GFCM, the RFMO for the Mediterranean to develop the Post-2020 GFCM Aquaculture and Fisheries strategy, developing best practices in aquaculture, such as innovation, improving aquatic health and biosecurity, encouraging the responsible use of antimicrobials, supported by certification, traceability and nature-based solutions. SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region sets a 2030 target to ensure that all fisheries and aquaculture activities are developed and managed using an ecosystem approach and guided by a management plan.

However, evidence of indicators for monitoring sustainable aquaculture has only been found for four RSCAPs. Under its Spincam monitoring program (which ended in 2022), CPPS monitored the total area (ha) of concessions given for aquaculture. CPPS still tracks the area of mangroves destructed by aquaculture. SACEP has adopted two regional indicators: 1) the number of countries that use aquaculture certification, and 2) the number of regulations in place. The Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (2009) contains a general indicator on "aquaculture and cultured species". PERSGA's Fisheries and Aquaculture Protocol article 15 requires Parties to report on aquaculture statistics and development

L. KM GBF Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

Nature's contributions to people, a concept similar to and inclusive of ecosystem services, refers to all the contributions from biodiversity to people's well-being or quality of life. These include material contributions, regulating services and other non-material contributions including spiritually and culturally. The restoration, maintenance and enhancement of nature's contributions to people provides an important rationale for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Progress towards GBF Target 11 will be supported by actions under other KM GBF Targets addressing biodiversity loss drivers. While the term "nature's contributions to people" is not a term widely adopted by RSCAPs, similar concepts are. Notably, the ecosystem-based approach is integrated as a principle for the sustainable, safe, and legal use of wild species (Target 5), and for biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and management (Target 1). The use of NbS and EBA to minimize the impacts of climate change and pollution are discussed under Targets 7 and 8.

Several RSCAPs have adopted the **Sustainable Blue Economy** concept to promote nature's contributions to people. COBSEA's *Marine and Coastal Framework* positions the Blue Economy as its overarching theme, aiming for equitable and inclusive benefit-sharing, particularly for communities directly reliant on marine and coastal ecosystems. It supports the transition to a sustainable Blue Economy in areas of high ecological importance and focuses on reducing negative impacts while ensuring equity and inclusivity. Similarly, CEP's 2030 Regional Strategy aims to integrate ecological, social, and economic considerations to "*promote the Blue Economy and contribute to poverty alleviation, food security, and economic growth through ecosystem-based management and nature-based solutions.*"

Several RSCAPS are supporting their contracting parties to integrate marine and coastal biodiversity values into policy and decision-making, either through conducting regional ecosystem assessment analyses or by developing capacity to develop national ocean accounting systems. HELCOM's State of the Baltic Sea Report (2023) assesses ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating, and cultural services, highlighting the need to align future work with the UN SEEA EA framework. The Nairobi Convention's Regional Strategy 2025-2030 promotes Ocean Accounts and national capital accounting to support Blue Economy development in the region, focusing on capacity-building and integrated ocean governance. OSPAR's *Quality Status Report* (2023) evaluates ecosystem services for the first time, including provisioning (e.g., biomass), regulating (e.g., climate regulation), cultural services, and abiotic outputs (e.g., sand). SPREP's Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project (2020) advances ecosystem-based

adaptation by valuing services like coastal protection and food security for integration into national plans. Finally, CEP's 2030 Strategy aims to mainstream coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses into policies and national accounting systems, strengthening capacity for economic valuation, data accessibility, and environmental impact assessments.

Further, several RSCAPs (e.g. the Arctic Council/CAFF, SPREP, MAP) have **collaborated with The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)** initiative to determine the valuation of regional marine and coastal ecosystems. For example, SPREP collaborated with TEEB on valuing the contributions of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, which provide critical ecosystem services such as fisheries, tourism, and carbon sequestration.

Finally, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires member states to conduct economic and social analyses of the use of marine waters and the cost of degradation. As many EU countries are members of UNEP-MAP, HELCOM and OSPAR, these regional frameworks are, as much as possible, aligned with EU rules.

This work indirectly contributes to reporting progress under KM headline indicator B.1 "Ecosystem Services" which requires countries to prepare **ecosystem accounts to track trends in the provision of ecosystem services**.

M. KM GB Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

RSCAPs exhibit significant variation in the scope and extent of their monitoring schemes, reflecting regional differences in capacity, resources, and environmental priorities. While some RSCAPs implement comprehensive, multi-thematic monitoring programs with established indicator frameworks (e.g., HELCOM and OSPAR), others focus on more targeted areas, such as pollution or biodiversity, often constrained by limited financial and technical resources.

Currently, 14 RSCAPs have operational environmental monitoring plans programs, enabling the systematic collection and analysis of ecosystem health and/or pollution indicators. The Tehran Convention's Environmental Monitoring Framework (2012) only has a recommendatory character and is not operational. The Abidjan Convention finalised its strategic monitoring plan in 2021 (not available online). UNEP-CEP's Regional Strategy for the valuation of coastal and marine biodiversity includes a chapter on monitoring, which is not fully operational yet. Of all RSCAPs, only 6 publish indicator guidance and methodologies.

These monitoring programs usually underpin the publication of State of the Marine Environment Reports (SOMER) or equivalent reports. All functioning RSCAPs produce state of the marine environment assessments to highlight trends and address regional marine challenges. Updates vary in frequency, reflecting differences in regional priorities, resources, and monitoring capacities. Furthermore, RSCAPs within the EU area – OSPAR, HELCOM, MAP and the Black Sea Commission – are, to varying extents carrying out quality status reporting to assess progress towards pre-defined ecological quality objectives.

N. Cross-cutting theme: Respecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities

Respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities is a cross-cutting requirement that applies across different GBF Targets:

- Target 1, in relation to marine and coastal spatial planning
- Target 3, which requires respecting traditional territories when establishing MPAs or OECMs
- Target 5, which requires respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities when managing sustainable use of wild species
- Target 9, which requires protecting customary use of and management of wild species
- Target 21, which requires that traditional and local knowledge, innovations and practices are only accessed with their prior and free informed consent.
- Target 22, which focuses on ensuring the full and effective participation of IPLCs in decision-making processes, emphasizing their rights and roles in biodiversity governance.

RSCAPs play a pivotal role in safeguarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), in various ways:

- **Through inclusive governance structures.** For example, the Arctic Council includes Permanent Participants, which are organizations representing Indigenous peoples of the Arctic, such as the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Saami Council, and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). These groups participate in discussions and decision-making processes, ensuring that Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices are integrated into policies related to marine resource management. This ensures that the customary use of marine resources, such as subsistence hunting, fishing, and whaling, are considered and respected in the Council's programs and strategies. MAP's MPA post-2020 MPA and OECM Strategy focuses on improving decentralization of MPA governance, including through co-management structures.
- **Through stakeholder engagement.** For example, COBSEA emphasizes stakeholder participation, including local communities, in its strategic directions for 2023–2027. The Tehran Convention has adopted a cross-cutting Participation Strategy (2017).
- **Promoting respect for rights over territories and natural resources:** This is a foundational principle of the SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature Conservation & Protected Areas 2021–2025: *"Pacific Indigenous and local communities have the right to use, manage and conserve their natural resources and wider environment."* National, regional and international partners will actively recognise, respect and support community property rights, including traditional rights over natural resources, and indigenous intellectual

property relating to natural resources and cultural knowledge; (...)."

- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** RSCAPs facilitate programs that enhance the capabilities of IPLCs in sustainable resource management. For example, SPREP offers training and resources to empower local communities in conservation efforts.
- **Benefit sharing:** SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region sets a number of cross-cutting actions, including *"Develop(ing) equitable benefit sharing measures, with the local communities and other stakeholders, for benefits arising from conservation and protection measures."*
- **Recognition of Traditional Knowledge:** many RSCAPs acknowledge and integrate traditional ecological knowledge into their frameworks, promoting culturally appropriate conservation strategies. This approach is evident in various regional action plans that respect and utilize indigenous practices for environmental stewardship.

Potential areas for further improvement include:

- **Enhanced representation:** While progress has been made, increasing the direct involvement of IPLCs in all levels of governance within RSCAPs can lead to more equitable and effective outcomes.
- **Strengthening legal frameworks:** Developing and enforcing legal instruments that explicitly protect the rights of IPLCs within the context of marine and coastal management would provide clearer guidelines and stronger safeguards. This includes formal recognition of land and resource rights, as well as mechanisms for redress in cases of infringement. Other options include strengthening legal frameworks to encourage decentralisation and co-management of MPAs.
- **Resource allocation:** Allocating adequate funding and resources to support IPLC-led conservation initiatives can empower these communities to manage their environments sustainably. Financial support is essential for capacity building, implementation of traditional practices, and participation in broader conservation efforts.

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Annexes

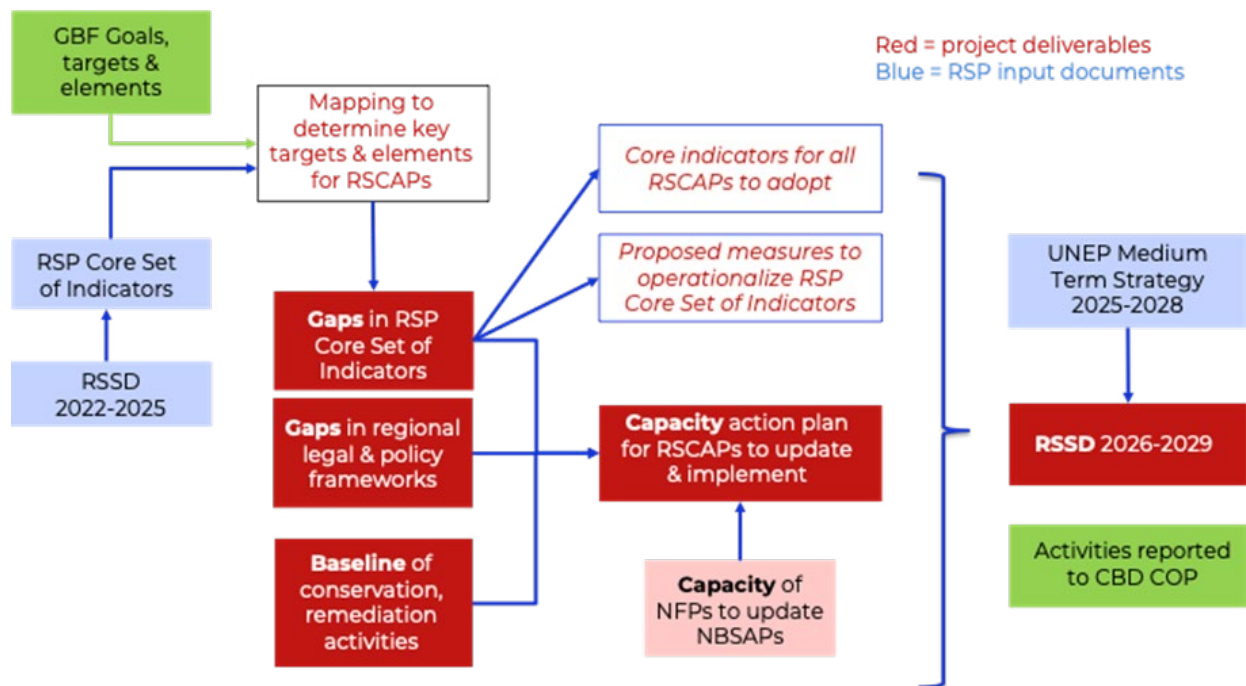
Annex 1: Methodology and data limitations

Methodology

The methodology adopted for this report was designed to systematically assess the contributions of RSCAPs to the KM GBF.

The process comprised three key steps:

1. Map key KM GBF targets & elements for RSCAPS
2. Review regional legal and policy frameworks
3. Review regional indicators



Step 1: Mapping key KM GBF targets & elements for RSCAPS

First, a priority set of KM GBF targets most relevant to the work of RSCAPs was identified using the following criteria:

- **Existing Reports:** Insights were drawn from previous UNEP and Regional Seas Programme reports that highlighted areas of alignment between RSCAP activities and global biodiversity frameworks.
- **Strategic Directions:** Thematic activities included in the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022–2025 were reviewed for relevance to KM GBF targets.
- **Indicator Availability:** Only GBF Targets with corresponding Regional Seas Core Sets of Indicators were considered to ensure measurable progress.
- **RSCAP-Specific Indicators:** Indicators already adopted or under development at individual RSCAPs were evaluated.
- **Pilot Review:** A preliminary review of eight regional frameworks (conducted in September 2024) informed the selection process.

Based on this mapping, KM GBF Targets 1 to 11, as well as cross-cutting requirements were selected as most relevant to RSCAPs' work.

Next, the scope was refined to focus on the KM GBF elements that are relevant to RSCAPs' work:

- **The Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Monitoring under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) identified distinct elements within the 23 KM GBF targets (documented in CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19). This provided a comprehensive baseline for identifying “in-scope” elements for RSCAPs, with the following adjustments:**
- **Exclusion of Out-of-Scope Elements:** Elements unrelated to marine and coastal areas, such as terrestrial protected areas, were excluded from consideration.
- **Elimination of Duplication:** Redundancies within the KM GBF elements were addressed to streamline the analysis.

Finally, the remaining in-scope elements were organized into the following categories:

- **Quantitative Targets:** elements with measurable, numerical goals
 - *Example: Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of marine and coastal areas are included in systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures*

- **Qualitative Targets:** elements that set desired outcomes or conditions that are specific but not quantified, often indicating a certain standard or presence of practices
 - *Example: Ensure that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas is fully consistent with conservation outcomes.*
- **Criteria:** specifications for quality, methods or approaches, often tied to principles or best practices
 - *Example: Ensure that MPAs and OECMS:*
 - Especially include areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services
 - are effectively managed
 - ecologically coherent
 - equitably governed
 - integrated into wider seascapes and the ocean
- **Cross-cutting requirements:** broader elements that need to be upheld throughout implementation, ensuring inclusivity or addressing broader issues
 - *Example: recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories*

This structured methodology ensured a focused and actionable analysis of how RSCAPs contribute to the KM GBF while identifying gaps and opportunities for alignment with global biodiversity objectives.

Step 2: review regional legal and policy frameworks

The following types of regional legal and strategic documents were reviewed for alignment with the KM GBF Targets:

- **Conventions and Protocols**
- **Action Plans**
- **Regional Strategies and work plans**
- **Thematic guidelines**
- **Monitoring Frameworks**

The review aimed to identify whether regional policies and strategies integrated strategic objectives, targets and cross-cutting requirements that were aligned with the KM GBF, as well as to identify important gaps. The reviewed highlighted whether the following categories were covered:

- **Quantitative Targets**
- **Qualitative Targets**
- **Criteria**
- **Cross-cutting requirements**

Step 3: review regional indicator frameworks

First, the Regional Seas Program Core Indicators (RS CIs) were compared with the KM GBF headline indicator metadata to evaluate alignment and gaps

- **The CBD AD Hoc Technical WG on Monitoring provided the metadata for all mandatory KM GBF Headline indicators as a priority (see gbf-indicators.org).**
- **Based on this metadata, a comparison was made between the RSP Core Indicator set and the KM GBF Headline Indicators, to determine whether they covered the collection of the same data points.**
- **Limitation:** no metadata is publicly available for the RS CIs, which limits the comparison in several cases

Next, the RS CIs were compared with KM GBF voluntary component and complementary indicators. The proposed streamlined set of indicators prepared by AHTEG was used (CBD/SBSTTA/26/2).

This comparison was then used to identify:

- **alignment between the RS CIs and the KM GBF mandatory Headline Indicators**
- **alignment between an RS CI and one or more of the KM GBF component or complementary indicators**
- **a gap, i.e. where no RS CI was identified for the relevant GBF Target or sub-elements (GAP)**
- **a gap in KM GBF Indicator Framework and RS CIs can provide additional information**

Finally, indicators adopted at the RSCAP level were reviewed to assess how RS CIs and KM indicators were being implemented at the regional level. Emerging indicators under development at the regional level were identified, offering insights for future iterations of the RSP Core Indicator set.

Step 4: Survey

Finally, information on Regional Seas monitoring frameworks and indicators was validated through a survey. Responses were received from 9 RSCAPs: CCAMLR, CPPS, CEP, the Black Sea Commission, HELCOM, COBSEA, MAP, NOWPAP, and PERSGA.

Data limitations:

This report was prepared based on publicly available documents and can therefore not be considered exhaustive. Documents identified as missing from the review include, but are not limited to:

- **Antigua Convention:** Convention and SAP reviewed; no further documents found as Convention is not in force yet
- **Arctic Council:** latest available PAME CAFF work plans date from 2021-2023; AMAP pollution monitoring plan (or other documents comprising indicators) not publicly available.
- **Abidjan Convention:** website under construction since (July) 2024, Convention and Protocols on LBS, ICZM, Sustainable Mangrove Management, and emergencies reviewed; no access to other strategic documents such as programmes of work, thematic strategies or environmental monitoring frameworks. Based on available information, the last COP meeting was held in 2021 (to be confirmed).

- **Black Sea Commission:** no access to recent meeting reports from the governing body; latest publicly available work programme dates from 2019/2020; latest monitoring plan not available.
- **Cartagena Convention:** the Cartagena Convention's 2030 strategy is only publicly available as a draft (attached to the most recent COP meeting reports); environmental or pollution monitoring plans not publicly available
- **CCAMLR:** no access to a recent strategic plan
- **CPPS:** no documents available which describe the parameters and indicators monitored under the CONPACSE pollution monitoring program.
- **COBSEA:** no environmental monitoring plans or indicator manuals available.
- **NOWPAP:** no online access to recent meeting reports of the governing body; last available POW is from 2021; NOWPAP's latest published Mid-Term Strategy is 2018-2023; Mention is made of efforts to develop a regional biodiversity strategy in 2019 (NOWPAP RAP BIO), but it is unclear if this document has been adopted and in use more recently.
- **PERSGA:** reviewed: Convention, Protocols and website; Missing are: report from the latest Ministerial Council meeting (August 2023), Latest Strategic Action Plan; Documents describing any Environmental Monitoring Programs and indicators.
- **ROPME:** Convention, Action Plan and technical reports available on website reviewed; No access to recent strategic plans or programmes of work; no access to environmental monitoring plans and/or indicators. Mention is made of a Regional Action Plan on Marine Climate Change Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation for the RSA (not available). Draft Protocol concerning the conservation of biological diversity and the establishment of protected area not available online. While public sources mention that a workshop was held in 2018 to develop a regional strategy on Harmful Algal Blooms, it is unclear whether such a strategy was adopted.
- **Tehran Convention:** documents from latest IGM/COP not available; no recent strategic or work programme available online.

Annex 2: Mapping of RSSD 2021-2025 against the KM GBF

KM GBF Targets	SDG 14	Other relevant global frameworks and targets	Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2021-2025 (3 goals, 16 RSP targets).	Remarks
TARGET 1: Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea use change , to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030 , while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.	SDG 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	BBNJ Article 17 <i>(b) Strengthen cooperation and coordination in the use of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, among States, relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies;</i>	Target 1.3 Marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) promoted towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets • Sea areas under spatial planning increased. • Cooperation and integration of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) strengthened between different RSCAPs and various sectoral organizations (e.g., fisheries and biodiversity organisations). Target 1.1: Resilience increased through nature-based solutions. • Protection, sustainable management and restoration of marine and coastal carbon sinks and reservoirs and other critical ecosystems supported, including mangroves, corals, seagrasses and salt marshes.	Focus on increasing collaboration on ICZM and MSP, with the objective of <u>increasing the sea areas under spatial planning</u> No quantitative target to achieve <u>all areas</u> under management Additional focus on <u>protecting critical ecosystems</u> for climate regulation, including mangroves, corals, seagrasses and salt marshes
TARGET 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration , in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.	SDG 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Ramsar Resolution VII.17 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.	“Target 1.3 Marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) promoted towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets. • Degraded marine ecosystems restored. Target 1.1: Resilience increased through nature-based solutions. • Protection, sustainable management and restoration of marine and coastal carbon sinks and reservoirs and other critical ecosystems supported, including mangroves, corals, seagrasses and salt marshes.	Restoration of marine (not coastal) ecosystems included in RSSD No reference to ensuring effectiveness of restoration
TARGET 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures , recognizing indigenous and traditional territories , where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.	SDG 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	BBNJ Article 22 - Establishment of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas	Target 1.3 Marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) promoted towards the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets. • Marine protected areas designated, effectively managed and ecological connectivity strengthened.	Objective to increase MPA/OECM coverage, towards the GBF target (indirect reference to 30x30) Focus on effective management, connectivity Missing: equitable governance, ecological representativeness, and the inclusion of areas of high biodiversity importance

KM GBF Targets	SDG 14	Other relevant global frameworks and targets	Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2021-2025 (3 goals, 16 RSP targets).	Remarks
TARGET 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.		Appendix I of the BBNJ contains criteria for the proposal and implementation of area based management tools, including criteria related to threatened species (“(e) The importance for threatened, endangered or declining species or habitats;”	1.4 Threatened species protected and prevented from extinction: Invasive alien species effectively controlled in marine and coastal areas.	RSSD does not set objectives or targets related to halting the extinction and enable the recovery of species, including threatened species, except combating invasive alien species (GBF Target 6)
TARGET 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	Target 5 is also relevant to work being undertaken under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) species classification, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat BBNJ Article 22 - Establishment of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas	Target 1.2 Sustainable and equitable management, use and trade of marine and coastal biological resources strengthened in cooperation with relevant MEAs, RFMOs and other stakeholders. The biodiversity-pollution-fisheries nexus applied for delivering co-benefits.	Objective to collaborate with RFMOs and MFAs to strengthen sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
Target 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.			1.4 Threatened species protected and prevented from extinction: Invasive alien species effectively controlled in marine and coastal areas.	Objective to control invasive alien species, but no further breakdown on the ways to do so (e.g. addressing key pathways)

KM GBF Targets	SDG 14	Other relevant global frameworks and targets	Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2021-2025 (3 goals, 16 RSP targets).	Remarks
Target 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.	14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density	Elements of Target 7 are also addressed in the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including targets 3.9, 6.3, 11.6, 12.4, 12.5 and 14.1 Target 7 also links to other international processes addressing pollution, including the World Health Organization, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the ongoing discussions under Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution. The 'Colombo Declaration' sets an ambition to halve nitrogen waste by 2030.	Target 1.5. Sustainable consumption and production patterns promoted as a means to achieve a circular economy and towards expediting achievement of relevant international agreements and SDG13 targets where unsustainable patterns relate to impacts on ocean health and adaptation (acidification, coral reef management, coastal resilience), and where these reduce effectiveness of ecosystem-based mitigation (blue carbon, tipping points, ecosystem valuation). - Nutrient runoff prevented. - Wastewater management enhanced. - Marine plastic pollution reduced. 1.6 Pollution affecting marine and coastal areas prevented towards the achievement of the Beyond-2020 Framework for sound management of chemicals and waste: - Synergies with the work of ocean- related measures of chemicals and waste MEAs contributed to and maximised. - Conventions and Protocols effectively implemented within the mandate of RSCAPs and where relevant to regional issues and priorities, for both land- and sea-based sources of marine pollution.	Key elements of GBF Target 7 covered
Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.	14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	Target 8 is relevant to work being undertaken under the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Appendix I of the BBNJ contains criteria for the proposal and implementation of area based management tools, including (f) Vulnerability, including to climate change and ocean acidification;	Target 1.1: Resilience increased through nature-based solutions. Protection, sustainable management and restoration of marine and coastal carbon sinks and reservoirs and other critical ecosystems supported, including mangroves, corals, seagrasses and salt marshes. Ecosystem-based adaptation promoted to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience, as well as reduced vulnerability to climate change.	Key elements of GBF Target 8 covered
Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism		Target 1.2 Sustainable and equitable management, use and trade of marine and coastal biological resources strengthened in cooperation with relevant MEAs, RFMOs and other stakeholders. The biodiversity-pollution-fisheries nexus applied for delivering co-benefits.	GBF Target 9 focuses on the benefits from the use of these resources for local and indigenous communities. This is only indirectly covered through the reference to "collaboration with other stakeholders"

KM GBF Targets	SDG 14	Other relevant global frameworks and targets	Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2021-2025 (3 goals, 16 RSP targets).	Remarks
Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services .	14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics		Target 1.2 Sustainable and equitable management, use and trade of marine and coastal biological resources strengthened in cooperation with relevant MEAs, RFMOs and other stakeholders. The biodiversity-pollution-fisheries nexus applied for delivering co-benefits.	Objective to collaborate with RFMOs and MFAs to strengthen sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. No specific mention of fisheries and aquaculture
Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.				GBF Target 11 focuses on valuing and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem services. Some RSCAPS have developed work on ocean accounting and valuing ecosystem services. This is not yet included in the RSSD.
Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent[1], in accordance with national legislation.	SDG 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries		Target 2.2 Regionally harmonized data collection, assessment and monitoring of relevant SDG indicators supported. - SDG indicators 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1 harmonized and data collection ongoing. - The Regional Seas Core Indicators Set (adopted at the 17th Global Meeting of RSCAPS3) refined and reporting thereon progressed. Target 2.3 Synergies across reporting requirements to reduce duplication of efforts fostered. - Modular reporting piloted across relevant MEAs with reporting under Conventions and Protocols of the Regional Seas. 2.4 Research fostered to deepen understanding of marine environments, in particular deep-sea ecosystems. - Emerging threats identified, including seabed mining, underwater noise pollution and other novel pollutants. - Scientific support provided to increase understanding of marine and coastal environmental changes, in particular those that are abrupt, accelerating or irreversible with potentially significant global consequences. - Relevant policy responses identified.	Target to refine the RSP Core Indicator Set, promote synergies across reporting requirements and to promote research
Cross-cutting theme: respecting and promoting the rights of indigenous and local communities				With exception of the objective to engage with "other stakeholders" in the context of sustainable management of marine and coastal resources, no reference is made to indigenous and/or local communities

Annex 3: Mapping of RSP Core Indicators against the KM GBF indicator framework

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 1						
1.1: Per cent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans The methodology for this indicator has not been developed yet				CI 22: National ICZM guidelines and enabling legislation adopted Number of countries using ecosystem- based approaches to manage marine areas (measured through ICZM, marine spatial plan or other area-based, integrated planning and management in place) Ideally, all countries should report on the spatial boundaries of their relevant plans, including the implementation stage. However, at a minimum information on if a plan is in place should be collected.	14.2.1: Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas SDG Indicator 14.2.1 proposes RS CI 22 as the Main Indicator: Number of countries using ecosystem- based approaches to manage marine areas (measured through ICZM, marine spatial plan or other area-based, integrated planning and management in place) Level 3 parameter: Ecological parameters (e.g. state of biodiversity, water quality, habitat quality, ecosystem health)	The meta data for KM Headline Indicator 1.1 is not developed yet. However, the current meta data notes that SDG Indicator 14.2.1 (and thus RS CI 22) covers part of this indicator.
Proposed binary indicator: 1.b Number of countries using participatory, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning or effective management processes to address land and sea use change	Headline indicator A.1 uses the outcomes of Red List of Ecosystems assessments. Countries will be required to report on the number of ecosystem types per risk category in each ecosystem functional group.					Alignment between the KM binary indicator, the RS CI and the SDG 14 indicator. RS CI 22 and SDG 14.2.1 adopt the concept of “ecosystem-based approaches to marine and coastal management, which can be considered as “biodiversity-inclusive” planning or management.
A.1 Red list of ecosystems possible disaggregations: - By protected areas/ other effective area-based conservation measures - By drivers (matched to the IUCN threats classification scheme) The Red List of Ecosystems was adopted by IUCN in 2014 as the global standard for assessing risk of ecosystem collapse for terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. It provides a systematic framework for compiling information on ecosystems, and assessing their relative risks of collapse based on change in ecosystem area and integrity.		Ecosystem Intactness Index Ecosystem Integrity Index Species Habitat Index	Mangrove forest fragmentation Mangrove extent Global saltmarsh extent Wetland Extent Trends Index Extent of physical damage to predominant seafloor habitats Changes in plankton biomass and abundance Proportion of Key Biodiversity areas in favourable condition	N/A		The Regional Seas Core Indicators do not comprise an indicator similar to KM Headline Indicator A.1.
A.2 Extent of Ecosystems possible disaggregations: - By realm and by ecosystem functional group - By Indigenous and traditional territories - By natural and seminatural ecosystem This indicator aims to show the extent of <u>natural</u> ecosystems as a proportion of overall area, and to track changes in this proportion over time. For countries with marine territory, the indicator should be compiled ideally for the total surface area of the country, including territorial waters. However, it could be compiled only for land and inland water areas if data on the distribution of marine ecosystems are not yet available.	For reporting the indicator, countries will not be expected to submit the ecosystem extent account table. Rather, they will submit data on the extent Ecosystem Functional Groups and the total country area in absolute terms (e.g. ha/km2).			CI 15 Trends in critical habitat extent and condition	N/A	As no meta data is available for Regional Seas Core Indicator 15, a comparison is limited. However, elements of KM Headline Indicator A.2 and complementary KM Indicators (e.g. mangrove extent, wetland extent, saltmarsh extent) appear to be covered by RSP Core Indicator 15 “Trends in critical habitat extent and condition”.

⁹ Only marine or coastal indicators relevant to the work of RSCAPs were included in this table.

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 2						
2.2: Area under restoration Possible breakdowns are (i) by ecosystem functional group, (ii) by indigenous and traditional territories, (iii) by protected areas/ other effective area-based conservation measures, (iv) by type of restoration activity This indicator has been aligned with the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), led by FAO.	CBD Parties will report the implementation of KM-GBF directly using CBD's online reporting tool. FAO is working with the CBD and AHTEG to develop a national reporting template for this indicator. In addition, FAO is leading a data compilation effort that integrates restoration data from various available data sources (e.g. UNFCCC, NBSAPs, Bonn Challenge, Ramsar Convention, SDG Indicator Database, REDD+, FERM, IUCN Restoration Barometer) into the FERM database. The objective is to produce a default dataset on restoration that can contribute to the national processes. CBD Country Focal Points will also be able to contribute directly into the database.	Global Ecosystem Restoration Index Proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas in favourable condition		N/A	N/A	The Regional Sea Core Indicators does not contain indicators to measure the area of restoration of ecosystems. As FAO/FERM is the data custodian for KM Headline Indicator 2.1, there is an opportunity for RSCAPs to collaborate to update the FERM database on existing marine and coastal ecosystem restoration projects.
3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs. Possible breakdowns include: (i) by protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, (ii) by realm and by ecosystem functional group (Global Ecosystem Typology level 3), (iii) by areas of importance for biodiversity, (iv) by effectiveness (Protected Area Management Effectiveness), (v) by governance type, (vi) by Indigenous and traditional territories. This indicator corresponds to SDG Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	Data for Indicator 3.1 is collected through the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). Both databases are managed by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) as joint products of UNEP and IUCN. The data in the WDPA are compiled directly from governments, regional entities, secretariats of intergovernmental agreements and processes, and other stakeholders.		3. CY.2 International Union for Conservation of Nature Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard 2. CY.2 Proportion of key biodiversity areas in favourable condition 3.CY.5 Number of protected areas that have completed a site-level assessment of governance and equity	CI 21 % marine protected areas designated RS CI 21 corresponds to level 1 of SDG Indicator 14.5.1.	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas Level 1 Global indicators: Coverage of marine and coastal areas by protected areas Level 3 national indicators: - Coverage, by protected areas, of areas of importance for biodiversity and derived ecosystem services - Management effectiveness of protected areas - Connectivity of protected areas - Equity in protected area benefits and costs	Regional Seas Core Indicator 21 matches SDG Indicator 14.5.1 and partly matches KM Headline Indicator 3.1, focusing on area of MPA coverage. However, CI 21 does not cover OECMs and lacks some of the disaggregations proposed by KM Headline Indicator 3.1, such as areas of importance for biodiversity, governance types or effectiveness metrics.

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 4						
A.3 “IUCN Red List Index” requires countries to provide a disaggregated Red List Index for their respective country. That is, an index of the aggregate extinction risk for species within their country (or sub-regions) relative to its potential contribution to global species extinction risk. Proposed disaggregations are by (i) realm and ecosystems, (ii) migratory species, (iii) drivers (IUCN threats classification scheme).	To report on KM indicator A3, countries are supposed to provide a disaggregated Red List Index for a particular country or region, i.e. an index of the aggregate extinction risk for species within the country or region relative to its potential contribution to global species extinction risk.	Mean Species Abundance Species Protection Index Species Status Information Index	Mean Species Abundance Species Protection Index Species Status Information Index	CI 14 Distribution of Red List Index species	N/A	As no meta data is available for Regional Seas Core Indicator 14, the comparison with KM Headline Indicator A.3 is limited. However, RS CI appears to measure a different data point than KM Headline Indicator A.3. While KM Headline Indicator A.3 aims to obtain an index value between 0 - 1 to indicate trends in extinction risk (can be broken down by realm, driver or migratory species), RS CI measures the spatial distribution of Red List Index species (i.e. species figuring on the IUCN red list). RSCAPs that report against CI 14 by preparing regional overviews of threatened species directly support their members in reporting against. KM Headline Indicator A.3.
A.4 further requires tracking of “the proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500”. This indicator could be disaggregated by species. This indicator links back to (3) and helps monitor trends and recovery of species populations.	The data are sourced from in-country existing biodiversity and environment agencies. Other data may be obtained from conservation organizations, scientific societies, national and public repositories (e.g. GBIF, Red List assessments), citizen scientists, and the contributions of local and indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge holders.			N/A	N/A	The Regional Seas Core Indicators do not contain an indicator similar to KM Headline Indicator A.4

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 5						
5.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. This indicator can be disaggregated by FAO major marine fishing areas. It measures the sustainability of the world's marine capture fisheries by the abundance of the exploited fish stocks with respect to MSY levels. The methodology is based on SDG Indicator 14.4.1 (FAO Fish Stock Status compared to MSY), and further adjusted to meet the needs of the KM GBF.	National data on fish stocks will be collected by FAO through a questionnaire sent to national focal points.	Red List Index (impacts of utilisation) for utilised species Living Planet Index for utilised species Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Red List Index (impacts of fisheries) MSCF Certified Catch Total catch of cetaceans under International Whaling Convention Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country	CI 12 FAO stock status: % stocks overfished compared to MSY CI 5 Fisheries catch in EEZ CI 13 Marine Trophic Index CI 20 Fisheries measures in place (by-catch limits, area-based closures, recovery plans, capacity reduction measures) and multilateral/bilateral fisheries management arrangements	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels 14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	RS CI 12 corresponds to SDG indicator 14.4.1, which is also the basis for KM Headline Indicator 5.1. RS CI 5, 13 and 20 go beyond the KM Indicator framework, providing additional information.
KM GBF Target 6						
6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment Possible disaggregations by pathway and/or taxonomic group	No data is collected directly from national CBD focal points for this indicator. Instead, the indicator is calculated from compiled country checklists of introduced invasive species within the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS). GRIIS is maintained by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG). The checklists are updatable through national expert author teams coordinated globally by GRIIS and form the backbone of country monitoring frameworks for IAS.	N/A	Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species)	N/A	N/A	No RS CI is available for invasive alien species, but several RSCAPS have established monitoring frameworks that monitor IAS trends (see Chapter 3).
6.binary Number of countries adopting relevant regulation, processes and measures and allocating resources to reduce the impact of invasive alien species.						

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 7 (all pollution)						
N/A	N/A	Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality level of water stress	N/A	CI 16 % National action plans ratified / operational to reduce input from land-based pollution CI 17 1) % coastal urban population connected to sewage facilities, 2) % of waste water facilities complying with adequate standards, 3) % untreated waste water CI 18 1) % port waste reception facilities available, 2) incentives to reduce land based sources, 3) Amount of recycled waste on land (%)	N/A	No KM Headline Indicator is available to measure progress against the objective of reducing pollution to levels not harmful to biodiversity, considering cumulative effects.
7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP) • by nutrient type (by basin)	<u>The metadata for indicator 7.1 notes that national data will be collected through Regional Sea Programs.</u>	N/A	Trends in loss of reactive nitrogen to the environment Trends in nitrogen deposition	CI 1 Chlorophyll-A concentration as an indicator of phytoplankton biomass RS CI 1 is a sub-indicator of SDG Indicator 14.1.a Index of Coastal Eutrophication, i.e. Level 2 Chlorophyll-A monitoring. CI 9 Locations and frequency of algal blooms reported	14.1.1a: Index of Coastal Eutrophication (including ICEP) Level 1 global indicators: - Indicator for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP) (based on Nitrogen and Phosphate loadings) - Chlorophyll-A deviations and anomalies Level 2: national indicators: - Chlorophyll-A concentration - National modelling of coastal eutrophication potential - In-situ concentration of nitrogen, phosphate - Total Nitrogen of DIN (dissolved inorganic nitrogen) - Total Phosphorus or DIP (dissolved inorganic phosphorus) - Total silica Level 3: Supplementary indicators : - Dissolved oxygen - Biological/chemical oxygen demand (BOD/COD) - Total organic carbon (TOC) - Turbidity (remote sensing) - River parameters from SDG 6.3.2 - Other water parameters (O2 % saturation, Secchi depth, river discharge, salinity, temperature, pH, alkalinity, organic carbon, toxic metals, persistent organic pollutants) - Microalgal growth, harmful algal blooms, submerged aquatic vegetation coverage, biodiversity and hypoxia	The metadata for KM Headline indicator 7.1 notes that national data will be collected through Regional Sea Programmes. However, the RS CI and KM Headline Indicator adopt a different methodology. While RS CI uses Chlorophyll-A measurements as a proxy for eutrophication, KM Headline Indicator 7.1 measures nutrient inputs (nitrogen and phosphorus). RS CI 9 corresponds to the level 3 supplementary indicators for SDG indicator 14.1a

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT) Potential disaggregations: • by pesticide type • by sector) Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity (ATAT) is defined as the risk to ecological communities based on the combined risks to key species groups from the annual outdoor, agricultural, forestry and public health use of total pesticides in active ingredients for pesticides.	Data is collected from National governments, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and University of Hertfordshire; FAO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	While RS CI 2 covers harmful chemicals, including pesticides, no RS CI is available to specifically track pesticide pollution. No evidence was found that any RSCAPs have developed relevant indicators specifically focused pesticides. However, pesticides might be covered in RSCAP monitoring programs for harmful chemicals (e.g. under LBS protocols).
N/A	N/A	N/A	Hazardous waste generation	CI 2 Inputs of pollution: Trends for selected priority chemicals including POPs and heavy metals CI 10 Pollution Hot Spots 1) Concentration of Status of selected pollutant contamination in biota and sediments and temporal trends 2) number of hotspots	N/A	No KM Headline Indicator is available to measure progress against the objective of halving the risk of highly hazardous chemicals. RS CI 2 and C10 therefore go beyond the KM indicator framework. It appears that most RSCAPS have adopted these indicators.
N/A	N/A	Floating plastic debris density (SDG 14.1.1(b))	Plastic debris density	CI 3 Quantification and classification of beach litter items CI 18 1) % port waste reception facilities available, 2) incentives to reduce land based sources, 3) Amount of recycled waste on land (%)	14.1.1.b: Marine plastic debris	No KM Headline Indicator is available to measure progress against the objective reducing plastic pollution. The KM Component and Complementary Indicators focus on floating plastic debris density and trends in the amount of litter, including microplastics, in the water column and on the seafloor. This is a different approach than RS CI, which focuses on beach litter.

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 8						
No KM Headline Indicator is available yet to measure progress against GBF Target 8. Instead, the KM Indicator framework provides for a Binary Indicator 8.b which aims to collect information on “the number of national policies to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity.”	N/A	N/A	Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.3.1 (Marine Acidity)	CI 11: Ocean Acidification 1) Aragonite saturation 2) pH 3) Alkalinity C4 Ocean Warming Annual mean sea surface temperature (25m below the surface) CI 19 Climate Adaptation 1) % national adaptation plans in place 2) Sector based national adaptation plans 3) Number of existing national and local coastal and marine plans incorporating climate change adaptation	14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	No KM Headline Indicator is available yet to measure progress against KM GBF Target 8. KM Binary Indicator 8b is similar to RS CI 19 but has a different emphasis. While 8b monitors the number of national policies to minimize climate change impacts on biodiversity, RS CI 19 inquires generally about the number climate change adaptation plans in general, regardless of biodiversity impacts. RS CI 11 further corresponds to a complementary KM indicator (SDG 14.3.1 Average Marine Acidity) RS CI 4 (sea surface temperature) goes beyond the KM indicator framework., providing additional information.
KM GBF Target 9						
9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species: no meta data is available yet for this indicator, so a binary indicator has been proposed: 9.b (binary): Number of countries with policies to sustainably manage, use [and trade] wild species, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and that protect and encourage		Red List Index (species used for food and medicine) Living Planet Index for utilized species	Red List Index (impacts of utilisation) for utilised species Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country Spawning stock Red List Index (impacts of fisheries) Red List Index (impact of utilization)	CI 5 Fisheries catch in EEZ CI 12 FAO stock status: % stocks overfished compared to MSY CI 13 Marine Trophic Index CI 20 Fisheries measures in place (by-catch limits, area-based closures, recovery plans, capacity reduction measures) and multilateral/bilateral fisheries management arrangements	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels 14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/ regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	The KM Headline and Binary Indicators for Target 9 are not directly related to marine and coastal areas. They are broader than the scope of RSCAPs’ work, and therefore less relevant for monitoring at the regional RSCAP level.

KM GBF Headline (or binary) indicator ⁹	Methods for data collection	KM GBF Component Indicator	KM GBF Complementary Indicator	Regional Seas Core Indicator	SDG 14 indicator	Notes on indicator alignment
KM GBF Target 10						
N/A	N/A	N/A	Red List Index (impacts of fisheries)	CI 6: Application of risk assessment to account for pollution and biodiversity impacts CI 7: Destruction of habitat due to aquaculture	N/A	No marine-specific KM Headline Indicator is available for Target 10. Progress towards sustainable fisheries is measured through KM Headline Indicator 5.1 (FAO stock status compared to MSY). However, no specific indicators have been developed to measure sustainability in aquaculture. Two RS Core Indicators aquaculture provide additional information. However, these indicators are not widely in use by RSCAPs. (see Annex 8).
KM GBF Target 11						
B.1 “Services provided by ecosystems”: Possible disaggregations are by (i) type of ecosystem service, (ii) realm and by ecosystem functional group (Global Ecosystem Typology level 3), (iii) indigenous and traditional territories B.1 is a new indicator, for which methods have been developed and tested, but for which data is not yet widely available. The index intends to show whether the provision of ecosystem services is, on average, increasing, stable or decreasing, as well as the rate of these increases or decreases.	The indicator is computed in three stages by countries: 1. Selection of ecosystem system services to be included based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting reference list 2. Compilation of ecosystem services accounts, ideally at the national level, based on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. 3. Developing an aggregate index of change in ecosystem service provision.	N/A	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality level of water stress	CI 17 1) % coastal urban population connected to sewage facilities, 2) % of waste water facilities complying with adequate standards, 3) % untreated waste water CI 19 Climate change adaptation: 1. % national adaptation plans in place 2. Sector based national adaptation plans 3. Number of existing national and local coastal and marine plans incorporating climate change adaptation	N/A	No RS CI is available to compile an aggregated CI for ecosystem services. This is an emerging area for RSCAPs (see Annex 8).. However, RS CI 17 is similar to the voluntary Component indicators for Target 11, i.e. measuring water quality and pollution.

Annex 4: Overview of RSCAP Protocols

	Biodiversity protocols
	Pollution protocols
	Hybrid protocols

RSCAPs	1. Conservation Protocols	2. Ecosystem-specific Protocols	3. ICZM Protocols	4. Prevention and emergency response Protocols	5. Offshore Protocols	6. LBS Protocols	7. Transboundary hazardous waste Protocols	8. Environmental Protection Protocols
1. Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region	Does not exist	The Calabar Protocol on Sustainable Mangrove Management (Mangrove Protocol), 2019	Protocol on integrated coastal zone management	Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Western and Central African Region (Emergency Protocol) 1981	Protocol on environmental norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities (Offshore Protocol)	Protocol concerning the Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and the Activities (LBSA) in the Western, Central and Southern Africa Region (LBSA Protocol), 2012	Does not exist	Does not exist
2. Antigua Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist
3. Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol), 1995	Does not exist	Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol), 2008	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol), 2002 Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircraft (Dumping Protocol), 1976, amended in 1995	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol), 1994	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), 1980, amended in 1996.	Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous wastes Protocol), 1996	Does not exist
4. Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (2002)	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in emergency situations, 1992 Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by Dumping	Does not exist	Protocol on Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (1992)	Does not exist	

RSCAPs	1. Conservation Protocols	2. Ecosystem-specific Protocols	3. ICZM Protocols	4. Prevention and emergency response Protocols	5. Offshore Protocols	6. LBS Protocols	7. Transboundary hazardous waste Protocols	8. Environmental Protection Protocols
5. Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol), 1990	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (Oil spills Protocol), 1983	Does not exist	Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), 1999	Does not exist	Does not exist
6. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR Convention)	Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, 1991, Annex II: Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (including offshore exploration), 1991	Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Annex III: Waste Disposal and waste management	Does not exist	Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 1991, Annex IV: Prevention of Marine Pollution
7. Jeddah Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment	Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of a Network of Protected Areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (2005)	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, 1982	Does not exist	The Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, 2005	Does not exist	Does not exist
8. Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution	Protocol concerning the conservation of biological diversity and the establishment of protected areas (Under development)	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol Concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, 1978	Protocol Concerning Marine Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf (Offshore Protocol), 1989	Protocol for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, 1990	Protocol on the Control of Marine Transboundary Movements and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (Basel Protocol), 1998	
9. Lima Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of the Southeast Pacific and its associated protocols	Protocol for the Conservation and Management of Protected Marine and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, (1989)	Does not exist	Does not exist	Supplementary Protocol to the Agreement on Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the South-East Pacific by Hydrocarbons or other Harmful Substances, 1983 Protocol for the Protection of the Southeast Pacific Against Radioactive Pollution, 1989	Does not exist	Protocol for the Protection of the Southeast Pacific Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, 1983	Does not exist	Does not exist
10. Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean	Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region, 1985	Does not exist	Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the Western Indian Ocean (ICZM Protocol), 2023	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Marine Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Eastern African Region, 1985	Does not exist	Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities (ICZM Protocol), 2010	Does not exist	Does not exist
11. Noumea Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region	Does not exist [The Convention on Conservation of Nature (Apia Convention) was suspended in 2006]	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping, 1986 Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific, 1986	Does not exist	Does not exist	[The Waigani Convention removes the need for a specific transboundary hazardous waste Protocol]	Does not exist

RSCAPs	1. Conservation Protocols	2. Ecosystem-specific Protocols	3. ICZM Protocols	4. Prevention and emergency response Protocols	5. Offshore Protocols	6. LBS Protocols	7. Transboundary hazardous waste Protocols	8. Environmental Protection Protocols
12. Tehran Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea	The Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity ("Ashgabat Protocol"), 2014	Does not exist	Does not exist	Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response, and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau Protocol), 2011	Does not exist	Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol), 2012	Does not exist	Does not exist
13. South Asian Conservation Environment Programme (SACEP)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
14. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
15. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
16. Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Annex IV: Prevention of pollution from ships Annex VII: Response to pollution incidents Annex I: Harmful substances	Annex VI: Prevention of pollution from offshore activities	Annex III: Criteria and measures concerning the prevention of pollution from land-based sources	Does not exist	Does not exist
17. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention)	Annex V: Protection and conservation of ecosystems and biological diversity.	Does not exist	Does not exist	Annex II: Prevention of pollution by dumping or incineration.	Annex III: Prevention of pollution from offshore sources	Annex I: Prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources.	Does not exist	Does not exist
18. Arctic Council	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, 2013	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist	Does not exist

Annex 5: Summary of Regional Seas Policies against the KM GBF Targets

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
KM GBF Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss	
Ensure all areas are covered by marine spatial planning and/or effective management processes (quantitative target) Planning and management processes are integrated, biodiversity inclusive and participatory (criteria)	- Historically, RSCAPS have been instrumental in promoting the EcAp or ecosystem-based management (EBM) for marine and coastal areas. The EcAp takes a holistic approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of ecosystems and human activities and serves as a guiding framework for the development of other essential tools, such as marine spatial planning (MSP) and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). - All functioning RSCAPs have integrated the EcAp in their work, albeit to varying extents. For example, the Arctic Council has developed a comprehensive framework for implementation of the Ecosystem Approach for the management of human activities in Arctic marine and coastal environments, involving a six-step approach from the description of ecosystems through to valuation and management. - Most (15) RSCAPs have developed further strategic objectives or targets to promote ICZM: - Six RSCAPs implement ICZM through adopted legally binding Protocols: e.g. the Nairobi Convention's ICZM Protocol; Black Sea Commission's Biodiversity Protocol, MAP's ICZM Protocol, Tehran Convention's Biodiversity Protocol, Abidjan Convention's ICZM Protocol, PERSGA's Protocol Concerning Biodiversity and Protected Areas) (See Appendix 5). - Other RSCAPs have developed common regional frameworks, e.g. Nairobi Convention's Regional Ocean Governance Strategy, CPPS' Environmental Management Plan for Coastal and Marine Zones of the Pacific South-East. - Others have developed voluntary guidelines for national ICZM implementation, e.g. the Black Sea Commission's ICZM Guidelines; PERSGA's Guidelines on Coastal Zone Management, 2006, NOWPAP/POMRAC's Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management in the Northwest Pacific Region (2017). - Five RSCAPs (HELCOM, MAP, Nairobi Convention, SACEP and CEP) have set targets to promote the implementation of maritime spatial plans. For example: - HELCOM's Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030 aims to strengthen the joint effort and coherence throughout the Baltic Sea Region to implement Maritime Spatial Plans, aiming for sustainable development of the region and building a sound basis for an adaptive Maritime Spatial Planning process applying the ecosystem-based approach. - MAP has set a quantitative target (in terms of surface area) which however differs from GBF Target 1. MAP's POST-2020 SAPBIO requires that <i>"by 2030, 100% of MPAs and as appropriate OECMs, and 50% of the remaining marine areas are sustainably managed by applying ecosystem-based approaches including biodiversity and climate change-informed marine spatial planning, and by conducting environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments"</i>. - All RSCAPs that have developed work on ICZM or MSP adhere to the principles of "integrated", "participatory" and "biodiversity inclusive". - GBF Target 1 provides the foundational framework for achieving other Targets such as effective conservation (Target 3) and restoration (Target 2). This is recognized, for example, in CPPS' Protocol on Biodiversity, Article 4 <i>"The Contracting Parties shall consider adopting and applying principles of integrated coastal areas management, to provide an umbrella mechanism for biodiversity conservation, marine protected area management and sustainable resource use as appropriate."</i> COBSEA's MCE Framework notes: <i>"General Project Ideas include developing a successful MCSP (marine and coastal spatial planning), which will determine the areas for mangroves, seagrass, and coastal wetlands, paving the way towards identifying the kinds of activities that can be done in these areas. It is noted that these ecosystems should be put under protection."</i>

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Halt the loss of areas of high biodiversity by 2030 <i>(quantitative target)</i>	• Many RSCAPs have collaborated with the CBD Secretariat to identify and describe EBSAs within their regions, contributing critical scientific expertise and regional knowledge. • Some RSCAPs, such as OSPAR, the Black Sea Commission, MAP and the Nairobi Convention, have developed their own frameworks or lists with regional areas of high biodiversity or cultural significance. Examples include CEP's SPAW Protocol which establishes guidelines and criteria for Protected Areas of Regional Importance, and MAP's Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI). • Most (14) RSCAPs have set objectives to conserve critical habitats and areas of high biodiversity, including mangroves, wetlands, seagrass beds and coral reefs. For example, the Nairobi Convention's recent Critical Habitat Outlook (2024) reviews the current levels of protection of the WIO marine habitats and identifies areas and opportunities for increasing protection; and develops alternative scenarios for the future protection of the marine habitats in the WIO. CPPS' Strategic Plan 2022-2030, Specific Objective No. 2 notes: <i>"Develop regional projects by 2028, applying an ecosystem-based approach to managing fragile coastal and marine ecosystems (reefs, seagrasses, coastal wetlands, etc.) and tools to maintain ecosystem health and resource sustainability."</i> • Two RSCAPS (SACEP and the Nairobi Convention) have adopted a quantitative target to halt the loss of areas of high biodiversity. – SACEP's Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas region puts: By 2030, at least 10 % of coastal habitats have been restored to pre-degraded status: <u><i>mangroves loss halted by 2020 and mangrove area increasing by 2030, there is no net of coral reef or seagrass by 2030</i></u>, through a reduction of the key anthropogenic pressures that erode the resilience of coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves. – The Nairobi Convention's Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities (2009): sets a long-term target (15 to 25 years): <i>"Critical habitats fully protected, trend in the net loss of critical habitats halted, reversed and/or offset, and ecosystem services restored and sustained."</i> • RSCAPs in the EU (OSPAR, MAP, HELCOM and the Black Sea Commission) area have adopted ecological quality objectives which often require halting the loss of habitats, for example: – MAP's Ecological Quality Objectives 1 (biodiversity), 5 (Sea-floor integrity) and 8 (coastal ecosystems and landscapes) aim to prevent a further degradation of habitats, seafloor and coastal ecosystems. – OSPAR's NEEAS 2030 strategic objective SO 91 requires the development of an evidence base to reduce and prevent direct benthic habitat loss and disturbance due to human activities (S9.O1).

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	
Restore 30% of degraded marine and coastal areas <i>(quantitative target)</i>	- Most (15) RSCAPs have set strategic objectives to restore marine and coastal ecosystems (CCAMLR, HELCOM, Tehran Convention, COBSEA, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, OSPAR, NOWPAP, SPREP, SACEP, CEP, PERSGA, Abidjan Convention, CPPS). For example: - OSPAR’s North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy for 2030 sets an objective to <i>“restore degraded habitats in the North-East Atlantic when practicable to safeguard their ecosystem function and resilience to climate change and ocean acidification. By 2023 OSPAR will identify habitats suitable for restoration, and develop a common knowledge base on the most appropriate and effective methods for restoration of degraded habitats. By 2025 OSPAR will develop a regional approach, including relevant qualitative and/or quantitative targets for restoration of degraded habitats suitable for restoration, and will then implement actions to achieve the targets as appropriate.”</i> - The draft Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (BSBLCP-SAP) sets an objective 3 to <i>“conduct the study of identification of Black Sea areas of previously high biodiversity value that could be subject for restoration.”</i> (Status of the plan unclear). - CEP’s Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the wider Caribbean 2021-2030, Objective 2. Decrease and reverse habitat loss (Scale up and strengthen restoration activities). - CCAMLR has prohibited bottom trawling in the Convention Area since 2006, contributing to habitat restoration. 2 RSCAPs (MAP and SACEP) have set a quantitative target to place degraded areas under effective restoration. MAP’s POST-2020 SAPBIO requires that “by 2027 the full inventory of ecosystems with the highest ecological relevance and/ or regeneration potential (as nursery areas and/or carbon stocks) is developed and that by 2030 the restoration of most of those selected is complete.” SACEP’s Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy requires that, by 2030, at least 10 % of coastal habitats have been restored to pre-degraded status. While COBSEA’s 2030 Strategic Directions do not set a region-specific restoration target, they refer to the KM GBF restoration target of 30%. - The EU’s recently adopted Nature Restoration Law (Regulation 2024/1991) establishes a framework within which Member States shall put in place effective and area-based restoration measures to jointly recover at least 20 % of in-scope EU land areas and at least 20 % of sea areas by 2030 (without a required for assessment of degradation), and all ecosystems in need of restoration (including marine and coastal habitats) by 2050. By 2030, 30 % of habitat types listed in Annex I (including coastal wetlands, dune habitats, riparian forests, sea cliffs, beaches and islets, coastal and inland dunes) not in good condition shall be restored. By 2030, at least 30 % of the total area of marine habitat types listed in Annex II (including seagrass, macroalgal forests, shellfish beds, sponges and corals) that are not in good condition shall be restored. - Some RSCAPs have also developed protocols (Abidjan Convention), restoration guidelines (Nairobi Convention, CEP, CPPS) or compilations of best practices (MAP, SPREP, ROPME) for the restoration of mangroves, seagrass beds or wetlands. For example, the Abidjan Convention’s Protocol on Sustainable Mangrove Management sets criteria for mangrove restoration, requiring <i>“i. Assessment of the benefits of mangrove goods and services to bordering communities, and iii. Identification and mapping of degraded sites; vi. Development of techniques for the restoration and rehabilitation of the mangroves.”</i> In 2020, ROPME published a comprehensive report titled <i>“Status and Trends of Coral Reefs in the ROPME Sea Area: Past, Present and Future.”</i> This report provides an in-depth analysis of the health and trends of coral reefs within the ROPME Sea Area (RSA). The report introduces a toolbox for restoration to guide conservation and recovery efforts. Another Example is HELCOM’s ACTION Report: <i>Restoration measures for coastal habitats in the Baltic Sea: cost-efficiency and areas of highest significance and need (2021)</i>. This report gives a overview of knowledge within the field of marine restoration ecology and evaluates a number of restoration measures for coastal habitats in the Baltic Sea with specific emphasis on their feasibility and cost effectiveness.

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	
By 2030, conserve at least 30 per cent of marine and coastal areas through systems of protected areas and OECMs (quantitative target)	• All RSCAPs have adopted strategic objectives related to the creation of marine protected areas, though these objectives differ in strength and ambition. Five RSCAPs (Arctic Council, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, and OSPAR) recognize the role of OECMs in achieving conservation targets and the need to identify and map OECMS in their region. • 4 RSCAPs have set a 30% conservation target: HELCOM, MAP, OSPAR, Nairobi Convention. COBSEA also refers to the 30x30 target in its Strategic Directions. In MAP's and HELCOM's case, these targets go beyond GBF Target 3 by requiring 'strict or enhanced levels of protection'. – HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan (2021 update): <i>The network of marine protected areas will: cover at least 30% of the marine area of the Baltic Sea, of which at least 1/3 will be strictly protected. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) could be counted towards the 30% targets only if they, as a minimum, comply with the OECM criteria agreed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</i> – MAP's Post-2020 SAPBIO, Target 1.4: <i>By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.</i> Target 1.5: <i>on enhanced protection levels: By 2030, the number and coverage of marine and coastal protected areas with enhanced protection levels is increased, contributing to the recovery of marine ecosystems</i> – The Nairobi Convention's POW 2025-2028 sets the following outcomes: 4.2: <i>Increase spatial coverage and improved management effectiveness of MPAs and OECMs such as LMMAs in the WIO; Output 4.2.1: Countries achieve the 30/30 targets by including OECMs.</i> • SACEP sets a different quantitative target (10% of coastal habitats covered by new protected areas) • While most RSCAPs do not have direct jurisdictions over ABNJ territories, several are implementing measures that consider or extent towards ABNJ territories. Some are taking steps towards a regionally coordinated approach to implement the BBNJ. For example: – The Nairobi Convention's current Program of Work sets a desired outcome (4.3): <i>Protection of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) improved through the establishment of regional MPAs to protect the biological connectivity between Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and national waters.</i> The Nairobi Convention's Protocol on protected areas and biological diversity in the Western Indian Ocean Region is currently being amended to reflect the BBNJ agreement, strengthening the protection of marine areas in ABNJ territories. – The Pacific Island Framework for Nature Conservation notes: <i>The identification and management planning of priority sites must take their changing role in seascape-level ecological functioning and connectivity into account, including across political jurisdictions and on the high seas.</i> – CCAMLR has a longstanding history of prioritizing marine environmental protection in the Southern Ocean which is largely ABNJ territory. In 2009, CCAMLR committed to creating a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and established a framework to support this goal. Since then, CCAMLR has successfully adopted two MPAs: the South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf MPA in 2009, the first high-seas MPA in international waters, and the Ross Sea Region MPA in 2016, one of the world's largest MPAs. Four additional MPAs proposed for the Antarctic Peninsula, East Antarctica, Weddell Sea, and Ross Sea Region remain on the table to date. Advancing these MPA proposals would allow CCAMLR to reaffirm its leadership in marine conservation and make a substantial contribution to Target 3.

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Criteria for MPAs and OECMs ¹⁰	- As discussed under Target 1, RSCAPs play an important role in identifying and protecting areas of high biodiversity importance, with the aim of strengthening their protection and conservation. - Many RSCAPs (8) report on the inclusion of Ramsar Convention Sites, EBSAs and/or other particularly sensitive areas or areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, MAP, CPPS, OSPAR, SACEP, CEP). For example, CCAMLR has committed to establishing a representative system of MPAs within the Convention Area. An extensive analysis of bioregionalization of the Convention Area undertaken in the early 2000s, with the aim of protecting areas of high biodiversity and resulting in the definition of 9 MPA planning domains. CCAMLR defines areas of high biodiversity in existing MPA documentation and new MPA proposals.
	- Most RSCAPs (13) reflect the need for effective management in their strategic objectives (Arctic Council, Black Sea Commission, HELCOM, Tehran Convention, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, SACEP, SPREP, OSPAR, CPPS, CEP, PERSGA). For example: - The Nairobi Convention's recently adopted Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) (2024) sets the following actions related to MPA management: 1) <i>MPAs in close collaboration with the RFMOs, the ISA, IMO, and other competent international organisations, to protect deep sea habitats, migratory routes, nursery grounds and other natural assets</i>; 2) <i>monitor the effectiveness of MPAs in relation to their goals to identify and share lessons</i>. - CEP's regional strategy for the protection and development of the Wider Caribbean Region (2023-2030) sets an objective 9 <i>"Improve the effectiveness of resource and protected area management institutions and the impact of management interventions", listing the following actions: 1) Strengthen MPA planning and management processes to address the needs of local communities, indigenous peoples, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups; 2) Manual – How to Conduct a Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Assessment (2021); 3) Marine Protected Areas Management Network: train the trainers program and data management; 4) Blue Finance Initiative to finance MPAs for the long term</i>. - SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy sets an objective to: <i>"6.2 Establish regional standards/practices for assessing and enhancing management effectiveness of existing MCPAs, drawing on existing international, regional and national tools and measures</i>. - The Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap aims to build capacity for judiciary and enforcement, as well as promoting civil society vigilance.
	- Most (12) RSCAPS have reflected the criteria of ecological representativeness in their strategic objectives and targets (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Tehran Convention, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, OSPAR, NOWPAP, PERSGA, CPPS, CEP). For example: CEP's SPAW Protocol requires that's MPS are established <i>"in order to conserve, maintain and restore, in particular: a) <u>representative types of coastal and marine ecosystems</u> of adequate size to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain biological and genetic diversity."</i> The Tehran Convention's Protocol on Biodiversity notes: <i>"protected areas may be designated with the objective of safeguarding: (a) Representative types of coastal and marine ecosystems of adequate size."</i>
	RSCAPs are well positioned to ensure connectivity of MPAs, including through promoting the creation of transboundary MPAs protecting shared ecosystems and migratory routes, or by supporting the development of regionally coherent MPA networks. - Most (10) RSCAPs reflect the criteria of connectivity into their strategic objectives (Arctic Council, HELCOM, CEP, SPREP, SACEP, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, OSPAR, CPPS,). For example, the vision for a Pan-Arctic Framework for Protected Area Network (2015) is <i>"an <u>ecologically connected, representative and effectively-managed network</u> of protected and specially managed areas that protects and promotes the resilience of the biological diversity, ecological processes and cultural heritage of the Arctic marine environment, and the social and economic benefits they provide to present and future generations."</i> COBSEA's Strategic Directions note: <i><u>Increasingly, the establishment of MPA Networks which tackles both social and ecological connectivity of MPAs, is considered as a process that increases the achievement of conservation objectives."</u></i>

¹⁰ For further detail, see "UNEP Regional Seas, Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (draft), 2025".

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
	• Equitably governed: Some RSCAPs (6) have also reflected equitable governance or management as criteria for MPAs and OECMs (Arctic Council, COBSEA, MAP, SACEP, SPREP, Tehran Convention). For example: – SACEP’s Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy requires that, “by 2030, countries have put in place measures for effective and <u>equitable management</u> of PAs and establish transboundary protected areas (...)”. – MAP’s Post-2020 MPA and OECM Strategy sets as a strategic outcome that governance arrangements for MCPAs and OECMs are inclusive and effective in delivering conservation and livelihood outcomes. To this end, legal frameworks and institutional arrangement of MCPAs and OECMS must allow for opportunities for participatory management (output 1.1) and be inclusive and equitable (output 1.2). Output 1.2 requires contracting parties to: 1) adapt governance structures and mechanisms for MCPAs to provide civil society, stakeholders and rights-holders with appropriate opportunities to participate in management planning, decision-making processes and actions; 2) where appropriate, create a national commission for MCPAs and marine conservation comprising government and non-government stakeholders including the private sector, 3) enhance governance arrangements to advance gender equity in and around MCPAs and OECMs. The Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap aims, amongst other things, to empower MPA managers through legal and other mechanisms to apply a decentralised governance system that features participatory processes and co-management approaches and be more responsive to local conditions.
	Integration into wider seascapes: – SPREP’s Pacific Island Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2023 specifically refers to the term seascapes. – MAP’s Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas aims to ensure that MPA’s are taken into account and integrated in coastal and marine spatial planning to reduce conservation and development conflicts (Rec 1.4). Indicators include the number of countries with a legal review process that ensures all laws/orders/decisions/Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that include MPAs are in line with marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management – HELCOM Recommendation 35/1 notes to “include HELCOM MPAs as areas of particular ecological significance in coastal and maritime spatial planning processes and incorporate their management provisions in spatial plans and Integrated Marine and Coastal Management Strategies, respectively.”
	Several RSCAPs have developed objectives and indicators to ensure equitable governance, participation and distribution of the benefits of MPAs towards local and indigenous communities . Some RSCAPs (e.g. MAP, CEP and the Nairobi Convention) also track the socio-economic benefits of MPAs and OECMs for local communities.
	Regulating sustainable use: Some RSCAPS have set strategic objectives to ensure a minimum coverage of fully protected areas (HELCOM) or ensure enhanced levels of protection (MAP).
Target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts	
Halt the extinction of known threatened species (quantitative target)	• All RSCAPs have set strategic objectives to conserve threatened or endangered species. Many RSCAPs embed objectives for conserving threatened species in legally binding biodiversity conservation protocols (see Annex 5). For example, Conservation Protocols adopted by the Nairobi Convention, MAP, the Tehran Convention, and CEP contain measures to conserve and protect threatened or endangered species listed in an Annex which is to be regularly updated. • Additionally, several RSCAPs have adopted species-specific regional action plans, focusing especially on migratory species such as sharks, seals, turtles and cetaceans. For example, SPREP’s Marine Species Programme (2022–2026) targets dugongs, turtles, whales, and dolphins through dedicated plans with measurable indicators. • However, only three RSCAPs (OSPAR, HELCOM and the Black Sea Commission) aim to halt extinctions of all known (or listed) threatened species. For example, under its North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy OSPAR aims to implement all agreed measures to enable the recovery of OSPAR Listed threatened and/or declining species and habitats and will take additional measures as needed, by 2025. The draft Black Sea Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (BSBLCP-SAP) aims to “prevent appearance of new threatened species and to halt losses of currently known threatened species and destruction of their habitats by 2010.”

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Enable the recovery and reduce extinction risk for <u>all species</u>, in particular for threatened species (qualitative target)	- Several RSCAPs (8) have set strategic objectives for the recovery and conservation of species more broadly (i.e. not limited to threatened species only). Often, RSCAPS put a particular emphasis on protecting migratory species: CCAMLR, Arctic Council, Black Sea Commission, HELCOM, Tehran Convention, OSPAR, CEP and the Nairobi Convention (Draft Revised Protocol on Fauna and Flora). For example: - The Arctic Council's Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Recommendations include <u>Rec 6. "developing guidelines and implement appropriate spatial and temporal measures where necessary to reduce human disturbance to areas critical for sensitive life stages of Arctic species that are outside protected areas, for example along transportation corridors. Such areas include calving grounds, den sites, feeding grounds, migration routes and moulting areas. Rec. 8 Reduce stressors on migratory species range-wide, including habitat degradation and overharvesting on wintering and staging areas and along flyways and other migration routes: a) Pursue or strengthen formal migratory bird cooperation agreements and other specific actions on a flyway level between Arctic and non-Arctic states with first priority given to the East Asian flyway, (...).</u> - The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (2002) - Article 4.1 <i>"Each Contracting Party shall take all necessary measures to: b) ensure that species occurring in the area to which this Protocol applies are maintained at favourable conservation status and habitats close to undisturbed."</i> - HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan sets a number of ecological objectives by 2030, i.e. 1) <u>"viable populations of all native species, 2) natural distribution, occurrence and quality of habitats and associated communities, 3) functional healthy and resilient food webs. Management objectives for 2030."</u> - OSPAR's NEAES 2030: S5.O4: <i>By 2025 at the latest OSPAR will take appropriate actions to prevent or reduce pressures to enable the recovery of marine species and benthic and pelagic habitats in order to reach and maintain good environmental status as reflected in relevant OSPAR status assessments, with action by 2023 to halt the decline of marine birds.</i>
Maintain and restore genetic diversity (qualitative target)	- Strategic objectives related to the genetic diversity of native wild species were found only for two RSCAPs: SPREP and the Nairobi Convention. - SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature Conservation & Protected Areas 2021-2025, sets a strategic objective to <i>"protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance."</i> - The Nairobi Convention Protocol on Protected Areas and Wild Fauna & Flora (1995) contains an obligation to <i>"maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems, to preserve genetic diversity and to ensure the sustainable utilization of harvested natural resources under their jurisdiction."</i>
Minimize the human-wildlife conflict (qualitative target)	No RSCAPs set explicit objectives or targets to "minimize the human-wildlife conflict". However, almost all RSCAPs have developed work on ICZM and MSP which aims to balance multi-use conflicts of marine and coastal areas (see Target 1).

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species	
Apply the ecosystem approach <i>(qualitative target)</i>	All functioning RSCAPS have integrated the EcAp into their work albeit to varying degrees (cf Target 1).
Ensure that the use and harvesting of wild species is sustainable preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems <i>(qualitative target)</i>	- Some RSCAPs have competencies in fisheries management or play dual roles as Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs). For example: - For example, CCAMLR functions as both an RSCAP and a fisheries management organisation. Its mandate includes managing the sustainable harvesting of marine living resources, such as Antarctic krill and Patagonian toothfish, taking a precautionary and ecosystem-based approach. CAMLR sets catch limits via legally binding conservation measures, monitors stock status to prevent overfishing, and incorporates scientific advice to maintain stocks above Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Its biodiversity monitoring program tracks predator populations and ecosystem dynamics, while periodic stock assessments ensure the health and abundance of target fish populations. - Similarly, PERSGA's mandate include fisheries management, which it does through its Regional Fisheries Management Plan and related initiatives. To this end, it adopted a Protocol Concerning Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture (2017, not yet in force). Under the Protocol, Contracting Parties are required to apply the ecosystem approach to ensure sustainable and safe fisheries and aquaculture, prohibit offensive fishing practices, combat IUU fishing, and ensure adequate monitoring, control and surveillance measures. - Many (12) RSCAPs have established strategic objectives specifically related to sustainable fisheries, recognizing their importance for marine ecosystem health and regional economies: CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, OSPAR, PERSGA, SACEP, SPREP, Abidjan Convention, CPPs). For example: - HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan includes time-bound objectives for fish stock management, such as improving the size/age structure of fish stocks by 2024 and restoring coastal fish communities through no-take areas, seasonal closures, and catch regulations by 2026. HELCOM collaborates with the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) and the International Counsel for the Exploration of the Sea, which provide stock assessments and data exchange. - The Black Sea Commission's Strategic Action Plan (2009) targets restoring commercial fish stocks through regional agreements, introducing quotas, remote monitoring to combat poaching, and harmonizing fish stock assessments and fisheries statistics. It also aims to ban non-precautionary fishing methods like dredging and bottom trawling, with short-term and long-term milestones for regional implementation and effectiveness evaluation. - Several (11) RSCAPS (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention, MAP, OSPAR, PERSGA, SPREP, CPPS) have also set strategic objectives to reduce by-catch of non-target species. - Several (6) RSCAPS have developed strategic objectives to combat IUU: CCAMLR, MAP, PERSGA, SACEP, SPREP, CPPS. - Several (8) RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives related to marine and coastal tourism, balancing economic growth and ecosystem protection: MAP, Nairobi Convention, NOWPAP, SPREP, SACEP, ROPME, Abidjan Convention and COBSEA. The Nairobi Convention's Regional Ocean Governance Strategy promotes regional collaboration through stakeholder consultations, strategic briefs, and a working group to advance sustainable blue tourism. COBSEA's Green Fins project focuses on sustainable diving and snorkelling practices, reducing the environmental impact on coral reefs through standards, training, and monitoring. MAP's Medium-Term Strategy sets an objective to develop a regional strategy on sustainable tourism and promotes initiatives like the "Green Ports" program to enhance environmental sustainability in Mediterranean ports and marinas. SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy proposes eco-friendly tourism guidelines and information exchange on best practices. SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature emphasizes resource-efficient, culturally sensitive tourism that benefits local communities and preserves natural and cultural heritage, with clear indicators to measure progress.
Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is safe, reducing the risk of pathogen spillover <i>(qualitative target)</i>	No evidence of relevant strategic objectives.
Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is legal <i>(qualitative target)</i>	Several (6) RSCAPS (CCAMLR, MAP, PERSGA, SPREP, CPPS, SACEP) have also set strategic objectives to combat illegal and unauthorized fishing (IUU). For example, CCAMLR has set country reporting obligations related to authorized vessels, vessel movements, gear, catch data and IUU sightings. On this basis, it develops IUU vessel lists (Party and non-Party lists). SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature and Protected Areas compiles best practices to end illegal fishing, including actions to strengthen national and regional monitoring, control, and surveillance systems and capacity, including in collaboration with local communities where applicable.

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact	
Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services <i>(qualitative target)</i>	Most (14) RSCAPs have set strategic objectives and targets to prevent, reduce and/or eradicate invasive alien species, thereby managing the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services (all except COBSEA, CCAMLR, Antigua Convention and NOWPAP). The Abidjan Convention has adopted these only in the context of sustainable mangrove management.
Identify and manage the pathways of the introduction of invasive alien species (qualitative target) <i>(qualitative target)</i>	- Most (13) RSCAPs have set strategic objectives and targets to identify and manage pathways for introduction (all except CCAMLR, NOWPAP, ROPME, COBSEA, Antigua Convention) - Some have adopted Regional Action Plans (Arctic Council, MAP, CPPS) or guidelines (SPREP) specifically addressing IAS. For example: MAP's Regional Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea, <i>SPREP's Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific</i>, CPPS's Regional Strategy to prevent and reduce risks and effects of marine invasive species supports countries of the Southeast Pacific, the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS; 2017). - One of the most important pathways addressed by RSCAPS is ballast water. Specifically, many RSCAPS support their members to implement the IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM Convention)¹¹ and guidelines, which requires that ships manage their ballast water so that aquatic organisms and pathogens are removed or rendered harmless before the ballast water is released into a new location. For example, HELCOM, OSPAR and MAP have collaborated on developing Regional Ballast Water Management Strategies. CPPS's Regional Strategy to prevent and reduce risks and effects of marine invasive species supports countries of the Southeast Pacific in implementing IMO guidelines and other international instruments to prevent and manage marine bioinvasions effectively. - Other important initiatives are the GEF-UNDP-IMO GLO-Ballast and GLO-Fouling programmes. Under these programmes, PERSGA has carried out regional assessments and developed Invasive alien species guidelines. Other pathways addressed by RSCAPS include marine-based tourism energy and fisheries. For example, the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS; 2017) contains an action to "undertake Prevention and Early Detection/Rapid Response Initiatives". <i>Goal: Protect Arctic ecosystems and human well-being by instituting prevention and early detection/rapid response programs for invasive alien species as a matter of priority. Priority Actions: 3.1 Collaborate with industries, such as, tourism, energy, fisheries, mining, and shipping, and other stakeholders, as relevant, to develop and implement a wide range of biosecurity measures for points of entry and along priority pathways to reduce the initial transfer of species.</i> PERSGA's draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Protocol notes that Parties shall establish regional procedures and observe application of biosecurity programs in aquaculture, with the aim of minimizing adverse ecological impacts and related economic and social consequences.
Prevent the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species <i>(qualitative target)</i>	Most RSCAPS distinguish between "priority invasive alien species" and "other known or potential invasive alien species". While some RSCAPs (Tehran Convention, SPREP) have identified invasive alien species that are particularly harmful or problematic, and list them as priority invasive alien species, this is most often not couple to a strategic objective to prevent their establishment.
Reduce the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030 (quantitative target) <i>(quantitative target)</i>	OSPAR and HELCOM have adopted a quantitative reduction target: North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 stipulates that: "By 2025 OSPAR will develop a coordinated management approach to ensure the number of non-indigenous species <u>introduced via human activity</u> is minimised and where possible <u>reduced to zero</u>". HELCOM's ecological quality objective for the human-induced introduction of IAS is zero.
Eradicate or control invasive alien species, especially on priority sites, such as islands (qualitative target)	- Only three RSCAPs (SPREP, Black Sea Commission, PERSGA) set a strategic objective to eradicate and controlling invasive alien species, especially on priority sites, such as islands. - SPREP's Pacific Island Framework For Nature contains an action track 5 "battling invasive species", noting: "Native species, priority sites, and habitats must be restored as part of invasive species management approaches, with long- term monitoring of the cascading impacts and benefits of restoration." - The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (2002), Article 5. 2. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to implement all appropriate measures to eradicate or reduce to a possible level species that have already been introduced when it appears that such species cause or are potentially causing damage to ecosystems, landscapes, habitats or species in the area to which this Protocol applies.

¹¹ International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity	
Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem services considering cumulative effects <i>(Qualitative target)</i>	• Since their inception, RSCAPS have played a pivotal role in combating pollution in marine and coastal areas, providing regional framework for addressing various forms of pollution. Many RSCAPS have adopted legally binding protocols or Annexes to address pollution from land-based sources such as agriculture and municipal or industrial waste-water (12 RSCAPs), emergency response protocols facilitating the collaboration in case of oil or other hazardous chemical spills (13 RSCAPS), offshore pollution protocols (10 RSCAPS) and protocols on transboundary hazardous waste (3 RSCAPS) (See Annex 5) – MAP’s LBS Protocol aims to Prevent, abate, combat and eliminate pollution caused by discharges from rivers, coastal establishments or outfalls, or emanating from any other land-based sources (Art. 4). – The Nairobi Convention’s Emergency Protocol aims to prevent and manage marine pollution incidents, including spillage of oil and other harmful substances (Art 3). – ROPME’s Offshore Protocol aims to prevent, abate and control marine pollution from offshore operations), and Art. 10 (list materials that should not be disposed into the sea (Art 2). – The Protocol on Environmental Protection to Antarctic Treaty, Annex III (Waste disposal and waste management). • Additionally, some RSCAPs have integrated pollution control measures in biodiversity conservation protocols or other legally binding conservation measures. For example: – CEP’s SPAW Protocol prohibits disposal or discharges causing pollution in coastal areas (Art 5.2a). – MAP’s SPA Protocol, Barcelona Convention prohibits the dumping or discharge of wastes and other substances likely directly or indirectly to impair the integrity of the specially protected area (Art 6b). – CCAMLR Conservation Measure 26-01 (General Environmental Protection) prohibits the discard of plastics and plastic packaging bands, and oil, garbage, avian products, sewage, incineration ash, offal, discards, food wastes, poultry south of 60oS. • RSCAP pollution control protocols generally take a risk-based approach, aligning with global trends in pollution management. These protocols often aim to reduce pollution to levels that do not harm biodiversity, ecosystems, or human health, rather than solely focusing on reducing overall pollution volumes. This risk-based approach usually further reflected in regional strategic action plans. For example: – HELCOM’s Baltic Sea Action Plan, in relation to hazardous chemicals, notes: <i>“The BSAP’s goals and objectives for hazardous substances will be achieved when chemicals occurring in the marine environment due to human activities <u>do not cause any dysfunction of the marine ecosystem, such as mutations or disruption of bio- chemical processes or food chains. The desired state of the Baltic Sea, or good environmental status, also requires that the occurrence of hazardous substances does not jeopardize the functioning of ecosystem services and does not pose any risk to human health.</u>”</i> – MAP’s post-2020 SAPBIO: <i>By 2030 all types of pollution are prevented, controlled and significantly reduced to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity, including through the significant <u>reduction of plastic and nutrient leakage</u> into the environment, and the <u>significant reduction of light and noise pollution</u> and the amounts of <u>biocides</u> used.</i> – SACEP’s Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region sets a goal 5: <i>Marine Pollution, especially nutrient loading, is brought to sustainable levels in the SAS region</i> <i>Desired Outcome: Pollution loading from land and sea, and in particular nutrient loading, is brought to a level that does not degrade coastal ecosystems, threaten biodiversity, contribute to anoxia, or otherwise exacerbate ecosystem vulnerability to climate change and ocean acidification.</i> • Some RSCAPs are also working to improve the understanding of cumulative impacts of different stressors, including pollution (Arctic Council’s AMAP, OSPAR’s JAMP). • Several RSCAPs have developed strategic objectives related to waste water treatment and water quality standards. For example, the Nairobi Convention’s WIOSAP aims for all municipal wastewater to be treated to tertiary level before discharge within a 15-to-25-year time frame. • Increasingly, RSCAPS are integrating the protection of human health from pollution as a critical objective in their targets and strategies. For example, the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan links its goals to reduce hazardous substances and eutrophication with minimizing health risks, including exposure to toxic chemicals and harmful algal blooms. Similarly, the Cartagena Convention’s LBS Protocol addresses pollution sources that directly affect human health, such as untreated wastewater and pesticide runoff, aiming to ensure safe water quality for coastal populations. OSPAR’s Quality Status Report assessing pollution risks to both ecosystems and communities.

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Reduce excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use (quantitative target)	- RSCAPs have historically been instrumental in addressing nutrient pollution. Most (10) RSCAPS have set strategic targets to address excess nutrient leakage into the environment (HELCOM, Tehran Convention, Black Sea Commission, COBSEA, MAP, SACEP, CEP, Abidjan Convention, Antigua Convention, OSPAR). - While no RSCAPS have adopted the quantitative target of reducing excess nutrient with 50%, several RSCAPs have adopted other quantitative approaches, e.g. HELCOM, Black Sea Commission and OSPAR (maximum input levels) and CEP (goals to reduce excess nutrients with a standard amount, instead of %). For example: - HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan sets a specific goal on eutrophication, i.e. <i>"Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication"</i>, which is to be achieved through a combination of regional nutrient input targets (Maximum Allowable Inputs and Nutrient Input Ceilings for all sub-basins), as well as sector-specific targets to implement best available technologies. - OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 (NEAES): <i>Strategic objective 1. Tackle eutrophication, through limiting inputs of nutrients and organic matter to levels that do not give rise to adverse effects on the marine environment/ S1.O2: By 2022 OSPAR will determine the <u>maximum inputs of nutrients</u> for relevant assessment areas which prevent deterioration and enable the achievement of non-problem area status throughout the North-East Atlantic. S1.O3: By 2024 OSPAR will <u>identify and quantify relevant sources</u>, including transboundary transport, and <u>agree nutrient reduction needs for each Contracting Party to stay at or below the maximum input levels</u>, reporting on progress towards these in 2025 and regularly thereafter."</i> - CEP's Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region (2021), 5.5.1 <i>Pillar 1: Sustainable nutrient management in crop production and livestock farming: <u>Objective 1.1. Improved nitrogen (nutrient) use efficiency in crop production (halve nitrogen waste from all sources by 2030). Targets: A goal to reduce nitrogen waste by a standard amount offers a more equitable approach, whereby countries currently wasting more nitrogen would need to take more ambitious steps. For example, in a country wasting 80%, halving nitrogen waste across the economy would need to reduce total nitrogen losses from all sources to 40% of inputs (absolute reduction of 40%). By contrast, a country wasting only 50% would require an absolute reduction of 25% (Sutton et al., 2013)."</u></i> - Black Sea Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009) sets objectives to: "30). Introduce cost efficiency approach to nutrient management in all BS countries; and 35). <u>Introduce harmonized P and N standards for all WWTPs serving >100,000 p.e. Ensure compliance with and harmonise standards at regional level; Short-term target; Agree on harmonized N and P standards</u> Long-term target: Adherence to standards through improved enforcement." - Some RSCAPs have adopted specific thematic regional strategies to address excess nutrient leakage (e.g. CEP' Regional Nutrient pollution Reduction strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region in 2021) or to improve nutrient recycling (e.g. HELCOM's Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy). - Several RSCAPS have also conducted broader strategic desktop reviews about the nutrient pollution in their respective regions, to inform action. Examples include COBSEA's RENEWSEAS report (not yet available online) and SACEP's 2022 report on Nitrogen Pollution in South Asia: scientific evidence, current initiatives and policy landscape. - Finally, some RSCAPS (e.g. OSPAR) are promoting the use of nature-based solutions (e.g. the conservation and restoration of estuarine, coastal and marine habitats) to reinstate and safeguard the natural capacity of the ecosystem to sequester nutrients through.
Reduce the overall risk from pesticides by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods	- Pesticides are typically addressed under Land-Based Sources (LBS) pollution protocols, as they often originate from agricultural runoff, which is a significant source of pollution affecting marine and coastal ecosystems. LBS protocols aim to reduce and control pollution from terrestrial activities, including the use of pesticides and other hazardous substances. In total, 10 RSCAPs address pesticides (Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention, MAP, OSPAR and CEP, Abidjan Convention, CPPS, Antigua Convention). - For instance, MAP's LBS Pollution Protocol includes provisions to reduce agricultural chemicals' impact on marine ecosystems. The Tehran Convention's Strategic Convention Action Plan <u>sets objectives to "Establish and promote best practice recommendations for the use of agrochemicals, including application times and rates, handling, storage and disposal, and to "demonstrate through pilot projects environmentally sound agricultural practices such as soil conservation, protection of surface and groundwater, use of natural fertilizers and use of pest resistant crop strains."</u> COBSEA's Strategic Directions also consider pesticides as a potential marine contaminant. - No RSCAPs have adopted a quantitative target to reduce the risk of pesticides to the marine environment.

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Reduce the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals by at least half <i>(quantitative target)</i>	- RSCAPs address hazardous chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals, primarily through their legally binding protocols on land-based sources (LBS) of pollution and associated regional action plans. Most (12) RSCAPS have set strategic objectives to address the impacts of hazardous chemicals (Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention, Nairobi convention, MAP, OSPAR, SPREP, CEP, CPPS, ROPME, Abidjan Convention). - No RSCAPs have adopted a 50% risk reduction targets similar to KM GBF Target 7 but many RSCAPS take quantitative and measurable approaches to reducing hazardous chemical pollution, although the degree and specificity of these approaches vary. For example: - The Baltic Sea Action Plan includes specific reduction targets for hazardous substances such as mercury, cadmium, and dioxins. It sets environmental quality standards and monitors progress using quantitative indicators, such as concentrations of hazardous chemicals in sediments and biota. - OSPAR's Hazardous Substances Strategy focuses on achieving concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural background levels. It sets maximum allowable inputs for priority chemicals and monitors trends in pollutant concentrations through its Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme. - The Cartagena Convention's Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) encourages measurable reductions in hazardous chemicals, including heavy metals and pesticides. It includes provisions for national action plans with quantitative targets. - Under the Barcelona Convention, the Regional Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) sets quantitative reduction targets, aiming for the elimination or significant reduction of listed POPs by specified deadlines. - The Kuwait Action Plan sets specific targets for reducing pollutants, including heavy metals and hydrocarbons, using a regional approach to monitor trends and enforce compliance. - While RSCAPs traditionally focus on established or legacy pollutants, such as heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and hydrocarbons, there is a growing recognition among RSCAPs of the need to address emerging pollutants, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, microplastics, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals. For example, HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan sets several time-bound targets to identify and address emerging contaminants. In this regard, HELCOM also contributes to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management High Ambition Alliance (SAICM HAA).
Work towards eliminating plastic pollution <i>(qualitative target)</i>	- Most (14) RSCAPs have adopted a Regional Marine Litter Action Plan (Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention, Nairobi Convention, COBSE, MAP, OSPAR, NOWPAP, SACEP, SPREP, CEP, CPPS, PERSGA) (most plans date from before 2019/2020). The Abidjan Convention proposed a Regional Action Plan to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution in 2023 (not yet adopted). - Two RSCAPs have set quantitative targets to reduce marine litter (e.g. HELCOM and OSPAR). HELCOM's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter aims to reduce marine litter on the beaches <u>by at least 30 percent by 2025 and by 50 percent by 2030, from the baseline total abundance of 40 litter items</u> per one hundred meters of beach for the whole Baltic Sea (except for Kattegat in 2015-2016). For example, OSPAR's NEEAS, by 2025, aims to reduce by at least 50% the prevalence of the most found single-use plastic items and of maritime-related plastic items on beaches. The Black Sea Commission also developed marine litter baselines in 2024. - Most Regional Action Plans primarily focus on marine macro-litter, such as plastic debris, rather than microplastics or upstream issues like harmful plastic chemicals. These plans often emphasize cleanup activities, waste management improvements, and reducing inputs of visible litter into the marine environment, such as from land-based sources, fisheries, and shipping. However, there is a growing recognition amongst RSCAPS on emerging issues, such as hazardous plastic chemicals and micro-plastics. For example, the Nairobi Convention's POW' 2025-2028 aims to review and update the existing regional marine litter action plan to include plastics and associated chemicals and set up a regional working group on marine plastics and associated chemicals. The Abidjan Convention's draft proposed Regional Action Plan recognizes plastics are made up of numerous hazardous chemicals, and aims to improve shared knowledge, including on monitoring of microplastics and capacity building to effectively manage the plastics life cycle.

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 8 Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience	
Minimize the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity (qualitative target)	• Most (13) RSCAPs have integrated climate change and/or ocean acidification into regional biodiversity and/or ICZM strategies (all except CCAMLR, Tehran Convention, Black Sea Commission, NOWPAP, Antigua Convention). • Most (13) RSCAPs (all except CCAMLR, Tehran Convention, Black Sea Commission, NOWPAP, Antigua Convention) have set strategic objectives to minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, while 7 RSCAPS address ocean acidification (Arctic Council, HELCOM, Nairobi Convention, MAP, OSPAR, SPREP and the Abidjan Convention). • Examples include the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2022-2025) which aims to incorporate resilience and adaptation of biodiversity to climate change into plans for development in the Arctic, and “develop and implement mechanisms that best safeguard Arctic biodiversity under changing environmental conditions, such as loss of sea ice, glaciers and permafrost.” The Plan also promotes research and monitoring of the <i>individual and cumulative effects of stressors and drivers of relevance to biodiversity, including but not limited to modelling potential future species range changes as a result of these stressors; developing knowledge of and identifying tipping points, thresholds and cumulative effects for Arctic biodiversity.</i>” The language of MAP’s POST-2020 SAPBIO is fully aligned Target 8 requiring that, by 2030, “all countries have adopted and started implementing short- and medium-term measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly to warming, acidification and contributing to disaster risk reduction, through reducing emissions, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and restoration as appropriate, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity, thereby also contributing to halt global warming and acidification.” • Several RSCAPS have also developed thematic regional strategies to address climate change impacts on marine and coastal environments and biodiversity. For example, in 2018, ROPME launched a 3-year Regional Action Plan on Marine Climate Change Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation for the ROPME Sea Area. The Plan focused on establishing a consolidated Regional evidence base on marine climate change impacts and adaptation options across the RSA, resulting in the publication of two comprehensive reports. The ROPME Marine Climate Change report on Impacts used various sources of information, including a time-series of local data collected for monitoring status and trends in ecosystem components. The ROPME Marine Climate Change Risk Assessment Report examined biodiversity risks (e.g. changes in coral reefs or plankton), as well as the related socio-economic risks (impacts on coastal communities, changes in wild-capture fisheries resources). Other Examples include the Nairobi Convention’s Climate Change Strategy for the WIO (2016), focusing on integrating climate adaptation and mitigation into marine and coastal management, and MAP’s Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas. CPPS has developed Strategic Plan addressing the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN) program. • In 2023, MAP established a Regional Activity Center dedicated to climate change.
Through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches (criteria)	• Most RSCAPs (12) have also developed strategic objectives to promote nature-based climate solutions, including blue carbon restoration projects (Arctic Council, HELCOM, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, OSPAR, ROPME, SACEP, SPREP, CPPS, Abidjan Convention, CEP) – For example, COBSEA's Strategic Directions aims to strengthen efforts related to climate action through NbS. “COBSEA will explore needs and opportunities to strengthen the <i>cross-cutting benefits of NbS to both enhance resilience and strengthen and retain the blue carbon storage capacity of marine and coastal ecosystems.</i> Where relevant, COBSEA will explore partnerships with regional and international networks such as the Blue Carbon Initiative, and respective funding opportunities.” – The Nairobi Convention's 2025-2028 Programme foresees as an outcome: “Improved Ecosystem health for environmental benefits (including climate change mitigation and adaptation) and community livelihoods (including small-scale fisheries). Output 4.1.1: Mapping degraded areas for targeted restoration. Activities include: 1) Implementation <i>of potential ocean climate actions, including restoration of degraded areas;</i> 2) Training on tools and <i>methodology on carbon Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV), ecosystem valuation, carbon trading.</i>” – CEP’s Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or restoration of Key Marine Habitats; Objective 1: Enhance ecological integrity and function of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds. Line of action: Promote <i>and use green infrastructure and blue carbon for climate adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation.</i> Indicators include: 1) Number of sites with blue carbon certification; 2) Number of new pilot/ demonstration blue carbon financing schemes; 3) Member States explicitly include blue carbon in their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); 3) Area of coastal ecosystems used in green infrastructure and/or blue carbon schemes.”
Minimize negative and foster positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity (qualitative target)	• Only two RSCAPS (SPREP and MAP) currently discuss the positive and negative impacts of climate action on biodiversity. SPREP’s Pacific Island Framework for Nature notes: “<i>NbS can have unforeseen negative impacts if applied without proper social and environmental safeguards or equity considerations. All NbS projects must be designed and implemented with demonstrable benefits for human and ecological wellbeing, where possible at multiple scales. NbS must be designed to equitably balance trade-offs between achievement of their primary goals and the continued provision of multiple benefits. NbS aiming at climate change mitigation must also have demonstrable benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.</i>”

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 9 Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People	
Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people (quantitative target)	- Some (5) RSCAPS have developed strategic objectives to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries with the aim of benefiting local and/or indigenous communities (Nairobi Convention, MAP, SPREP, CPPS, PERSGA). For example: - The Nairobi Convention's Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (2024) prioritizes building sustainable small-scale in collaboration with SWIOFC, the RFB responsible for WIO. The ROGS notes that <i>"there is a growing regional recognition that the challenges to overfished small-scale fisheries cannot be 'resolved' within the fisheries sector, particularly where disadvantaged communities are concerned</i>. Key actions include: (i) the use of economic and social rather than solely biological targets and interventions; (ii) improvement in the post-harvest value chain that benefit both the producers (fishers) and distributors/ processors; (iii) support for alternative livelihoods in aquaculture, tourism, or through payments for ecosystem services. - The draft PERSGA Protocol on Fisheries Management (2017) obliges parties to manage and develop small-scale fisheries responsibly to ensure just livelihoods. It emphasizes regional cooperation to conserve shared and migratory stocks, ensuring sustainable fishing effort, economic viability, ecosystem protection, and safeguarding artisanal and subsistence fisheries. CPPS' Strategic Plan 2022-2030 sets a specific objective to <i>"develop and implement a regional action plan to support the sustainability of artisanal and small-scale fisheries based on the best available technical and scientific knowledge, in line with the realities of each member state."</i>
Protect and encourage customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities (quantitative target)	Several RSCAPs (5) have set specific objectives and targets to protect customary use by indigenous and local communities within the wide objective of sustainable management of marine resources (e.g. Arctic Council, Antigua Convention, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention and SPREP). - The Arctic Council / PAME's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2021-2025) prioritizes <i>enhancing the economic, social and cultural well-being of Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic Indigenous Peoples and strengthen their capacity to adapt to changes in the Arctic marine environment. Actions include ensuring meaningful engagement and assessing adaptation options for Arctic coastal communities to changes in climate and the marine environment.</i> - The Nairobi Convention's WIOSAP project highlights stakeholder inclusion, particularly Indigenous communities, to protect customary resource use like fisheries, coastal forests, and mangroves, vital for local livelihoods. SPREP's Pacific Island Framework for Nature Conservation & Protected Areas 2021-2025 recognizes Indigenous and local communities' rights to manage and conserve natural resources, including traditional property and intellectual rights: <i>"Pacific Indigenous and local communities have the right to use, manage and conserve their natural resources and wider environment."</i> - The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (2002) acknowledges traditional subsistence and cultural activities of local communities, allowing exemptions to protection measures when they do not endanger ecosystems, species, or landscapes of regional significance.
Ensure benefits to people through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity (quantitative target)	RSCAPs play a significant role in supporting local biodiversity projects, often addressing critical conservation needs at the community level. These projects contribute to, amongst other things, preserving habitats (Target 3), protecting species (Target 4), and building resilience against environmental challenges (Target 8). RSCAPs should ensure these projects and activities deliver tangible benefits to people while enhancing ecosystem health. Further, CEP has set a specific strategic objective to strengthen the development of sustainable livelihoods through nature-based enterprises. CEP's Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the wider Caribbean 2021-20230 notes: <i>"Strengthening development of sustainable livelihoods. Supporting local community small and micro-enterprises is a key strategy for poverty alleviation. In the wider Caribbean, natural ecosystems are the foundation of many nature-based enterprises (e.g. fishing, agriculture, tourism) which provide economic opportunities particularly for rural coastal communities. Nature-based enterprises can deliver triple bottom-line economic, environmental and social benefits. Opportunities exist to strengthen support for entrepreneurship, adoption of sustainable practices of resource use, promoting markets and value-added opportunities. Research and partnership initiatives with small, medium and large marine resource users are necessary to determine ecosystem capacities and extraction limits on economically viable species."</i>

Element	RSCAP strategic objectives and targets
Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry	
Ensure that areas under aquaculture are managed sustainably	8 RSCAPS have set strategic objectives related to sustainable aquaculture: HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, ROPME, SACEP, CPPS, PERSGA and the Abidjan Convention. The Antigua Convention also contains an obligation to develop sustainable sectoral development plans, including for aquaculture, but has not entered into force. For example: HELCOM developed Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) for aquaculture in the Baltic Sea, focusing on reducing nutrient discharges, waste, and environmental impacts. MAP closely collaborated with GFCM, the RFMO for the Mediterranean to develop the Post-2020 GFCM Aquaculture and Fisheries strategy, developing best practices in aquaculture, such as innovation, improving aquatic health and biosecurity, encouraging the responsible use of antimicrobials, supported by certification, traceability and nature-based solutions. SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region sets a 2030 target to ensure that all fisheries and aquaculture activities are developed and managed using an ecosystem approach and guided by a management plan. - The Abidjan Convention's ICZM Protocol mandates regulatory frameworks to protect aquaculture zones. CPPS aims to strengthen regional competencies in aquaculture management through science and collaboration with FAO. PERSGA's draft Protocol on Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture outlines ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches, biosecurity measures, and environmental assessments to ensure sustainable aquaculture while protecting ecosystems and local livelihoods.
Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People	
Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature (quantitative target)	- Most (12) RSCAPs have set targets related to NbS to address pollution or climate change (see Targets 7 and 8). - Several RSCAPs have adopted the Blue Economy concept to promote nature's contributions to people. COBSEA's <i>Marine and Coastal Framework</i> positions the Blue Economy as its overarching theme, aiming for equitable and inclusive benefit-sharing, particularly for communities directly reliant on marine and coastal ecosystems. It supports the transition to a sustainable Blue Economy in areas of high ecological importance, aligning with international law, including UNCLOS, and focuses on reducing negative impacts while ensuring equity and inclusivity. Similarly, CEP's 2030 Regional Strategy aims to integrate ecological, social, and economic considerations to “<i>promote the Blue Economy and contribute to poverty alleviation, food security, and economic growth through ecosystem-based management and nature-based solutions.</i>” SPREP's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent outlines a long-term vision for ocean-based economic growth while maintaining the health of marine ecosystems. The Nairobi Convention's ROGS contains a Blue Economy cluster (which includes fisheries, tourism, deep seabed mining, offshore activities and marine pollution – not ecosystem services). Several RSCAPS (7) are supporting their contracting parties to integrate marine and coastal biodiversity values into policy and decision-making, either through conducting regional ecosystem assessment analyses or by developing capacity to develop national ocean accounting systems (HELCOM, Nairobi Convention, CEP, OSPAR, SPREP, CPPS). - HELCOM's <i>State of the Baltic Sea Report</i> (2023) assesses ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating, and cultural services, highlighting the need to align future work with the UN SEEA EA framework. - The Nairobi Convention's Regional Strategy 2025-2030 promotes Ocean Accounts and national capital accounting to support Blue Economy development in the region, focusing on capacity-building and integrated ocean governance. OSPAR's Quality Status Report (2023) evaluates ecosystem services for the first time, including provisioning (e.g., biomass), regulating (e.g., climate regulation), cultural services, and abiotic outputs (e.g., sand). SPREP's Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project (2020) advances ecosystem-based adaptation by valuing services like coastal protection and food security for integration into national plans. PERSGA's upcoming Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transition to Sustainable Blue Economy in PERSGA region (HESBERSGA) regional project will update the TDA-SAP, incorporating ecosystem services, ocean accounting and economic valuation of Ecosystem Services. - Finally, CEP's 2030 Strategy aims to mainstream coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses into policies and national accounting systems, strengthening capacity for economic valuation, data accessibility, and environmental impact assessments. The Antigua Convention contains an obligation to encourage the use of economic assessment methods for ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems, but has not yet entered into force. - Further, several RSCAPs (e.g. the Arctic Council/CAFF, SPREP, MAP) have collaborated with The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative to determine the valuation of regional marine and coastal ecosystems.

Annex 6: Overview of RSCAP Monitoring Programs

RSCAP	Environmental monitoring program?	Name of programme(s)	Does the RSCAP publish SOMER, SOCAR or quality status reports?	Is data publicly accessible?	Has the RSCAP published documents or guidelines which document indicators or data parameters?
Antarctic / CCAMLR	Yes	The CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP)	Annual Scientific Committee reports	Yes, partially accessible based on data protocols. GIS available.	CCAMLR's Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP) lists parameters for monitoring
Arctic / Arctic Council	Yes	ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (AMAP) (pollutants; climate indicators and their environmental effects) AMAP Marine Litter Monitoring Plan Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme	AMAP assessments include: - Arctic Climate Change Update (2021) - Thematic assessments on hazardous substances (e.g. mercury) - Human Health in the Arctic (2021) CAFF assessments: State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SABMR) (2017) PAME assessments: Status and Trends for Arctic Conservation Measures (2022)	Yes, in ABSA database and/or in AMAP/CAFF/PAME assessment reports	Arctic Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plans list parameters for monitoring For AMAP's climate and pollution monitoring, no consolidated indicator list / monitoring framework is publicly available
Baltic / HELCOM	Yes	HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy HELCOM Monitoring Programmes cover sources and inputs of human pressures and various variables reflecting the state of the environment. HELCOM Monitoring Guidelines provide technical specifications	State of the Baltic Sea report (2023)	Yes, in several thematic databases	HELCOM core indicator website HELCOM monitoring guidelines outline technical details. Assessment methodologies and data formats are described in technical documents
Black Sea / Black Sea Commission	Yes	Black Sea Integrated Monitoring Program (BSIMAP) Indicators and monitoring are coordinated with other organisations acting in the Black Sea, such as ACCOBAMs and GFCM, to facilitate Parties reporting to the various MEAs. The approach has varying degrees of success as reporting is not always available, not all the countries report, not all countries report using the proper forms, but nevertheless the coordination mechanism is quite successful (UNEP, 2021b).	Black Sea State of the Environment Report 2009-2014 (2019)	Yes, in the Regional Pollution Database	Yes, the BSIMAP Annexes and Work Plan for 2017-2022 list the indicators for monitoring
Caspian Sea / Tehran Convention	Under development	Environmental Monitoring Plan (2012). The EMP has a recommendatory character and is not in place, and national monitoring programmes are not necessarily aligned with each other. A new Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment & Information Exchange is under negotiation	Caspian Sea State of the Environment (2019). This is a collection of different sources, including national reporting, information collected by National liaison officers, and input from international consultants.	Yes	The EMP document lists the indicators and parameters for monitoring

RSCAP	Environmental monitoring program?	Name of programme(s)	Does the RSCAP publish SOMER, SOCAR or quality status reports?	Is data publicly accessible?	Has the RSCAP published documents or guidelines which document indicators or data parameters?
Eastern Africa / Nairobi Convention	Under development	The Strategic Action Plans prepared under the WIOSAP and SAPPHERE projects include targets and corresponding indicators. WIOSAP's horizon is 2035. A new regional ecosystem monitoring framework for the Western Indian Ocean is currently under development. At COP11, the COP requested the Secretariat to finalise the draft ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Framework for adoption at the 12th meeting.	The Regional State of the Coast Report: Western Indian Ocean (2016)	Under development	Document with draft indicators for the new EMP available online
East-Asian Seas / COBSEA	Yes (focused on marine litter monitoring).	Marine Litter Monitoring in the COBSEA region is guided by "Regional Guidance on Harmonised Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes: Monitoring Efforts and Recommendations for National Marine Litter Monitoring", prepared by COBSEA and the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and endorsed by COBSEA participating countries at part one of the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting. Monitoring in five countries have subsequently followed the Marine Litter Method Monitoring Methods Handbook.	The Outlook on COBSEA follow-up and review of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals' is under development and includes indicator-based assessments focusing on priorities defined in the Strategic Directions (UNEP, 2021b).	N/A	No documents found.
Mediterranean /MAP	Yes	Integrated monitoring programme (IMAP): monitors several biodiversity, climate and pollution indicators.	State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED) (2020). Quality Status Report (2023).	Yes	Yes, IMAP indicators are listed in the IMAP framework.
North-East Pacific / Antigua Convention	No information about a coordinated monitoring programme				
North-West Pacific / NOWPAP	Yes	Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC).	State of the Marine Environment Report (last version 2014; third version in development).	Yes, dedicated NOWPAP Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre or DINRAC.	Guidelines published on eutrophication assessment and utilisation of Environmental DNA (eDNA) method. Corresponding regional and global trainings were also held by CEARAC.
North-East Atlantic / OSPAR	Yes	Joint Assessment and Monitoring Program (JAMP) to monitor pressures and ecological indicators, as well as protected area indicators. Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP).	OSPAR Quality Status Report (2023).	OSPAR MPA database OSPAR Data Information Management System (ODIMS).	Yes, JAMP and CEMP programmes list the indicators for monitoring.

RSCAP	Environmental monitoring program?	Name of programme(s)	Does the RSCAP publish SOMER, SOCAR or quality status reports?	Is data publicly accessible?	Has the RSCAP published documents or guidelines which document indicators or data parameters?
Red Sea Gulf of Aden / PERSGA	Yes	PERSGA Regional Environmental Monitoring Program that involves periodic assessments of marine and coastal environments, focusing on water quality (physicochemical parameters), key habitats (mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs) and key species (sharks, marine turtles, seabirds, marine mammals). Surveys and data collection are based on Regional Standard Methods.	Published the 2nd Status of Marine Environment Report in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (SOMERSGA; 2020).	Yes, via website, with credential management, e.g. database of surveys and monitoring key habitats, species, fisheries, MPAs, etc. PERSGA Regional Information Management System (RIMS) is newly developed, based on relational database for management of data collected through Regional Standard Survey Methods. RIMS contains different modules for various datasets, e.g. water quality, key habitats, key species, fisheries, marine litter, pollution incidents etc.	Yes: e.g. Standard Survey Methods for Key Habitats and Key Species in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, 2nd Edition (2019); State of Marine Environment in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, two reports (2006) & (2020) include standard indicators and survey methods. SOMERSGA report (2020) used 41 regional indicators to assess status of key ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass); shipping and ports; fisheries, aquaculture, MPAs, coastal population, land based pollution, marine litter and other themes.
ROPME / Kuwait Convention	Yes	ROPME has several programs through which it monitors/assesses components of the ROPME Sea area, i.e. ROPME mussel watch programme, contaminant screening programme, oceanographic cruises and remote sensing, monitoring of pollution from LBS.	State of the Marine Environment Report (SOMER) (latest version 2013).	ROPME Integrated Information System.	No documents found.
South Asian Seas / SACEP	No information about a coordinated monitoring programme. Indicators proposed in SACEP's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy.		No documents found.	N/A	No documents found.
South-East Pacific / CPPS	Yes	SPINCAM Project, a framework for integrated coastal management indicators (this program ran until 2022). Regional Alliance for the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) for the Pacific Southeast Pacific.	Estado del Medio Ambiente Marino y Costero del Pacifico Sudeste (2014). Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon in the Southeast Pacific (ERFEN Program).	Yes, via the SPINCAM database (until 2022), OBIS - GBIF platform, marine turtles data base, marine mammals data base (until 2020) CPPS strategic plan 2022-2030 sets an objective to strengthen the regional data and information platform.	Not currently.
South Pacific / SPREP	Yes	SPREP has developed a set of 29 core indicators; environmental data portals and capacity building tools to help SPREP members report on environmental indicators. SPREP's Regional Marine Species Programme 2013 – 2017 comprises species-specific indicators.	State of the Pacific Environment Report (2020).	Pacific Data Portal.	Yes, SPREP developed an Indicator Guidebook which lists indicators and metadata.
Western, Central and Southern Africa / Abidjan Convention	No information about a coordinated monitoring programme.		Regional State of the Marine Environment (SOME) Report (2016).	Website under construction.	No documents found.

RSCAP	Environmental monitoring program?	Name of programme(s)	Does the RSCAP publish SOMER, SOCAR or quality status reports?	Is data publicly accessible?	Has the RSCAP published documents or guidelines which document indicators or data parameters?
Wider Caribbean / Cartagena Convention	Yes (under development).	Regional Strategy for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region" provides for developing an approach to regional assessments using objectives, targets and indicators aligned with the SDGs. The Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP) proposes indicators and includes a chapter on implementation and monitoring mechanisms, recognising that specific alignment with GBF targets and indicators may need to be considered. Regional Nutrient Reduction Strategy (RNRS) for the Wider Caribbean Region and North Brazil Shelf identifies a number of indicators are identified for inclusion in national monitoring and assessment programmes. Caribbean node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.	State of the Convention Area Reports (SOCAR) (2019), State of Marine Habitats Reports. This report provides an assessment of marine pollution from Land-Based Sources through the following Core Parameters, using data provided by the involved countries. The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (2020): it focused on the three habitats that are characteristic of coastal ecosystems in the region (Coral reefs, Mangrove Forests, and Seagrass Meadows. It was elaborated by a group of experts through a review of available literature/publications and then submitted to a series of consultations involving representatives of countries and thematic experts. It is mainly meant to fulfil the needs of the SPAW Sub-programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). It includes however elements that could contribute to other frameworks, such as the SDG 14, Aichi Biodiversity Targets 10 and 11. A report on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOME) is being elaborated with the support of the CLME+ Project. The project has among its objective the Institutionalization of the SOME mechanism. The elaboration of the SOME will build on the outcomes of the two above assessments reports and will cover Pollution, Marine Habitats and Sustainable Fisheries.	SPAW-RAC manages different databases: SPAW Protected Area database, SPAW Species Database, Caribbean Marine Mammals Database, IAS database, Reef Biodiversity and Resilience database. The regional environment monitoring platform facilitates the compilation of information from national monitoring and assessment programmes to make environmental information generated in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) [1] more accessible to stakeholders for national and regional decision-making. The Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA) is an online digital platform that stores and provides Data relevant to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), biodiversity, oceanographic processes, and climate change to help guide ecosystem-based management and decision-making in the Caribbean. It is primarily coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) through its IOCARIBE sub-commission, which focuses on oceanographic research and marine management in the wider Caribbean region.	SOCAR provides specific recommendations on core indicators for inclusion in monitoring and assessment programmes. Action Plan for Harmonized Monitoring on Marine Litter also provides specific details on proposed marine litter parameters.

Annex 7: Summary of RSCAP Indicators

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
1	1.1 Percent of land and seas covered Proposed binary indicator: 1.1	CI 22	7 RSCAPS monitor and report on the number of countries that have adopted ICZM frameworks and/or marine spatial plans (Black Sea Commission, HELCOM, MAP, SACEP, Nairobi Convention, Tehran Convention, COBSEA) (aligned with RS CI 22 and KM binary indicator 1b). - For example, HELCOM reports on the “<i>number of countries having maritime spatial plans coherent across borders and applying the ecosystem approach</i>”. This indicator was identified to be in line with the SDG 14.2 target and RS CI22. HELCOM’s MAP and Data Service (last updated 2023) provides a digital map showing maritime spatial planning areas and their implementation status.
	A.1 Red List of ecosystems	N/A	- At least 5 RSCAPs develop regional lists of threatened and/or endangered ecosystems, using the IUCN Red List Category (adjusted for regional specificities. For example: - HELCOM has developed and regularly reviews a Red List of Baltic Sea Underwater Biotopes, Habitats and Biotope Complexes. It used the IUCN methodology, slightly adjusted for regional specificities. A Red List threat assessment was made for 209 biotopes of which 59 were red-listed. Of the assessed biotopes, 73% were classified LC and are therefore currently not seen to be at risk of collapse. The Baltic Sea Action Plan (2021 update) sets a target B28 to “update the HELCOM Red List Assessments by 2024, including identifying the main individual and cumulative pressures and underlying human activities affecting the red listed biotopes and habitats. - OSPAR has developed its own system for identifying and reporting on threatened and declining habitats and species, which is based on the IUCN Red List methodology, adjusted for regional specificities. It includes benthic habitats such as deep-sea sponge aggregations, seagrass beds, and cold-water coral reefs, which are considered under threat in the North-East Atlantic. - The Black Sea Commission’s Action Plan (2009) sets a management objective to “undertake 5 yearly regional update of the list of conservation status of threatened coastal and marine species as well as list of critical habitats for these species Red list of species in Annex 2 of the BSBLC Protocol updated in 4 years’ time.” - The Tehran Convention develops its own Caspian “Red Book” of ecosystems. - The Nairobi Convention’s Critical Habitat Outlook (2024) examines the conservation status of critical habitats.
	A.2 Extent of Ecosystems	CI 15	- In line with EU requirements, MAP, HELCOM, OSPAR and the Black Sea Commission introduced a set of Ecological Quality Objectives to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of their marine and coastal areas. Progress towards GES is monitored through a comprehensive set of ecological indicators and parameters, including habitat disturbance, pollution and eutrophication potential. 11 RSCAPS have developed environmental monitoring programs that provide continuous data on the extent, condition and trends of marine and coastal ecosystems, including critical habitats such as pelagic and benthic habitats, mangroves, seagrass beds, wetlands and coral reefs (CCAMLR, Arctic Council/CAFF, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, NOWPAP, SPREP, CPPS, Abidjan Convention, PERSGA). For example: - CAFF’s Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) regularly tracks changes in critical habitats and produces assessments on the status of marine, coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems across the Arctic. The CBMP Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan contains parameters on habitat extent and quality: Trends in Extent of Biomes, Habitats and Ecosystems, sea ice, corals, plankton distribution, extent of seafloor destruction. - NOWPAP/CEARAC monitors the extent of coastal ecosystems such as seagrass beds and tidal flats, leveraging remote sensing and AI. - PERSGA is in the process of developing a new Knowledge and information system (latest update November 2024), which contains data on mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs. - SPREP monitors the percentage of live coral cover in coastal and marine environments, as well as the % cover of wetlands, mangroves and seagrass. - Three RSCAPs (CEP, SACEP and the Nairobi Convention) are developing indicators and databases for monitoring and data exchange related to certain ecosystems or habitats. In-depth studies: The Nairobi Conventions’ 2024 Critical Habitat Outlook also provides a description of the extent and condition of critical habitats such as wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs. A recent study conducted by ROPME on the trends of coral reefs in the ROPME sea area (2020) recommends the creation of a regional monitoring network for coral reefs which supports the preparation of a yearly status report. CEP’s 2020 “State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean” examines 13 indicators in relation to the health of three habitats (coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses). Indicators include cover reef, mangrove and seagrass beds coverage. - Two RSCAPs also monitor the extent and modification of coastlines and coastal ecosystems (RS CI 8). MAP monitors the length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures (Common Indicator 16). HELCOM’s Core Indicator “Cumulative impact from physical pressures on benthic biotopes” includes bottom trawling fishery and mariculture, extraction and disposal of sediments (e. g. dredging and dumping), construction/building and operation of pipelines and cables, platforms and wind farms, coastal protection and shipping. - PERSGA covers population of the coastal zone and coastal urban population as an indicator for its SOMERSGA report (latest edition 2020).

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
2	2.1 Area under restoration	N/A	- Several RSCAPs (Arctic Council, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, OSPAR) have set objectives to develop inventories of degraded areas and/or areas suitable for restoration. For example: - The Arctic Council's CAFF programme, under the “<i>Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands</i>” (<i>RAW project</i>) developed a pan-Arctic inventory of protected wetlands and completed, ongoing or planned restoration projects. - The Black Sea Action Plan sets an objective 3a to conduct a study of identification of Black Sea Areas of previously high biodiversity value. - PERSGA's 2020 SOMERSGA report includes indicators to assess the area of restored mangroves and area of restored coral reefs. (aligned with KM Headline Indicator 2.1), CPPS's 2016 Mangrove Conservation plan (which has been replaced by a 2021 version), set an indicator to measure the surface area and % of mangroves under restoration. 11 RSCAPs monitor trends in extent and condition of critical marine and coastal ecosystems, which can give an indication of improved condition and extent of ecosystems after restoration (cf. Target 1 and KM Headline indicator A.2). - At least 4 RSCAPs have adopted indicators to monitor restoration activities undertaken (MAP, CEP, Abidjan Convention, PERSGA). For example: - CEP's Regional Strategy for the Valuation of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity contains indicators tracking 1) restoration activities undertaken at priority sites for coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, 2) area of seagrass, mangrove and coral reef with enhanced ecological integrity and function, 3) trends in proportion of degraded/threatened habitats. - SACEP monitors % of changes in specific ecosystems (monitoring every three years). - MAP's Medium-Term Strategy sets an indicator 2.6: “Number of measures and actions developed and/or implemented on biodiversity conservation, restoration, and monitoring implemented, including on MPA/SPAMI management and monitoring. While PERSGA's Biodiversity Protocol requires periodical monitoring of the effectiveness of restoration programmes, no such data or assessments are publicly available. Other RSCAPs have assessed restoration activities as part of Quality Status Reports or programme updates: HELCOM's 2023 Holistic Assessment (HOLAS) report highlights that marine restoration in the Baltic Sea is still in its early stages and primarily focused on coastal areas. It notes a lack of consistent information on restoration effort, success rates, and trends in the region, and emphasizes the absence of a standardized definition of success. As such, it calls for quantitative follow-up studies to evaluate restoration outcomes more effectively. OSPAR's 2023 Quality Status Report indicates that several Contracting Parties have reported restoration actions, particularly in intertidal zones, and points to growing experience in supporting natural recovery of inshore habitats. It also highlights collaborative efforts to monitor and manage impacts on deep-sea benthic habitats. The report stresses the importance of addressing climate change and other cumulative stressors to enable the effective recovery of degraded habitats. - The Nairobi Convention has published information on demonstration projects focused on mangrove restoration carried out under its WIOSAP programme.

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
3 ¹²	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs	CI 21	15 RSCAPS have adopted indicators to monitor MPA coverage (found for all except Abidjan Convention, Antigua Convention and ROPME). However, only 11 RSCAPS have published baseline and progress reports or data. Beyond MPAs, the recognition and reporting of OECMs among RSCAPs is still in its early stages. Only four RSCAPs—MAP, HELCOM, the Nairobi Convention, and OSPAR—have made efforts to assess or report on actual or potential OECM coverage. Reporting on additional breakdowns or complementary indicators varies widely between RSCAPs and are discussed in the draft report <i>UNEP, Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration</i>. • Inclusion of areas of biodiversity importance (and related ecosystem services). At least 8 RSCAPs assess how areas of biodiversity importance are covered by MPAs: Arctic Council (EBSAs), the Nairobi Convention (critical habitats), HELCOM (Baltic Redlist of biotopes), MAP (EBSAs, IBAs key breeding/feeding areas for threatened species), OSPAR (Red listed habitats), SPREP (KBAs, mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs). CPPS tracks the conservation status of mangroves. CEP's Regional Strategy for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region 2023-2030 also proposes an indicator "protected area coverage of important biodiversity areas", but this is not operational yet. CCAMLR defines areas of high biodiversity in existing MPA documentation and new MPA proposals. • Ecological representativeness: For at least 7 regions (CCAMLR, Mediterranean, North-East Atlantic, the Baltic, Pacific, WIO and Black Sea) information is available on the overall representativeness of MPA networks and systems. • Connectivity: while global methodologies for assessing connectivity of marine protected areas are still being developed, several (5) RSCAPs have developed regional approaches: Arctic Council/PAME, MAP, HELCOM, OSPAR, CEP (in development). • Equitable governance: few RSCAPs have assessed and reported on "equitable governance" indicators such as governance type and site-level governance quality (Arctic Council/PAME, MAP and SPREP). The Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap sets a number of relevant indicators, including 1) actions included in sectoral sustainable development plans that encourage co-management with/by local populations, 2) the number of high-level national meetings that include all the relevant stakeholders, 3) Number of countries with decentralised MPA governance system, 4) Number of countries with requirements for participatory governance and co-management, 5) Number of MPAs with decentralised governance system (number of co-management agreements), 6 Number of MPAs with requirements for participatory governance and co-management, 7 Number of MPAs with participatory governance and co- management established. • Management effectiveness: Many RSCAPs provide public access to MPA management plans through online databases. Some (e.g. MAP, Black Sea Commission and HELCOM) go further by evaluating the proportion of MPAs with active plans. Some RSCAPs are implementing more comprehensive assessments of MPA effectiveness based on self-assessments, score cards or workshops (HELCOM, PERSGA, Nairobi Convention, MAP, SPREP). For example: – OSPAR conducts annual assessments of the OSPAR MPA network.¹³ The 2023 edition examines whether the network is well-managed. <i>The report notes: "Appropriate management is in place for some OSPAR MPAs, but for many implementation is still required. As a result, only 16% of OSPAR MPAs are known to be moving towards or have achieved their conservation objectives. Thus, additional efforts to implement management measures necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs should be considered. In parallel, long-term monitoring programmes could be broadened to evaluate with greater confidence whether the conservation objectives of OSPAR MPAs are being achieved."</i> – MAP's Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap for MPAs sets the following indicators: 1) number of new countries with national MPA agency/department established and sufficiently resourced, 2) Number of countries where MPA rangers and staff have the legal power to enforce the MPA regulation, 3) Number of MPAs where local authorities and staff have legal authority to issue fines, 4) Number of violations effectively managed by MPA rangers and local authorities, 5) Number of MPA awareness and vigilance campaigns and mechanisms targeting civil society, 6) Number of MPAs with programmes to engage stakeholders in voluntary surveillance, 7) Decrease in the number of illegal activities carried out in the MPA over time after start of civil society vigilance programmes, 8) Number of MPA managers and stakeholders receiving capacity building. • Integration into wider seascapes: Three RSCAPS have begun to assess the extent to which MPA and OECM planning is integrated into broader seascape-level strategies (Nairobi Convention, SPREP and MAP). Integration into wider seascapes: MAP's Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas sets the following indicators, 1) number of sectoral sustainable development plans that have included the planning and management of marine protected areas, 2) number of countries with a legal review process that ensures all laws/orders/decisions/Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that include MPAs are in line with marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management. The Nairobi Convention's MPA Outlook for the WIO (2021) notes that <i>"Only Seychelles and South Africa have developed marine spatial plans that integrated MPAs into relevant policies. Integration of MPAs and OECM into the wider seascape is a priority area for the region and experience from these two countries provide a great opportunity for shared learning across the region, while appreciating specific country contexts."</i> SPREP's <i>State of the Environment Report</i> defines integration as the inclusion of protected areas within broader landscapes and seascapes, as well as alignment with sectoral plans and policies—such as National Sustainable Development Plans or equivalent frameworks. The report concludes that in many Pacific Island countries, habitat mapping and long-term monitoring to support integration remain limited. • Respecting the rights of local and indigenous communities: Currently, no RSCAPs provide data related to MPA or OECM coverage in traditional or indigenous territories.

12 For further detail, see "UNEP Regional Seas, Regional Seas progress towards global targets for marine and coastal conservation and restoration (draft), 2025".

13 Status of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2023

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
			• Socio-economic benefits to local communities: some RSCAPs (CEP, MAP and the Nairobi Convention) track benefits to local communities. For example, Nairobi Convention’s POW 2025-2028 aims to track the socio-economic benefits of MPAs and OECMs; CEP’s Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 – 2030 tracks improved ecological, social, economic and administrative benefits and impacts. • Regulating sustainable use: – Eight RSCAPs provide information on the level of MPA protection, e.g. by using the IUCN categorization (the Arctic Council, HELCOM, OSPAR, MAP, SPREP, CEP, NOWPAP, PERSGA and CPPS). However, few RSCAPs aggregate and analyse this information to obtain a higher-level, regional view. For example, Barcelona Convention reports that only 0.06% of MPAs are designated as strictly protected (i.e., no-go, no-take, or no-fishing areas). – In addition, CCAMLR, MAP, CEP (for SPAW-listed MPAs), OSPAR, and HELCOM provide detailed descriptions of regulated activities within MPAs, such as tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and flood protection. However, some RSCAPS report challenges in defining clear zoning, permitted uses, and enforcement procedures. For example, only 42% of national MPAs in the Mediterranean have legally defined boundaries and zoning, while just 31% have explicit regulations on permitted activities.
4	A.3 Redlist of species	CI 14 N/A	• 7 RSCAPS (CCAMLR, Arctic Council/CAFF, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, CPPS, OSPAR) have adopted comprehensive biodiversity monitoring mechanisms that allow to monitor trends (e.g. abundance, distribution and population) for a broad range of species. For example: – CAFF (Arctic Council) tracks the status and trends of a wide range of Arctic species and ecosystems. This broader approach allows for the detection of changes in biodiversity that could affect species before they become threatened and helps inform conservation strategies. It’s marine and coastal biodiversity monitoring plan covering fish, marine mammals and plankton. For these species groups, it monitors different parameters, including distribution, abundance. CAFF also compiles several biodiversity lists and indexes, including the Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI). The Arctic Index is a component of the Living Planet Index (which is a complementary KM indicator), The ASTI is result of the sustained effort of Arctic researchers and communities who have been tracking wildlife populations over the past four decades. Based on data in ASTI, CAFF has published several reports on the trends of marine mammals, birds and fish species in the Arctic regions. Other relevant indexes include the Arctic Red List Index and the Arctic Migratory Bird Index. – Through its Circumpolar Monitoring Plan (CEMP), CCAMLR monitors both key species that are crucial to the Antarctic ecosystem (such as Antarctic krill) and a wider range of marine species, including fish, birds, and marine mammals. This broad approach helps ensure that changes in the Antarctic marine environment, including those affecting non-threatened species, are detected early and addressed through appropriate management measures. – OSPAR monitors a broad range of species in the North-East Atlantic, focusing not only on threatened species but also on key species and habitats critical to the health of the entire marine ecosystem. Its Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) provides a framework for tracking the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the North-East Atlantic, in line with the EU’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Under this program, OSPAR monitors various biodiversity indicators covering marine mammals, seabirds, fish, and benthic species, as well as key habitats like coral reefs and seamounts. • 11 RSCAPs (Arctic Council, Tehran Convention, HELCOM, the Black Sea Commission, the Nairobi Convention, MAP, OSPAR, PERSGA, SPREP, NOWPAP, CEP) compile regional lists describing the conservation status of species and monitor their status. Often these lists use the IUCN Red List as a key reference, in addition to other regional criteria (RS CI 14). CCAMLR relies on the IUCN Red List to protect species in its Convention Area, requiring all vessels to use monitor and take mitigation measures to avoid incidental mortality of red list species. CPPS has drafted a priority list of migratory species for monitoring.
	A.4 The proportion of populations within species		
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	CI 5 CI 12 CI 13 CI20	• 6 RSCAPS collect and report data on fish stocks and MSY to inform maximum catch. The approach for collection of this data differs. SACEP, PERSGA and the Black Sea Commission collect this data directly from national authorities. CCAMLR collects information vessels and by conducting stock assessments. HELCOM and OSPAR collaborate and exchange data with ICES. PERSGA’s role as RFB also enables it to collect data on fish stocks. (KM Headline 5.1, RS CI 12). The Nairobi Convention included SDG indicator 14.4 in its draft Environmental Monitoring Framework (EMF). • 8 RSCAPS monitor and report fish landings / catch data: CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, SACEP, PERSGA and SPREP. The Nairobi Convention’s draft EMF has an indicator for fish catch (RS CI 5). CPPS’s indicator on fisheries catch (under SPINCAM) was discontinued in 2022. • 2 RSCAPS report on marine trophic index (RS CI 13): Arctic Council’s CAFF working group compiles the Arctic Trophic Marine Biome Structure Level Index. The Black Sea Commission lists the following indicators: status of the trophic base (BSIMAP 2017). • Indicators to report on fisheries measures in place were found for 6 RSCAPS: CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, PERSGA, Nairobi Convention (draft), SACEP (under development) (RS CI 20) • By-catch: CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission and MAP collect data on by-catch. SACEP aims to report on the number of measures taken to address by-catch.

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
6	6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment	N/A	11 RSCAPS have adopted relevant indicators related to invasive species. Several RSCAPs have established monitoring frameworks that monitor trends in invasive alien species. Relevant indicators include: • Temporal trends in arrival (HELCOM, MAP, OSPAR, Arctic Council) • Spatial distribution of IAS and movements (Baltic Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR) • Community abundance (OSPAR) • Pathways and movement vectors for introduction (Black Sea Commission, MAP, SACEP) • ballast water monitoring (Baltic Sea Commission) • Risk area screening (Baltic Sea Commission) • Environmental impacts (MAP, NOWPAP) • Effectiveness of management measures (MAP) • Impact on economic activities and policy responses (MAP) • Ratio between alien species and native species and their interaction at the level of ecosystem (NOWPAP) Some RSCAPS are also partner of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GLO-Ballast and/or GLO-Fouling project. PERSGA is executing partner of the Glo-Ballast and Glo-Fouling initiatives. Under these programmes, PERSGA has carried out regional assessments and developed IAS guidelines. CPPS carried out national assessments and helped developed national strategies for biofouling under the project. On top of these monitoring schemes, MAP, HELCOM, OSPAR and the Arctic Council have built a coordinated early warning mechanism for invasive alien species, allowing to rapidly address and pr set up early warning mechanisms, to be able to effectively Several RSCAPS also report on activities or actions taken to address IAS. Relevant indicators include: • Number of measures taken (Baltic Sea Commission) • Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the control of IAS (Nairobi Convention Draft Indicator) • Number of trainings held (SACEP) • Regional risk assessments conducted (SACEP) • Number of information exchanges conducted (SACEP) • Annual sum of priority invasive species under management or eradicated (SPREP) • % of priority sites with invasive species management (SPREP) • Monitoring and management protocols available to MPA managers (CEP) • Uptake of invasive species monitoring and management protocols by MPAs (CEP) • Member State ratifications of the IMO BWC (HELCOM, CEP) Some RSCAPS have set objectives to develop harmonized methodologies for monitoring invasive species, as well as develop common databases (e.g. CPPS' 2030 strategic plan).

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
7 (all pollution)	N/A	CI 10 CI 16 CI 17 CI 18	10 RSCAPS also monitor the concentration of selected pollutants in biota and sediments: Arctic Council (AMAP), HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, CEP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, ROPME and PERSGA. (RS CI 10) 6 RSCAPS (MAP, CEP, ROPME, Tehran Convention, PERSGA, Nairobi Convention) have established legally binding LBS Protocols which require national action plans to address LBS. 4 RSCAPS (HELCOM, Abidjan Convention, SPREP, OSPAR) have adopted Regional Action Plans which require or encourage national action plans to address LBS, as well as reporting on the implementation of these plans (RS CI 16) - Several RSCAPS have further established specific objectives and targets around wastewater monitoring and standards (HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention, Nairobi Convention, ROPME, PERSGA) (RS CI 17). PERSGA has also develop a regional manual for monitoring the impact of wastewater discharge on coral reefs with several indicators. 3 RSCAPS have adopted indicator RS CI 18, focusing on reducing marine litter at source: 18.1) PAME developed an inventory of Arctic port reception facilities to assess where there may be infrastructure gaps in light of increasing Arctic shipping traffic. 18.2) MAP's MTS monitors the number of policies, strategies and action plans to reduce and prevent marine litter 18.3) PERSGA monitors solid waste production, while SPREP monitors household waste and % recycled. 18 1-3) are incorporated in CEP's Regional Strategy for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region 2023-2030. - At present, only few RSCAPS have set up programs to assess cumulative impacts and emerging trends. A notable example is the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), which investigates cumulative impacts on marine ecosystems from multiple human activity-induced stressors such as climate change, ocean acidification, local and long range transported pollution (land and sea-based), marine litter, noise, eutrophication, biomass overharvesting, invasive alien species and other threats. HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan sets objectives to evaluate, monitor and address emerging pollution trends such as pharmaceuticals.
7 (nutrients)	7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP)	CI 1 CI 9	- Several RSCAPS collect and report data on eutrophication inputs or concentrations (N and P Loadings), which can be used for reporting against KM Headline indicator 7.1: 6 RSCAPS monitor inputs or concentrations of N and P (HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, NOWPAP, MAP, OSPAR. While PERSGA also monitors nitrogen and phosphorus inputs through its Regional Environmental Monitoring Program, national monitoring is not regular because of funding and capacity constraints. CPPS Spincam indicator for eutrophication ended in 2022. - The Tehran Convention also includes information on N and P loadings in its State of the Caspian Sea Reports. - The Nairobi Convention's draft Environmental Framework proposes an indicator 3 "SDG 14.1.1. Index of coastal eutrophication" (without clarifying which sub-indicator). - COBSEA conducted an in-depth study on ICEP in 2024 (RENEWSEAS report). 9 RSCAPS monitor Chlorophyll-A as an indicator for phytoplankton biomass, in line with RS CI 1 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, ROPME, PERSGA). CPPS had an indicator (SPINCAM indicator 7) for Chl-A until 2022. 3 RSCAPS do not have monitoring programs for Chl-A, but have conducted baseline studies (COBSEA, CEP and the Nairobi Convention). 4 RSCAPS monitor algal blooms (HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, OSPAR, ROPME) (RS CI 9).
7 (pesticides)	7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity	N/A	No evidence of indicators has been found
7 (hazardous chemicals)	N/A	CI 2 CI 10	9 RSCAPS (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, ROPME, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, SPREP) report on trends for selected priority chemicals including POPS and heavy metals (RS CI 2). CPPS' monitoring scheme (SPINCAM) was discontinued in 2022. RSCAPS adopt different approaches to which and how many chemicals are monitored. 10 RSCAPS also monitor the concentration of selected pollutants in biota and sediments: Arctic Council (AMAP), HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, CEP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, ROPME and PERSGA. (RS CI 10)

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
7 (plastics)	N/A	CI 3 CI 18	11 RSCAPS monitor and/or have developed guidance for national monitoring of beach litter items: CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, SACEP, SPREP, CEP, CPPS and PERSGA.
8	8.b (binary)	CI 11 C4 CI 19	10 RSCAPS have ocean monitoring mechanisms that measure parameters for ocean warming (e.g. sea surface temperature or “SST”) and/or ocean acidification (e.g. Ph): Arctic Council/ AMAP, CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, ROPME, SPREP (through a partner organization). (RS CI 4 and CI 11). - For example, the Arctic Council’s Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) monitors key climate indicators related to the cryosphere (sea and land ice, snow, permafrost and more), Meteorology (including extreme weather events and teleconnections with other regions), environmental and ecosystem consequences (including sea surface temperature and ocean acidification). Key publications include The Arctic Climate Change Update 2021, and AMAP’s Arctic Ocean Acidification Assessments. HELCOM monitors alteration of hydrological and hydrographical conditions through human activities, including a change in salinity and temperature, as well as acidification. Through IMAP, MAP monitors PH and Aragonite levels in seawater. It also tracks sea surface temperature, as well as temperature profiles at various depths in the water column. CCAMLR monitors and considers climate change indicators to adjust its fisheries management measures in the Convention Area. PERSGA also monitors SST, through national monitoring programmes and its SFISH project supported by the World Bank. Two regional capacity building workshops have been organized related to ocean acidification. - CPPS also monitors temperature (RS CI 4) and salinity through its ERFEN program to study the El Nino phenomenon in the region. - CEP’s SOCAR report contains data on Ph and dissolved oxygen. - Two RSCAPS (MAP, SPREP) have adopted indicator to report on the number of climate adaptation plans, or resources allocated to climate change adaptation (RS CI 19) - CCAMLR is competent to manage the marine resources in the Convention Area. Climate change impacts are considered in CCAMLR’s management measures (e.g. e.g. for fisheries quotas or adopting fisheries closures). Blue Carbon: PERSGA organized a series of regional workshops to integrate coastal ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation (blue carbon) in NDCs and climate policies of Member States. CEP has adopted indicators specifically to measure progress in the implementation of blue carbon projects.
9	9.b (binary)	CI 5 CI 12 CI 20	Under the SPINCAM project, CPPS developed an indicator (5) to monitor the sustainability of traditional artisanal fishing.
10	N/A	CI 6 CI 7	- No evidence has been found that RSCAPs have adopted RS CI 6 (application of risk assessment to aquaculture). - CPPS monitors the loss of mangrove area. No other evidence has been found that RSCAPs have adopted RS CI 7 (destruction of habitat due to aquaculture). - Other regional indicators: - CPPS monitored and reports on the total area (ha) of concessions given for aquaculture (SPINCAM). This indicator was discontinued. - SACEP has adopted the following regional indicators: number of countries that use aquaculture certification; number of regulations in place - The Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (2009) lists indicators for “aquaculture and cultured species” - PERSGA’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Protocol article 15 requires Parties to report on aquaculture statistics and development

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RS CI	RSCAP indicators
11	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems B.b (binary)	CI 17 CI 19	5 RSCAPS (HELCOM, Nairobi Convention, CEP, PERSGA, OSPAR) are developing work in the area of ecosystem accounting, including by conducting studies to estimate the economic value of marine and coastal ecosystems, the regional frameworks for ocean accounting and/or developing capacity amongst member countries to implement national ocean accounting systems. HELCOM's <i>State of the Baltic Sea Report</i> (2023) assesses ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating, and cultural services, highlighting the need to align future work with the UN SEEA EA framework. The Nairobi Convention's Regional Strategy 2025-2030 promotes Ocean Accounts and national capital accounting to support Blue Economy development in the region, focusing on capacity-building and integrated ocean governance. OSPAR's Quality Status Report (2023) evaluates ecosystem services for the first time, including provisioning (e.g., biomass), regulating (e.g., climate regulation), cultural services, and abiotic outputs (e.g., sand). SPREP's Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project (2020) advances ecosystem-based adaptation by valuing services like coastal protection and food security for integration into national plans. CEP's 2030 Strategy aims to mainstream coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses into policies and national accounting systems, strengthening capacity for economic valuation, data accessibility, and environmental impact assessments. PERSGA's upcoming <i>Harnessing Ecosystem Services and Transition to Sustainable Blue Economy</i> in PERSGA region (HESBERSGA) regional project will update the TDA-SAP, incorporating ecosystem services, ocean accounting and economic valuation of ecosystem services. - Further, several RSCAPs (e.g. the Arctic Council/CAFF, SPREP, MAP) have collaborated with The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative to determine the valuation of regional marine and coastal ecosystems. For example, the Arctic Council, in collaboration with TEEB developed a scoping study to determine the economic value of the Arctic's ecosystems and their services. Although this study is external to the Arctic Council's core working groups, it builds on their work and helps further the goal of integrating natural capital and ecosystem services into decision-making frameworks. This study has been incorporated in PAME's EA Guidelines: implementing an ecosystem approach to management of Arctic Marine Ecosystems (2019). SPREP collaborated with TEEB on valuing the contributions of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, which provide critical ecosystem services such as fisheries, tourism, and carbon sequestration. - The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires member states to conduct economic and social analyses of the use of marine waters and the cost of degradation. As many EU countries are members of UNEP-MAP, HELCOM and OSPAR, these regional frameworks are, as much as possible, aligned with EU rules.

Annex 8: RSCAP monitoring of Regional seas Core Indicators

No	Category of indicator	Coordinated Indicator	RSCAPs which have adopted indicators for monitoring	RSCAPS that have conducted in-depth or baseline studies (e.g. thematic reports or State of the Marine Environment report)
1	Total inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture, sewage and atmospheric nitrogen	Chlorophyll a concentration as an indicator of phytoplankton biomass	9 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, ROPME, PERSGA)	3 (COBSEA, CEP the Nairobi Convention)
2	Inputs of marine chemical pollution Trends for selected priority chemicals	Trends for selected priority chemicals including POPs and heavy metals	9 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, SPREP)	2 (PERSGA, ROPME)
3	Overall levels of marine litter Quantification of beach litter items	Quantification and classification of beach litter items	13 (CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, COBSEA, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, SACEP, SPREP, CEP, CPPS and PERSGA)	N/A
4	Ocean warming	Annual mean sea surface temperature (25m below the surface)	10 (Arctic Council/AMAP, CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, ROPME, SPREP, PERSGA, CPPS)	N/A
5	Fish landings	Fish catches within EEZs (tons) – total capture production	8 (CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, SACEP, PERSGA and SPREP) 1 under development (Nairobi Convention)	N/A
6	Aquaculture	Application of risk assessment to account for pollution and biodiversity impacts	N/A	N/A
7	Aquaculture	Destruction of habitat due to aquaculture	1 (CPPS)	N/A
8	Population pressure/urbanization	Length of coastal modification and km2 of coastal reclamation	2 (MAP, HELCOM)	N/A
9	Eutrophication status	Locations and frequency of algal blooms reported	4 (HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, OSPAR, ROPME)	N/A
10	Pollution hot spots	1) Concentration of Status of selected pollutant contamination in biota and sediments and temporal trends 2) Number of hotspots	8 (Arctic Council/AMAP, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, Nairobi Convention, MAP, NOWPAP, OSPAR, ROPME, PERSGA)	2 (PERSGA, CEP)
11	Ocean acidification	1) Aragonite saturation 2) pH 3) Alkalinity	8 (Arctic Council/AMAP, CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, ROPME, SPREP)	1 (CEP)
12	Level of exploitation of commercial fisheries	FAO stock status: % stocks overfished compared to MSY	3 (PERSGA, BSC, CCAMLR); SACEP (indicator under development)	2 HELCOM, OSPAR

No	Category of indicator	Coordinated Indicator	RSCAPs which have adopted indicators for monitoring	RSCAPS that have conducted in-depth or baseline studies (e.g. thematic reports or State of the Marine Environment report)
13	Species replacement as a consequence of capture fisheries	Marine trophic index	2 (Arctic Council and Black Sea Commission)	N/A
14	Endangered species	Distribution of Red List Index 14.5 species	13 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council, Tehran Convention, HELCOM, the Black Sea Commission, the Nairobi Convention, MAP, OSPAR, PERSGA, SPREP, NOWPAP CEP, CPPS)	N/A
15	Loss of critical habitat	Trends in critical habitat extent and condition	11 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council/CAFF, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, NOWPAP, SPREP, CPPS, Abidjan Convention, PERSGA) 2 under development (CEP, SACEP and Nairobi Convention)	3 (Nairobi Convention, ROPME and CEP)
16	National Action Plans to reduce input from LBS	% National action plans ratified 14.1 / operational	10 (MAP, CEP, ROPME, Tehran Convention, PERSGA, Nairobi Convention, HELCOM, Abidjan Convention, SPREP, OSPAR)	N/A
17	Waste water treatment facilities	1) % coastal urban population connected to sewage facilities 2) % of waste water facilities complying with adequate standards 3) % of untreated wastewater	5 (Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention, Nairobi Convention, ROPME, PERSGA)	1 (SPREP)
18	Incentive to reduce marine litter at source	1) % port waste reception 14.1 facilities available 2) Incentives to reduce land-based sources 3) Amount of recycled waste on land (%)	3 (Arctic Council/PAME, MAP and PERSGA)	N/A
19	Climate change adaptation	1) % national adaptation plans in place 2) Sector based national adaptation plans 3) Number of existing national and local coastal and marine plans incorporating climate change adaptation	3 (MAP, SPREP, CCAMLR)	N/A
20	Fish harvested within safe ecological limits	Fisheries measures in place (by-catch limits, area-based closures, recovery plans, capacity reduction measures) and multilateral/bilateral fisheries management arrangements	4 (CCAMLR, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, PERSGA) 2 under development (Nairobi Convention, SACEP)	N/A
21	Critical marine habitat under protection	% Marine protected areas 14.5 designated	15 (found for all except Abidjan Convention, Antigua Convention and ROPME)	N/A
22	National ICZM in place	National ICZM guidelines and 14.2 enabling legislation adopted	7 (Black Sea Commission, HELCOM, MAP, SACEP, Nairobi Convention, Tehran Convention, COBSEA)	N/A

Annex 9: RSCAP monitoring of KM GBF Headline indicators

KM GBF Target	KM GBF Headline indicator	RSCAPs which have adopted indicators for monitoring	RSCAPS that have conducted in-depth or baseline studies (e.g. thematic reports or State of the Marine Environment report)
1	1.1 Percent of land and seas covered Proposed binary indicator: 1.1	7 (Black Sea Commission, HELCOM, MAP, SACEP, Nairobi Convention, Tehran Convention, COBSEA)	N/A
	A.1 Redlist of ecosystems	4 (HELCOM, OSPAR, the Black Sea Commission, Tehran Convention)	
	A.2 Extent of Ecosystems	11 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council/CAFF, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, OSPAR, NOWPAP, SPREP, CPPS, Abidjan Convention, PERSGA) 2 under development (CEP, SACEP)	3 (Nairobi Convention, ROPME and CEP)
2	Area under restoration	1 (PERSGA)	N/A
3	3.1 Coverage of protected areas and OECMs	15 track MPA coverage (found for all except Abidjan Convention, Antigua Convention and ROPME); 4 track OECMs (OSPAR, MAP, HELCOM and the Nairobi Convention)	N/A
4	A.3 Redlist of species	N/A (KM Headline A.3 is an aggregated index value)	N/A
	A.4 The proportion of populations within species	7 (CCAMLR, Arctic Council/CAFF, HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, MAP, CPPS, OSPAR)	N/A
5	5.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	3 (PERSGA, BSC, CCAMLR); SACEP (indicator under development)	2 HELCOM, OSPAR
6	6.1 Rate of invasive alien species establishment	6 (HELCOM, MAP, OSPAR, Arctic Council, Black Sea Commission, NOWPAP) 1 Under development (CEP)	2 PERSGA, CPPS
7 (nutrients)	7.1 Index of coastal eutrophication potential (ICEP)	7 (HELCOM, Black Sea Commission, NOWPAP, MAP, OSPAR, PERSGA). 1 under development (Nairobi Convention), 1 discontinued in 2022 (CPPS)	3 (COBSEA, Tehran Convention, Nairobi Convention)
7 (pesticides)	7.2 Aggregated Total Applied Toxicity	N/A	N/A
8	8.b (binary)	3 (MAP, SPREP, CCAMLR)	
9	9.b (binary)	N/A	N/A
11	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems B.b (binary)	N/A (KM Headline B.1. is an aggregated index value)	8 (HELCOM, Nairobi Convention, CEP, PERSGA, OSPAR, Arctic Council, SPREP, MAP)

