



# The Other 70%

## UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy

Executive summary

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME





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# Introduction and background

**“...recent assessments tell a tale of unprecedented environmental change at global and regional levels, which may reach tipping points, beyond which there are abrupt, accelerating, or potentially irreversible changes. This unprecedented change is due to human activities taking place in an increasingly globalized, urbanized and industrialized world, driven by expanding flows of goods, services, capital, people, technologies, information, ideas and labour.”**

*UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013, p8.*

We are all dependent on the oceans, coasts and seas to provide food, energy, climate regulation, transport and even recreation – the sustenance of life. Every day we expect this natural resource to accept our growing demands and to ultimately bear much of the impact of human activities. What covers up to 70 per cent of our earth’s surface surely deserves more attention. UNEP and its partners around the world recognize we need to renew our focus on what is the earth’s finite, fragile and most valuable resource.

*UNEP’s Marine and Coastal Strategy* (the Strategy) over the next 5 years aims to improve coastal water quality through addressing land based pollution, strengthen ecosystem management of marine areas within and beyond national jurisdictions, equip countries with tools for reconciling the different demands on marine and coastal resources, in particular small islands and other vulnerable places.

The Strategy focuses on the fragility of marine and coastal ecosystems, at the same time acknowledging the continued stress ecosystems face in providing services for humanity. The Strategy articulates UNEP’s desire that urgent action is needed to maintain and rehabilitate marine and coastal resources, and that this action must be grounded in science and support policy development and implementation. More importantly, the Strategy’s

vision – *prosperous and healthy oceans and coasts where conservation, productivity and resource use are sustainable* – will be achieved through a long-term plan that outlines what is needed to improve our marine and coastal environments and ultimately reduce human impact.



Since its inception, UNEP has addressed a range of marine and coastal issues through comprehensive assessments, legal instruments, action plans and capacity building initiatives. UNEP’s core business is the environment as mandated by the General Assembly and consequently has developed comparative advantages in a number of fields – environmental monitoring and assessment, information sharing, ecosystem management,

policy forums and trans-boundary collaboration. This has been achieved, in large part, under multilateral programmes and UNEP coordinated activities such as: the Global Environmental Outlook, the Regional Seas Programme (RSP), the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These programmes and initiatives have responded to the many calls for UNEP to take action on issues spanning pollution from land-based sources, to assisting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to implement the Mauritius Strategy. The Strategy uses these advantages especially the ecosystem management, policy forums and trans-boundary collaboration.

To achieve UNEP's mandate for marine and coastal ecosystems necessitates working with a range of partners to ensure that issues relevant to these ecosystems, their resources and their beneficiaries, especially the poor, are addressed effectively.

Looking forward to the period 2010 to 2013, UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) provides the overall framework for the development of this marine and coastal strategy. The MTS encompasses the ecosystem approach essential to enhancing human wellbeing and ensuring equitable access to ecosystem services. This approach utilizes the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment's (MA) findings to focus the ecosystem management efforts to assess, maintain and enhance river-basin, coastal and marine ecosystem services through the MTS.

In 2007 UNEP staff, collaborators and experts identified the strengths of UNEP in the marine and coastal sector on which this strategy builds, namely:

- Existing established legal and institutional platforms (RSP, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs))
- Global and regional mandates
- Regional presence
- Ability to address shared and trans-boundary issues
- Ability to approach and influence and obtain the cooperation of Member countries
- Good 'critical mass' of expertise and capacity in intergovernmental process management.

These strengths, priority issues, the MA conceptual framework, UNEP's comparative advantage, the UNEP Ecosystem Management Programme and the drive to deliver practical, outcome oriented results, guided the development of this strategy. This has resulted in a specific marine and coastal vision, a set of objectives, and an implementation framework that reflects these needs and meets the objectives within the current and planned UNEP Programmes of Work (PoWs), and beyond (coming 10-15 years) with periodic reviews of the strategy.

This Strategy is underpinned by an explanatory *UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy Background Paper* that provides further details on the UNEP mandate and comparative advantage. Strategies, targets and indicators to assess success in implementing the Strategy are contained in the companion *UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation Plan*, which also provides further information on implementation activities. Both are available for download from [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org).



# Vision and objectives

Informed by UNEP's overall vision, the management drivers and mandates given by countries the vision for the Marine and Coastal Strategy is:

**Prosperous and healthy oceans and coasts where conservation, productivity and resource use are sustainable.**

This vision will be achieved through four objectives that guide the organization to lead and support the Regional Seas Program and the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities, and work collaboratively with, the RSPs, the GPA, the UN family, governments, regional organizations, industry, NGOs, researchers, civil society and communities:

- **Land-Ocean Connections:** to integrate the management of coastal watersheds, the coastal area (including cities) and the marine environment to optimize the ecosystem services and resilience of marine and coastal systems. Meeting this objective will address the issue of degraded water quality in coastal water due to landbased activities.
- **Ecosystems for Human Well-Being:** to identify, assess and value the status, key drivers of change and services of marine and coastal ecosystems and their link to human well-being. The need for better understanding of ecosystem services and their value will be addressed in meeting this objective.
- **Reconciling Use and Conservation:** to ensure that appropriate governance frameworks, management tools, capacity and options are available for regions, countries, communities and the private sector to effectively engage in the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems including reconciling competing uses.
- **Vulnerable People and Places:** to strengthen the ecological, economic and social security of vulnerable communities and places, including SIDS to adapt and respond to natural disasters and climate change, through enhancing the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and social capital, and improved access and benefit sharing. Meeting this objective will help to address issues specific to SIDS, coral reefs, seamounts and other sensitive marine ecosystems.

These four overarching objectives were developed through consultations with stakeholders, both within and outside of UNEP, based on the need to collate and provide focus on the effective delivery of identified marine and coastal priorities within the MTS framework. The four objectives for the basis for ecosystem management of marine and coastal areas and a continuum starting the foundations of ecosystems and drivers of change [land-oceans connections] impacting on ecosystem services [ecosystems for human well-being] and the need to develop the tools and approaches to manage these impacts [reconciling use and conservation] and to target those areas and people who are most vulnerable to these changes/drivers.

The objectives are designed to be broad to ensure UNEP can be flexible and responsive to current and emerging issues, governments and other stakeholders. The four objectives present a continuum of outputs from focusing primarily on bio-physical based science-policy work to very human ecosystem centered programs and policies. Outputs achieved from each objective inform the achievement of other objectives.

Importantly, the outcomes will be achieved by focusing on UNEP's core competencies of assessment, policy, planning and communications, providing objective science-based information and enhancing users capacities.

# Strategies and expected outcomes

The strategies within the four overarching objectives described in Section 2, and their expected outcomes are shown in Table 1 below.

Land-Ocean Connections Strategies	Expected outcomes
<p><b>1</b> Understand and communicate factors affecting the amenity, productivity and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems, with a focus on the effects of land-based activities on water quality and habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The knowledge base (natural and social) underpinning integrated river basin, coastal and marine management is enhanced and made more accessible to policy makers, industry and civil society.</li> <li>• The economic and social costs (direct and opportunity) of coastal/marine pollution and the Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats (PADH) are better understood, communicated and considered in policy decisions at national and regional scales.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Support governments in their respective efforts to mainstream environmental governance of coastal areas and associated catchment/watershed areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries are better equipped to develop and implement cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder instruments, protocols and National Programmes of Action to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.</li> <li>• The capacity of governments operating at municipal, sub-national, national and regional scales to mainstream policies and mitigation measures to assess, manage, reduce and adapt to the risks posed to human well-being and the marine environment by land-based sources of pollution and climate change is increased.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Identify, develop and encourage countries to take up best practices, innovative technologies and production systems that reduce or eliminate the detrimental impacts of land-based and maritime activities on marine or coastal ecosystems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enabling environment to encourage experimentation with, development of, and progression to, best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems is enhanced.</li> <li>• Best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems are more accessible and replicable.</li> <li>• Countries have increased capacity to adapt best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems to their respective political, social, economic, and geographical circumstances.</li> <li>• The coverage of low-carbon maritime industries and sustainable greenhouse-gas emission reduction programmes in the marine sector is expanded.</li> </ul>



Ecosystems for human well being strategies	Expected outcomes
<p><b>1</b> Enhance the understanding of the status, trends and key drivers impacting marine and coastal ecosystems and the services they provide for human well-being and poverty alleviation as a basis for informed and coherent policy making and governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global marine and coastal biodiversity targets met by countries and regions through enhanced access to appropriate and timely scientific information.</li> <li>• Compatible tools, guidelines and frameworks developed for defining, assessing and valuing marine and coastal habitats and their ecosystem services.</li> <li>• Integrated and regular national, regional and global regular assessments of the status, trends and key drivers of marine and coastal ecosystems.</li> <li>• Enhanced understanding and awareness of the role of marine and coastal ecosystem services for human well-being and climate regulation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Assess and enhance ecosystem and social resilience to climate change and incorporate climate change interventions into planning and budget processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced understanding of processes including climate change that impact on ecosystem and social resilience.</li> <li>• Resilience assessments and tools developed to effectively inform national and regional adaptation plans.</li> <li>• Climate change policy and adaptation plans integrated into planning and budgeting processes and access to management options enhanced.</li> <li>• National and regional policies addressing environmental aspects of ocean carbon sequestration supported.</li> </ul>
Reconciling resource use and conservation strategies	Expected outcomes
<p><b>1</b> Enhance the awareness and capacities to use planning tools to prioritise management options where there are competing human uses with the view to reconcile conservation and human use of marine and coastal ecosystem services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management tools and decision-support systems for marine and coastal management within countries and regions enhanced.</li> <li>• Enhanced understanding and awareness for tool application.</li> <li>• Technical support provided to enhance coherent advocacy on global marine and coastal issues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Support integrated management and governance to manage and restore marine and coastal habitats and their ecosystem services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced capacity of countries and regions to use ecosystem based management.</li> <li>• Development of innovative tools for integrated marine and coastal spatial management.</li> <li>• EBM and governance of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems enhanced within countries and regions.</li> <li>• Support of mainstreaming Marine Protected Area (MPA) within integrated management frameworks.</li> <li>• Financing mechanisms developed by countries and regions to address declining marine and coastal ecosystem services.</li> <li>• Increased harmonisation in countries and regions to multiple marine and coastal ecosystem management objectives via partnerships and collaborations.</li> <li>• Current and potential marine-based energy production activities are evaluated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Enhance capacities of countries and regions to formulate trade policies and management interventions that contribute to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture ensuring long-term food security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support provided to countries and regions to develop and implement appropriate institutions, legislation and policies that sustain productive ecosystems and social-resilience.</li> <li>• Reform of fisheries subsidies promoted in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and regional/country levels.</li> <li>• Enhanced awareness and understanding of resource efficient fisheries and aquaculture at regional and national levels.</li> </ul>



Vulnerable people and places strategies	Expected outcomes
<p><b>1</b> Empower SIDS and vulnerable coastal communities with science-based knowledge and assessments, situation-specific tools and policies to enhance the sustainability and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate assessments are undertaken and data produced while building in-country and regional capacities.</li> <li>• SIDS-specific adaptive EBM approaches and relevant tools are developed.</li> <li>• SIDS and other vulnerable countries and regions are supported to mainstream integrated and adaptive EBM approaches into national development planning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Improve the quality of life for island and coastal communities while reducing biodiversity loss, by enhancing the contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems and services to meet essential human needs and alleviate poverty including engagement in the green economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable and efficient management practices that take into account gender considerations are developed and their integration into relevant national and regional policies supported to optimize the benefits derived from the use of natural resources.</li> <li>• SIDS and other vulnerable countries effectively engage in global and regional discussions and negotiations related to their natural resources, including increasing the economic value of fisheries and other marine and coastal resources.</li> <li>• Regional and national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regimes, in agreement with the international ABS regime, that recognise and incorporate traditional knowledge are developed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Enhance the capacities of countries to manage vulnerable marine and coastal habitats and species within and across national jurisdictions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative ways developed and promoted to facilitate SIDS and other identified vulnerable places to effectively comply with marine and coastal MEAs reporting requirements, including the enhancement of regional and global mechanisms and programmes.</li> <li>• Frameworks for improved governance and management of areas beyond national jurisdiction actively discussed in relevant international fora.</li> <li>• UN Oceans strengthened as a platform for inter-agency coordination on ocean, coastal and island issues including the high seas within the United Nations system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b> Empower SIDS and other vulnerable communities to manage natural disasters and assess and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including building resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity and preparedness of SIDS, low lying coastal areas and countries with vulnerable habitats and communities to adapt to climate change is improved.</li> <li>• The capacities of SIDS and other vulnerable countries and regions to better manage and improve resilience against natural disasters enhanced.</li> </ul>



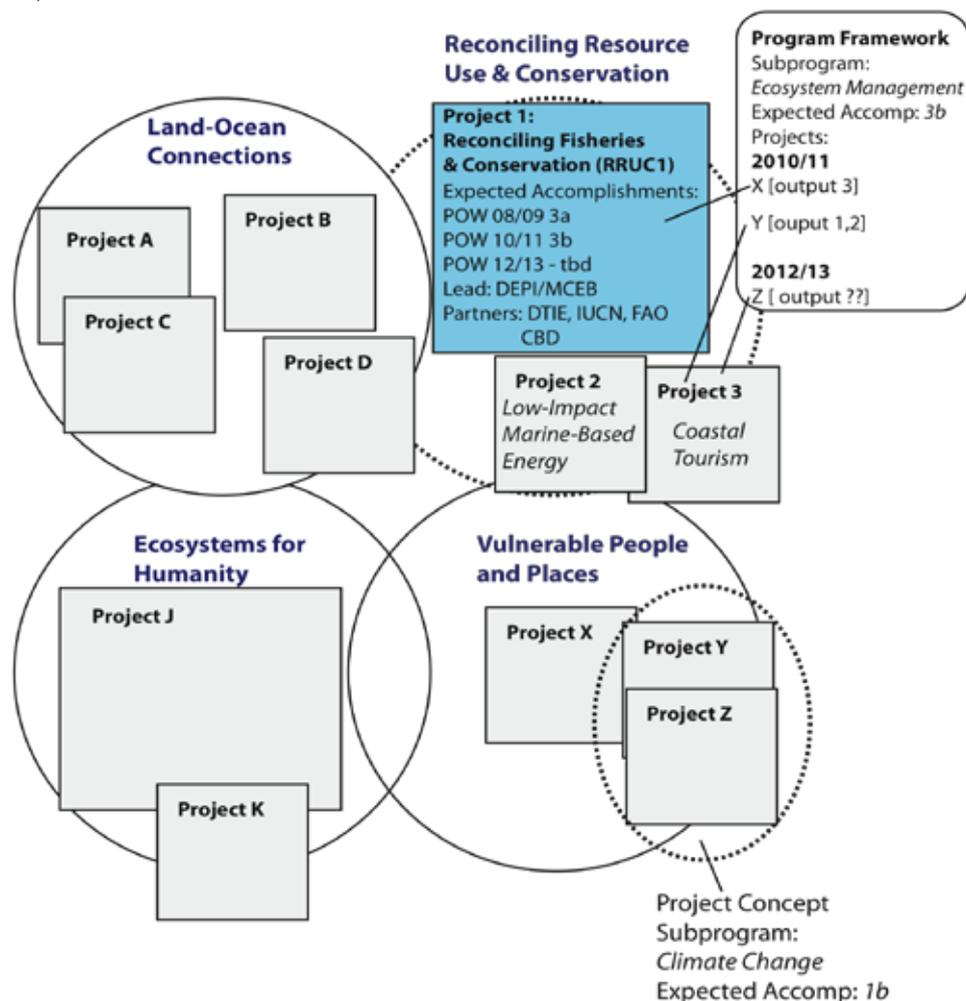
# Implementation framework

The achievement of the four overarching objectives over the coming years will be based on visionary and ambitious projects concepts delivered by UNEP working collaboratively and with its partners. These projects, will contribute directly to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The strategy enables global marine agendas to be addressed directly through coordination by UNEP with its global and regional partners, or distributed through Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans and the GPA, which can link agendas to local actions.

This strategy is broad in addressing various marine issues, from marine based energy to the ecosystem effects of fisheries. Some of these issues fall outside the mandates of the Regional Seas and GPA, requiring UNEP to build additional capacities and new partnerships. The strategy provides the anchor for a more focused program so that synergies between Regional Seas – GPA- UNEP Divisions are clearer and targeted.

Embedded in each project concept will be a set of projects that will work towards achieving specific expected marine and coastal outcomes (Table 2) and that may involve a range of partners within and outside of UNEP (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Example of the implementation framework based on Reconciling Resource Use and Conservation objective.



It is envisaged that UNEP Divisions or MTS theme groupings within UNEP will provide the lead in developing projects to meet one or more of the four strategy overarching objectives, either within their UNEP Division, or as a team of experts across the Divisions, regional offices and possibly external partners. Each project will relate primarily to an expected accomplishment in the current UNEP PoW (2010/11), guide the development of the 2012/13 PoW or the next MTS. The activities within each project will map to outputs specified in the Project Framework for a particular expected accomplishment in a Subprogram. For example, Figure 1 shows how projects developed consistent with the Strategy relate to the expected accomplishments within UNEP's PoW and associated Project Frameworks. The Strategy will also guide the construction of the Project Framework for 2012/13 and beyond, thus contributing to the current MTS, its PoW and future versions of the MTS. In fact, it is envisaged that the strategy will contribute to the development of the programme of work for the next 10 years, with periodic reviews and updates as priorities and UNEP's MTS are reviewed. Collectively these projects and actions will contribute to meeting MTS objectives in a marine and coastal context.



The implementation of the strategy through projects to achieve each policy objective will complement where possible the programs of the Regional Seas and the GPA. It is anticipated that much of the work of Regional Seas and GPA programs will help to achieve the objectives of this strategy, while also meeting their objectives.

The *UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy* is ambitious, and reflects a directional shift towards collaborative work programmes between UNEP divisions, Regional Seas and other MEAs, the GPA, governments, NGOs and UN agencies, in particular those of UN Oceans. Implementing the Marine and Coastal Strategy requires significant resource mobilization. To do this UNEP will rely on a host of partners at regional and national levels. Many of the objectives strategies outlined in the strategy (Table 1) will be implemented within existing partnerships. However, new partnerships will be developed in order to address emerging issues such as those related to climate change, SIDS, resource use efficiency and ecosystem-based management. Partnership will be enhanced with UNEP collaborating centers (e.g. World Global Resource Information Database (GRID), Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) and Danish Hydraulic Institute Centre for Water and Environment), academic, research institutions, centers of excellence and NGOs. These partnerships will ensure that the strategy not only addresses themes agreed upon by UNEP's Governing Council but also leverages sources beyond the financial scope and capacity of UNEP.

# Monitoring the Marine and Coastal Strategy

Central to the Strategy is ensuring that all facets are effectively monitored and that monitoring results are rigorously evaluated. A separate *UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan* (Appendix 2) is currently under development and will provide detailed performance

It is recognised that many of the expected outcomes of the strategy support different MTS themes. To assist with monitoring and evaluation, these expected outcomes have been aligned with the relevant MTS themes and grouped according to UNEP's ecosystem management (EM) Framework in the table below. A significant degree of overlap exists between the priority areas addressed by each outcome.

**Table 2: Expected Outcomes Aligned with the MTS**

EM Framework	1. Climate Change	2. Disasters & Conflicts	3. Ecosystem Management	4. Environmental Governance	5. Harmful Substances	6. Resource Efficiency
<b>1. Assessment</b>						
<b>1.1</b> Provide knowledge base (sound science, monitoring and assessment)	Enhanced understanding and awareness of the role of marine and coastal ecosystem services for human well-being and climate change regulation.	Vulnerable countries and regions conducting risk assessments for natural disasters for marine and coastal ecosystems	The knowledge base (natural and social) underpinning integrated river-basin, coastal and marine management is enhanced and made more accessible to policy makers, industry and civil society. Integrated and regular national, regional and global regular assessments of the status, trends and key drivers of marine and coastal ecosystems.	Enhanced access to science-based technical and policy advice to manage the impacts of LBA and the ecosystem effects of fishing at national, regional and global levels.	Enhanced understanding of management interventions based on sound science and cost-benefit analyses to address the effects of harmful substances, nutrients and climate change on marine ecosystem services.	Enhanced access to science-based information on the impacts of coastal and marine aquaculture systems on the ecosystem services of critical habitats. Better knowledge of the potential efficiencies gains in the fisheries supply chain for carbon embedded fish products.
<b>1.2</b> Inform management and policy-making processes	National policies on climate change consider marine biodiversity.	National and regional plans incorporate risk reduction strategies for marine and coastal areas.	The economic and social costs (direct & opportunity) of coastal/marine pollution and the Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats (PADH) are better understood, communicated and considered in policy decisions at national and regional scales.	The enabling environment to encourage experimentation with, development of, and progression to, best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems is enhanced.	Enhanced awareness of the effects of harmful substances used in fisheries and aquaculture. Enhanced understanding of the international instruments used to regulate the dumping of nuclear wastes at sea.	Incorporation of low carbon solutions and GHG emission reduction measures in fishing and coastal tourism industries. Information exchange platforms established and information on resource efficient fisheries shared among trade, fishing and environment communities.

EM Framework	1. Climate Change	2. Disasters & Conflicts	3. Ecosystem Management	4. Environmental Governance	5. Harmful Substances	6. Resource Efficiency
1.3 Provide information on trends, emerging issues and early warning	SIDS and low lying coastal areas better informed and prepared for managing impacts from disasters and climate change.		Enhanced knowledge of the potential consequences on marine and coastal ecosystems and services under agreed cc scenarios at global and regional scales among policy makers and cc negotiators.	Trends in the development of national marine and coastal ecosystem governance established using agreed indicators. Enhanced knowledge of the 'Code of Conduct' for high seas governance.		More economic and trade policies with the potential to impact on marine resources are better designed or take potential impacts into consideration.
<b>2. Management</b>						
2.1 Create enabling environment (capacity building)	Enhanced understanding and awareness of the role of marine and coastal ecosystem services for human well-being and climate change regulation. The capacity and preparedness of SIDS, low lying coastal areas and countries with vulnerable habitats and communities to adapt to climate change is improved.	The capacities of SIDS and other vulnerable countries and regions to better manage and improve resilience against natural disasters enhanced.	Enhanced understanding of climate change impacts on ecosystem and social resilience. Management tools and decision-support systems for marine and coastal management within countries and regions enhanced. Enhanced capacity of countries and regions to use ecosystem based management.	Global marine and coastal biodiversity targets met by countries and regions through enhanced access to appropriate and timely scientific information. Countries vulnerable to climate change with improved capacities to effectively engage in discussions and negotiations.		Enhanced capacities among EEZ countries to negotiate sustainable fisheries access agreements and promote regional cooperation.
2.2 Institutional functions (structural, legislative, financial)	Climate change policy and adaptation plans integrated into planning and budgeting processes and access to management options enhanced. National and regional policies addressing environmental aspects of ocean carbon sequestration supported.	Countries with capacities to enhance the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to the impacts of disasters and conflicts.	Integrated catchment management incorporating cost-benefit analysis of mitigating upstream climate change impacts versus reduced down-stream ecosystem services. Financing mechanisms developed by countries and regions to address declining marine and coastal ecosystem services.	Innovative ways developed and promoted to facilitate SIDS and other identified vulnerable places to effectively comply with marine and coastal MEAs reporting requirements, including the enhancement of regional and global mechanisms and programmes.	Improved performance by governments in assessing, managing and reducing the risks to human health and the environment from harmful substances used in the marine sector	Reform of fisheries subsidies promoted in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and regional/country levels. Enhanced awareness and understanding of resource efficient fisheries and aquaculture at regional and national levels. Regional and national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regimes, in agreement with the international ABS regime, that recognise and incorporate traditional knowledge are developed.

EM Framework	1. Climate Change	2. Disasters & Conflicts	3. Ecosystem Management	4. Environmental Governance	5. Harmful Substances	6. Resource Efficiency
2.3 Management instruments (practical tools, technologies, planning)	Enhanced use of EBM tools and technical guidelines in climate change mitigation measures and adaptation strategies and policies.	SIDS-specific adaptive EBM approaches and relevant tools are developed. ICM tools to enhance coastal habitat resilience developed. Guidelines to mitigate impacts of disaster recovery operations in coastal areas developed.	Best practices and innovative technologies to protect marine and coastal ecosystems are more accessible and replicable. Compatible tools, guidelines and frameworks developed for defining, assessing and valuing marine and coastal habitats and their ecosystem services. Development of innovative tools for integrated and adaptive marine and coastal spatial management and marine protected areas. Harmonization of EBM and FAO's ecosystem approach to fisheries to ensure marine ecosystems are sustained.	Countries have increased capacity to innovate and adapt best practices and technologies to protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems to their political, social, economic, and geographical circumstances. Enhanced understanding and awareness for tool application. EBM and governance of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems enhanced within countries and regions. Technical support provided to enhance coherent advocacy on global marine and coastal issues.	Development of instruments and policies to mitigate or reduce the use and discharge of harmful substances into marine and coastal ecosystems.	Current and potential marine-based energy production activities are evaluated. Support provided to countries and regions to develop and implement appropriate institutions, legislation and policies that sustain productive ecosystems and social-resilience.

### 3. Mainstreaming

3.1 National level (develop policy / programs, integrated planning)	The capacity of governments operating at municipal, sub-national, national and regional scales to mainstream policies and mitigation measures to assess, manage, reduce and adapt to the risks posed to human well-being and the marine environment by land-based sources of pollution and climate change is increased. The coverage of low-carbon maritime industries and sustainable greenhouse-gas emission reduction programmes in the marine sector is expanded.	SIDS and other vulnerable countries and regions are supported to mainstream integrated and adaptive EBM approaches into national development planning. Countries with coastal policies that enhance the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to disasters.	Countries are better equipped to develop and implement cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder instruments, protocols and National Programmes of Action to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. Support of mainstreaming Marine Protected Area (MPA) within integrated management frameworks.	Coherent National Plans of Action addressing LBA developed. Cross-sectoral national strategies governing marine and coastal ecosystems, marine protected areas and biodiversity aligned with regional protocols.		Sustainable and efficient management practices - that take into account gender considerations - developed and their integration into relevant national and regional policies supported to optimize the benefits derived from the use of natural resources.
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EM Framework	1. Climate Change	2. Disasters & Conflicts	3. Ecosystem Management	4. Environmental Governance	5. Harmful Substances	6. Resource Efficiency
3.2 Regional and subregional levels (agenda setting, protocols)	Regional approaches to climate change preparedness developed for selected habitats.		Increased harmonisation of multiple marine and coastal ecosystem management objectives via regional collaborations.	Common regional protocols and frameworks for trans-boundary LBA effects developed and strengthened. Regional protocols for marine biodiversity and ecosystem management adopted.	Adaptation measures to reduce POPs and other harmful substances in Polar marine ecosystems adopted.	SIDS and other vulnerable countries effectively engage in global and regional discussions and negotiations related to their natural resources, including increasing the economic value of fisheries and other marine and coastal resources.
3.3 Global level (agenda setting, normative roles)			Frameworks for improved governance and management of areas beyond national jurisdiction actively discussed in relevant international fora.	UN Oceans strengthened as a platform for inter-agency coordination on ocean, coastal and island issues including the high seas within the United Nations system.	International cooperation to reduce the quantity of hazardous substances and waste disposed at sea promoted.	Efficient use of fertilizers in aquaculture increased globally. Trade delegations, international organizations and NGOs better informed on fisheries subsidies reform within the WTO to enrich negotiation processes. Seafood supply chain partnerships promoting sustainable fisheries and increased consumption of sustainable seafood choices created.

# Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
DEPI	UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
GRAME	Global Regular Assessment of the Marine Environment
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
ICARM	Integrated Coastal Area and River-basin Management
IUCN	World Conservation Union
MA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PADH	Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PoW	Programme of Work
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RSP	Regional Seas Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
WTO	World Trade Organisation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre



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What covers up to 70 per cent of our earth's surface surely deserves more attention. UNEP and its partners around the world recognize we need to renew our focus on what is the earth's finite, fragile and most valuable resource. Over the next 5 years, UNEP's Marine and Coastal Strategy aims to improve coastal water quality, strengthen ecosystem management of marine areas within and beyond national jurisdictions, equip countries with tools for reconciling the different demands on marine and coastal resources, in particular small islands and other vulnerable places.

The Strategy focuses on the fragility of marine and coastal ecosystems, at the same time acknowledging the continued stress ecosystems face in providing services for humanity. The Strategy articulates UNEP's desire that urgent action is needed to maintain and rehabilitate marine and coastal resources, and that this action must be grounded in science and support policy development and implementation. More importantly, the Strategy's vision – prosperous and healthy oceans and coasts where conservation, productivity and resource use are sustainable – will be achieved through a long-term plan that outlines what is needed to improve our marine and coastal environments and ultimately reduce human impact.