



United Nations
Environment
Programme



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

RSCAPs Statement to UNOC 3 Ocean Action Panel 8: Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub regional level

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The 24th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) with the participation of the Coordinators and Executive Secretaries of the RSCAPs and several global and Regional Partners, convened by UNEP on 11 June 2025 during UNOC 3 at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nice, France, at the kind invitation of the Government of France *agreed to*:

1. **Acknowledge and welcome** the request by Member States through UNEA 6/15 on Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution for UNEP to strengthen, without prejudice to and within UNEP's mandate, the Regional Seas Programme to further support regional seas conventions and action plans.
2. **Reaffirm** the essential role of multilateralism in addressing ocean-related challenges and recognize that coordinated regional and global action is vital to protect, conserve and restore marine and coastal ecosystems.
3. **Endorse** the updated Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026 – 2029/2030 as a coherent and voluntary framework that guides collective and regionally tailored action across the RSCAPs, serving as a collaborative global platform to support the effective delivery of the RSCAPs, aligning with the renewed momentum at global, regional, and national levels for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 14 and other globally relevant commitments such as the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), the upcoming international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (Plastics Pollution Treaty), UNEA Resolution 6/15 etc. It aims to boost and foster strong collaboration improve coordination among global and regional initiatives, and enhance accountability through harmonized tracking and reporting, enabling the RSCAP to deliver more effectively on their mandate to combat the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
4. **Express** RSCAPs strong commitment to supporting Member States in achieving Target 3 and other associated Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) to conserve at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030 in close **collaboration** with relevant international bodies, including those responsible for

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), and continue working in alignment with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), guided by a shared vision of ocean stewardship.

5. To this aim **takes note** of the RSCAPs Vision and Roadmap towards KM-GBF 30x30 MPA-OECM Target and encourages UNEP, GEF and other Partners and Stakeholders to work together in supporting RSCAPs and Members states to achieve this major target and commitment.
6. **Acknowledge** the role of the RSCAPs as a vital platform for voluntary or legally binding commitments that contribute to the implementation of the global ocean agenda such as the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, the BBNJ Agreement, KM-GBF, and other relevant commitments, whilst respecting existing relevant instruments, frameworks and global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies. The Regional Seas Programme remains instrumental in fostering effective regional and subregional cooperation.
7. **Reaffirm** RSCAPs commitment to collaborate closely with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to promote coherence, strengthen synergies, and support integrated approaches to marine and coastal sustainability; offer a collaborative platform that enables strong regional cooperation, supports stakeholder engagement, and advances the coordinated implementation of these Multilateral Environmental Agreements (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); Climate agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement; the Chemicals and waste conventions including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; The Maritime conventions administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with a particular focus on the MARPOL and London Dumping Protocol; Land and desertification frameworks such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and Atmospheric agreements including the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer).
8. **Welcome** the continued momentum and global solidarity demonstrated through recent high-level engagements focused on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS); acknowledging the outcomes of the Expert Meeting of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS (March 2025, New York), the ISLANDS Forum 2025 (May 2025, Geneva), and the SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum (May 2025, New York), which collectively reaffirmed the international community's commitment to inclusive, resilient, and environmentally sound development pathways for SIDS, and **further recognized** the vital role of the RSCAPs, including the Cartagena Convention, Nairobi Convention, Noumea Convention, and SPREP, which provide regionally tailored frameworks for marine and coastal governance, and whose implementation is essential to addressing the environmental vulnerabilities of SIDS across the Caribbean, Western Indian Ocean, Pacific, and other regions.
9. **Promote** integrated watershed and coastal zone management, including sustainable freshwater governance such as coastal aquifers and transboundary rivers through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Nature-based Solutions (NbS), Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) and Climate Change adaptation. These approaches collectively enhance ecosystem resilience, support biodiversity conservation, and sustain livelihoods, while addressing land degradation in line with UNEP's growing priority to advance sustainable land and water use across interconnected terrestrial and marine systems.
10. **Acknowledge** the RSCAPs collective efforts to enhance data collection, monitoring, and assessment of coastal and marine environments, emphasizing the critical importance of advancing knowledge management that incorporates harmonized data assessment and information generation across the Regional Seas Programme. Such efforts are essential to strengthen dialogue with global science-policy bodies and platforms, provide early warning

including cumulative impact analysis and enable RSCAPs to inform other fora of emerging issues.

11. **Commit** to supporting regionally harmonized data collection, assessment, and monitoring of ocean-related indicators; promoting capacity development to enhance knowledge systems on marine and ocean issues; fostering synergies across RSCAPs reporting requirements to reduce duplication of efforts; catalyzing research to deepen understanding of marine environment; and enhancing science-policy dialogue on marine and coastal issues.
12. **Affirming** that the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources is fundamental for the blue and ocean-based economy, which holds significant potential for inclusive and sustainable development, **Commit** to support Member States to achieve this balance by providing science-based knowledge, legal and institutional frameworks, and practical tools that guide the integration of environmental protection with economic growth.
13. **Welcome** the renewed commitment from the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue, UNEP, and Regional Fisheries Organizations to collaborate on priority issues, including for the implementation of Article 5 of the BBNJ Treaty, implementation of the KM-GBF, and progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
14. **Commit** to explore innovative financing solutions, including blended finance and the application of economic instruments, to advance the effective implementation of RSCAPs, recognizing the importance of fostering solid partnerships with Governments, financial Institutions, Civil Society, private sector, and other stakeholders.
15. **Look forward** to the successful conclusion of the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop The Plastic Pollution Treaty (INC-5.2), scheduled to take place from 5 to 14 August 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland underlining the great potential of the RSCAPs to contribute to its future implementation in line with their mandates and enhance relevant synergies.
16. **Extend** our sincere appreciation to the Government of France for graciously hosting the 24th Global Coordination Meeting of the RSCAPs. The gathering provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen collaboration, align our efforts with global priorities, and build momentum.
17. **Recommend** that the Statement on the outcome of the 24th Global Coordination Meeting of the RSCAPs should be jointly presented by UNEP and the Government of France at the UNOC3 Ocean Action Panel 8: Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub regional level.