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Regional Oceans Governance

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REGIONAL OCEANS GOVERNANCE

**Making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional
Fishery Bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem
Mechanisms Work Better Together**

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Making Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fishery Bodies and Large
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Context of the paper

The development of regional governance for the protection of the environment and its biodiversity is unquestionably a cornerstone of international environmental law and policy. With regard to marine and coastal issues, regional oceans governance has mainly been taking place through: (i) Regional Seas programmes, many of them supported or coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); (ii) regional fishery bodies (RFBs), some established under the framework of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and (iii) Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) mechanisms, including projects supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Although based on a similar geographical approach, there are concerns regarding their coordination and efficiency, and possibly overlaps in their aims.

Objectives of the paper

The review of existing regional oceans governance mechanisms is intended to assist states that participate in such mechanisms, as well as those that considering participating, by clarifying the key distinctions between the mandates of these mechanisms, highlighting their successes and the challenges they face, and outlining cooperation between them. Furthermore, options are identified for strengthening existing mechanisms and cooperation between them, as well as for the creation of new regional oceans governance mechanisms, with particular reference to the ecosystem approach.

Disclaimer

Chapter 1 and most of Annex II were submitted for the first time to UNEP on respectively 3 October 2012 and 4 October 2012. Improvements to the text have been made afterwards, but Annex II has not been updated since then. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect UNEP's positions.

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Raphaël Billé, Lucien Chabason, Petra Drankier, Erik J. Molenaar, Julien Rochette

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List of Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas beyond national jurisdiction
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
ATCM	Antarctic Treaty consultative meetings
ATLAFCO	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic
ATS	Antarctic Treaty System
BBNJ Working Group	Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
BCLME	Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization
BP/RAC	Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAMLR	Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCAS	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals
CCBSP	Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
CCLME	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CCRF	FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tunas
CEARAC	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environment Assessment RAC
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CEP	Committee on Environmental Protection
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COBSEA	Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African

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