



Panama and Jamaica have successfully implemented community pilot projects centred on improving solid waste management practices and reducing trash from entering the coastal and marine environment. The programme resulted in the collection of over 4,500 lbs of plastic bottles and generation of over 2,500 lbs of compost in Jamaica with approximately 3,500 adults and children impacted by educational and awareness campaigns. Community members also benefitted from Livelihood/ Upcycling workshops. In Panama, approximately 450 students and the wider public were educated on the proper management of solid waste and the 3Rs, participation in a recycling fair aimed at responsible consumption and good environmental practices. Ongoing activities stimulated through this Partnership in areas of research, advocacy & awareness by the [Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter \(GPML-Caribe\)](#) co-hosted by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention will continue to focus on root causes for improper solid waste management within the region.

#### Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI)

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat is finalizing a Regional Marine Litter Strategy through the [\(GPML-Caribe\)](#) which will provide a strategic outline for marine litter management in the Wider Caribbean Region. This Regional Strategy supports the further implementation of the [Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter \(RAPMaLI\)](#). [A Report on the Status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Bans in the Wider Caribbean Region \(WCR\)](#) summarizing the bans and key policies that have been implemented to regulate the use and production of single-use plastics and Styrofoam was designed and features [an interactive map](#) on the status of bans that can be updated periodically. Finally, the lessons from the *Trash Free Waters* is informing the design of a Regional Clean Seas Campaign for the Wider Caribbean Region and a Clean Seas Video on a Caribbean version of "Break up with Plastics" through the GEF IWECO project has been completed.

#### Global Ghost Gear Initiative

UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme further implemented the Global Ghost Gear Initiative on tackling abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear at global scale. The GGGI currently brings







to implement the agreement in the Western Indian Ocean region. The meeting further plans to address the issue of the establishment of a regional centre for spill preparedness and response.

#### Projects

a)

funded Marine Litter MED Project, UNEP/MAP is providing support to the southern Mediterranean countries to implement the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management. This included:

- a) Support to national regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags and to promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia; Pilot implementation of "Fishing-for-Litter" and "Adopt-a-Beach" clean-up campaigns in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia; Implementation of national pilots related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.
- b) 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, Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions, Black Sea Commission). Coordination among the European Regional Seas included support provided to the Black Sea Commission (BSC) for the development and adoption in October 2018 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Black Sea Region. Coordination among the regional/action plans of the other European Regional Seas is also in place, including the organization of annual Meeting among the European Regional Seas (i.e. OSPAR, HELCOM, UNEP/MAP-BC, BSC).

## Capacity building

A two-day regional training workshop on the LBSA Protocol of the Nairobi Convention was held in December 2018. Organized in collaboration with the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (GPA), the workshop highlighted global, regional and national interventions in combating land-based sources and activities in the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region and the challenges in combating pollution of receiving waters. Monitoring tools developed by the GPA for managing marine pollution, including the Technology Matrix for Wastewater; the Nutrient Management Toolbox; and the Ecosystem health score card was made available to the countries and practitioners for possible adoption to support interventions and to promote shared learning across the region. Updates on efforts leading to the ratification of the LBSA Protocol were received from each country. Countries in the region are at different stages of implementation of interventions of the LBSA Protocol and this provides an opportunity for promoting shared learning and for addressing national challenges. The meeting targeted regional experts and policy makers. The workshop also validated the regional action plan on Marine Litter.

HELCOM countries have committed to cutting 80% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from ships operating in the Baltic Sea in order to combat the problem of eutrophication in the region. HELCOM together with its partners will promote the green shipping technology and use of alternative fuels to further reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and greenhouse gases from ships.

The International Maritime Organization approved the Baltic Sea NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area (NECA) proposal by the HELCOM countries in 2016 with an effective date of 1 January 2021. The North Sea NECA has been agreed in parallel.

Eutrophication, caused by excessive inputs of nutrients, is a serious environmental concern and a priority for action by the Baltic Sea countries working in HELCOM. The measure will result in reduction of 22,000 tons of annual total nitrogen deposition to the whole region, as a combined effect of the Baltic and North Seas NECA's. Out of this, 7,000 tons is estimated to be reduced directly to the sea surface.

The NECA regulations target new ships built on or after 2021 and do not address existing ships. A two-decade long period of fleet renewal is needed before the regulation will show the full effect. Parallel work to promote the green shipping technology and use of alternative fuels, as means of compliance with NECA, will be undertaken by HELCOM and in the region to facilitate emission reductions ahead of the regulatory schedule.

A regional public-private partnership on green technology and alternative fuels for shipping called HELCOM GREEN TEAM has been established for this purpose. The NECA regulation brings a new momentum and a demand to intensify the public-private partnership. The new work plan of the partnership, adopted in 2017, aims to promote public and private co-operation at national and Baltic Sea levels to enhance development and uptake of green technology and alternative fuels in shipping, including LNG. The work will be undertaken jointly by HELCOM countries in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community.



One of the main benefits of these new regulations are to reduce eutrophication of the Baltic Sea due to nitrogen input, but significant health effects on the coastal populations are also expected as a result of the reduced emissions from shipping. Bal

COBSEA is additionally on track in regards to producing a COBSEA SDG Implementation Outlook. The Outlook identifies how COBSEA will support participating countries with the implementation and monitoring of ocean-related SDGs and associated targets. The report will lay the foundation of articulation of COBSEA's contribution to the UN Ocean Conference 2020. The first draft of the Outlook will be discussed with COBSEA participating countries at a workshop in November 2019.

Two UNEP GEF projects are underway in the context of the East Asian Seas Action Plan: The USD 15M project 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea', which addresses the habitat, land-based pollution and regional coordination components of the Strategic Action Programme, is starting in 2019, and the USD 3M project 'Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand', which implements the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme, executed by SEAFDEC.

COBSEA has contributed to the resource base for ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management. This has included technical tools as well as establishing a network of national institutions and resources persons, such as working groups on coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, coastal wetlands and fishery refugia established in the context of developing and implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea.

#### Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (EcAp) in the Mediterranean

UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat implemented the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU MSFD). With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, the project aims to support the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap agreed in Decision IG. 21/3, with a focus on the establishment of integrated monitoring programmes in line with the Decision IG.22/7 on Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). The implementation of this Decision will enable for the first time an integrated quantitative monitoring and assessment of the status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast on a regional basis, covering biodiversity, non-indigenous species, coast, hydrography, pollution and marine litter. In addition, the project addresses some specific challenges of the EcAp Roadmap implementation, and as such aims at strengthening science-policy interface, addressing sub-regional implementation needs, and responding to data and information needs in the Mediterranean region.

Achievements in relation to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (EcAp) in the Mediterranean include *inter alia*:

- Publication of the [2017 Quality Status Report 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;



The WIOSAP project, executed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, developed a number of guidelines (in May 2019) for implementation of related on-the-ground initiatives for healthy marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean. These include:

- Seagrass ecosystem restoration guidelines in response to incidents of seagrass degradation and loss
- Mangroves ecosystem restoration guidelines
- Guidelines on methodologies for the valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems
- Climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit for near-shore marine socio-ecological system in the Western Indian Ocean;
- Guidelines on Environmental Flows Assessments in the context of coastal and marine socio-ecological systems, and the land-sea socio-ecological dynamics.

The Nairobi Convention also developed the Western Indian Ocean Regional Outlook on Marine Protected Areas. The Marine Protected Areas Outlook provides regional baselines on protected areas in response to the call under SDG target 14.5 to conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020. A regional Critical Habitats Outlook will be launched in 2020, addressing SDG target 14.2 on sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems

As part of Nairobi Convention's SAPPHIRE project (implemented by UNDP and executed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat), the project held a series of partnership workshops on oceanographic data and scientific research in 2019. National data centres, scientists, policy makers, and partners identified priorities of countries in using, managing and owning their coastal and marine data findings. The stakeholders agreed on mechanisms and partnerships to improve data collection, sharing, and archiving. The SAPPHIRE project has initiated an ambitious process to revise the national status of marine environment diagnostic analyses (MEDA) reports that are necessary to inform policy and decision making within National Action Plans (NAP). NAPs are the mechanism through which transboundary policy reform can be operationalized and realized in national policy harmonization or change.

#### Science to Policy Platform

The Nairobi Convention organized the Western Indian Ocean regional science to policy workshop in May 2019. The meeting sought to establish and operationalize the Science to Policy Platform as a core structure within the Nairobi Convention. The proposed Scientific Technical and Advisory Panel (STAP) was mainstreamed into the Science to Policy Platform whose membership was expanded to include other sectors and experts such as river basin management experts and social scientists.

In July 2018, the Convention had organised a Science to Policy meeting, which provided concrete policy recommendation to the decisions of the ninth Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties (August 2018) on marine litter, amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora, and on development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks. Other policy and science gaps identified ranged from the contribution of critical habitats to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), sustainable ports development, innovative approaches to dealing with land-based pollution,

threats from ocean acidification, building partnership for coastal cities, to anthropogenic underwater noise pollution in the marine environment.

The Science to Policy Platform was defined in a meeting held in October 2016 as a "A multi-stakeholder platform comprising of representatives of formal and informal knowledge generating institutions, practitioners, policy makers, communities and the private sector within the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region which serves as an intermediary body to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practice. The terms of reference, membership, operating principles and deliverables of the platform were also identified. The platform will continue to deliver assessment tools and guidelines, assessment reports, synthesis reports and their summaries for policymakers, technical papers and policy recommendations for decision making.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU, CMS)

UNEP Nairobi Convention further implemented the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtles MOU, CMS). A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was concluded with the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) in March 2019 to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration with the Nairobi Convention in areas of common concern and interest. SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention will henceforth collaborate in:

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The adoption of the Baltic Sea Action Plan was the first bold attempt by a regional marine protection convention to implement the ecosystem approach. The protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea is no longer seen as an event-driven pollution reduction approach to be taken sector-by-sector. Instead, the starting point is the ecosystem itself, and a shared concept of a healthy sea with a good ecological status. This vision determines the need for further reductions in pollution loads, the extent of various human activities, as well as the conservation of marine biodiversity, and where needed and possible, the restoration, of the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea Area. The cross-sectoral plan identifies the specific actions needed to achieve agreed targets within a given timeframe for the main environmental priorities.

The work to strengthen the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) to support ocean-related SDGs is ongoing in line with the decisions of the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, held under the EU chairmanship in HELCOM, re-affirmed the strong commitment of the Contracting Parties to strengthen the implementation of the BSAP by 2021. The Meeting re-iterated their determination to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its water- and ocean-related goals and targets and committed to using those goals and targets as a framework in updating the BSAP. New commitments have also been made by the Contracting Parties to support reaching the goals and objectives of the BSAP, in relation to SDG 14.1 and 2.4 such as:

- to elaborate by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy;
- To develop and apply a risk assessment framework in HELCOM for measures aiming at managing internal nutrient reserves in open sea;
- To combat marine litter through coordinated implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan,
- To develop an action plan and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise by 2021.

In relation to SDG 14.2 and 14.5, such as: 612 792 reWñBT/F2 11.04 Tff8ng (en-GB)BDC q0.00000912 0 612 792 reW





14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

### Status and trends

#### Collaboration between UNEP Regional Seas Programme and Regional Fisheries Organizations

- i) MoU between UNEP/MAP and FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. The MoU between UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention and GFCM addresses the following five areas of cooperation:

- a) 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;
- b) 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;
- c) Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands);
- d) Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning, and integrated coastal zone management, and other integrated zoning approaches, with a view to mitigate cumulative risks due to reduced access and availability of space affected by multiple and increasing conflictive uses;
- e) Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation.

This partnership has proven as a fruitful instrument to support the delivery of SDG 14 in a coordinated manner at the regional level in the Mediterranean. This partnership has been widely recognized as a best practice of regional cooperation through the following achievements:

- a) bilateral meetings and mutual participation in meetings of relevance;
- b) collaboration between the respective Compliance Committees; respective contribution to assessment studies and monitoring process;
- c) sub-regional pilot for the monitoring of the non-indigenous species related to fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean;

- d) preparation of a "Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity Among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med and UNEP/MAP";
- e) FAO-GFCM recommendations to ensure compatibility with the Barcelona Convention SPA/BD

UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is currently implementing a project titled "*Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas*"

Regional Seas input to SG's background note for the preparatory meeting of the 2020 UN Oceans

