



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



Distr.: General  
31 October 2025  
Original: English

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

**Report of the Twenty-Fourth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas  
Programme**

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## Background

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme (RSP) was established in 1974 in the wake of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm. It remains one of UNEP's most significant achievements and operates in 18 regions, with most regions adopting a regional action plan underpinned by a legal framework in the form of a regional convention with associated protocols on specific issues. UNEP administers 7 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP), with 11 being independently administered. UNEP provides coordination and facilitation mechanisms and in so doing connects the programme to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
2. The Global Meetings of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans organized by UNEP is a coordination mechanism of the eighteen (18) Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. This meeting provides a platform for adoption of global strategies for cooperation, channelling programmatic support and strengthening linkages between the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and other relevant global conventions and agreements.
3. The 24th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans was held during the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) in Nice, France.

## Opening statements

4. **Inger Andersen**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants of the 24th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans. She thanked the government of France and the city of Nice for hosting the meeting and paid tribute to the late Stjepan Keckes, the visionary founder of the Regional Seas Programme. She emphasized the critical role of the Regional Seas Programme has played since its inception in 1974, and the establishment of the first Regional Seas Convention and Action Plan, the Barcelona Convention in 1975. The Regional Seas Programme now encompasses 18 conventions and action plans across 146+ countries.
5. Meeting takes place at a time of increasing ocean crises—rising sea levels, acidification, and pollution—she acknowledged the Regional Seas Programme's long-standing leadership in marine protection and sustainable use. The upcoming Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2026–2029) aim to accelerate action at the time when it is needed the most. She further noted that, through the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans efforts, 31 countries have already protected over 30% of their ocean areas, contributing significantly to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the blue carbon targets under the Paris Agreement. However, she emphasized that only 8.6% of marine areas are protected globally—just 2.7% fully under management—and bottom trawling remains a concern in some protected areas.
6. On the high seas, only 1.7% is fully protected and only 25% are mapped. Andersen stressed the urgency of ratifying and implementing the new 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) and noted France's leadership in advancing it. She stated that UNEP, under Susan Gardner's direction, stands ready to support Member States and has proposed hosting the BBNJ Secretariat to ensure alignment with plastics, chemicals, and biodiversity conventions.

7. In closing, Inger Andersen underscored the vital importance of deepening collaboration across multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). With UNEP already hosting 17 conventions—and soon the new Plastics Convention—she expressed strong support for UNEP to serve as the host of the new BBNJ Secretariat. She emphasized that UNEP, offers a unique platform for aligning substantive action across biodiversity, chemicals, and plastics, and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) must work in close partnership with other MEAs to support Member States in implementing the BBNJ Agreement. She welcomed the endorsement of a joint statement on regional and sub-regional collaboration and looked ahead to the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 7) as a key opportunity to further strengthen synergies across MEAs for more effective and integrated ocean governance.
8. **H.E. Agnès Pannier-Runacher**, Minister of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, Sea and Fisheries of France, welcomed participants to Nice and expressed her pride in hosting the Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions at UNOC 3. She thanked UNEP, the Executive Director, and Tatjana Hema for their leadership in bringing together the secretariats of all 18 Regional Seas Conventions and acknowledged their critical role in multilateral ocean governance. France is a strong partner, being a party to six of these conventions.
9. She emphasized the complementary role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in advancing global ocean goals, including the BBNJ Agreement, the fight against plastic pollution, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and efforts to address marine pollution from chemicals.
10. Highlighting the positive energy of the meeting, she noted that the discussions had created a “before and after” moment in Nice, despite global tensions. The gathering demonstrated that multilateralism is alive and capable of mobilizing collective action. She expressed optimism about BBNJ ratification by the end of the year and urged the community to begin focusing on implementation. She also highlighted the need to ratify the WTO Agreement on harmful fisheries subsidies, which is nearing the required threshold, and encouraged a final push to secure it.
11. In terms of biodiversity, she celebrated progress toward the 30x30 target, noting that global ocean protection may rise from 8.6% to 12% after this meeting, and that France will protect 78% of its waters by 2026, including 10% under strict protection. Regional cooperation was identified as a top priority of the conference, reflected in both a dedicated panel on regional collaboration and the integration of the Global Meeting of the Regional Seas into UNOC. She stressed that RSCAPs' complementary actions are critical to achieving shared 2030 goals.
12. Finally, she called on all stakeholders — from governments to local actors — to sustain the momentum beyond UNOC and continue using RSCAPs frameworks to promote ocean ambitions. She offered full support for the endorsement of the new Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026-2029, expected to be announced during the Ocean Panel 8 on regional cooperation.

## **Section 4. Status of implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2022–2025**

13. Moderator Yegor Volovik, Coordinator of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), welcomed the participants to the first session by reminding everyone that all action is taken on the ground, hence, there is a need to consider that when discussing the Strategic Directions.
14. Jared Bosire, Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention, presented the development of the current Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2022–2025, highlighting its aim to raise the visibility of Regional Seas as key platforms for implementing MEAs, linking national needs to global policy, strengthening ties with UNEA and the 2030 Agenda, and addressing emerging issues such as marine litter, chemicals, and biodiversity. Bosire emphasized that the RSSD was developed with reference to global targets, UNEA resolutions, The Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) of the UNEP and Programme of Work (PoW), and relevant MEAs, while integrating cross-cutting concepts such as the ecosystem and One Health approaches, gender equality, nature-based solutions, and post-COVID recovery through “building back better.” It emphasizes harmonized methods and strategic partnerships.
15. Bosire further explained that the RSSD 2022–2025 outlines an overarching objective to achieve a diverse, resilient, and pollution-free ocean that supports equitable and sustainable livelihoods. It defines medium-term outcomes (to 2025) and a long-term vision (beyond 2025), structured around three strategic goals:
  1. Securing diverse, resilient, and productive marine and coastal ecosystems (six targets);
  2. Supporting assessment, information and knowledge management, and science-policy dialogue (five targets);
  3. Expanding the reach and integration of the Regional Seas Programme through advocacy, political support, and cooperation (five targets).
16. UNEP activities supporting each goal are identified, alongside a phased approach for progress reporting and development of targets and indicators. Two reporting options are proposed: the Global Annual Meeting of RSCAPs and regular reporting to the UN Environment Assembly, enabling UNEA to provide guidance where needed.
17. Current RSSD includes two sets of indicators: (1) RSP-specific indicators (activity- and impact-based), including the 22 Regional Seas indicators, and (2) relevant global indicators such as those from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), MTS, and the proposed Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). An initial set of indicators was proposed at the 2021 Global Annual Meeting of RSCAPs, with mid-term reporting offering an opportunity to refine the framework ahead of final reporting in 2025.
18. Bosire briefed that in February 2025 there has been an implementation survey conducted by the University of Wollongong. The survey gathered input from eight RSCAPs on the implementation of the RSSD 2022–2025, including its integration into regional strategies, implementation experiences, challenges, validation of reporting against core indicators, barriers to applying indicators, baseline and data collection practices, and suggestions for improving the next RSSD. According to the survey, seven of the eight RSCAPs reported using the RSSD 2022–2025 to guide their strategies, with Goal I being the most frequently referenced. Common areas of focus included biodiversity loss, pollution, knowledge management, and advocacy. Several RSCAPs, such as NOWPAP and Barcelona Convention,

plan to update their regional strategies to align with the RSSD, while others, like COBSEA, PERSGA, and HELCOM, have already integrated RSSD principles or indicators into their frameworks and policy agendas.

19. The survey further collected implementation experiences – successes and challenges. The results reported that all three RSSD goals were relevant to RSCAPs, though many activities were cross-cutting; it supported alignment of assessment and monitoring efforts, particularly under Goals II and III, while some elements were formally adopted into regional policies, and one action plan review in 2026 is expected to reflect the RSSD—though alignment with climate change and One Health remained limited.
20. When addressing the barriers to applying RSSD indicators, the survey revealed limited financial and human resources, reliance on short-term external projects, constrained national capacity, political instability, and difficulty aligning with national priorities; while some indicators were adopted or formalised through decisions, challenges remain in integrating them into legal frameworks, and tracking is more common for activity indicators than for outcomes.
21. The survey further found that the baseline setting, and data collection practices vary widely across regions, with many lacking established baselines; monitoring is often irregular, qualitative, and project-dependent, with some progress on baselines for marine litter, eutrophication, and pollution—though consistent tracking of impact and outcome indicators remains limited and largely reliant on external funding.
22. According to the survey, the suggestions for improving the next RSSD included closer alignment with existing regional strategies, UNEP’s MTS and PoW, and global frameworks such as the SDGs and KMGBF; respondents also highlighted the need to address challenges linked to national priority alignment, and recommended UNEP support through annual funding for RSSD-related activities and facilitation of technical exchanges among RSCAPs.
23. Following the presentation on the current RSSD 2022-2025, Moderator Yegor Volovik, Coordinator of NOWPAP, raised a question of the duration of the new RSSD. He suggested to align the timeline of the next RSSD with the timeline of the GBF, by setting the dates to be 2026-2030 lasting for 5 years, instead of the previously established 4 years period. Volovik highlighted that member states of NOWPAP are legally bound by the MTS, whereas RSSD is a non-binding document for a non-UNEP RSCAP. Later during the meeting Ole Vestergaard (UNEP) clarified that MTS is 2026-2029 and he advised RSSD to follow the same timeline. Due to the updated RSSD being a re-iteration of the previous one, Wahid M. Moufaddal, The Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), suggested that perhaps continuing with the 4-year duration will continue the tradition. The final decision was made during the meeting to keep the 4-year period.
24. Mamadou Kane, Abidjan Convention, has followed up on the implementation survey and said that Abidjan Convention has not responded to the survey but would gladly contribute to the discussion of the goals: On Goal I: Abidjan convention is working on the protocol on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is still in the process of finalisation and is currently adding national stakeholder engagement and approval from the member states. It will be one of the tools that will be used to improve on that goal. Furthermore, there is a new MPA in Mauritania in Nouadhibou as well as Cote-d’Ivoire has an MPA currently under development,

additionally 2 MPAs in Senegal and in Benin that have been developed – at the moment waiting on the government to choose the focal points and entities to be responsible for the management. Currently Abidjan Convention is pushing for the ratification of 4 different protocols. Kane prompted by Volovik has kindly offered to provide this update in a written form.

25. David Agnew from Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) convention additionally recognised that CCAMLR also was slow to respond to the survey. However, instead of updating the audience orally, he suggested to record where those gaps are to be able to enter the new strategic phase so that the baseline is updated. Agnew also followed up with the belated comments to the document.
26. Jared Bosire (Nairobi Convention) supported the procedure for any RSCAPs that have missed the submission of their comments on time, their feedback can be later recuperated to have a baseline for the new RSSD and not spend time discuss it on the floor. Supported by Volovik.
27. Chris Corbin (Cartagena Convention) reflected upon the activities in the wider Caribbean Region.
  - a. On Goal I: use of Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based management are reflected in several projects
  - b. On Goal II: praised those conventions that have Regional Activity Centres and networks, giving credit to the SPAW Regional Activity centre and their work on coral reefs.
  - c. Goal III: highlighted the successful collaboration with non-UNEP administered and UNEP-administered RSCAPs, providing an example of OSPAR - Cartagena convention collaboration on compliance and nutrients, Barcelona Convention supported Cartagena convention on reporting and compliance, and discussing with Abidjan convention how to address the issue of sargassum.
28. Mahesh Pradhan highlighted work of COBSEA
  - a. On Goal I – China is one of the COBSEA Participating countries. They asked to hold on to adopting the new marine and coastal ecosystems framework until the adoption of KMGBF. COBSEA adopted this framework in April 2023 – it was one of the first regional frameworks that integrated GBF targets
  - b. On Goal II: knowledge and data aspects: marine litter activities – knowledge platform was created – from the data perspective COBSEA makes sure the platform is linked globally and within the countries.
  - c. Goal III: mainstreaming – 10th Our Ocean Conference – the Regional Seas had a successful event on the triple planetary crisis. And the Republic of Korea might host the 4th UN Ocean Conference in 2028.
29. Volovik followed up on the last point by Pradhan about the 10th Our Ocean Conference. He highlighted that the COBSEA and NOWPAP side event was attended by Peter Thompson, the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, however there was still a lack of representation from RSCAPs beyond UNEP administered – a call to UNEP to engage more with RSCAPs who are non-UNEP administered.
30. Tatjana Hema mentioned Barcelona Convention's 2 achievements that show successful implementation of the RSSD:

- a. Delivered the quality status report 2023 – quality assured data based on national monitoring programme
  - b. Mediterranean is considered a hot spot for Climate change– MAP’s partners decided to build a new Regional Activity Centre (RAC) on Climate Change.
31. Wahid M. Moufaddal (ROPME) highlighted the financial and institutional challenges for ROPME linked with coordination. He sought to draw attention to scientific challenges. ROPME area is half million square kilometres. Moufaddal emphasised the need of funds for research and observation tools, increase the number of RACs.
32. Volovik, responding to Moufaddal’s request, pointed out that research does not fall within the core mandate of the Regional Seas Programme, as it is not a research organization. However, he mentioned that RSCAPs are closely involved in collaboration with researchers and gave a few examples such as development of tools on satellite monitoring for eutrophication, collaborating and communicating. Volovik circled back to Hema’s point on Climate Change – responding that RSCAPs cannot impose anything on the countries. For example, in NOWPAP the constituents are reluctant to let NOWPAP implement national commitments – instead the constituents emphasize the role of NOWPAP in building capacity, providing harmonization tools and providing the technical language for reporting the results.
33. Iryna Makarenko (The Black Sea Commission) highlighted ongoing projects in the Black Sea made possible through strong collaborations such as
  1. Trilateral collaboration between the UNEP/MAP, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), The Black Sea Commission
  2. Aquabound survey initiative is about to be launched (on abundance and distribution of cetaceans)
  3. The Black Sea Commission has a project with GEF in the pipeline that targets addressing the Target 3 in CBD
34. Ziad H. Abu Ghararah, (Jeddah Convention) informed that the PERSGA region organises a meeting for all the research institutes and universities conducting marine research twice a year. The parties discuss the gap in science policy interface, identify areas of focus for science-based decision making and pass the findings to the Ministers during the meeting.
35. Volovik appreciated the targeted research conducted by the RSCAPs, as an example he mentioned that HELCOM and NOWPAP support universities and incorporate their findings in decision making. The Black Sea Commission with the help of GEF conduct ecosystem recovery projects in which some species that were considered extinct were found. Despite RSP not conducting research, they engage with research organisations.
36. Dominic Pattinson (OSPAR) noted that, although OSPAR had not contributed to the survey and does not strictly follow the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD), they are closely aligned with the RSSD objectives. He further brought up the Quality status report 2023 – that provides evidence base to address the pressures they deal with. The legally binding measures they hope to implement are based on it, underpinning the need to scientific evidence. Pattinson further seconded the importance of multilateralism emphasized by the French Minister.
37. Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA) followed up on Hema’s comment on Climate Change. He explained that COBSEA Strategic Directions have 3 pillars: pollution, marine and coastal

ecosystems and climate action, however, the latter is the hardest to build on. As such, Pradhan is requesting the MAP RAC to advise COBSEA on how to develop this pillar further. He acknowledged that there is a lot of opportunity to build cross-regional seas collaboration and COBSEA would like more guidance on climate action.

38. Chris Corbin (Cartagena Convention) has additionally highlighted the importance of youth and civil society engagement for advocacy – this meeting invited and is attended by a High Seas Alliance (HSA) representative – based in Jamaica. Cartagena Convention collaborated with HSA to advance the BBNJ work, when the parties wanted to receive support which will lead to a stronger mandate on BBNJ and not only ratification but also implementation.
39. Jared Bosire (Nairobi Convention) has described the Work that has been done by the Nairobi Convention that is aligned with the RSSD: Contracting parties in the region have adopted a number of Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions asking for the establishment of a Science-policy platform as a formal structure under the convention. The formal structure that brings together research and academia is now called “The Forum for Academic and Research Institutions”. It has become the science pillar for the convention and convenes annually or bi-annually in preparation for the COP and all COP decisions are based on this platform.
40. WIOMSA is a major partner of the Convention. The WIOMSA Symposium will take place in September-October in Mombasa, Kenya – Nairobi Convention will be a co-convenor, with host multiple side-events. Special sessions will be held which will introduce strong policy dimension into the decisions made at the symposium.
41. Mamadou Kane, Abidjan Convention, acknowledged the struggle of implementing the GOAL II and pleaded to ask other RSCAPs to share knowledge on how to monitor the SDGs and share their experiences. Secondly, on the issue of pollution, Kane reminded of the upcoming INC5.2 in Geneva. And asked how the RSCAPs engage with partners in this process (besides the national plans that they have developed). He recognised the restrictions regarding the participation in those processes but inquired how to make sure that RSCAPs are a part of the policy making once the Convention is up and running. Kane kindly asked for this subject to be discussed during the meeting.
42. Volovik (NOWPAP) answered Kane’s question on SDGs by mentioning the existence of the custodian agencies which collect data and report on SDGs. He further said that not all countries support the involvement of the RSCAPs in this process. In NOWPAP there are several parties that are reluctant to get RSCAPs involved. Nairobi Convention through a COP Decision has developed a regional Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring framework awaiting validation and will support capacity building of Contracting Parties and partners for effective implementation.
43. Mateusz Benko (Tehran Convention) reminded colleagues that Tehran Convention has a Legally binding protocol that incentivise the countries to show their data. He additionally informed the audience on:
  1. Climate change: The Convention has been trying to create a RAC similar to the Barcelona Convention, however some countries are not keen on establishment of the institutional arrangement for the new regional centres. They developed a Caspian Sea Action Plan on the water sea level fluctuation to advance the work on climate change.

2. Science: Contracting Parties are requesting platforms for scientific communities to meet – there is a scientific conference organised by the Convention next year in collaboration with Caspian Hydrometeorological Services.
44. Iryna Makarenko has mentioned that Bucharest Convention does not have the same commitment to follow on the climate change, but there has been a Climate COP in Azerbaijan where the Black Sea Commission held a side event. Black Sea Commission invites the colleagues to join in the next COP
  - a. On the knowledge exchange: Makarenko has proposed to re-establish The Global Working Group on indicators and would like to volunteer to start this conversation.
  - b. On pollution: Black Sea Commission has been collecting data actively. There is a dedicated pollution data base, based in Odessa, Ukraine. Mostly collecting chemical data but also planning the biological data and human activity database. There are many challenges on collecting this data but it may be discussed in the wider format later.
45. Dominic Pattinson (OSPAR) followed up on the climate change work at OSPAR. To address it OSPAR established a working group with experts across the Contracting Parties once or twice a year virtually or in person to share the work done nationally. They showed how we can better monitor the impact of climate change at the regional level. How to make it relevant to OSPAR, for instance, what climate change means for MPAs, species distribution etc.)
46. Joep Dovetail, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) updated on the following points:
  - a. For SPREP - the secretariat to 2 regional Conventions (Waigani Convention and Noumea Convention). 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent needs to be further supported. He mentioned that UNEP helped elevated the profile of the Noumea convention, but there is more work to be done.
  - b. Data management – the Pacific Community (SPC) and SPREP regions established Pacific data forum and Pacific Environmental Data portal accordingly. The challenges are at the national level. Data and work is needed at the national level. In progressing on reporting on SDG and other MEA reporting – SPREP produces reports on the coastal populations' health status (wastewater etc.) of a country based on the data available.
  - c. Pacific region allows integration of collaborators from Regional agencies such as SPC at the round tables for discussing pollution, biodiversity and climate change issues. Not only in terms of data, but also environmental issues. SPREP is currently reviewing its next strategic plan for the next 10 years. One Health is one of the important elements considered in progressing the sustainable development in the region.
47. Chris McOwen (UNEP-WCMC) has added that UNEP-WCMC is currently working with UNEP and others on understanding data coherence for KMGBF implementation. On funding, data needs to be elevated beyond the environmental issue. Some techniques are developing integrated ocean accounts, telling a story how pollution and agricultural runoff, fisheries production are all linked and how it is a national and regional priority to monitor these impacts. Not only because it can save mangroves, but also because it links to food security, water security, public health, societal well-being. One of the challenges that can be used to access funding – is elevate their importance in ministries, as a mechanism of risk and vulnerability reduction. That will incentivise governments to invest in data management.

48. Chris Corbin responded to Kane's question on data management having limited capacity for monitoring in the region. He specified that Cartagena Convention has tried to build in GEF funding into the establishment of laboratories, to identify key metrics for monitoring – there are challenges as it's generally project-driven and there is always a need to find the ways to make it more lasting and continuous. Lots of time is spent on harmonising methodologies and critical indicators to clean up the data. Now Cartagena Convention thinks of an integrated approach – linking its activities to the economies, fisheries, tourism, economic development. The countries would benefit from learning what reports have been developed, how their findings were communicated to the public, and how to present grid-sensitive pollution data in tourism-dependent countries in a way that informs stakeholders without deterring visitors.
49. Kei Ohno Woodall, The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS conventions) followed up on the question raised about the parameter that can be interesting to tell a story about the ocean health. She mentioned that Stockholm Convention has global monitoring plan – air and water pollution, including levels of persistent organic pollutants found in human milk and blood are measured. Answering the question, she suggested to use persistent organic pollutants remains and can be used for the story shaping. The next global report is due in 2029. For that regional data will be collected in 2027. It is not too late to initiate collaboration on surveying 1-2 Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) that are representative in pesticides.
50. Volovik continued the discussion noting that there are different parameters to report against. NOWPAP would like to request the UNEP to work on the format of efficient reporting that is live.
51. Rolph Payet mentioned that BRS has 27 regional centres – the collaboration between them within the BRS and RSP is important. More synergies are needed between the Ocean experts and the land-based waste experts even the plastic pollution experts. That collaboration is needed to be strengthened in the RSSD.

## **Section 5. Updated Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2026-2029/2030**

52. Susan Gardner, Director of Ecosystems Division (UNEP) emphasized the importance of a new strategic direction guiding efforts toward 2030, aiming to unify and advance ocean conservation. She highlighted the value of recent consultations and introduced Alberto Pacheco as the new head of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. Gardner shared success stories like Kenya's Go Blue project on Kenya's coast, illustrating community-centred, integrated approaches that support biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience. She emphasized that the new Regional Seas Strategic Directions focus on fostering synergies—recognizing the interconnectedness of ocean issues—and prioritizing people by empowering coastal communities to lead conservation efforts. It aims to streamline national planning and align with global commitments such as the BBNJ Agreement, Paris Agreement, and SDGs. Ultimately, Gardner called for collective action to turn this ambitious vision into tangible results, emphasizing that this decade was critical for safeguarding the ocean for future generations.
53. Margot Dons (University of Wollongong, Australia) delivered a presentation on behalf of the University of Wollongong and her co-authors Karen Raubenheimer and Niko Urho, the

presentation entailed a summary of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026–2029/2030 and key updates from the previous version:

- a. The updated RSSD was shaped by the mandate to revise rather than rewrite the existing strategy, incorporating UNEP's draft MTS, feedback from the 2024 Regional Seas meeting and RSSD implementation survey, updated global priorities including recent UNEA resolutions and MEAs, and a clearer focus on addressing the triple planetary crisis and emerging issues.
- b. The updated RSSD introduces a new vision emphasizing prosperous, climate-resilient seas with healthy and productive ecosystems, and revises the objective to focus on securing these ecosystems to support a sustainable ocean economy and human well-being while addressing biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.
- c. Key principles and approaches—such as the ecosystem approach, one health approach, and precautionary principle—have been incorporated to align with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and support sustainable livelihoods dependent on marine and coastal ecosystems.
- d. The updated RSSD integrates a broader range of multilateral frameworks and decisions calling for international ocean action—particularly under pollution and biodiversity—reflecting developments such as the BBNJ Agreement and GBF, with relevant agencies and Secretariats identified as partners under each goal and sub-goal. Other core concepts that were identified include nature-based solution and disaster risk reduction that have been integrated in the RSSD.
- e. For Goal I, indicators have been more closely aligned with GBF targets and categorized as priority or supplementary, while Goals II and III aggregate current RSSD indicators without separating impact and activity types, with all actions linked to global frameworks for future reporting.
- f. The updated RSSD retains three core strategic goals, with Goal I now divided into three sub-goals to better address the triple planetary crisis, and all three goals slightly reworded to emphasize biological and climate concerns, streamline language, and strengthen the visibility and role of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.

54. Following the presentation multiple RSCAPs coordinators expressed their support of the updated RSSD and provided a brief feedback. Mahesh highlighted COBSEA's stronger focus on UNEP's MTS triple crisis and praised the stronger alignment of the new RSSD with MTS. The praise of the stronger MTS alignment was echoed by Pattinson and the OSPAR's work and Volovik and the NOWPAP work. Furthermore, Vahid emphasized that ROPME follows the same structure as the updated RSSD despite being non-UNEP administered. Ole Vestergaard (UNEP) suggested another improvement to the RSSD and called for a way to measure the impact of the RSP in terms of the triple crisis. That includes a measurement that reflects the engagement of people.

55. Fabrice Bernard from Conservatoire du littoral (France) addressed the Coastal Adaptation Vision Paper in his speech. The following points were highlighted:

- a. Conservatoire du littoral created in 1975 celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. In France they own more than 19% of the French coast that is now open to the public and protected. The paper increases the visibility to the coastal adaptation and supports RSCAPs in coastal adaptation.
- b. The key message is that the RSP is a key tool for the countries to adapt to climate change in the coastal areas. 1) Proactive planning (and not only the reactive response to the disasters that often comes too late) and anticipation of the retreat and set back

zones and coastal strips (in 100 years) – the paper promotes the strategy that evolves over time. 2) Hybrid responsibility – combining the traditional infrastructure with Nature-based solutions. RSCAPs have an important role at promoting the systematic approach. 3) Knowledge gaps in coastal observations and combine traditional and science-based knowledge for adaptation planning and monitoring. 4) Inclusive governance - include women and local vulnerable groups in planning and adaptation. 5) RSCAPs can facilitate access to adaptation finance – conservation trust funds links and bridges between national priorities and global frameworks.

- c. Finally, Bernard invited RSCAPs coordinators to make use of the paper in their planning of the RSCAPs work. Conservatoire du littoral is eager to contribute to the COPs and capacity building.

56. In response to the presentation by Bernard, Mahesh Pradhan suggested to take the paper's work to the next level by creating a project similar to GCF and highlight this at the COP30 in terms of Regional Seas. Jared Bosire praised the leadership of France in coastal adaptation. Tatjana Hema encouraged all the RSCAPs to learn from the work this paper has done. Mamadou Kane additionally reminded colleagues that the paper has specific recommendations for the RSCAPs in each chapter. Mateusz Benko (Tehran Convention) has informed the audience that Tehran Convention currently works on the adaptation fund project with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and echoed the idea of the GCF fund and expressed his eagerness to learn from the best practices of other RSCAPs. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of CITES has highlighted that more marine species are listed in CITES and drew attention to the operationalisation and building capacity on permits and regulations for trade of these species between different states.
57. Hema circled back to the updated RSSD 2026-2029/2030 discussion. She explained that the drivers for the updated document were: 1) the new UNEA-6 Res 6/15 resolution, 2) the need to strengthen partnerships within GBF, 3) UNEP is in the process of the preparation of the new MTS that had to be reflected in the RSSD, 4) need for new investments and political attention at regional and global levels and be more transparent 5) the indicators and activities that will implement the strategy – the indicators have been expanded at the activity level and the monitoring has been enhanced in terms of GBF to facilitate and avoid the unnecessary repetition of reporting. The bottom-up approach for the update of the RSSD came from the feedback received at the meeting in Athens and the online meeting 14-15 April 2025, thus, highlighting the transparency of the new RSSD.
58. Rolph Payet, raised an issue of the lack of mention of the BRS convention, the Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in the new RSSD. Secondly, more UNEP's activities need to be mapped – such as Global Framework on Chemicals, BRS-relevant Minamata convention decisions, no mapping from CITES. These being legally binding decisions – mapping them is important. IPCC is not reflected in the RSSD, as well as IPBES, Science Policy Panel work linked with chemical space (SPP) and International Resource Panel dealing with mining and extraction necessary for developing guidelines for coastal marine management integrating mineral, gas, oil extraction. All these require a stronger focus. Payet additionally reminded the colleagues of the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) by BRS/UNEP – biggest database on international treaties which contains a lot of information useful for knowledge exchange. Use of AI tools is not mentioned in the RSSD – where the InforMEA could be a great resource to work with. Finally, Payet raised a question on how RSCAPs can interact strategically with the BBNJ.

59. Chris Corbin has responded to Payet's question on the collaboration between the RS and MEAs collaboration stating that a step further would be to have the focal points that are common (same person) between the mechanisms. He also mentioned that data supply to InforMEA is at times difficult and makes the rest of data outdated.
60. Ivonne Higuero mentioned that CITES are listed in A1.2, however they would like to be considered under A1.3 because GBF includes targets that state the protection of marine wildlife that includes the endangered species. On the knowledge exchange, CITES have a science-policy interface and data, each of the countries have a management authority, scientific authority that need to work together.
61. Ziad H. Abu Ghararah, (Jeddah Convention) delivered a presentation on the main activities of PERSGA region on implementing the RSSD.
- On Climate Change: climate change adaptation studies on Blue Carbon in mangroves and sea grass have been conducted, smart fisheries and aquaculture.
  - On collaboration: two projects are currently taking place 1) on smart fisheries (IUU related – action plan as an outcome of the report) 2) on ecosystems services and blue economy. These projects align with the RSSD. Collaboration is between the IOC and MSP global initiative
  - National action plan has been updated on marine species, regional and national action plans for marine litter have been developed as well as the waste water management activities took place at the regional level.
  - The second (2026) State of Marine Environment Report in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (SOMERSGA 2026) will be published next year
62. Kane finalised the session as a moderator encouraging all the parties to submit the suggestions to the RSSD 2026-2029 in writing by 2pm, June 11<sup>th</sup>, thus adopting the final version of the RSSD on that day.
63. Alberto Pacheco (the incoming Head of the Branch, RSP) has provided the closing notes for the session and introduced himself to the colleagues. Pacheco expressed his joy at being able to be back after 10 years with the Regional Seas Programme. He gave his reflections of the session, as this was really the core purpose of the meeting in Nice, to gain the needed clarity on where the programme is moving forth to. He emphasized that it was through the conventions and the work done by the RCSCAPs coordinators that we can be cohesive in implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD 2026-2029). He further reiterated the words by the UNEP Executive director, underscoring the importance of strengthening the collaboration and interlinkages among the MEAs. He stressed the need for coherence with other ocean governance structures such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the International Seabed Authority. Addressing the urgent triple planetary crisis, Pacheco called for action in response to the degradation of coastal areas, the decline of coral reefs, and the loss of livelihoods among coastal communities. He took a moment to sincerely thank and applaud Tatjana Hema for her exceptional leadership and service in managing the Programme. Conclusively, Pacheco posed key questions: How do we ensure that what the RSCAPs are working to deliver with the RSSD has impact? How can the RSCAPs connect better with national processes such as the NDCs, national adaptation plans and the NPSAPs. He acknowledged the ambition of the RSSD and highlighted the need to explore how best to operationalize it in today's complex geopolitical landscape.

## **Section 6. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) contribution to enhanced ocean global agenda.**

64. Pradhan (COBSEA) delivered a presentation on the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) contribution towards advancing the global ocean agenda. The presentation touched upon the RSP's implementation of UNEA Resolution 6/15 by strengthening efforts to combat climate change, marine biodiversity loss, and pollution through targeted projects, capacity building, and regional cooperation. RSCAPs play a crucial role in supporting the BBNJ Treaty by providing stakeholder engagement, monitoring infrastructure, and policy development in areas beyond national jurisdiction, thereby reinforcing regional biodiversity conservation efforts. They also contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by integrating its targets into regional strategies, harmonizing reporting mechanisms, and fostering collaboration with biodiversity-related MEAs. Additionally, RSCAPs address the global plastics crisis by implementing region-specific solutions such as marine litter monitoring, transboundary management plans, and circular economy pilots, aligning regional actions with international initiatives like the Plastics Treaty. Overall, RSCAPs serve as vital platforms for operationalizing global ocean commitments at the regional level, promoting integrated, science-based approaches that enhance the effectiveness of the worldwide effort to protect and sustainably manage ocean resources.
65. Following the presentation, Kane reminded that the Pollution activities highlights should include the Regional Framework for the prevention and management of the marine pollution developed for the Abidjan Convention, as well as three National Action Plans for DRC, Senegal and Mauritania that were a great success for others to duplicate.
66. Joep Dovetail (SPREP) followed up on the issue of BBNJ preparation. He mentioned that the Noumea convention is a suitable platform for BBNJ capacity building, however, there are no finances to support the convention. He followed up with a request to discuss how RSCAPs can work together and focus on capacity building and awareness around BBNJ? Especially looking at the Pacific region.
67. Chris McOwen reminded on the OECMs: UNEP-WCMC manages the submission of all the countries of the OECMs which are further reported to CBD. Bezos Earth Fund received for 12 mln USD has been used to support the national submission (e.g. Congo, Bolivia, Gabon, DRC, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru). There is a lot of support and guidance materials and resources on what OECMs are in a variety of languages – could be used by the RSCAPs.
68. Tatjana Hema commented on the BBNJ there are several areas of interest for MAP: 1) MPAs, 2) Environmental Impact Assessment, 3) Compliance and respect of the obligations. Hema requested the presence of RSP in the Prep Com meeting on BBNJ in October.
69. Tatjana Hema introduced the RSCAP Vision and Roadmap towards KM-GBF 30x30 MPA-OECM Target. The roadmap highlights the crucial role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) in advancing global marine conservation, with a focus on protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. It promotes a coordinated, science-based, and equitable approach to expanding and managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Key strategies include mapping, strengthening governance, spatial planning, securing sustainable financing, and fostering stakeholder engagement. By aligning regional initiatives with international frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), BBNJ, and other multilateral

processes, RSCAPs aim to drive tangible progress in ocean protection through ecological connectivity, good governance, and inclusive participation. The roadmap details specific actions and milestones—such as assessing current commitments, identifying priority sites for conservation, developing legal frameworks, mobilizing resources, and engaging stakeholders—as well as a timeline for these milestones to build effective, resilient marine protected area networks that support sustainable management and biodiversity goals worldwide.

70. Colonel Mamadou Sidibe, the Director of Community Based Marine Protected Areas (Direction des aires marines communautaires protégées, DAMCP) delivered a presentation on the IMPAC6 roadmap. Senegal will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC6) in 2027. Senegal's candidature was officially supported by the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and the Med RAC-SPA Secretariat. The presentation touched upon the significance and milestones in the preparation of the Congress, as well as on the key themes that have been identified for the Congress to focus on:
- a. Involvement of young people and communities in marine ecosystem conservation
  - b. Strengthening the role of MPAs in the development of a sustainable, social and inclusive blue economy
  - c. Expanding the network of MPAs, with the support of regional cooperation organizations and Regional Seas Conventions
  - d. Expanding the geographical scope of MPA networks by establishing offshore and high seas conservation areas (BBNJ)
71. Corbin addressed the challenges of taking on the GBF and BBNJ, he articulated that the contracting parties of Cartagena convention have agreed to BBNJ, but it will require time to understand how the convention can assist in BBNJ implementation when only a small percentage lays beyond the EEZ. Pattinson followed up on the issue of BBNJ saying that OSPAR has around 40% of its water in the ABNJ and understands the importance of interconnectivity of the targets both national and regional.
72. Chris Corbin linked the causes of sargassum to the combination of climate change and nutrient input marine and land-based, warming. Sargassum affects marine biodiversity, tourism and other ecosystem services. It forms a good focal point for collaboration. This upcoming UNEA-7 there is a strong interest in putting together a resolution on sargassum.

## **7. Partnerships and Resource mobilization**

### **7.1 Sustainable financing and collaboration with MEA**

72. Torsten Thiele, an expert in sustainable blue finance & Founder of the Global Ocean Trust opened the panel stating the financing of the BBNJ covers not only the need for implementation but also for crossing the line - International Fisheries Bodies (IFBs) as well as the RSCAPs need to be a part of the discussion. Currently they launched a Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy paper at the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) under the head of the ocean panel is a good starting point (written by UNEP, UNCTAD, ORAA, OECD data used to show the state of play). Thiele further recognised that financing the enablers is more effective than expecting the enabling to happen on its own. The paper argues that integration of policy design with finance and clear engagement of all the relevant participants (local communities, cities etc.) is the sustainable approach of blue infrastructure.

This needs to be done at the regional level, too. Given the way data can be used better, and cooperation is facilitated – we can make sure that money goes further. Blended finance is a way of using ground funding and integrating them into a common goal – ecosystem-based management mandate for example. The other gap is a patient capital – areas where grants are only deployed in marine protection, but not future ecosystems service financing including markets, promote, develop and grow the opportunity. Lastly, One Ocean Finance Facility –has been launched in Nice and presents a great opportunity to engage for UNEP for increasing the Ocean Finance literacy.

73. Iryna Makarenko followed up with a question on blue bonds and blended finance tools asking in what conditions all these instruments succeed. Thiele referred to his experience working on Blue Bonds and noted that some of the small municipalities had no means of employing waste management facilities. In this situation, the use of existent financial institutions and transfer the funds to the smallest municipalities that needed it the most. It was necessary to bring into the room all the potential stakeholders and then figure out the way of sharing. Thiele explained that the discussion is needed to find out what locations need to be in focus, use the convening to share the information – the entry point is the discussion. He additionally pointed out that by identifying the quantifiable indicators the countries that deliver on them will become more investable by the international investors. When addressing the de-risking the activities, Thiele said that we want the investors to be interested in success, not a figure, that way if a target is not delivered, the interest rate does not go up. Biodiversity outcomes are one of those successes.

74. Chris Corbin asked for how to engage the domestic commercial bank sector to come on board. And asked for recommendations for ocean accountant tools. Thiele responded that supporting those commercial banks is a way to encourage them to invest into biodiversity. Making them partner to this process is a valuable step as they already have networks but their focus is on the potentially wealthier clients, but it needs to be expanded to more underprivileged communities too.

75. Adonai Herrera-Martinez, Director of Environment and Sustainability, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was further invited to the panel to address the question of what made the collaboration between EBRD and HELCOM work and what could be the recommendations for other RSCAPs to develop similar collaborations as BlueMed. Herrera-Martinez described the combination of several factors: the political will of Finland, and the EU Commission and the top-down approach as well as mobilizing money. HELCOM was a scientific body to monitor the health of the Baltic Sea. The alignment of the practical incentives is crucial for mobilizing donor funds – it's a risk transfer, so monitoring the impact is important to show how the investment makes the difference.

76. Tanya Brodie Rudolph has delivered a presentation on The International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) that was officially launched at UNOC-3 and can be helpful to the RSCAPs coordinators to aid the states within the regions to reach the Global Ocean Sustainability target. IPOS is a complementary, catalytic platform designed to help states to respond to their global ocean commitments aligned with their nation priorities. Launched during the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, it has been recognized in the UNOC Declaration as a key initiative to provide credible, inclusive knowledge to support decision-making. IPOS functions as a next-generation science-policy interface that combines frontier science, Indigenous and local knowledge, and AI-enabled synthesis to offer rapid, responsive support to governments and communities facing complex ocean challenges. Its core services include Action Requests (detailed policy options within 12 months), Rapid Responses (urgent needs met within weeks using AI synthesis), and Ocean Catalyst (a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue). Supported by over 50 international institutions and 9 countries—including Belgium, China, France, Costa Rica, and others—IPOS emphasizes a human-centred, collaborative approach that prioritizes equity and shared stewardship. During its test phase, it will respond to 10

prioritized requests from States, encouraging global participation with a focus on engaging the Global South. The platform aims to bridge science and policy effectively, ensuring timely, inclusive solutions for ocean sustainability.

## **7.2 Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue**

77. Stefán Ásmundsson, Special Advisor on Ocean Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland, started the presentation Special Session of the SOI Global Dialogue. Key messages from the presentation by Ásmundsson include the importance of sharing experiences and fostering collaboration between Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) to better achieve global, regional, and national ocean and biodiversity goals. Emphasis is placed on practical, actionable steps such as improving communication, establishing formal cooperation mechanisms, and developing joint projects. The presentation highlighted progress and challenges in regional cooperation, updates on global frameworks like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and BBNJ Agreement and planning for future dialogues. Medium-term outcomes focus on increasing adoption of regional conventions, enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration, and improving assessments of marine environmental status. Long-term goals aim for comprehensive decision-making informed by strengthened partnerships across sectors, maintaining healthy ecosystems, reducing plastic pollution, supporting climate resilience, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The discussion underscored the need for integrated approaches that recognize local communities and indigenous values while leveraging platforms like the SOI Global Dialogue to foster cooperation and advance ocean governance objectives. Following the presentation, panel reflections have been presented by Merete Tandstad, Senior Programme Coordinator, (FAO), Charlotte Salpin (DOALOS), Mark Dickey-Collas (IUCN-Fisheries Expert Group) and Daniela Diz (Heriot-Watt University).

78. To wrap up the meeting the RSCAP Statement to the UNOC 3 Ocean Action Panel 8 was finalised and reviewed by all parties.

79. ROPME has extended an invitation for the following Annual Meeting of the Regional Seas Coordinators. The date is to be determined but will most likely take place in a winter season. Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), presented final remarks and Ms, Susan Gardner, Director of Ecosystems Division (UNEP) closed the meeting.

80. At the end of the meeting, the Award ceremony for new World Restoration Flagships, organized by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Ecosystems Division, UNEP (Winter Garden Room) and the SOI Global Dialogue Reception closed the day.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

| #  | Name of Participant              | Organisation                                                                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Abraham Garcia Alvarez           | KM1                                                                                           |
| 2  | Adonai Herrera                   | EBRD                                                                                          |
| 3  | Adriana Guzman                   |                                                                                               |
| 4  | Alberto Pacheco Capella          | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 5  | Alejandro Castillo Lopez         | Innovaciones Alumbra                                                                          |
| 6  | Alfonso Aguirre Muñoz            | GECI                                                                                          |
| 7  | Amy Fraenkel                     | CMS                                                                                           |
| 8  | Anca Leroy                       | Ministry of Ecological Transition,<br>Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and<br>Fisheries, France |
| 9  | Andrea Volentras                 | SPREP (PROE)                                                                                  |
| 10 | Andrew Rhodes Espinoza           | Innovaciones Alumbra                                                                          |
| 11 | Aurelie Spadone                  | IUCN                                                                                          |
| 12 | Astrid Schomaker                 | CBD                                                                                           |
| 13 | Aurelie Spadone                  | IUCN                                                                                          |
| 14 | Benjamin Fouchard                | Ministry of Ecological Transition,<br>Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and<br>Fisheries, France |
| 15 | Charlotte Salpin                 | DOALOS                                                                                        |
| 16 | Chris McOwen                     | UNEP-WCMC                                                                                     |
| 17 | Christopher Corbin               | Cartagena Convention                                                                          |
| 18 | Colonel Mamadou Sidibe           | RAMPAO                                                                                        |
| 19 | Clarance P. Nkwera               | NEMC - Tanzania                                                                               |
| 20 | Cristian Martis                  | Lima Convention                                                                               |
| 21 | Cyrille Barnérias                | OFB                                                                                           |
| 22 | Daniela Diz                      | Heriot-Watt University                                                                        |
| 23 | David Agnew                      | CAMLR Convention                                                                              |
| 24 | David Elkaim                     | Ministry of Ecological Transition,<br>Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and<br>Fisheries, France |
| 25 | David Obura                      | Director of Cordio                                                                            |
| 26 | Despina Symons                   | IUCN                                                                                          |
| 27 | Dinah Korir                      | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 28 | Djamila Ioualalen-Colleu         | Ministry of Ecological Transition,<br>Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and<br>Fisheries, France |
| 29 | Dominic Pattinson                | OSPAR Convention                                                                              |
| 30 | Emma T. Liwenga                  | UPO - Tanzania                                                                                |
| 31 | Ericka Schnepf                   | OFB                                                                                           |
| 32 | Fabrice Bernard                  | Conservatoire du Littoral                                                                     |
| 33 | Florent Merle                    | OFB                                                                                           |
| 34 | Gabrielle Larricq                | Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires<br>étrangères (MEAE)                                    |
| 35 | Gaute Hanssen                    | Norway                                                                                        |
| 36 | Gopal Patel                      | UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration<br>Advisory Board                                          |
| 37 | Gyorgyi Gurban                   | IMO                                                                                           |
| 38 | H.E. Mrs. Agnès Pannier-Runacher | Ministry for Energy Transition, France                                                        |
| 39 | Hartwig Kremer                   | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 40 | Haydee Rodriguez                 | Conservation International (CI)                                                               |
| 41 | Hectar Sonie                     |                                                                                               |
| 42 | Heidi Savelli                    | UNEP                                                                                          |

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|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 43 | Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma      | CMS                                                                                     |
| 44 | Helene Hoffmann              | IKI                                                                                     |
| 45 | Ilias Mavroeidis             | UNEP-MAP                                                                                |
| 46 | Ilyes Allani                 | Kuwait Convention (ROPME)                                                               |
| 47 | Inger Andersen               | UNEP                                                                                    |
| 48 | Iryna Makarenko              | Bucharest Convention                                                                    |
| 49 | Ivonne Higuero               | CITES                                                                                   |
| 50 | Jack Murphy                  | Fauna s Flora                                                                           |
| 51 | Jacqueline Grekin            | UNEP-CBD                                                                                |
| 52 | Jacquis RASOANAINA           | Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar                         |
| 53 | Janina Seemann               | Head, Division Marine Conservation, European Environment and Climate Action             |
| 54 | Jared Bosire                 | Nairobi Convention                                                                      |
| 55 | Jasdeep Randhawa             | UNFCCC                                                                                  |
| 56 | Joe Appiott                  | UNEP-CBD                                                                                |
| 57 | Jope Davetanivalu            | SPREP                                                                                   |
| 58 | Julie Rigaud Marechal        | SG Mer French Government                                                                |
| 59 | Julien Rochette              | IDDRI                                                                                   |
| 60 | Juney Ward                   | SPREP                                                                                   |
| 61 | Kei Ohno Woodall             | BRS                                                                                     |
| 62 | Konstantina Toli             | UNESCO                                                                                  |
| 63 | Leneka Scott                 | High Seas Alliance                                                                      |
| 64 | Lilian J. Ibengwe            | Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries - Tanzania                                          |
| 65 | Linda Behnk                  | DOALOS                                                                                  |
| 66 | Lucile Rossin                | UNEP/CEP/SPAW-RAC                                                                       |
| 67 | Luck                         | Delegation Madagascar                                                                   |
| 68 | Magdalena Gerald Ngotolainyo | VFO - Tanzania                                                                          |
| 69 | Magreth L. Mchome            | MPRU – Tanzania                                                                         |
| 70 | Mahesh Pradhan               | COBSEA                                                                                  |
| 71 | Mamadou Kane                 | Abidjan Convention                                                                      |
| 72 | Mara Arroyo Rodriguez        | Save the Waves                                                                          |
| 73 | Marc Attallah                | UNEP-MAP                                                                                |
| 74 | Marc Fagot                   | Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and Fisheries, France |
| 75 | Margot Dons                  | University of Wollongong                                                                |
| 76 | María Jesús Rodriguez        | Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, Spain                    |
| 77 | Maria Reyes Lavilla          | Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, Spain                    |
| 78 | Marie Valat                  | Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and Fisheries, France |
| 79 | Mark Dickey- Collas          | IUCN                                                                                    |
| 80 | Marwan Al-Dimachki           | ROPME                                                                                   |
| 81 | Mateusz Benko                | Tehran Convention                                                                       |
| 82 | Maxime de Lisle              | IPOS                                                                                    |
| 83 | Merete Tandstad              | Fisheries s Aquaculture Division, FAO                                                   |
| 84 | Michael Alexander            | UNEP                                                                                    |

|     |                      |                                                                                               |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 85  | Mohammad Al-Ahmad    | Kuwait Convention (ROPME)                                                                     |
| 86  | Mondy C. Muhando     | MoBEF - Tanzania                                                                              |
| 87  | Morgan Mozas         | Ministry of Ecological Transition,<br>Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and<br>Fisheries, France |
| 88  | Nicolas Rocle        | SPREP                                                                                         |
| 89  | Nolwenn Boutle       | OFB                                                                                           |
| 90  | Ole Vestergaard      | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 91  | Onja                 | Delegation Madagascar                                                                         |
| 92  | Orlando Anaya Valdez | KM1                                                                                           |
| 93  | Osmar Sanmiguel Lugo | KM1                                                                                           |
| 94  | Paul de Bruyn        | IOTC                                                                                          |
| 95  | Phénia MARRAS        | OFB                                                                                           |
| 96  | Racine Kane          | Senegal                                                                                       |
| 97  | Rolph Payet          | BRS                                                                                           |
| 98  | Romain Schumm        | UN ESCAP                                                                                      |
| 99  | Ruby Duchesne-Grekin | CBD                                                                                           |
| 100 | Rüdiger Stempel      | HELCOM                                                                                        |
| 101 | Samantha Petersen    | WWF                                                                                           |
| 102 | Sara Aagesen         | Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y<br>el Reto Demográfico, Spain                       |
| 103 | Severin Kalonga      | WWF                                                                                           |
| 104 | Sophie Benbow        | Fauna s Flora                                                                                 |
| 105 | Stavros Antoniadis   | CITES                                                                                         |
| 106 | Stefán Ásmundsson    | Iceland Ministry for Foreign Affairs                                                          |
| 107 | Stephanie Tachoures  | OFB                                                                                           |
| 108 | Susan Gardner        | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 109 | Tanya Brodie Rudolph | IPOS                                                                                          |
| 110 | Tariq Al-Olaimy      | UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration<br>Advisory Board                                          |
| 111 | Tatjana Hema         | UNEP-MAP                                                                                      |
| 112 | Thais Narciso        | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 113 | Tim Christophersen   | VP Climate Change, Salesforce                                                                 |
| 114 | Tone Madsen          | Ministry of Environment and Gender<br>Equality, Denmark                                       |
| 115 | Torsten Thiele       | Global Ocean Trust                                                                            |
| 116 | Valeriia Vakhitova   | UNEP                                                                                          |
| 117 | Victor Timinello     | Ministry of Ecological Transition,<br>Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea and<br>Fisheries, France |
| 118 | Vikki Gunn           | Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative<br>Secretariat                                           |
| 119 | Wahid M. Moufaddal   | Kuwait Convention (ROPME)                                                                     |
| 120 | Wenxi Zhu            | WESTPAC                                                                                       |
| 121 | Yegor Volovik        | NOWPAP                                                                                        |
| 122 | Ziad H. Abu Ghararah | PERSGA                                                                                        |