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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON THE
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS, MARINE AND COASTAL
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AND FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (DECISIONS IV/4,
IV/5, IV/7)

Review of existing instruments relevant to integrated marine
and coastal area management and their implications for the
implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, as contained in the annex to its decision IV/5. Under operational objective 1.1 of programme element 1 (Implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)) of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to review existing instruments relevant to IMCAM and their implications for the implementation of the Convention.

2. With a view to achieving this objective, the Secretariat has identified and analysed the main existing sets of international (global) guidelines on integrated coastal zone/area management, as well as instruments developed and implemented within the framework of the regional seas conventions and action plans. Additional information was obtained from national focal points and relevant programmes and activities of international organizations and bodies, as well as workshops and other sources, as specified below.

3. The guidance elaborated by the Conference of the Parties on integrated marine and coastal area management is summarized in section II of this note. Section III provides a brief overview of such mechanisms and instruments relevant to IMCAM, a comparison of the main sets of relevant guidelines, and gaps identified in existing instruments. Section IV presents some conclusions arising out of the review.

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4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the findings present in the present document and request Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and bodies to take advantage of ongoing initiatives in the implementation of plans and programmes for integrated marine and coastal area management, so as to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to request the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to draft IMCAM guidelines based on existing instruments, taking into account the ecosystem approach.

II. GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT

5. In paragraph 1 (b) of its decision II/10, the Conference of the Parties expressed support for the recommendations in paragraphs 10-19 of SBSTTA recommendation I/8, subject to annex I of the decision, which contains additional conclusions on the recommendation, and its further elaboration by SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties.

6. In the annex to its recommendation I/8, SBSTTA defined integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) ^{1/} as a participatory process for decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts from human activities in the marine and coastal environment, and to contribute to the restoration of degraded coastal areas. According to that definition, IMCAM involves all stakeholders, including: decision makers in the public and private sectors; resource owners, managers and users; non-governmental organizations; and the general public. SBSTTA also noted that community-based management approaches have proven particularly important for the success of IMCAM plans and programmes and that these plans and programmes have already demonstrated their potential as an effective tool to promote conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity around the world.

7. In paragraphs 10 (a) and (b) of recommendation I/8, SBSTTA recommended that IMCAM should be promoted as the framework for addressing impacts of land-based activities, and human impacts as a whole, on marine and coastal biological diversity, and to encourage Governments, communities, and that users should develop and adopt integrated management measures, including:

(a) Land/habitat use capability analysis and planning for multiple use;

(b) Environmentally sound land and coastal resource use practices based on precautionary ecosystem management approaches and best management practices; and

(c) Sustainable tourism planning and management.

8. In paragraphs 10 (c)-(g) of the same recommendation, SBSTTA recommended, inter alia, that Parties should:

^{1/} The term "integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)" is used for the purposes of the Convention on Biological Diversity. To date, there is no standard term for the concept. Other commonly used terms are, inter alia, "integrated coastal management (ICM)", "integrated coastal area management (ICAM)" and "integrated coastal zone management (ICZM)". In the present note, the terminology used in the various instruments under discussion has been adhered to.

(a) Carry out environmental impact assessment of all major marine and coastal development activities with special attention to marine and coastal biological diversity, taking into account cumulative impacts;

(b) Undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of project impacts during implementation;

(c) Address socio-economic needs of coastal communities in the planning and implementation of the marine and coastal area management;

(d) Promote rapid appraisal techniques to improve the conservation and management of marine and coastal biological diversity;

(e) Address impacts of land-based activities on marine and coastal biological diversity and identify methodologies and research to assess these impacts;

(f) Address impacts of desludging and pollution by maritime vessels on marine and coastal biological diversity, in particular in those countries which border international waterways; and

(g) Adopt measures to mitigate adverse effects.

9. Paragraph (ii) of annex I to decision II/10 sets out a number of crucial components of IMCAM, including, in particular construction and mining in coastal areas, mariculture, mangrove management, tourism, recreation, fishing practices, land-based activities and watershed management. The same paragraph provides guidance on measures to prevent physical alteration, destruction and degradation of vital habitats and restore, where appropriate and practical, degraded habitats, including spawning areas, nurseries of stocks of living marine resources, bearing in mind the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the need to provide a balanced approach to the use and conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity.

10. In relation to paragraph 11 of recommendation I/8, which deals with marine and coastal protected areas, paragraph (iv) of annex I to decision II/10 clearly places marine and coastal protected areas in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management and identifies critical habitats for living marine resources as an important criterion for their selection. In such a context, conservation measures should emphasize the protection of ecosystem functioning, in addition to protecting specific stocks.

11. Paragraph 15 of recommendation I/8, which deals with mariculture, states, inter alia, that mariculture should be incorporated into IMCAM plans, particularly taking into account the vulnerability of areas of high biological value.

12. Although paragraph 16 of SBSTTA recommendation I/8, dealing with alien species, does not make specific mention of IMCAM, it is clear that the management of alien species should be part of IMCAM, for example, in the case of intentional introduction of alien species for mariculture.

III. REVIEW OF EXISTING MAJOR INSTRUMENTS RELEVANT TO INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT

A. Overview of mechanisms and instruments relevant to IMCAM

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1. International guidelines 2/

13. The OECD integrated policies and draft recommendations of the Council on integrated coastal zone management (1991) 3/ were formulated on the basis of country inputs, with the aim of producing guidelines on how to achieve ecologically sustainable development in the coastal zone. The guidelines encompass institutional aspects of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM); the assessment of current policies; the development of an ICZM plan; how to generate the necessary information; and how the plan implementation should be monitored.

14. Of the guidelines reviewed in the present note, the OECD guidelines refer explicitly to and elaborate upon an ecosystem approach to be followed in the definition of the area to be managed. The main goal of an ICZM plan, according to these guidelines, should be to maintain critical stocks and resources, environmental quality, and the intrinsic value of the coastal zone. This objective is in full agreement with the principles of the ecosystem approach as described in SBSTTA recommendation V/10 (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/3, annex I), which will be before the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fifth meeting.

15. The provisions of ICZM plans are also in line with decision II/10 in this matter. In the context of the OECD report, science plays a key role in successfully implementing ICZM. Capacity-building provisions are scarce, but the report does contain a section on the importance of an effective financial mechanism for ICZM.

16. The IUCN Cross-Sectoral Integrated Coastal Area Planning: Guidelines and Principles for Coastal Area Development 4/ were produced in 1993 as a contribution to the deliberations of the subgroup on coastal zone management of Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The document provides guidelines for the development of coastal area plans at the national level. The authors stress that the term "holistic", rather than "integrated", better reflects the kind of planning and management of all sectoral activities simultaneously. The holistic approach is required if one wants to achieve more significant overall benefits than pursuing sectoral development plans individually.

17. The Guidelines illustrate the main human-induced environmental problems of the coastal zone, as well as climatic and global changes in the coastal zone. They also describe the need for integrated coastal zone management and planning that stems from conflicts and compatibilities in the coastal zone. Once national development objectives have been set, a cross-sectoral integrated coastal area planning process is established, which includes a series of operational steps as follows:

Step 1: Definition of the main problems affecting the coastal zone;

Step 2: Assessment and analysis of the problems;

Step 3: Identification of the issues and development of options to tackle those issues;

2/ The guidelines in this section are listed in chronological order of their adoption.

3/ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Report on CZM: Integrated policies and draft recommendations of the Council on integrated coastal zone management (OECD, Paris, 1991).

4/ IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Cross-Sectoral Integrated Coastal Area Planning: Guidelines and Principles for Coastal Area Development (IUCN, Gland, 1993).

- Step 4: Formulation of a cross-sectoral integrated coastal area plan;
- Step 5: Adoption of the plan;
- Step 6: Implementation; and
- Step 7: Monitoring and evaluation.

The cycle can recommence with the definition of new problems that have emerged in the meantime.

18. The UNEP Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas (1995) ^{5/} were developed in the context of the experience accumulated while implementing the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, and are therefore specially oriented towards the Mediterranean basin. However, they are applicable, with possible amendments, to other regions.

19. The Guidelines start by describing the problems affecting coastal areas and by proving that there is a need for integrated coastal area management (ICAM), if one wants to manage complex systems in a way so as to bring together different interests and pursue them in a sustainable manner; that is to say, in a way to harness "coastal resources for optimum social and economic benefit for present and future generations without prejudicing the resource base itself and maintaining the ecological processes." The guidelines describe two possible approaches to ICAM – "top-down" and "bottom-up" – and conclude that "[e]ven where a government-sponsored approach is adopted, the intrinsic nature of ICAM requires the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders, bringing the top-down and bottom-up approaches together in a synergistic framework". The decision-making process leading to ICAM comprises three stages: initiation, planning and implementation. Each stage contains different phases, which in turn are made of specific activities, leading to the identification of outputs. Ultimately, political decisions will allow for the approval of the recommendations contained in the outputs.

20. The Guidelines also contain a section on data, evaluation and assessment, and implementation instrument requirements for ICAM and suggests the following related tools and techniques:

(a) Data management: an ICAM database should be established, containing: (i) a resource inventory covering quantity and quality of resources; (ii) an inventory of the operating economic sectors; (iii) an infrastructure inventory (roads, water supply, sewage treatment, etc.); and (iv) a pollution discharge inventory;

(b) Evaluation and assessment techniques, which should be, as appropriate: (i) environmental assessment, based on tools such as environmental impact assessment, environmental assessment studies, rapid assessment of coastal communities, climate impact studies, and carrying capacity assessment); (ii) risk assessment and management; and (iii) economic evaluation;

(c) Instruments for implementation, which can be, depending on the context and specific needs: (i) regulatory; (ii) economic (e.g. taxes,

^{5/} United Nations Environment Programme, Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas, with Special Reference to the Mediterranean Basin, UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 161 (UNEP, Nairobi, 1995).

incentives); (iii) bargaining and negotiation; and (iv) conflict resolution or techniques for consensus-building and integration.

21. The World Bank Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (1996) ^{6/} are an expansion and update of the Noordwijk Guidelines presented at the World Coast Conference, held in Noordwijk, the Netherlands in 1993. They constitute a conceptual presentation of how integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) may contribute to achieving sustainable development. The Guidelines include: a definition of the coastal zone and its special characteristics; principles of ICZM, such as: the ecosystem approach, and some principles listed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (the precautionary principle, the polluter-pays principle, and the principles relating to transboundary responsibility and inter-generational equity); and actual guidelines on how to develop an ICZM programme, consisting of:

- (a) Identification of coastal problems triggering ICZM;
- (b) Preparation of a "concept paper", with the involvement of all stakeholders;
- (c) Approval of the recommendations for an ICZM programme in the concept paper by the responsible authority(ies);
- (d) Identification of "actors", for whom the role of each is clarified from the very beginning; ^{7/}
- (e) Establishment of an inter-agency coordinating mechanism;
- (f) Formulation of a plan for the identification of the necessary information and data, the preparation for public participation, the assessment of management problems, consideration of management boundaries and new management measures, analysis of the institutional capacities and strengthening of regulatory programmes, design of an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system, development of recommendations; establishment of division of labour, timetable and approaches;
- (g) Creation of an inter-agency coordination mechanism once the ICZM programme has been formally adopted by the Government; and
- (h) Initiation of the operational phase, which will imply an active supervisory role of the inter-agency coordinating body, the entering into effect of a new management plan as an integrated framework for carrying out sectoral activities and considering new development opportunities, and the initiation of a monitoring and evaluation programme.

22. According to the World Bank Guidelines, programme implementation is also subject to the enactment of required legislation. In this respect, major legislative initiatives are often not required, as a decree or simply administrative rules may be sufficient. The Guidelines also refer to the need to monitor and evaluate the results of the ICZM programme in place. They conclude with a section addressing the need for integration of ICZM programmes into existing/planned national development plans; funding considerations; and

^{6/} World Bank, Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, World Bank Environmentally Sustainable Development Studies and Monographs Series No. 9 (World Bank, Washington, D.C., 1996).

^{7/} These actors include: the national/central (and state, wherever existing) government; line agencies and ministries; local governments; research institutions; coastal stakeholders (fishers, businesses, the agriculture sectors, park or reserve managers, non-governmental organizations), including individuals or groups placing a high value on aesthetic and recreational values of the coastal area; and the general public.

the requirement for concerted actions by nations with issues of common concern, such as pollution and migratory fish stocks.

23. The International Workshop on Integrated Coastal Management in Tropical Developing Countries: Lessons Learned from Successes and Failures, held in Xiamen, China, from 24 to 28 May 1996, produced a report ^{8/} containing a compilation of good integrated coastal management (ICM) practices drawn from experiences of formulating, designing, implementing, and extending ICM in the East Asian region. ^{9/} The report states that its findings may be valid for other regions of the world, and indeed a significant number of both academic and technical papers worldwide have used these findings. The report illustrates the ICM concept and functions, the steps involved in the ICM process, and good practices. Perhaps the most important contribution of this endeavour has been to identify the good practices that apply to all coastal management situations. These are:

- (a) Adoption of a systematic, incremental approach in developing and implementing ICM projects and programmes;
- (b) Involvement of the public in the ICM process;
- (c) Integration of environmental, economic, and social information from the very beginning of the ICM process;
- (d) Establishment of mechanisms for integration and coordination;
- (e) Establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms;
- (f) Development of ICM capacity at all levels; and
- (g) Monitoring of the effectiveness of ICM projects and programmes.

The report also includes a section describing the evolution from a small ICM demonstration project to a full-fledged national programme, which provides instructive guidance on how an ICM programme matures through the successive completion of its cycles.

24. In addition, the report of the Xiamen meeting affirms that a demonstration project should be established based on criteria of manageability, transferability and significance. This project should be implemented according to the guidelines governing the implementation of any ICM plan or programme. Consolidation is gained through monitoring progress in the project implementation and assessing its impacts. Lessons are distilled and the ICM plan refined, as needed. Monitoring will in the mean time have also allowed for an update of the baseline information. Achievements are evaluated against original objectives and goals. Replication of the same project in other areas will follow, including through appropriate marketing of the success of the demonstration site and measures to promote the ICM concept. This stage requires the development of coastal policies at provincial and national levels, the increase of necessary capacities within all the groups of relevant actors, and the strengthening of political commitment to ICM. Finally, the extension of the original plan takes place nationally, at which level an effective coastal programme is established. This phase will have

^{8/} Enhancing the Success of Integrated Coastal Management: Good Practices in the Formulation, Design, and Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management Initiatives: report of the International Workshop on Integrated Coastal Management in Tropical Developing Countries, (GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas and Coastal Management Center, Quezon City, 1996).

^{9/} The workshop was organized in the context of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas.

benefited from the experience gained at local and provincial level, but in order for it to be sustainable, it will require harmonization of legislation at different levels, enhanced interdisciplinary research on common management problems, implementation of international conventions and agreements to resolve transboundary issues, a long-term capacity-building programme, development of sustainable financial mechanisms at the national level, the integration of ICM into economic development plans and other action plans and strategies (including national biodiversity strategies and action plans).

25. The 1997 International Workshop on Planning for Climate Change through Integrated Coastal Management provided an occasion to develop Guidelines for Integrating Coastal Management Programs and National Climate Change Action Plans. ^{10/} These Guidelines, although developed in parallel with the process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and, therefore, not formally adopted by the latter, illustrate how the successful implementation of national climate change action plans and their management strategies will depend on their integration into other management plans, including coastal ones. The Guidelines state that sea-level rise and other effects of climate change would depend "not only on the local patterns and intensity of climate change, but also on the nature of the coastal environment, on the human, ecological, and physical responsiveness of the affected coastal system, and on actions in other sectors of coastal and national economies", this being the reason why the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommended ICM as the framework for coastal management under such dynamic conditions.

26. Although the Guidelines aim at providing guidance on integrating national climate change action plans and their management strategies with coastal management plans, ^{11/} they are generally applicable to the implementation of any ICM programme (most notably, their sections on improving institutional capabilities; participation and consensus-building; education, training and outreach; and financing and implementing management strategies), and are therefore relevant to the present note. In particular, the section on participation and consensus-building defines and describes in detail the roles of major stakeholders in planning, implementing, operating, monitoring, enforcing, and evaluating ICM programmes. The Guidelines also make reference to principles based on agreed international norms on environment and economic development that emanated from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which include the Convention on Biological Diversity. One principle addresses the interdependence among issues and sectors, and between environment and economic development. The Guidelines refer to the protection of biodiversity of rare and fragile ecosystems and of endangered and threatened species, as part of ICM. Other principles of the Guidelines are related to the special character of oceans and coasts.

27. The Methodological Guide to Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) ^{12/} aims at assisting in the

^{10/} B.Cicin-Sain, C. Ehler, R.W. Knecht, R. South, and R. Weiher, Guidelines for Integrating Coastal Management Programs and National Climate Change Action Plans: developed at the International Workshop: Planning for Climate Change through Integrated Coastal Management Chinese Taipei, 24-28 February 1997.

^{11/} The specificity of the Guidelines with regard to effects of climate change lies mostly in their section dealing with improving the scientific and information base for ICM, as they describe the basic scientific and information components required for a successful ICM programme in relation to climate change.

^{12/} Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Methodological Guide to Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Manuals and Guides No. 36 (UNESCO, Paris, 1997).

organization of environmental information and thus contributing to the concerted preparation of management plans that should be implemented by all the environmental actors: decision makers, managers, users and scientists. The proposed methodological approach provides the unifying thread for the user of the Guide. It comprises a certain number of stages, which lead to the formulation of the management objectives. The Guide presents a methodology to assemble and analyse data using specific system. Local data are plotted against "reference elements" along the following stages of the approach: analysis of the problem; definition of coherent management units; qualification of coastal space (evaluation of the health of the system); search for indicators and indices; establishment of a data and information system; and formulation of orientations, proposals and objectives (including legal and institutional measures and sustainable management plans). The derived information system will generate knowledge of the system (scientific domain), facilitate the development of modelling methodologies (methodological domain), and assist in formulating a representation of the system through computer simulations (computing domain).

28. In the framework of its Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries, ^{13/} the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has published a document entitled Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management, a concrete example of how issues pertaining to a specific economic sector (fisheries) should be dealt with in the context of integrated coastal management planning "so that interactions between the fisheries sector and other sectors can be taken into account in the establishment of management policy and practice with regard to coastal resources". The Technical Guidelines are clearly based on the evidence that most capture fisheries are based on coastal stocks, and offshore stocks are often dependent on inshore areas during part of their lives. The Guidelines address and provide guidance for the implementation of, specific provisions under article 10 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which deals with the integration of fisheries into coastal management.

2. Regional mechanisms and instruments

29. At the regional level, a number of guidelines on integrated marine and coastal area management have been developed, mainly in the framework of regional seas conventions and action plans. In most cases, these guidelines have been agreed upon by the contracting parties to the conventions in question, as part of the adoption of an integrated approach in the process of planning and management of coastal areas, for the purpose of preserving their resources and ecological functions. In addition to reflecting the consensus of contracting parties on how IMCAM measures should be designed and implemented, another merit of these guidelines is that, often, their introductory section identifies the main pressures on the coastal areas in the region under consideration, thus providing baseline information that proves to be very important for undertaking targeted actions. Examples of regional guidelines for IMCAM are as follows:

^{13/} Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management, FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 3 (Rome, 1996).

(a) The Guidelines for Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region, ^{14/} developed by the Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme;

(b) The demonstration programme on integrated management of coastal zones launched by the European Commission in 1996, on the basis of lessons learned through a limited number of demonstration projects. The programme led ultimately to the identification of solid technical elements on the conditions to be met so as to achieve sustainable development of the European coast;

(c) The Pan-European Code of Conduct for Coastal Zones ^{15/} developed by the Council of Europe, which provides "practical guidelines for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in coastal areas, fully recognizing that socio-economic development in these regions will continue to occur"; and

(d) Coastal Marine Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean, ^{16/} a technical study prepared by the Inter-American Development Bank, which justifies the need for development investments to be centred on conflict management and consensus-building approaches such as IMCAM in the above-mentioned region. This study is an example of strategies developed by "development aid agencies" active at the regional level to support their portfolios on coastal area management.

30. The IMCAM concept therefore strongly focuses on social problems, which in turn reflect specific cultural settings. It would be incorrect to state that the international guidelines described in subsection 1 above satisfy the needs of all the regions in which the IMCAM concept is being applied. In the case of the South Pacific region, for example, the framework for integrated coastal management formulated through the South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) is centred on an approach in which the concept of "zone" is virtually non-existent: land being communally owned, planning and management must be communally based. With this difference and with a strong emphasis on a bottom-up approach to the development of ICM, the SPREP strategy for ICM seems altogether compatible with other regional and global guidelines for IMCAM.

3. Initiatives at the national level

31. National reports and information obtained from the national focal points and experts from the roster of experts under the Convention on Biological Diversity indicate that a large number of countries worldwide are engaged in IMCAM plans and programmes in one way or another, including through interdisciplinary studies. These plans and programmes may vary in terms of priorities tackled, specific approaches to institutional development, the degree to and manners in which local communities are involved in the process.

32 The Government of Indonesia has produced a country study on integrated coastal and marine biodiversity management, as have the Governments of Mozambique, Seychelles and others in eastern Africa, with the assistance of the World Bank and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The Government of the United Kingdom has produced guides to good practices for coastal sectoral activities, and the Government of Canada has issued a guide to integrated coastal zone management in Canada.

^{14/} UNEP, Guidelines for Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston, 1996).

^{15/} Council of Europe, Pan-European Code of Conduct for Coastal Zones (Strasbourg, 1998).

^{16/} M.H. Lemay, Coastal Marine Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (Inter-American Development Bank, Technical Study No. ENV-129, Washington D.C.).

B. Comparison of the main sets of guidelines on ICMAM

33. Existing instruments relevant to ICMAM present some common features. The following table presents the major findings of a 1995 comparison ^{17/} of five of the international guidelines referred to above. The comparison was made on the basis of 10 variables relevant to the design and implementation of integrated coastal management guidelines, namely, scope/purpose, principles, definition of management area, ICMAM functions/goals, legal basis, horizontal integration, vertical integration, financial arrangement, prescription for use of science, and capacity-building.

Common features in five ICMAM guidelines ^{18/}

Purpose of ICMAM guidelines	The aim of ICMAM guidelines is to guide coastal area development in an ecologically sustainable manner.
Principles	ICMAM guidelines are guided by the Rio principles with special emphasis on the principle of inter-generational equity, the precautionary principle and the polluter-pays principles. They are holistic and interdisciplinary in nature, especially with regard to science and policy.
Functions	ICMAM guidelines are intended to strengthen and harmonize sectoral management in the coastal zone. They preserve and protect the productivity and biological diversity of coastal ecosystems, and maintains amenity values. ICM guidelines are designed to promote the rational economic development and sustainable utilization of coastal and ocean resources and facilitate conflict resolution in the coastal zone.
Spatial coverage	An ICMAM programme embraces all of the coastal and upland areas, the uses of which can affect the coastal waters and the resources therein, and extends seaward to include that part of the coastal ocean that can affect the land of the coastal zone. The ICMAM programme may also include the entire ocean area over which national Governments have stewardship responsibilities, both under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

^{17/} B. Cicin-Sain, R.W. Knecht, and G.W. Fisk (1995), "Growth in capacity for integrated coastal management since UNCED: an international perspective", Ocean and Coastal Management, 29(1-3) (pp. 93-123).

^{18/} Modified from Cicin-Sain et al, 1995 (see footnote 17 above). The guidelines compared are the 1996 World Bank Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Zone Management; the World Coast Conference report; the UNEP Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas; the 1991 OECD Integrated Policies and Draft Recommendations of the Council on Integrated Coastal Zone Management; and the 1993 IUCN Guidelines and Principles for Coastal Area Development).

Horizontal and vertical integration	Overcoming the sectoral and intergovernmental fragmentation that exists in today's coastal management efforts is a prime goal of IMCAM guidelines. Institutional mechanisms for effective coordination among various sectors active in the coastal zone are fundamental to the strengthening and rationalization of the coastal management process. From the variety of available options, the coordination and harmonization mechanism must be tailored to fit the unique aspects of each particular national government setting.
The use of science	Given the complexities and uncertainties that exist in the coastal zone, IMCAM must be built upon the best natural and social science available. Techniques such as risk assessment, economic valuation, vulnerability assessments, resource accounting, benefit-cost analysis, and outcome-based monitoring should be built into the IMCAM process, as appropriate.

C. Gaps identified in existing instruments

34. As shown above, existing instruments on integrated marine and coastal area management provides very valuable guidance in the design, implementation and monitoring of IMCAM plans and programmes at national level. These instruments show a high degree of consistency and can therefore be used more or less interchangeably. However, their comparison with the guidance on IMCAM developed by the Conference of the Parties shows that those instruments do not make enough specifically reference to the biological diversity of the resources being managed. For example, there is no guidance on how to determine precisely the spatial integration needed by an IMCAM programme in the case of migratory species, which do not respect national boundaries, or in the case of the transboundary impacts of pollution on biological diversity.

35. Elements of biodiversity-oriented guidelines can be pulled out of existing guidelines. However, the scope and scale of the present guidelines would need to be adjusted for the implementation of the specific recommendations in relevant decisions of the Convention and to fully meet the Conventions' objectives. Lessons could also be drawn from IMCAM experiences at the national level.

36. In addition, IMCAM guidelines should fully integrate the ecosystem approach, the primary framework for action in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

IV. CONCLUSION

37. The Conference of the Parties may wish to request SBSTTA to draft IMCAM guidelines based on existing instruments and taking into account the ecosystem approach under the Convention. The ecosystem approach will help to reach the balance of the three objectives of the Convention. Within ecosystem approach concept, as recommended by SBSTTA, the scale of activities is determined by the problem being addressed and will take into account the transboundary nature of some issues, as appropriate.