

The role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans with respect to Sustainable Development Goals on oceans and the post 2015 development agenda.

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The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, “The Future We Want”, reflected international shared concern regarding the degradation of our oceans and seas including its living resources and ecosystems.

Heads of State and high level representatives subsequently resolved to “establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly” (*Resolution 66/288, para.248*).

Having worked since January 2013, the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) recently released (September 2014) its Proposal for consideration at the 69th Session of the General Assembly in which the goals and targets for sustainable development for the next 10 years are elaborated. They include a stand-alone goal for the oceans: *Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (A/67/L.48/Rev.1 – see Appendix)*.

While I do not profess to speak on behalf of all CCAMLR Members, CCAMLR’s experience does provide a basis for some broad observations and comments concerning our future sustainable development agenda for the oceans.

CCAMLR is an independent partner programme to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. It was not established under the auspices of UNEP but, as with all ocean regions, shares many of the interests and challenges of the regional seas family and that which the Proposal of the OWG seeks to address.

CCAMLR is 10 years younger than the regional seas programme. Its 33 years of operations have been marked by some significant achievements many of which have been the result of protracted and testing deliberations among its 25 Members. I will touch on some of these.

CCAMLR was established by international convention in 1982 to conserve Antarctic marine living resources where conservation includes rational use. So, unlike many participants in the regional seas programme, CCAMLR has a significant role in the management of fisheries. Since entry into force of the Convention, collectively and individually, CCAMLR’s 25 Members and 11 Acceding States have made good progress in several target areas identified in the proposed post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

While the absence of permanent communities in the Antarctic minimises issues associated with the social pillar of sustainable development the Antarctic marine environment remains exposed to many of the risks identified in the outcomes of UNEP’s visioning workshop in Switzerland in March this year.

As the single common link to the planet's 3 major oceans, the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Southern Ocean is commonly portrayed as the conveyor belt for global ocean processes. It is critical to the health of the planet. And its health is critically linked to what happens in other oceans. While CCAMLR is concerned with many issues, and engages in numerous global processes as an organisation and individually through its Members, I'll touch on some issues that directly relate to the regional seas programme and Goal 14 of the Proposal.

Marine debris and pollution

Since 1984, CCAMLR's has dedicated considerable effort to the assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality of Antarctic marine living resources. An important component relates to monitoring and reporting on marine debris in the Convention Area. CCAMLR has implemented measures to address the risk associated with entanglement of marine mammals in plastic packaging bands (used to secure bait boxes) and the injury to seabirds caused by the discharge of hooks in offal. CCAMLR Members annually submit information on marine debris from beach surveys, debris associated with seabird colonies, entanglements of marine mammals, and hydrocarbon soiling of mammals and seabirds. The CCAMLR Marine Debris Database contains data from 13 sites, predominantly in the Antarctic Peninsula and on Sub-Antarctic islands.

As well as monitoring the occurrence of debris, CCAMLR has developed a number of initiatives to educate fishers and fishing vessel operators about the potential impact of marine debris on seabirds and marine mammals. Since 1989, fishing and fisheries research vessels operating in CCAMLR waters have been required to display a marine debris poster which outlines procedures for the handling, storing and discarding of different types of refuse.

Ecosystem approach

The CCAMLR Convention incorporates, as part of its objectives, the maintenance of ecological relationships and the prevention of irreversible changes to the ecosystem. To give effect to this commitment, in 1987, CCAMLR implemented an Ecosystems Monitoring Programme (CEMP) to monitor selected prey, predators and environmental indicators of ecosystem performance. The aim of CEMP is to provide information about changes in the ecosystem and to determine whether those changes are due to natural processes or are related to harvesting activities. Under CEMP, data on 14 parameters of predator performance have been collected on six predator species from 15 sites. This extremely valuable dataset, that continues to build, provides critical information to assist CCAMLR sustainably manage harvesting activities in the Convention Area.

In respect of the rational use of Antarctic marine living resources, the principles of decision-making in CCAMLR continue to be based on the best available science to deliver management of fishing operations that take account of ecological relationships involving associated and dependent species, and environmental change. In addition, CCAMLR has implemented a comprehensive suite of Conservation Measures designed to identify and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impacts of bottom fishing.

CCAMLR has successfully addressed a range of by-catch threats including the development and implementation of globally recognised best-practice measures for the reduction of

seabird by-catch, which has led to near-zero levels of seabird mortality in CCAMLR-managed fisheries in recent years. Importantly, several finfish target stocks, severely depleted during periods of over-exploitation in the 1970s (before CCAMLR's existence) are demonstrating positive signs of re-building. This is occurring as a result of lengthy periods (in some cases more than 25 years) of prohibition on targeting these stocks.

CCAMLR's precautionary approach to management necessarily factors in considerations of climate change. The implications of climate change on krill and fish production modelling is the subject of work underway through the CCAMLR Scientific Committee relating to the development feedback management strategies for the krill fishery.

Significantly, in 2005, CCAMLR Members commenced a scientifically-based process to establish representative system of marine protected areas. In 2009 a high-seas marine protected area, covering 94,000 km² on the South Orkney islands shelf, became the first component of this system.

Efforts continued during 2013 and 2014 in relation to two proposals for the establishment of MPAs in the Ross Sea and in the East Antarctica and early data assimilation work has commenced in several other planning domains including the Antarctic Peninsula and the Weddell Sea.

IUU fishing

Important in establishing the sustainability of CCAMLR-managed fisheries has been the collective efforts of CCAMLR Members, over 20 years, to address the threats posed by IUU fishing. Although the extent of IUU fishing in the CAMLR Convention Area has been reduced relative to the high levels experienced in the late 1990s and early 2000s it remains a serious threat to CCAMLR fisheries and associated ecosystems. This concern relates to uncertainties associated with IUU operations that need to be accommodated in assessments of the status and trends of target stocks and non-compliance with measures to mitigate impacts on non-target stocks and species taken incidentally in fishing operations.

Capacity building

CCAMLR gives considerable attention to capacity building and means to strengthen participation in its institutional processes with a focus on science. In 2010, CCAMLR established a General Science Capacity Fund and a CCAMLR Scholarship which is available to early career scientists from CCAMLR Members. Four scholarships have been awarded to early career scientists from Argentina, Chile, China and Poland. In addition, the CCAMLR Secretariat has formalised an arrangement with the Secretariat of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) and the University of Tasmania, under the auspices of the International Antarctic Institute, to support a post-graduate internship programme at the CCAMLR Secretariat.

Multilateral engagement

CCAMLR functions as an integral component of the Antarctic Treaty System which was established by Treaty in 1962 and now involves 50 Contracting Parties. CCAMLR Members also engage in a large number of other multilateral processes such as in the IMO (in respect of the development of the Polar Code), numerous UN processes including those supporting

UNGA Resolutions on Sustainable Fisheries and Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS), UNFCCC (on climate change), IHO (on bathymetric charting), and with regional fisheries bodies particularly those with responsibilities for areas contiguous with the CCAMLR Convention Area.

Conclusion

In summary, the recommendation of a stand-alone Goal, and associated targets, for the oceans in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda relates directly to past and planned work of CCAMLR. The key challenges in meeting the targets are associated with:

- Improved knowledge of ecosystem processes in the Antarctic including uncertainties associated with climate change
- Continuing to strengthen the scientific basis for the precautionary management of harvesting activities for marine living resources in a changing environment
- Effectively combating threats from IUU fishing
- Promoting and supporting effective cross-sectorial engagement on Antarctic affairs
- Building scientific- and policy-engagement capacity to support effective participation in Antarctic-related institutional processes for all CCAMLR Members

For Leszek's reference:

Introduction to the Proposal of The Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals

1. The Rio+20 outcome document, *The future we want*, inter alia, set out a mandate to establish an Open Working Group to develop a set of sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly at its 68th session. It also provided the basis for their conceptualization. The Rio outcome gave the mandate that the SDGs should be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

2. Poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Rio+20 outcome reiterated the commitment to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency.

3. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

4. People are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, Rio+20 promised to strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and committed to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world without distinction of any kind such as age, sex, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.

5. Rio+20 also reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

6. It also reaffirmed the commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It also reaffirmed the commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the political declaration on Africa's development needs and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. It reaffirmed the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences. The Outcome document of the September 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals reaffirmed, inter alia, the determination to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda. The commitment to migration and development was reaffirmed in the Declaration of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

7. Rio+20 outcome reaffirmed the need to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles. It reaffirmed the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food and water, the rule of law, good governance, gender equality, women's empowerment and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development. It also reaffirmed the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law.

8. The OWG underscored that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. It recalled that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It noted with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2° C, or 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels and it reaffirmed that the ultimate objective under

the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

9. Planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and Rio+20 noted that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development. Rio+20 affirmed the conviction that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature. It acknowledged the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognized that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development.

10. Rio+20 recognized that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development. It underscored the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. Countries in situations of conflict also need special attention.

11. Rio+20 reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable development for all, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, it reaffirmed the need to achieve economic stability, sustained economic growth, the promotion of social equity and the protection of the environment, while enhancing gender equality, women’s empowerment and equal employment for all, and the protection, survival and development of children to their full potential, including through education.

12. Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. Developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. There is a need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development. Rio+20 affirms the commitment to reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development and to mobilizing the necessary resources for its implementation. The report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing will propose options for a sustainable development financing strategy. The substantive outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 will assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. Good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

13. Rio+20 reaffirmed that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal.

14. The implementation of sustainable development goals will depend on a global partnership for sustainable development with the active engagement of governments, as well as civil society, the private sector, and the United Nations system. A robust mechanism of implementation review will be essential for the success of the SDGs. The General Assembly, the ECOSOC system and the High Level Political Forum will play a key role in this regard.

15. Rio+20 reiterated the commitment to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated.

16. Rio+20 reaffirmed that, in accordance with the Charter, this shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. It resolved to take further effective measures and actions, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism.

17. In order to monitor the implementation of the SDGs, it will be important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to support the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. There is a need to take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind.

18. Sustainable Development Goals are accompanied by targets and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. They are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. They build on the foundation laid by the MDGs, seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. The

goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.

Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

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

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

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

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

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

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

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

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

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

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

*Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

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

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

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

Sustainable Development Goals and targets

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1.2 by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

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

1.a. ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular LDCs, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1.b create sound policy frameworks, at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions

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

2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 by 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons

2.3 by 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

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

2.5 by 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed

2.a increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries

2.b. correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c. adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1 by 2030 reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2 by 2030 end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children

3.3 by 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases

3.4 by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing

3.5 strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

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