



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



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Regional Seas Indicators Working Group Meeting

Thailand, Bangkok, 4-6 November 2025

United Nations Conference Centre

Provisional agenda

1. Background

The Regional Seas Programme was established by the United Nations Environment Programme in 1974 and includes 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. In 2016, the United Nations Environment Programme developed the Regional Seas Core Indicator Set, which consists of 22 indicators. These indicators were designed to provide a common basis for reporting and assessing the state of the marine and coastal environment across all Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Regional Seas).

With the adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Framework on Chemicals, the ratification of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water, and the establishment of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026-2029, the Regional Seas Core Indicators now need to be updated, streamlined, and aligned with global frameworks.

Preliminary consultations, mapping exercises, surveys, and two technical sessions have generated substantial inputs for revising the Regional Seas Core Indicators. The workshop aims to consolidate these outcomes into an updated operational framework that reflects a shared vision and consensus across the Regional Seas.

2. Objectives

- To review the 22 Regional Seas Core Indicators and decide which should be retained, revised, or discontinued.
- To establish prioritization of indicators by classifying them based on readiness, feasibility, and policy relevance.
- To align the Regional Seas Core Indicators with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- To assess the adoption of the Regional Seas Core Indicators and clarify monitoring and reporting practices.
- To identify practical use cases demonstrating the added value of the indicators for global and regional processes.
- To examine mechanisms for governance, collaboration, and financing to support the implementation of the prioritized indicators.

3. Expected Outcomes

- a) **Agreed Indicator Set**
A consolidated and updated list of Regional Seas Core Indicators, identifying which indicators remain relevant, which should be modified, and which should be discontinued.
- b) **Strengthened Alignment and Justification**
A shared understanding of how the Regional Seas Core Indicators align with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, ensuring political relevance and global visibility.
- c) **Resource Mobilization and Allocation**
Agreement on the link between prioritized indicators (Tier I, II, III) and resource needs, clarifying how financing and capacity-building support can be mobilized and distributed among Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.
- d) **Alignment with Global Financing Mechanisms**
The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goal 14 are directly linked to international financing channels, such as the Global Environment Facility and bilateral donor funds. The Regional Seas will discuss how adoption of indicators can better position them to access financing mechanisms.

DAY 01 – Indicator Positioning and Revision

04 November 2025

Expected outcome of Day 1: Revised draft set of indicators

Time	Activity
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and Welcome
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Remarks (Moderator: Mahesh Pradhan, Coordinator, COBSEA) Welcome remarks by Marlene Nilsson, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Welcome remarks by Pinsak Suraswadi, Director General, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand Opening remarks by Alberto Pacheco Capella, Chief, Regional Seas Programme, UNEP
09:30 - 09:45	Group photo
09:45 - 10:15	Session 1: Sharing Experiences on Indicators and Monitoring Approaches (Moderator: Karen Raubenheimer, University of Wollongong (UoW)) Kieran Noonan Mooney, Programme Management Officer, Convention on Biological Diversity (online) Golestan (Sally) Radwan, Chief Digital Officer, UNEP (online) Heidi Savelli, Chief <i>OiC</i> , Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP
10:15 - 11:15	Session 2: Structure of Regional Seas Indicator set (Moderator: UoW) Presentation of suggested structuring of indicators, followed by group discussion. Expected Output: Agreed structure for revised indicator set.
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00	Session 3: Indicator Review (Moderator: UoW) Review of the Regional Seas Core Indicators, to determine classification as core or supplementary indicator. Expected Output: Preliminary list of indicators to be retained, revised, or discontinued, and overview of practices across the Regional Seas.
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Session 3 (continued): Indicator Review (Moderator: UoW) Continuation of discussions on the Regional Seas Core Indicators. Expected Output: Preliminary list of indicators to be retained, revised, or discontinued, and overview of practices across the Regional Seas.
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 - 16:45	Session 3 (continued): Indicator Review (Moderator: UoW) Preliminary list of indicators to be retained, revised, or discontinued. Expected Output: Revised draft set of indicators.
16:45 - 17:00	Daily Wrap-up (Karen Raubenheimer, UoW) Expected Output: Confirmation of key points from Day 1 and agreement on Day 2 agenda.

DAY 02 – Indicator Implementation

05 November 2025

Expected outcome of Day 2: Categorization, tiering structure, and preliminary application of tiers to revised set of indicators

Time	Activity
09:00 - 09:30	Group feedback from Day 1
09:30 - 10:45	Session 4: Method of Indicator Classification (Moderator: UoW) Development of tiers for use in classifying and prioritizing indicators, considering factors such as level of harmonization and data availability. Expected Output: Agreement on format of tiers and method of application to revised draft set of indicators.
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	Session 5: Indicator Classification (Moderator: UoW) Application of prioritization criteria to classify revised draft set of indicators into agreed tiering structure. Expected Output: Draft classification of indicators into tiers.
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	Session 6: Use Cases and Added Value of Indicators (Moderator: Karen Raubenheimer, UoW) Short intervention from Regional Seas on current practices in the utilisation of indicators, demonstrating how Regional Seas Core Indicators contribute to global processes, including the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Expected Output: Strengthened understanding of the practical value of the indicators for global and regional reporting.
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 - 16:15	Session 7: Mechanism, Governance and Financing (Moderator: Alberto Pacheco Capella, UNEP) Follow-up mechanisms such as establishment of an Indicators Working Group. Discussion on roles, responsibilities, and timelines. Expected Output: Agreement on follow-up mechanisms to sustain indicator work, including roles and responsibilities of the Regional Seas.
16:15 - 17:00	Closing Session (Moderator: Mahesh Pradhan, Coordinator, COBSEA) Summary of workshop conclusions and agreed next steps. Briefing on the Field Trip logistics Closing remarks by Alberto Pacheco Capella, Chief, Regional Seas Programme, UNEP Expected Output: Agreed and endorsed list of RS indicators.

DAY 03 – Field Trip

06 November 2025

Departure from UNCC at 08:15 am

For the details please refer to the logistic note through the [link](#).