

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME INTO THE 2019 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA, PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/73/124, ENTITLED, “OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA”**

**New Marine and Coastal Strategy of UNEP 2020-2030**

1. The fourth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-4) held in March 2019 in Nairobi, took note of the proposal of a new marine and coastal strategy (*UNEP/EA.4/INF/7: Proposal for a new marine and coastal Strategy of United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2020-2030*)<sup>1</sup>. The strategy outlines the overall strategic direction, operational objectives, approach and priority actions of UNEP to support national, regional and global efforts to ensure healthy and sustainable oceans and coasts by 2030.
2. The new strategy also supports global innovation and delivery of normative services and contribute to an enhanced coordination of actions in collaborative frameworks addressing marine and coastal issues. This includes contributing to important global processes, such as the United Nations Open-

-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the post-2020 biodiversity agenda and the United Nations decade of ocean science for sustainable development.

3. The strategy is intended to operationalize and communicate the convening role and contributions of UNEP in its support to countries in achieving healthy and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems globally. This ranges from identifying strategies

5. A major role of the Programme is to support regions to fulfill their responsibilities towards the priorities identified in relevant UN Environment Governing Council Decisions and resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to contribute to reaching global targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. UN Environment administers regional programmes in [West Africa](#), [Caribbean](#), [Mediterranean](#), [Northwest Pacific](#), [East Asian Seas](#), [Caspian Sea](#), and [East Africa](#). The programme also covers several other regions of the world, making it one of the most globally comprehensive initiatives for the protection of marine and coastal environments: [Antarctic](#), [Arctic](#), [Baltic](#), [Black Sea](#)

12.



## Implementation of the UN Environment/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

24. UN Environment/MAP is providing support to the Southern Mediterranean Countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), to implement the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project. To this purpose, the national regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags and to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was carried out for Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Technical assistance is provided to national decision-makers and stakeholders with the aim to minimize the use of single use items. T -for-
- a- measures (clean-up campaigns) is ongoing in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Efforts are ongoing for Lebanon to join in the implementation of the said pilots. Implementation of national pilots related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean are also on-going in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Progress can also be reported on the development of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Candidate Indicator 24 Effect of marine litter on biota , including the identification of the most representative species to be used; capacity building training sessions on monitoring the amounts of marine litter ingested by or entangling marine turtles; development of standardized protocols on monitoring the effect of marine litter on sea turtles; assessment of available data to propose Good Ecological Status (GES); building a regional operation strategy. Regional guidelines were developed for the implementation of key marine litter reduction and prevention measures, receiving attention also from other regions (e.g. Tehran Convention, BSR Convention, Black Sea Commission). The Regional CooperatioBT/F1 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 p

coordination with the GEF Operational Focal Points of the participating eligible countries, namely Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.

- (iii) SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction20339  
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20339>

### **Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD**

26. Substantive progress was achieved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in relation to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean: 1. Publication of the Quality Status Report 2017 of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, which is the first, region-wide agreed common indicator-based assessment of the Mediterranean sea and coast, covering both biodiversity, fisheries, non-indigenous species, pollution, marine litter, coast and hydrography; 2. Development in Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties national monitoring and assessment programmes, in line with new requirements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of UN Environment/MAP - Barcelona Convention; 3. Successful implementation of a sub-regional joint pilot in the Eastern Mediterranean (with participation of Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey) which resulted in a draft sub-regional monitoring plan for Eastern Mediterranean countries, which is in line with the monitoring frameworks of both the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM) and UN Environment/MAP; 4. Strengthened Science-Policy Interface in the region, with an established network of scientists and policymakers, with meetings that address key elements of ecosystem approach implementation in the region; 5. Development of IMAP in synergy with a compatible pilot Information and Data Sharing system; 6. Development of an Ecosystem Approach Funding Strategy, with the aim to assist interested countries in the region to mobilize further resources towards achieving and/or maintaining the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

- (iv) SDG 14 Voluntary Commitment #OceanAction20344

assessment of the Mediterranean MPA network status was undertaken and a leaflet summarizing its main findings elaborated and disseminated during the 2016 MPA Forum; (iii) An Ad hoc group of experts for MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM) was set up on an experimental basis. The AGEM First Meeting was held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 22-23 February 2018. The AGEM is providing scientific and technical advice to SPA/RAC; the Second Meeting of the AGEM took place in Tunis on 21 February 2019. At mid-2019, an evaluation of the AGEM functioning is being undertaken; (iv) An ecological characterization of the Sallum MPA (Egypt) was completed by a team of national experts and the related repd eaea

29. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 2012 between the GFCM and UN Environment/MAP is the first agreement that formalizes cooperation between a UN Environment Regional Sea Convention and an FAO Regional Fisheries Management Organization. This MoU stemmed from years of bilateral consultations on common areas of work and responded to the request by Contracting Parties of both organizations for enhanced coordination. The MoU addresses the following areas of cooperation: 1. Promotion of ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of marine and coastal environment and ecosystems, and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources; 2. Mitigation of the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species by the use of best available techniques in fisheries and the development of sustainable aquaculture; 3. Identification, protection and management of marine he



32. Marine and coastal areas serve as homes to many human activities such as shipping, fishing and aquaculture, production of renewable energy, extraction of raw materials and nautical tourism. Experts raised the alarm years ago on the threats that these activities have on the marine and coastal environment. Strengthening their framework has become a major objective for the Contracting parties to the Abidjan Convention. In this respect, management based on an ecosystem approach was recalled at COP10 and 11. The Parties evaluated the importance of drafting a protocol on ICZM which would contribute to a more effective management of the marine and coastal zones. This process of drafting has been completed and the protocol will be submitted with the other protocols in July 2019 during the ple

**(iii) Environmental Norms and Standards for Offshore Oil and Gas Activities**

33. Environmental standards for the offshore exploration and exploitation activities of mining and mineral resources off the coasts of the States Parties surveillance and monitoring of offshore oil and gas activities follow the COP 9 during which the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention adopted important decisions aiming at preventing and combating pollution from offshore activities. This refers to the third protocol that will be submitted to the plenipotentiaries with the previous protocols.

**PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN PROJECTS  
FRAMEWORK**

### **3. MAMI WATA**

37. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear



steps in the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

to harmonize standards and methods used for measuring and monitoring microplastics pollution in the region. An online marine Pollution Reporting System set up by the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre enabled China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to speedily share information on the spreading spill and measures being taken to contain it. The 23rd Northwest Pacific Region Intergovernmental Meeting called for enhanced regional cooperation

Development Goals and thus marks a historic step in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan evolution.

50. *July 2018*

loaded with 136,000 tons of condensate, was the March 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska, in the United States of America.

information exchange, according to the maritime authorities of the countries exposed to the environmental disaster. An online marine Pollution Reporting System set up by a joint United Nations Environment Programme and International Maritime Organization: Northwest Pacific Action Plan Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre enabled China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to speedily share information on the spreading spill and measures being taken to contain it. More than 250 reports were exchanged during the Sanchi incident exhibiting the importance of an effective information sharing platform such as the one set up by the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.

51. *October 2018*: Representatives of the four Member States of the UN Environment Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) attending the 23rd Northwest Pacific Region Intergovernmental Meeting from 9

57. online search giant Google and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency to test NEAT to monitor eutrophication in oceans around the world, using cloud computing.
58. A significant reduction in marine pollution by 2025, in particular from land-based activities, is part of the commitment made by world leaders in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Use of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool will help countries in the region to report their progress to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

## **E. The Nairobi Convention**

### **Ocean Governance and Partnerships**

59. The Nairobi Convention held the Ninth Conference of Parties to Nairobi Convention on 30–31 August 2018 in Mombasa, Kenya. The ten Contracting Parties adopted fifteen decisions, including on priority areas such as the management of marine protected areas; marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and connectivity in exclusive economic zones and adjacent areas; ocean governance; pollution from land-based sources and activities; climate change; ocean acidification; environmental management for the oil and gas industry; growth of the blue economy; scientific research; fisheries management; marine spatial planning; integrated coastal management and the sustainable development of ports and harbours.
- 60.

63. As part of its SAPPHIRE project (implemented by UNDP), the Nairobi Convention has held four partnership meetings on oceanographic data and scientific research in the WIO region from March -June 2019. The sessions brought together scientists, policy makers, and partners together to discuss the status of national data centres; identify priorities of countries in using, managing and owning data findings; and agree on mechanisms and partnerships to improve data collection, sharing, and archiving, among others. The data will support the updating of the national marine environment diagnostic analysis and develop a coastal and marine environment outlook for the Western Indian Ocean region.

management including application to data, information and national needs on decision support tools, which are essential for integrated management of coastal zones. The Nairobi Convention held another training on MSP in Tanzania in March 2019, which allowed participants to examine MSP practices and tailor the implementation of MSP to their own maritime domains.

68. Nairobi Convention organised a Regional Training for Eastern Africa Countries on Oil Pollution Shoreline Clean-up Assessment and Response on 06-09 November, 2018 in Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with UN Environment Post Conflict and Disaster Management, Geneva; Oil for Development programme, Norway; the International Maritime Organisation and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited. The training focused on assessment and response to incidents where oil reaches the shoreline providing an understanding of how oil affects the local environment, the different vulnerabilities present in the region and how to prioritize response actions.
69. The Nairobi Convention organized the Western Indian Ocean Regional Science to Policy Workshop on 27-29 May 2019 in Port Louis, Mauritius. The goal of the meeting was to establish and operationalize the Science to Policy Platform as a core structure within the Nairobi Convention; establish a Scientific and Policy Advisory Panel for the region; and to facilitate information-sharing between institutions and the Nairobi Convention and other regional processes. The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Platform, its membership and modus operandi; and discussed the need for a regional ecosystem/indicator monitoring framework and roadmap on its development.
70. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat organised a regional training workshop on 10-11 December 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique, in partnership with the UN Environment Global Programme of 392.59 408.07 TmC





with their ratification process for the LBS Protocol while discussions with Mexico and Guatemala are ongoing with respect to possible ratification of the SPAW Protocol.

78. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention and the 10th and 4th Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW and LBS Protocols respectively, were held from June 3-6, and 4th Meetings of

This will contribute to the SOMEE3/ CLME+ and SOCAR4 processes on the status of the Wider Caribbean marine environment. The process of redesigning the website is ongoing and will be launched via integration with the new server of the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention. The forum will be redesigned to encourage open and interactive discussions between members and to enhance linkages between managers of MPAs.

86. The Secretariat continues to promote the use of Ecosystem-Based Approaches and Marine Spatial Planning tools for integrating Habitat Restoration and Pollution Reduction projects. In Trinidad and Tobago, the sampling of water quality sites of the Guayamare Cunipia study/ Caroni swamp area was completed to address the impacts of land-based sources of pollutants on the mangrove swamp.
87. There has been continued progress towards the completion of the draft State of Habitat report and the 2020-2030 Regional Strategy and Action Plan and Investment Plan, supported by the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project. The full proposal for the GEF-funded Caribbean Regional Fund for the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the wider Caribbean promoting developed and submitted to the GEF Secretariat in May 2019 for review and possible approval.
88. Marine litter remains a priority for the Wider Caribbean Region. The community- based project launched in Panama and Jamaica under the Trash Free Waters International Partnership involving the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reduced the impacts of marine litter on coastal and marine ecosystems, livelihoods and humans. Sandals Foundation has been coordinating the implementation of pilot project activities in the towns of Bluefields and Whitehouse in Jamaica since 2018. The project will be upscaled and replicated in other countries.
89. New communication products including technical reports, infographics and factsheets on pollution and marine biodiversity were developed to increase awareness of the state of the marine environment and the threats to the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. The Secretariat and the GCFI as co-hosts for the Caribbean Regional Node on Marine Litter Node expanded their communications and outreach efforts by developing factsheets on Microplastics, Marine Litter and Sargassum.
90. The Secretariat celebrated several environmental commemorative days including International Day for Biological Diversity, World Environment Day and World Oceans Day through outreach activities and/or social media promotion. A mini social media campaign was undertaken in May 2019 to enhance dissemination efforts about Ecosystem-Based Management in the region and its related pilot project in the Dominican Republic (#ecosystembasedmanagement). A one-month social media campaign on marine litter in July 2019 (#PlasticFreeJuly) is being coordinated through the Caribbean Marine Litter Node.
91. The Secretariat and GCFI convened a Marine Litter Expert Workshop in March 2019 to develop a 5-year plan for a Regional Marine Litter Strategy, including priority project proposal concepts for marine litter management in the Wider Caribbean Region. This will support the continued implementation of the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI). A two-day Regional Marine Litter Expert Workshop was also held from October 18-19, 2018 to highlight

best practices on harmonized monitoring strategies, assess the effectiveness of monitoring and propose arrangements for strengthening monitoring programmes, as well as the management of marine litter data.

92. The Secretariats of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Cartagena Convention have made a voluntary commitment to collaborate across the Atlantic as part of their contribution to fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14). In 2018, funding for their cooperative agreement was provided by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden, and a proposed full-sized five-year project is being drafted on the management of Marine Protected Areas and capacity building. The proposal will include input from a task group (France, the Netherlands and United Kingdom representatives in Europe and the Caribbean), as well as from the Cartagena Convention and OSPAR Secretariat staff.
93. There has been continued progress in the implementation of the 5-year GEF-funded project for Integrating Water, Land & Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF-

**Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)**

98. The GPA continues to focus its efforts mainly on the three pollution source categories of nutrients, wastewater, and marine litter, through establishment and management of global partnerships, in response to the Manila Declaration. The GPA held its 4th Intergovernmental



multi-stakeholder brainstorming session on the UNEA3 implementation plan in Paris, 13-14 June 2018.

109. The GPA/Wastewater through the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW<sup>2</sup>I) has organized side events during the 4th UN Environment Assembly, which was hosted by UN Environment from 10 to 15 March 2019 at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. One event focused on reusing wastewater and the related business models and innovative solutions<sup>8</sup> while another event aimed to shed light on the emerging issue of microplastics in wastewater.<sup>9</sup>

110.

as Global NEWS model), on coastal nutrient enrichment has been generated with several  
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119. The 2018/19 edition of the [UN Environment Frontiers Report](#) highlighted - "[The Nitrogen Fix: From Nitrogen Cycle Pollution to Nitrogen Circular Economy](#)" focusing on the
120. The Joint [Global Partnership on Nutrient Management \(GPNM\)](#) and [Global Wastewater Initiative \(GW2I\)](#) meeting discussed how to strengthen the synergies between the two partnerships through; restructuring the composition of the steering committees so they are fit for purpose to deliver the expected progress; building on the momentum of already existing projects and initiatives (including existing good practices and experiences, for example, the Global Soil Partnership, or the Global Challenge Research Fund); ensuring effective science communication by the partnerships on the development of products and; creating a joint database by the two partnerships which will, in turn, be used by the International Nitrogen Management System for policy actions.
121. The Western Indian Ocean from land-  
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