

Ocean Policies and Institutional Arrangements for Cross-sectoral Cooperation

Case studies for achieving Sustainable Development Goals



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Case studies on policies and institutional arrangements to enable cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals

Cross-sectoral cooperation is required to achieve the sustainable development goals. If pollution sources are to be tackled, for example, action must be taken by the sectors associated with them, such as navigation, fisheries, agriculture and mining. Cross-sectoral approaches are now promoted at various levels: local, national, regional and global. With regard to marine ecosystems, cooperation at the regional seas level (Baltic Sea, Western Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean and so on) is vital. Recently, several instances of cross-sectoral cooperation have emerged providing different models of coordinated policy development and institutional cooperation between/among regional organizations.

The objective of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) – European Commission project Integrated Management and Governance Strategies for Delivery of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals is to exchange practical experience and synthesize guidance on effective application of area-based management measures, and policy interactions and institutional arrangements to support the implementation of ocean-related sustainable development goals in different regional and national contexts. It includes a component for the collection and collation of information on experiences of existing cross-sectoral cooperation frameworks in order to highlight the usefulness of such regional ocean governance for achieving ocean-related objectives that may be associated and aligned with ocean-related sustainable development goals. It sets out the advantages of a regional ocean governance approach to consolidating efforts at various levels across the relevant sectors in order to achieve agreed regional and global ocean-related objectives. In order to do so, this component will produce a paper summarizing the experiences of existing cross-sectoral cooperation frameworks at the regional level, including the elements of successful cooperation, challenges faced and opportunities. The report will also include a set of recommendations for regional organizations entering into cross-sectoral dialogue for cooperation, with the particular aim of harmonized and ecosystem-wide implementation of the ocean-related sustainable development goals. The report will be used as a basis for further international discussion on implementation of Strategic Development Goal 14 in order to review the possible use of regional ocean governance frameworks and partnerships to promote its implementation and follow-up.

The case studies compiled for these purposes include the following:

- Delivering the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 through a highly inclusive process to transpose Agenda 2030 and its sustainable development goals at the regional level;
- Fostering cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in the context of Strategic Development Goal 14: Ongoing efforts promoted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (GFCM);
- HELCOM cross-sectoral cooperation and partnerships on clean and safe Baltic Sea shipping;
- Regional co-operation on marine pollution preparedness and response in the Northwest Pacific Region;
- Cooperation in the Danube-Black Sea Basin: Example of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR);
- 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy and African Ocean Governance Strategy;

- Update on the design of an integrated regional ocean policy for the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific;
- Potential cooperation between the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI);
- Cooperation between the Abidjan Convention and the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission; and
- OSPAR cooperation with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, with particular reference to area-based management.

Delivering the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 through a highly inclusive process to transpose Agenda 2030 and its sustainable development goals at the regional level

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Context and background

The objective of this case study on cross-sectoral cooperation is to demonstrate through the example of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) review process:

- 1) The added value of a highly inclusive participatory process following a transversal approach to delivering a sustainable development policy to transpose [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2030 Agenda\)](#) and its [sustainable development goals \(SDGs\)](#) at the regional level;
- 2) The importance of implementation and monitoring of [the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 \(MSSD 2016-2025\)](#) for the Mediterranean region and people; and,
- 3) The potential for replication of such an inclusive process, as appropriate, in other regions of the world.

In 1975, the Mediterranean Coastal States and the European Community approved the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to address the common challenges of marine environmental degradation. It was the first Regional Seas Programme under the auspices of UN Environment and was followed in 1976 by the adoption of the Barcelona Convention. After 40 years of regional cooperation, [the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention system](#) (the MAP system) continues to be relevant and has ambitious objectives. A number of strategic decisions were adopted at the recent 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to [the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean](#) (Barcelona Convention, COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016).

[The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development \(MCSD\)](#) was established in 1995, when the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Contracting Parties) expressed their commitment to sustainable development and to effective implementation at the regional and national levels of the decisions of [the Earth Summit \(Rio, 1992\)](#) and [the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development \(UN-CSD\)](#). It is one of the regional bodies that ensures the interconnectedness of environmental protection and sustainable development policies established by the MAP system. It is an advisory body to the Contracting Parties and other regional and local actors, assisting them in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in socioeconomic programmes and, in so doing, promoting sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region.

The Mediterranean Commission holds two ordinary meetings a year and extraordinary sessions as needed. At the beginning of the first sitting of each meeting, it elects the Steering Committee (MCSD

SC), which is composed of four members representing the Contracting Parties, including ex officio the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, and three representatives from the six categories referred to in the Terms of Reference of the Commission. The Steering Committee oversees the work of the Commission between sessions.

In 2005, at the 14th Ordinary Meeting (COP 14) (Portoroz, Slovenia), the Mediterranean Commission adopted innovative means of participation by and engagement of civil society organizations and other major stakeholders. The Commission is unique in its composition in that government representatives, local communities, socioeconomic actors, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can all participate on an equal footing. Thus, it includes various major groups and stakeholders (MGS), such as the Socioeconomic Stakeholders Group, the NGO Group, the Scientific Community Group, and the IGO Group.

Acknowledging the implications for the Mediterranean Commission of the outcomes of [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development \(Rio+20\)](#) regarding the upgrading of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development into a [High Level Political Forum](#), [Decision IG.21/12 of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention \(COP 18\)](#) (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013) requested reform of the Mediterranean Commission by reviewing its composition in order to ensure still greater representativeness, and sharpening its mandate.

This reform was achieved at COP 19 in February 2016 through [Decision IG.22/17](#), which increased the number of Commission members from 37 to 40, including representatives of an additional key major group and stakeholder, the Parliamentarians Group.

The objective of a strengthened Commission is further integration of the environment pillar into public policies by focusing on the interface between environment and development and thus building on its successes and potential. In line with this objective, [the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention secretariat](#) (the secretariat) was asked to support the Commission in forging partnerships and coordination between various actors, including the World Bank, the Union for the Mediterranean and United Nations actors other than UNEP, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in order to improve implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2025 through coordinated action. The Mediterranean Commission is also required to encourage the exchange of good practices and to establish an online consultation platform for these purposes.

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