

Outlook for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by a Regional Seas Programme

I. BACKGROUND

1. The outcome document of the post 2015 Summit, entitled “*Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”¹ was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015.
2. In the document, 17 Sustainable Goals and 169 associated goals are proposed, many of which are relevant to the work and scope of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs). While the SDGs constitute an indivisible and universal body to be targeted in its entirety, the following goals are highlighted as those more closely relevant to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (ANNEX 1):

Goal 1, especially 1.5; Goal 2 especially 2.4; Goal 5, especially 5.a; Goal 6 especially 6.3, 6.5, and 6.6; Goal 7, especially 7.2, 7.a; Goal 8 especially 8.3, 8.4 and 8.9; Goal 11, especially 11.6; Goal 12, especially 12.2 and 12.4; Goal 13, especially 13.1 and 13.2; Goal 14, especially 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.a, 14.b, and 14.c; and Goal 17, especially 17.16 and 17.18.
3. The RSCAP established a Working Group on Regional Seas Indicators, which agreed on a coordinated set of Regional Seas indicators and decided to align the agreed set with the SDG14 indicators. The Working Group also started the work of aligning the SDGs with the existing regional targets and objectives under the respective regional seas frameworks.
4. The General Assembly through resolution 70/226 decided to organize the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, in New York during 5-9 June 2017. It is expected that practical arrangements for the implementation of the Goal, particularly multi-stakeholder partnerships would be highlighted. Another General Assembly Resolution 70/303 stipulates the modalities of the organization of the Conference.
5. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) made a number of resolutions which also affect the Regional Seas Programme. Among them, the most important ones are: Resolutions 2/4 (Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals); 2/10 (Oceans and Seas); 2/11 (Marine plastic litter and microplastics); 2/12 (Sustainable coral reefs management); and 2/18 (Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat).
6. Operational Paragraph 3 of Resolution 2/10 invites “*the Executive Director to provide the necessary input for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to be organized in June 2017, as appropriate*”. Further the Assembly invites “*Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other regional organizations and for*

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

a, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets” (Operational paragraph 5 of the same Resolution). Please see ANNEX 2 for Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The Agenda 2030 clearly defines the follow-up and review of the SDGs. Some of the principles for SDGs included and relevant to the Regional Seas Programme are (paragraph 74):

“(a) They will be voluntary and country-led, will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities. As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources.”

“(b) They will track progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in all countries in a manner which respects their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development.”

“(f) They will build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid Duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities. They will evolve over time, taking into account emerging issues and the development of new methodologies, and will minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.”

“(h) They will require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries.”

8. The same document indicates that “Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming fifteen years.” (paragraph 47). The Agenda also defines the three levels of follow-up and review: national, regional and global. The national level of follow-up and review is defined as:

“78. We encourage all Member States to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can support the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals and build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.

79. We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.”

9. The regional level follow-up and review is defined as:

“80. Follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels can, as appropriate, provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets. We welcome in this respect the

cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations. Inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

81. Recognizing the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, we encourage all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. United Nations regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting Member States in this regard.”

10. At the global level, the high-level political forum will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. It will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up.
11. The 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans concluded that “[R]egional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will prepare outlook documents (footnote: every Regional Seas Convention and Action Plan will prepare as appropriate), proposing how they can support their countries with the implementation, and monitoring of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets. The documents will be submitted to Un Environment in or der to be utilized in preparation of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”².
12. The current document has been prepared in response to the above-mentioned decision of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans so as to provide guiding elements for the preparation of such “outlook documents”.

II. STEPS TO DEVELOP THE REGIONAL SEAS SDG IMPLEMENTATION OUTLOOK

13. In order to develop the regional seas SDG implementation outlook document (hereinafter referred to as ‘outlook document’), it is suggested that the regional seas programme follow the following steps:
 - i. Review and alignment of the regional objectives³ and targets with SDGs;
 - ii. Establishment of current baseline situation;
 - iii. Identification of Existing and planned programmes and partnerships that contribute to achieving the regional objectives and SDGs (Table 1); and
 - iv. Possible new institutional and financial arrangements for additional effort.
14. For the purpose of the development of the outlook document, this current guide focuses on the following SDGs and associated targets, which are grouped into two priority groups:

Primary priority Goal and targets: Goal 14, especially 14.1,14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.a, 14.b, and 14.c

² UNEP/WBRS.18/9

³ The regional objectives include: regional ecological objectives, quality objectives, objectives and targets in the Strategic Action Programme, Good Environment Status, objectives of the Conventions and Protocols and targets and objectives in the regional seas Action Plan.

Secondary priority Goals and targets: Goal 2 especially 2.4; Goal 5, especially 5.a; Goal 6 especially 6.3 and 6.5; Goal 7, especially 7.2; Goal 8 especially 8.3, 8.4 and 8.9; Goal 11, especially 11.6; Goal 12, especially 12.2 and 12.4; Goal 13, especially 13.1 and 13.2;;and Goal 17, especially 17.16 and 17.18.

(i) Aligning the regional objectives with SDGs

15. The regional seas programmes and/or their Member States have developed various strategic documents, ranging from the Regional Seas Conventions and associated Protocols, regional strategies for sustainable development (such as the revised one for the Mediterranean, adopted in 2016), Action Plans, Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) and National Action Programmes (in support of the SAPs). These documents normally set clear objectives, goals and targets for the regional seas. Some of these strategic instruments were developed and agreed upon outside the regional seas programmes, but the same member states of the regional seas programmes committed themselves to achieve the strategic objectives and goals included in these policy instruments. These documents engage and in many cases oblige the member States in achieving the objectives and goals clearly defined in them.
16. In the implementation of these documents and its monitoring, each regional seas programme has its own institutional framework. It is proposed that each regional seas programme list up all relevant regional objectives, goals and targets in relation to the relevant SDGs and their associated targets. It is further proposed that the regional seas programme review them from the perspective of how achieving these regional objectives, goals and targets would contribute to the SDGs and associated targets.
17. Some of the regional seas programmes already completed the exercise of the mapping and alignments using a format developed by the UNEP (ANNEX 3). The results were compiled by UNEP and is available(UNEP/WBRS.18/3 Annex 2). When the regional seas secretariat agreed the results can be uploaded in the UNEP-Live MEA synergies website.
18. If and when the Member States of the specific regional seas programme so decide based on the review above, the programme may revise the existing objectives, goals and targets to be aligned with the global targets.
19. With such an exercise as proposed above, the member States of the regional seas programme can clearly recognise that achieving the regional objectives, targets and goals would lead to the implementation of the SDGs. Targeting specific regional seas ecosystems they share, they can move towards a regionally coordinated SDGs implementation and mutual assistance among them.
20. Once the SDGs are closely aligned with the regional seas strategic documents, necessary actions at national and regional levels should be defined within the strategic document frameworks. The development of national measures/programmes should be consistent of or take into consideration the measures/programmes including implementation and monitoring developed or being developed by member states, and in consultation with Regional Seas participating countries. Some of regional seas strategic documents are accompanied by national programmes in support of achieving the regional strategic targets. Clear definition or revision of regional goals/objectives/targets within the regional seas strategic documents should lead to development of a set of national measures or national programmes in support of achieving the Ocean related regional strategic targets/objectives/goals.

(ii) Establishment of current baseline situation

21. After the mapping exercise, the regional seas programme is encouraged to establish the current baseline situation from the perspectives of both (a) environmental status and (b) existing and planned activities related to the targets concerned.
22. The ecological baseline situation can be established through the regular regional seas state of the marine environment reporting (also called Quality Status Report, State of the Coast Report, depending on the region). For example, in relation to target 14.5, the regional seas may establish a coverage of marine protected areas over its geographic coverage. This may be divided into country-level breakdown as well as in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (including the areas under dispute) if the latter is included in the regional seas geographic coverage. It is highly encouraged that the regional seas programme would use the SDG indicator and/or its own indicators to establish such baseline environmental situation.
23. Further, each regional seas programme is encouraged to establish the baseline activities at the local, national and regional levels under the regional seas framework. These baseline activities include the activities that are under implementation or planned with firm funding from the national budgets or regional budgetary schemes for the period until 2020 (for both targets for 2020 and 2030) and from 2021 to 2030 (for those targets for 2030).
24. The baseline activities that are linked with baseline budgets are most probably already listed in the strategic documents of the regional seas programmes, including the regional seas action plans, strategic action programmes, national action programmes, sustainable development strategy, etc. for the purpose of achieving the set regional objectives and targets with which regional seas programmes could have aligned SDG targets. With the baseline activities, the regional seas programme could identify how much of the set regional targets could be achieved and therefore would be able to identify the gap in achieving the targets based on the baseline activities. The gaps identified should be covered by the incremental cost which should be tied with financing mechanisms including global or multilateral funding, such as Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, etc., which clearly targets global environmental benefits and/or achieving global environmental targets, such as Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement. An innovative financial mechanism should be explored, such as debt-swap, payment for ecosystem services, revolving fund, endowment funds, taxing and green bonds.
25. Overall, it is suggested that the below table would be filled in by each regional seas programme for each of the targets the programme is concerned about.

Table 1: table to be used for indicating baseline and necessary activities and budgets

Target: Baseline situation:			
Baseline activities	Baseline budget (US\$)	Expected achievement for the target concerned	Gap in the baseline activities
Summary of the baseline activities	Total:	Total achievement vis-à-vis the target	Total gap in achieving the target concerned

26. It is further suggested that a narrative of the baseline situation and activities should also be prepared whereby challenges of the region and opportunities for the region should also be identified.

(iii) Existing and planned programmes and partnerships that contribute to achieving the regional objectives and SDGs

27. In order to fill the gaps of achieving the target concerned, the regional seas programme and its member countries may develop new programmes or partnerships based on, involving and further to the baseline activities identified in the previous steps. Such regional seas initiatives may be aligned with the global initiatives or partnerships. In this step, each regional seas programme is encouraged to identify a strategic programme/partnership that may be developed to fill the gap between the baseline situation and the target concerned. It is understood that some of the regional seas are already in discussion with UNEP and other international organisations to develop regional initiatives under the UNEP or UN organization global partnerships (ANNEX 4 presented a list of UNEP global multi-stakeholder partnerships).
28. ANNEX 5 presents a list of possible action and possible link with other organisations' activities and possible sources support for the SDG14 targets. Naturally these are funded by funding from outside the region or new funding opportunities emerging within the region. Preliminary identification of such incremental funding opportunities in this step may guide the regional seas programme to choose certain strategies in filling the target achievement gaps.

(iv) Possible new institutional and financial arrangements for additional effort

29. In order to implement the partnerships or programmes identified in the previous step, the regional seas programme may explore a new institutional arrangement or financial mechanism.
30. Many of the SDGs may be considered to be outside the scope and mandate of the regional seas programmes. Among them regional seas programmes may decide to achieve and monitor some of them by establishing partnership with relevant regional and/or international organisations. For example, in regard to the fishery related SDGs, regional seas programmes may work with regional fisheries bodies to jointly assist the member States in their implementation and monitoring. The regional seas programme may seek institutional memorandum of understanding with the regional fisheries bodies.
31. The regional seas programme may opt to participate in the global partnerships or programmes, and may establish institutional cooperation agreement with them. Further, new policy or legal instruments may be agreed upon among the member states, such as regional marine litter action plan or integrated coastal zone management protocol.
32. Each regional seas programme is encourage to review such a need or opportunity to seek new arrangements under the existing programme.

III. REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

33. The implementation of the strategic documents is to be reviewed by the existing regional seas institutional mechanisms, such as Conference of the Parties, Intergovernmental Meetings, etc. By incorporating SDGs into the strategic documents of the regional seas, the

existing regional seas institutional frameworks should be able to review the implementation of the SDGs relevant to their scope and mandates.

34. These national programmes associated with the regional strategic documents may be expressed in new national marine programmes or revised national programmes of action, and thus their implementation is subject to review by the regional seas mechanisms. Further such national programmes should be incorporated into national responses, possibly in the form of national development plans or national sustainable development plans, as advocated by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (paragraph 78). Any information generated through the regional seas programmes on the national action, in this manner, can be incorporated into the national reporting to the High-level Political Forum.
35. As advocated in paragraph 81 of Agenda 2030 where all member states have been encouraged to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. UNEP strongly believes that the regional seas mechanisms should be recognised as a regional platform to carry out review and follow-up of the related SDGs and associated targets.
36. It is therefore proposed that each regional seas programme start discussing with its member states to use the existing regional seas mechanisms to continuous monitoring the implementation of the regional targets and the global SDG related targets. The regional seas follow-up and review mechanism can take the form of ad hoc meetings, subsidiary bodies, working groups or task forces, and can be tasked with the following possible action:
 - Development of a regionally harmonized national reporting format for the SDGs which are relevant to the regional seas programmes and which are agreed by them for their follow-up and review ;
 - Regional review of the national reports for the implementation of their strategic instruments, and connected SDGs and associated targets;
 - Peer learning among the member states on the implementation and reporting;
 - Review of the relevant regional partnerships; and
 - Exchange of best practices.

IV. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMM

37. Each regional seas programme is encouraged to develop an SDG implementation outlook document, following the four steps above. After the completion of the implementation outlook, it is recommended to submit the outlook document to UNEP Regional Seas Programme. UNEP will enter into exchange of lessons learnt on the development of outlook documents among those regional seas programmes that developed outlook documents.
38. Each regional seas programme should discuss with its member states to use its inter-governmental mechanism to be a regional implementation, follow-up and review platform for the relevant SDGs and their targets.

ANNEX 1: Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets relevant to the Regional Seas Programme

“Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality”

“Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

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

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

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

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

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

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation (Footnote 2: Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate)

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

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

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want”

The other goals that may be considered to be relevant by some of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are:

“Goal 1. End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”

“Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws”

“Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for all

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safer reuse globally

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

“Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and clean fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy efficiency”

“Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”

“Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impacts of cities, including paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management”

“Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.2 By 2030 achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”

“Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measured into national policies, strategies and planning”

“Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context”

ANNEX 2: REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme, launched in 1974, is one of UNEP's most significant achievements in the past 40 years. It aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through sustainable management and use of resources and by engaging littoral countries in specific actions to protect shared marine environments. It has accomplished this by stimulating the creation of regional seas programmes for sound environmental management coordinated and implemented by countries sharing a common body of water.

2. Today, more than 150 countries participate in 14 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, South Asian Seas, ROPME Sea Area, Mediterranean, North-East Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South-East Pacific, Pacific, Caspian and West and Central Africa) established under the auspices of UNEP. Secretariats of seven of these regional seas programmes are administered by inter-governmental organisations or regional centres while the remaining seven are administered by UNEP. These regional seas programmes received financial and technical support from UNEP in the initial phases of development of an action plan and its initial implementation. There are other regional seas conventions and action plans under general UNEP coordination, and these are Northeast Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Arctic Ocean and Southern Ocean.

3. The Regional Seas programmes function through the implementation of Action Plans. In most cases, such Action Plans are underpinned with strong legal frameworks in the form of regional Conventions and associated Protocols addressing specific problems. In the Action Plans and in some cases in the Protocols, specific objectives and goals are defined for their member states and parties to collectively achieve. In some regional seas, thematic action plans exist and were agreed, such as regional marine litter action plans, regional action plans on land-based sources of pollution, regional contingency plans for accidental oil and chemical spills, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Offshore resource extract, and regional marine biodiversity action plans. In some regional seas, Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) were agreed upon, mainly through the GEF funded projects. These thematic action plans and SAPs also clearly define regional objectives, goals and sometimes targets.

4. Different regional Action Plans and associated legal instruments have varied scopes of action at regional and national levels depending on the perceived and assessed issues and problems related to the regional seas environment, requiring different sets of action from one region to another. Generally speaking, many of the regional seas programmes were started based on the scope of the UNEP marine environment activities as defined by the UNEP Governing Council: The overall strategy to be followed was defined by UNEP's Governing Council as :

- Promotion of international and regional conventions, guidelines and actions for the control of marine pollution and for the protection and management of aquatic resources;
- Assessment of the state of marine pollution, of the sources and trends of this pollution, and of the impact of the pollution on human health, marine ecosystems and amenities;
- Co-ordination of the efforts with regard to the environmental aspects of the protection, development and management of marine and coastal resources; and
- Support for education and training efforts to make possible the full participation of developing countries in the protection, development and management of marine and coastal resources.

5. Over the years when the regional seas programmes developed themselves by addressing regional or global emerging issues and needs, the scope of these programmes have also been modified. Many human and sector activities are considered to be pressure to degrade the marine environment, and in order to address the sources and threats to the degradation of the marine environment, the regional seas programmes started addressing the human activities identified to be significant from the perspective of the protection of the marine environment. Further by introducing the ecosystem approach, the member states and regional seas programmes recognised that the maintenance of the marine ecosystem functioning is related to economic and social benefits. Different regional seas programmes took different pathways for their own evolution, resulting in different programmes and their scopes. In their 19th meeting (Athens, February 2016), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan adopted the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (2016-2025) which is an integrative policy framework and a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional, subregional and national levels. Its regional sustainable development is being monitored through sustainable development indicators and followed up by the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Commission. The East Africa regional seas programme introduced the blue economy concept and started working with other ocean sectoral organisations.

6. UNEP by issuing the document, “Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas” where setting and agreeing on ecosystem-based objectives/targets as well as the monitoring of their achievements have been promoted. Annex II indicates the compiled information on the strategic documents each regional seas programme use to define its goals, objectives and targets.

ANNEX III: FORMAT FOR ALIGNMENT FOR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of the Regional Sea programme: _____

Name of the responsible person: _____ Contact (email): _____

< Guidance >

Section 1 includes SDG targets that are relevant to all the Regional Seas programmes. Section 2 includes those that could be relevant to some of the Regional Seas programmes. It is encouraged to fill th Section 1 as well as relevant targets in Section 2.

1. Please list regional targets / objectives relevant to the corresponding SDG target. If your region has several documents for regional targets, please mention the name of the source document. (e.g. Reduce marine litter by 25% by 2020 (Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter))
2. Please list relevant indicator(s) for the regional target / objectives.

Section 1: SDG Targets that are relevant to all the Regional Seas programmes

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve	2.4.1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits. 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
land and soil quality		14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.			
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	14.1.1. Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.		
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	14.2.1. Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. 6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided,	4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
		recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits. 14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable. 15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating			

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
		desertification.			
14.3. Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	4.3.1. Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		
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	14.4.1. Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts	3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics		on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits. 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.			
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	14.5.1. Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	14.6.1. Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions. 6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
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	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries				
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	14.a.1. Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.			

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
14.b. Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1. Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.		
14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in	14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources		4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
paragraph 158 of “The future we want”					

Section 2: SDG Targets that are relevant to some of the Regional Seas programmes

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services				
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-	1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people			2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions	

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters				made at the UNFCCC COP21.	
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations				
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe WASH services)				
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions				
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of	5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or				

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	control				
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1. Proportion of wastewater safely treated 6.3.2. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.		1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.	
6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	6.4.1. Percentage change in water use efficiency over time 6.4.2. Percentage of total available water resources used, taking environmental water requirements into account (level of water stress)	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. 11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other			

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
		effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.			
6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1. Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100) 6.5.2. Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.	
6.6. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	6.6.1. Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based			

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
		conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. 14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.			
7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption		2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		
7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and	7.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment		2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology					
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex				
8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on	8.4.1. Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 8.4.2. Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead					
8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate 8.9.2 Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex		3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.		
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport				
9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of	9.4.1 CO2 emission per unit of value added		1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1. 3. Develop integrated,		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities			ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.		
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people		2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1 Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge with regard to the total waste generated by the city 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate		1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
	matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)				
12.2. By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1. Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption (DMC) and DMC per capita, per GDP	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita, proportion of hazardous waste treated and by type of treatment		1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled		1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.		
13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.1. Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies 13.1.2. Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people	15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		
13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.1. Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
	production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)				
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area 15.1.2. Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. 11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. 14. By 2020, ecosystems that	4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
		provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.			
15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	15.2.1. Progress towards sustainable forest management	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		
15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	15.3.1. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	15.5.1. Red List Index	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		
17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals		4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.		

SDG Target(s)	SDG Indicator(s)	Aichi Biodiversity Target	RSSD (2017-2020)	Your regional target / objective	Indicators
17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics				

ANNEX 4: PRELIMINARY LIST OF GLOBAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS WHICH UNEP CONVENES OR SUPPORTS

- Regional Seas Programme (RSP)
- Global Coral Reef Partnership
- Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)
- Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM)
- Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GWNM)
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)
- 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)
- Clean Air and Climate Coalition (CACC)
- Blue Carbon Initiative
- 10x20 Initiative
- Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management
- Global Partnership on Mercury
- Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
- Ozone Action
- Global Adaptation Network
- Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance
- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)
- International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- Global Wastewater Initiative (GW2I)

ANNEX 5: POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTANABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

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

- Implementation of the regional seas action plans on land-based sources of pollution through addressing the sources of pollution, particularly the source categories of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
- Setting up investment schemes/programmes to address sources of pollution, such as Horizon 2020 or Caribbean Regional Fund on Wastewater and establishment of wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural runoff control schemes, etc.
- Engagement of community based organisations in the water clean-up campaigns such as beach clean-up
- Introduction and implementation of accidental oil and chemicals spills contingency plans, including organisation of spill response equipment in the region
- Ratification of emergency protocols of the regional seas
- Phase down or phase out of a set of chemicals for specific uses, such as mercury under the Minamata Convention, PCBs under the Stockholm Convention, etc.
- Agreement or cooperation with river basin management organisations on specific pollutants
- Introduction of payment schemes for pollution source reduction
- Private public partnership for private sectors that emit or discharge contaminants

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

- Setting up management schemes for important ecosystems, such as coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes, cold corals, thermal vents, seamounts, etc.
- Adoption and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management/Integrated Coastal Management plan/scheme
- Establishment and implementation of a Regional Seas programme
- Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries using the FAO code of conduct and associated guidelines

- Designation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
- Designation and management of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas
- Introduction of payment schemes for the users of ecosystems services
- Ecosystem restoration by applying restoration technologies, such as replanting, biomanipulation, etc.
- Control and removal of invasive alien species
- Introduction of sustainable alternative livelihoods in the ecosystem areas of concern
- Implementation of a Large Marine Ecosystem project
- Establishment of regional ecosystem-based integrated strategies and policies

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

- Establishment of a network of acidification monitoring network
- Modelling of impacts of climate change, particularly ocean acidification and water warming on ocean ecosystems in regional seas
- Establishment of a network of researchers on ocean acidification, including social scientists on socio-economic implications of ocean acidification
- Achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement
- Designation and management of climate refugia

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

- Ratification of the Port State Measures Agreement
- Introduction of juvenile evasive fishing gears, or by catch exclusive devices
- Enforcement of ban on destructive fishing practices, such as dynamite fishing, fish poisoning, and illegal fishing net size
- Introduction and implementation of fisheries refugia
- Designation and implementation of the maximum sustainable yields

- Designation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
- Establishment of an Memorandum of Understanding with a Regional Fisheries Bodies
- Use of the existing and new Marine Protected Areas for the restoration of fish stocks

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

- Designation of Marine Protected Areas according to the IUCN Protected Areas categories
- Development of a regional network of Marine Protected Areas based on the connectivity and regional representativity analyses
- Designation of marine corridors
- Implementation of other Area-based Management measures, such as marine spatial planning, fishing closure, sea lanes, underwater cable areas
- Development of management plans for the Marine Protected Areas
- Setting up management capacities in the Marine Protected Areas, including provision of surveillance equipment, fencing, patrolling equipment, etc.
- Introduction and enforcement of necessary legislations and regulations for the Marine Protected Areas
- Implementation of Specially Protected Area protocols of the regional seas

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation (Footnote 2: Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate)

- Encouraging becoming a member of World Tourism Organisation

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

- Support fiscal reform to accommodate international and regional investment in ocean-related economic sectors
- Development of national or regional sector development investment programmes, particularly, port development, coastal tourism, fisheries, marine energy development, aquaculture

- Introduction of natural capital accounting and introduction of climate change financing to enhance ecosystem services
- Introduction of payment for ecosystem services to benefit ocean related sectors.
- Development of national macro-economic transition strategy to sustainable blue economy

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

- Becoming part of the Climate Technology Centre and Network
- Organise a regional network of marine research institutions and scientists
- Participation in the global ocean monitoring initiatives, such as Global Ocean Observing System, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, Future Earth Coast, Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network,
- Establish regional data and information networks under the regional seas programme
- Introduction of guidelines for marine bioprospecting

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

- Introduction of Right-based approach to fisheries

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

- Ratification of UNCLOS
- Ratification of IMO Conventions, ILO Convention, CBD and other legal instruments that are relevant to oceans
- Ratification of regional seas conventions and associated protocols
- Development of new regional seas conventions where such conventions do not exist
- Development of Memoranda of Understanding with other ocean sectoral bodies, such as International Maritime Organization, Regional Fisheries Bodies, International Seabed Authority. Regional/sub-regional economic commissions
- Full implementation of COP/Commission/Inter-governmental Meeting decisions/resolutions

- Reinforcement of regional seas financial mechanisms, including introduction of innovative financial mechanisms

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ANNEX 6: A typical outline of the Regional Seas Programme SDG implementation outlook document

1. Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals in general and those related to the regional seas programme

General introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets is included in this chapter. Possible roles of the regional seas programme concerned should be clearly mentioned. Further, it clearly described as to which Goals and targets are relevant to the regional seas programme and which targets are given priority within the framework of the regional seas programmes.

2. Introduction of the regional strategic documents and the goals and targets included in these documents of the regional seas programme concerned

In this chapter, a list of regional seas strategic documents will be presented. Further, regional goals and targets included in these documents, which have been agreed upon by their member states and which are relevant to the priority SDG targets in the preceding chapter will be presented.

3. Alignment of the regional goals and targets with the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Using the format in Annex 3 in this document, alignment of the regional targets and goals with the global ones can be presented.

4. Baseline environmental and resource situation related to the SDG targets the regional seas programme focuses on

For each of the SDG targets the regional seas programme concerned is focusing on, the baseline environmental and resource situation will be described. This baseline situation should be linked with the indicators with which the target is related. Some of the indicators are not clearly defined, and in these cases, the baseline situation should be better defined using quantifiable indicators and variables that the regional seas programmes already set.

5. Effort of the regional seas programme to achieve relevant sustainable development goals

For each of the SDG targets the regional seas programme concerned is focusing on, the following table should be filled in based on the information on the baseline activities and analysis of the gaps between baseline activities and targets. Please see the main text of this document for details in filling out this table.

A table to be used for indicating baseline and necessary activities and budgets

<i>Target:</i>			
<i>Baseline situation:</i>			
<i>Baseline activities</i>	<i>Baseline budget (US\$)</i>	<i>Expected achievement for the target concerned</i>	<i>Gap in the baseline activities</i>
<i>Summary of the baseline activities</i>	<i>Total:</i>	<i>Total achievement vis-à-vis the target</i>	<i>Total gap in achieving the target concerned</i>

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6. New and additional partnerships, projects and programmes to achieve the targets concerned

Please list up all necessary regional partnerships, programmes and projects in which the member states and regional seas partners would be involved to fill the gaps of the achievements of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to achieve the targets, if the revision of the strategic documents of the regional seas programmes is necessary, please also indicate what would be expected in terms of revision of these documents. Additional commitments of the member states and regional seas partners should be clearly indicated.

DRAFT