

Review of the Regional Governance mechanisms for marine environment



Regional Ocean Governance

- Regional Seas Programme coordinated by UNEP
- Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs) coordinated by FAO; and
- Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions (LME commissions) facilitated by GEF IW funded projects.

Geographical coverages, mandates, and approaches differ among these three.



Objective of the review

- to review the existing governance frameworks in various regions including within and beyond national jurisdiction;
- to provide information to UNEP member countries and regional seas programmes on existing mechanisms and possible gaps in the existing governance mechanisms when governments would like to take an ecosystem-based approach.
- The term “governance” is defined as *“the structures, functions, processes, and organizational traditions that have been put in place within the context of a program’s authorizing environment to define and achieve objectives”*.

Regional Seas

- UNEP Regional Seas Programme - 18 regional seas, some of which are regional seas associated with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.
- An action plan serves as the basis for regional cooperation and regionally coordinated action to address the issues related to and prioritised in the marine and coastal environments of these seas.
- For some of the regional seas, framework conventions and associated protocols were developed to bind the parties to achieve the common goal of realising the healthy marine and coastal environment.
- The secretariats or regional coordinating units were established to implement the action plans and were designated as the bodies to oversee the implementation of the conventions.



Regional Seas

- The regional seas programmes, in their scope of work, historically included monitoring and assessment of coastal and marine environment, land-based sources of pollution, ship-based pollution, marine biodiversity, and capacity building for monitoring, assessment and management of the marine and coastal environment. The regional seas programmes are requested to cover wider range of issues related to sustainable development of marine and coastal areas.
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Regional Fishery Management Organisations (RFMOs)

- Historically fishery issues were handled by Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and regional seas programmes generally did not include in their scope of programmes these issues.
- There are 30 active RFBs. Seven of them have been established under the FAO Constitution, and FAO facilitated establishment of several of the other bodies and serves as depository for the instrument of acceptance of such bodies.
- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, Deep Sea fishery guidelines – impacts of fisheries on marine and coastal ecosystems

Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions

- Global Environment Facility (GEF) has supported Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approaches to transboundary marine and coastal environment, on which establishment of coordination and institutional frameworks for LMEs has been supported in a number of them.
- The LME projects adopt an “ecosystem approach” and application of ecosystem-based assessment and management in addressing the transboundary concerns jointly identified by littoral States.
- Depending on the initial transboundary, ecosystem-based diagnostic analysis, strategic action programmes of the LME projects includes addressing the issues that both regional seas programmes and RFBs cover.

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Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions

coverage of the LME projects was defined, and there are 64 LMEs OAA.

jects are proceeding with establishment of LME commissions via LME module on governance and based on the needs of the participating States. Benguela Commission and PEMSEA are

