

2021 the MAR1 full report to the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22), for the possible endorsement of its SPM.

The Nairobi Convention has developed a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVA) toolkit for assessing the vulnerability of communities to climate change which is essential, particularly for those that are highly dependent on coastal and marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). The toolkrrng

Notes the discussions at the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in 2016, which focused on the theme “Marine debris, plastics and microplastics” and which, inter alia, highlighted that the size of the problem had increased exponentially since the topic of marine debris was addressed at the sixth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in 2005, noted that marine debris in general, and plastics in particular, were some of the greatest environmental concerns of our time, along with climate change, ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity, discussed prevention and emphasized the need to address the issue, both downstream, through improved mechanisms for waste management, disposal and recycling, and upstream, by addressing consumption and production patterns, including through awareness-raising campaigns;

COBSEA and UNEP, together with partners such as UN-Habitat, Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Plasticity, organized the second annual SEA of Solutions partnership event on preventing plastic pollution from 24-26 November 2020. The event was co-hosted by the Government of Viet Nam and was held as hybrid virtual/in-person event with more than 800 participants and speakers from governments, plastic producers and brands, researchers, CSOs, youth and the informal waste sector. Nearly 30 pledges were made to prevent and reduce plastic pollution across different sectors. More information is available at <http://sos2020.sea-circular.org/>.

6. Paragraph 220 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/239

Recognizes the need for better understanding of the sources, amounts, pathways, distribution, trends, nature and

7. Paragraph 222 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/239

Welcomes the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 4/6, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources and benefiting from the work of existing mechanisms, to immediately strengthen scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine litter, including marine plastic litter and microplastics;

The impact of COVID-19 on the increase of plastic waste generation in the Mediterranean was the subject of a webinar organized on 29 September 2020 by UNEP/MAP and the Mediterranean Regional Node on Marine Litter. Key contributions focused on: how UNEP/MAP is addressing and managing the issue of COVID-19 in the generation of marine litter in the Mediterranean; the side effect of COVID-19 in the fight against plastic pollution; the impact of COVID-

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 19 and 20 June 2019, which comprises actions to prevent and reduce marine litter from land-based sources as well as sea-based sources, monitoring and

Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (<http://midsis.rempec.org>), and in collaboration with IMO, HELCOM, the Bonn Agreement, Cedre, the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and ITOPF, the "Marine HNS response manual - Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC" was produced. To enhance cooperation between Western Mediterranean countries, REMPEC carried a Study on the Synergy between the Sub-regional Agreements and the Contingency Plans of the Western Mediterranean. A "Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean," was also carried out by REMPEC to support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to make well-informed decisions, while drafting the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-

member states to take a decision on the Regional Response Mechanism/Centre and build the necessary capacity in order to respond better to future incidents.

16. Paragraph 247 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/239

Expresses its concern regarding the spreading of hypoxic dead zones and harmful algal blooms in oceans as a result of eutrophication fueled by riverine run-off of fertilizers, sewage outfall and reactive nitrogen resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and resulting in serious consequences for ecosystem functioning, and calls upon States to enhance their efforts to reduce eutrophication, particularly by reducing total nutrient pollution from land-based sources and, to this effect, to continue to cooperate within the framework of relevant international organizations, in particular the Global Programme of Action and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and Global Wastewater Initiative, including through capacity-building initiatives and efforts to monitor, via the Global Ocean Observing System, stressors such as harmful algal blooms, areas of hypoxia, sargassum seaweed invasions and jellyfish blooms, to assess their possible linkage to eutrophication and their potential;

UNEP assists the County Government of Vihiga, Kenya to tackle the issue of liquid and solid waste management around the County, with specific focus on wastewater and nutrient management. The project was launched in October 2020. Despite the pandemic, a draft of the County Environment Action Plan, the basis of any future intervention in the field of solid and liquid waste management, has been produced. The project is expected to continue throughout 2021 with relevant strategies and measures to fight wastewater and nutrient pollution adopted and implemented on the ground.

Even before the pandemic, the GW²I organized webinars to discuss the latest developments and relevant topics for the wastewater sector. In September and December 2020, the Initiative organized two webinars on wastewater and COVID-19 and wastewater and NbS. Many members of the Initiative have contributed to the discussion and organization of these online events. The recordings of the webinars can be found [here](#)

conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing;

The UNEP Coral Reef Unit supports the protection and conservation of blue carbon ecosystems (seagrasses and mangroves) through sustainable initiatives such as PES projects and LMMAs. UNEP is currently supporting mangrove and seagrass PES projects in Kenya, Madagascar and Ecuador.

19. Paragraph 277 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/239

Emphasizes the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant Unitctivv291ocnagon

effort of knowledge compilation undertaken by 150 experts mobilized from across the region by UNEP/MAP and its Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre. Representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, for which UNEP serves as Secretariat, took part in the SoED preparation process. The report provides a foundation for evidence-based environmental action in the region; its authors stress the urgent need for appropriate and effective policy responses to alleviate pressure on the environment while meeting pressing human development needs. The report is available at: <https://planbleu.org/en/soed-2020-state-of-environment-and-development-in-mediterranean/>

UNEP/MAP and its MEDPOL Programme continues to contribute to regional initiatives including: i) support provided to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) Permanent Secretariat regarding organization of the workshops within Quiet Med 2 Project; ii) contribution to the final conference of the harmonization and Networking for contaminant assessment in the Ionian and Adriatic Seas (harmoniA) Project; iii) participation at the EEA meetings organized for Copernicus and the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNet) Projects; iv) identification of the areas of cooperation for closer cooperation with EMODNet; v) building the interrelations of International Ocean Governance process under EU actions with the preparation of the new UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy; vi) creating synergies between UNEP/MAP activities and UNEP Capacity Development and Innovation Branch, SDGs and Statistics Unit; vii) consultation on the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) in relation to further upgrade of Info MAP System; viii) establishing interrelation of Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment with IMAP implementation.

The Nairobi Convention and its partners and relevant actors organized [a meeting](#) on 26 April 2021 to take stock of activities undertaken to date supporting the development of the Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO region. The meeting agreed to produce a draft outline of the Strategy and an Action Plan to advance the role of Regional Economic Communities and the process of stakeholder engagement in the development of an Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO. The Ocean Governance strategy for the WIO is expected to be available in February 2022.

Earlier on 5 September 2020, the Nairobi Convention launched [The State of Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean Region](#), developed in partnership with the WIO Marine Science Association. The publication reviews the status and trends in ocean governance in the WIO and identifies key gaps, challenges, and opportunities in relation to global norms and best practices. Specifically, it focuses on the policy and legal instruments and strategic plans at the global, African, and WIO level; addresses the governance arrangements in sectors like maritime security or fisheries; summarizes features of national ocean governance; and describes selected international experiences in regional ocean governance.

In March 2021, the Nairobi Convention unveiled a strategic framework to improve private sector engagement and partnerships for ocean governance. The Strategic Framework for Private Sector Engagement in the WIO Region proposes a series of implementation measures for engagement of the private sector. It proposes the establishment of a WIO Blue Economy Platform (WIO-BEP) as a regional platform for facilitating private sector engagement across sectors and to promote partnerships between the private sector, governance authorities (regional and national) and civil society. It also proposes partnerships on research and monitoring, and a number of sector-specific partnerships. The framework benefited from a [stakeholder consultation meeting](#) on 30 October 2020.

The Nairobi Convention began in 2020 to support the development of a regional MSP Strategy for the blue and ocean economic growth and operationalized the WIO MSP Technical Working Group (TWG). 21 experts have been nominated to the MSP TWG through the support of the national Focal Points from the 10 Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention. The [first meeting of the WIO MSP TWG](#) was organized on 28 July 2020 with the aim of operationalizing the working group contribution of the Working Group to the development of the WIO regional MSP

protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. More information is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/cobsea/events/webinar/cobsea-webinar-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>.

Detailed developments

COBSEA is a regional intergovernmental policy forum and the sole decision-making body for the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas Region (the East Asian Seas Action Plan). COBSEA supports the nine participating countries (Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam) in the development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of East Asian Seas. The COBSEA Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by UNEP, located at the UN Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office in Bangkok, Thailand. COBSEA supports its participating countries to address priority issues including land-based marine pollution and marine and coastal planning and management, in line with the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 adopted in 2019.

The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA (IGM 24), held in June 2019, encouraged Indonesia to further develop the Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S) founded in Bali in 2019 toward establishing it as a COBSEA Regional Activity Centre at the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA (IGM 25). The RC3S is working with COBSEA to provide capacity building activities on marine litter linked to the East Asian Seas Regional Node and in line with the COBSEA RAP MALI, adopted in June 2019.

By request of the IGM 24, the COBSEA Secretariat in collaboration with the WGML and regional partners, is developing an East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GMPL for consideration at IGM 25, to provide knowledge management and networking services on marine litter policy, science and capacity building toward delivery of the RAP MALI. A review of published plastic pollution research, policies and initiatives in 13 countries in South-East and East Asia was conducted during the second half of 2020 in partnership with the National University of Singapore (NUS). Collaboration with NUS continues to expand the marine litter research database towards integration in the Regional Node of the GPML and establish a regional research network to address knowledge gaps. More information is available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/33383>.

In line with the COBSEA RAP MALI and following outcomes of the technical consultation of the COBSEA WGML held 23-25 June 2020, COBSEA is working in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to develop regional guidance for harmonized monitoring. This includes an inventory of existing marine litter monitoring efforts and identification of common objectives, core indicators, and shared standards, for consideration by COBSEA IGM 25 in 2021.

In 2020 and 2021, the regional marine litter project SEA circular continues to engage national and local governments, plastic producers and businesses, research institutes and academia, and civil society to promote inclusive market-based solutions, policies and regulations to prevent plastic pollution. In 2020, 153 private and public entities were trained to measure and disclose their plastic footprint and efforts to reduce plastic pollution continued in three pilot demonstration sites. Further, a campaign toolkit is under development to support and

Following the full delivery on COBSEA's Voluntary Commitment made at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017 ([#OceanAction15986](#)), the COBSEA Secretariat has drafted two new Voluntary Commitments with country input, for submission to the second UN Ocean Conference.

Pursuant to the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022, an Outlook on COBSEA follow-up and review of ocean-related SDGs is being prepared to guide COBSEA in supporting tracking and implementation of relevant ocean-related SDGs and targets. On basis of a regional workshop held in 2019 and written country submissions, the Outlook document is being finalized for consideration at COBSEA IGM 25.

In 2020 COBSEA initiated a regional initiative in partnership with Blue Solutions Initiative to advance MCSP in the East Asian Seas Region by building capacity and supporting development of a conducive policy environment. Two week-long virtual regional training workshops were held in November 2020. Participants from national and local authorities in COBSEA countries attended the trainings which used interactive practical exercises to examine different elements of ecosystem-based planning process, in particular for protecting blue economy assets and their climate resilience. The trainings supported the establishment of a community of practice across COBSEA countries and provided opportunity for participants to draft personal action plans. More information is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/cobsea/events/workshop/regional-training-workshop-marine-and-coastal-spatial-planning>.

A review of national and regional legal and policy MCSP frameworks is being undertaken through desktop research and consultation with COBSEA countries. The review will identify recommendations on enabling conditions for wider use of MCSP in marine and coastal ecosystem-based management and development. A workshop was held 20 May 2021 in which COBSEA participating countries provided input on the first draft of the review as well as discussed possible future MCSP-related actions through COBSEA. Findings of the policy review will be presented at COBSEA IGM 25 for consideration. More information is available at: <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/events/workshop/mcsp-policy-review-workshop>.

Organized by the OECD and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs in collaboration with COBSEA, ASEAN Secretariat and ESCAP, the Second Regional Ocean Policy Dialogue took place virtually on 15-16 December 2020. Under the theme "Financing Solutions to Address Marine Plastics Pollution in Southeast Asia", the Dialogue explored interlinked issues of policy coherence, ocean finance and marine plastic pollution. The dialogue is part of the OECD's "Sustainable Ocean for All" initiative which aims at harnessing the benefits of sustainable ocean economies through existing and emerging ocean-based industries and the conservation of ocean ecosystems and builds on the Regional Policy Dialogue held in collaboration with COBSEA in Indonesia in December 2019. The Dialogue forges new partnerships and showcases

review compiles available information on the main sources and impacts of nutrient pollution in the coastal and marine environment; prevention and reduction commitments, targets and measures; and related monitoring and assessment in COBSEA countries. This information can support development of further actions in line with COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 addressing land-based sources of marine pollution and may be used by COBSEA countries to inform development and implementation of actions addressing nutrient pollution. A virtual workshop was held 3 March 2021 in which COBSEA participating countries provided input to the draft review to support its finalization and exchanged views on possible future efforts to address nutrient pollution through COBSEA. More information is available at: <https://www.unep.org/cobsea/events/workshop/nutrient-pollution-workshop>.