



Strengthening Ocean Governance

ACP MEAs Programme contributions¹

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I. Introduction

The purpose of this note is to present ongoing workstreams and to identify potential entry points to further strengthen ocean governance in the context of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme. The [Enforcing environmental treaties' implementation in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries \(ACP-MEAs\)](#) is a partnership programme between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNEP conceived in March 2009 to address challenging environmental issues through the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the 79 ACP countries. While the other components of the ACP MEAs Programme deals with biodiversity and chemicals and waste, this paper focuses on the Regional Seas component of the project, with a view to promoting effective ocean governance in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For the purposes of this paper, ocean governance is defined as *“processes, agreements, rules and institutions developed to organize the way in which people use the oceans and resources, which a view to minimizing the negative impacts of anthropogenic pressures and catalyzing people to use the oceans and resources fairly and equitably. Ocean governance is about managing the world's oceans and their resources together so that they are healthy and productive, for the benefit of current and future generations.”*²

Effective ocean governance³ is critical to ensure that the ocean and its resources are used in a sustainable and equitable manner, particularly in the high seas or marine areas beyond national jurisdiction for (ABNJ) for which all countries have the responsibility to protect. With the adoption of SDG 14 on “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources” and associated targets and indicators, the international community now has an overarching framework to institutionalize ocean governance, in which all relevant challenges – marine pollution and acidification to overfishing – can be addressed in an integrated, coherent manner.

² Revised based on definitions of EU, IUCN and others.

³ The ocean governance activities are guided by three main types of instruments: a) state's rights and obligations under international law, under regional agreements and in national law b) policies, plans and norms endorsed at the international, regional or national level by states; and c) 'soft' law instruments, such as codes of conduct (e.g., the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries), principles (e.g., the precautionary principle) and international guidelines or recommendations (e.g., IMO Guidelines for the Inventory of Hazardous Materials). These instruments largely dictate the behavior of individuals, of business and of state actors. Each sector governs through a lattice of these instruments. The first category ((a) above) is often seen as 'hard law' where rights and obligations are affirmed through compliance mechanisms, such as monitoring, reporting, sanctions and dispute settlement. The second and third categories are founded on political engagement.

Table 1: Ocean facts & figures

- The ocean covers 70% of the Earth's surface. It is the planet's largest biosphere and is home to up to 80% of all life in the world.⁴
- The ocean produces half of the planet's oxygen and absorbs 93% of the world's anthropogenic heat.
- Around 90% of all internationally trade goods travel by ship.
- The ocean economy directly contributes an estimated \$1.5 trillion to the global economy.
- The ocean food sector alone provides up to 237 million jobs, including fishing, mariculture and processing.
- More than 3 billion people rely on food from the sea as a source of protein and key nutrients.
- Coral reefs alone contribute \$11.5 billion a year to global tourism, benefiting more than 100 countries.

The ocean is in trouble.

- By 2100, as many as 630 million people could be at risk of coastal flooding cause by climate change.
- Global mangrove cover declined by 25-35% between 1980 and 2000, largely as a result of land development and conversion to unsustainable mariculture ponds and rice paddies.
- Coral reefs—virtually all of which will be lost at 2°C warming—are declining rapidly as a result of compounding pressures from rising ocean temperatures, overfishing and nutrient pollution.
- The biodiversity of the open ocean declined by up to 50% over the past 50 years.
- More than 80 percent of all marine pollution originates on land.
- Millions of metric tons of plastic are dumped into the ocean every year, entangling, sickening and contaminating at least 700 species of marine life.
- Fishing has become the number one driver of extinction risk for marine vertebrates (excluding birds). If overfishing continues, annual yield is projected to fall by over 16 percent by 2050, threatening global food security.
- Without action, these problems could cost the global economy more than \$400 billion a year by 2050. By 2100, the annual cost could reach \$2 trillion.

Source: "Ocean Solutions That Benefit People, Nature, and the Economy," Ocean Solutions Report | High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.⁵

II. UNEP and ocean governance

Since 1974, UNEP has been contributing to ocean governance through its Regional Seas Programme, which coordinates 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans spanning over 146 countries. The Regional Seas Programme aims to strengthen the capacities of the regions to "Secure diverse, resilient and production marine and coastal ecosystems", including by supporting assessment, information and knowledge management.⁶

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/about>

⁵ Accessed June 8, 2022, <https://www.oceanpanel.org/ocean-action/people-nature-economy-report.html>.

⁶ [UNEP Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025](#)

UNEP also provides secretariat services for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), an intergovernmental mechanism created to address land-based pollution, adopted by 108 Governments and the European Commission at an international conference convened in Washington D.C. in 1995. In addition, UNEP coordinates the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, which was launched in response to a request set out in the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the GPA.

Other UNEP work streams on oceans and seas include:

- [Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative](#), which aims to facilitate sustainable ocean-based economic, social and environmental benefits.
- [Clean Seas Campaign: Turn the Tide on Plastic](#), launched in 2017 to connect and rally individuals, civil society groups, industry and governments for catalyzing change to reduce marine litter and its negative impacts.
- [Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts Programme \(GEMS Ocean\)](#) provides a framework for partnership for data and data analytics.
- [Promoting marine protected areas](#) by providing technical expertise and capacity building support on the governance of marine protected areas.
- Protecting and restoring coastal [blue carbon ecosystems](#), such as mangroves and seagrass, by promoting international cooperation and supporting regional and global assessments.
- Protecting [coral reefs](#) in support for UNEA resolutions 2/12 and 4/13 on “Sustainable coral reefs management”.
- Participation in the [Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction](#).
- Partnering with several thinktanks to host the [Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance](#), which seeks to identify transboundary and transformative governance approaches to address current and emerging challenges to the ocean.

Most recently, at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in March 2022, Member States adopted resolution 5/14 “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument,” mandating an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop, by the end of 2024, an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Once adopted, this instrument is expected to significantly curb the amount of plastics that enter the ocean.

Table 2: Relevant intergovernmental initiatives on ocean governance

- [UN Ocean Conference, 27 June – 1 July 2022, Lisbon, Portugal](#)
Co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal, the Ocean Conference took place under the theme “Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions”.
- [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030](#) aims to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the ocean.
- The [Ocean Decade Alliance](#) is a network of eminent partners of the Ocean Decade that catalyzes support for the Decade through targeted resource mobilization, networking and influence.
- [UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission \(IOC\)](#) is coordinating the Ocean Decade preparations on behalf of the UN system, and leading the establishment of the Alliance. IOC is responsible for supporting global ocean science and services. It enables its 150 Member States to work together to protect the health of the ocean by coordinating programmes in areas such as ocean observations, tsunami warnings and marine spatial planning.
- [UN-Oceans](#) is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the UN system and the International Seabed Authority, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.
- The [Sustainable Ocean Initiative](#), conceived in the margins of CBD COP10, provides a holistic and strategic framework through which to catalyze partnerships, build on lessons learned and knowledge gained, and facilitate improved coordination and two-way dialogue to address capacity needs to support countries in their efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.
- The [High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy](#), for which the World Resource Institute serves as the secretariat, was established in September 2018 to catalyse and scale bold, pragmatic solutions across policy, governance, technology and finance to transition to a sustainable ocean economy.⁷ The Ocean Panel launched the new ocean

⁷ Panel members

1. Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia
2. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
3. Gabriel Boric, President of Chile
4. Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji
5. Emmanuel Macron, President of France
6. Nada Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana
7. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia
8. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica
9. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan
10. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya
11. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of Mexico
12. Hage G. Geingob, President of Namibia
13. Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway
14. Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., President of Palau
15. António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal

action agenda in December 2020, building upon knowledge and science, transformative recommendations and action.

- The [UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea \(DOALOS\)](#) provides a number of capacity-building activities on issues related to ocean governance including the following:
- With the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), DOALOS has launched a [four-year capacity-building project](#) for developing countries with the aim to build sustainable blue economies through strengthened ocean governance - based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- The UN-Nippon Foundation Capacity-building Programmes include a series of fellowships and training activities on ocean affairs and the law of the sea for developing countries, including the Training Programme to Reinforce Capacity in the context of the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (“BBNJ Training Programme”).
- 8 June is designated as the [World Oceans Day](#) in 2008 (General Assembly resolution 63/111). It was first declared at the event organized by the Oceans Institute of Canada on 8 June 1992, entitled “Oceans Day at Global Forum – the Blue Planet”, held in parallel with the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit).
- [Peter Thomson](#), former Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, is the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, aimed at galvanizing concerted efforts to follow up on the outcomes of the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, maintaining the momentum for action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

III. ACP MEAs Programme

Coordinated by UNEP and with generous contributions from the European Union, the ACP MEAs Programme supports countries in the ACP regions in the implementation of MEAs, ocean governance and agrobiodiversity conservation through capacity development. Since its inception in 2009, the programme has progressed from phase 1 to the current phase 3 with the following focus areas:

- Phase 1: To mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought, land degradation, chemicals, hazardous waste, and other threats to the environment.
- Phase 2: Building on the experiences, lessons learned and achievements gained from the initial phase, to further enhance the capacity of the ACP countries on two clusters of MEAs (biodiversity and chemicals and waste management).
- Phase 3: To assist the ACP-countries to enforce and comply with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste and ocean/seas governance clusters.

In the current third phase (2022-2024), the programme implements the following three components, with UNEP leading components 1 and 2 and FAO component 3.

- Component 1 – Improved enforcement of and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity ([Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#), [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS\)](#) and the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)) and chemicals and waste ([Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal](#), [Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade](#), [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#) and [Minamata Convention](#))⁸
- Component 2 – Improved ACP countries’ capacities for the management of coasts and oceans in line with the related Regional Seas Conventions, namely the Abidjan, Cartagena, Nairobi, and Noumea Conventions (see Annex 1 for detailed programme of work)
- Component 3 – Enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity and of the sound management of chemicals and waste in agriculture in ACP countries in line with the related MEAs.⁹

IV. Achieving effective ocean governance through ACP MEAs 3 Programme

Component 2 of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme is aimed at realizing effective ocean governance in the ACP countries by supporting the implementation of the following four Regional Seas Conventions (see Annex 2):

- Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention), administered by UNEP
- Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), administered by UNEP

⁸ Expected results under component 1:

- 1.1 Enhanced capacity, processes and infrastructure to enforce and comply with selected MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste;
- 1.2 Improved national frameworks, legislations and mechanisms for the effective implementation of MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste;
- 1.3 Improved knowledge, knowledge sharing, guidelines and mechanisms for the effective implementation of MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste;
- 1.4 Effective communications, outreach and awareness-raising increases stakeholder engagement, including political will among decision-makers.

⁹ Expected results under component 3:

- 3.1 Enhanced integration of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sound management of chemicals and waste in agriculture, forestry and fishery policies in ACP countries;
- 3.2 Enhanced field implementation of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sound management of chemicals and waste in agriculture, forestry and fishery in ACP countries;
- 3.3 Enhanced regional collaboration and dissemination of best policies and practices across ACP countries;
- 3.4 Strengthened governance and knowledge on biodiversity mainstreaming at global level for the implementation of the CBD.

- Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention), administered by UNEP
- Convention for the Protection of Nature Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea Convention), administered by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Each Convention secretariat has identified a set of activities in support of the following expected results under their mandates.:

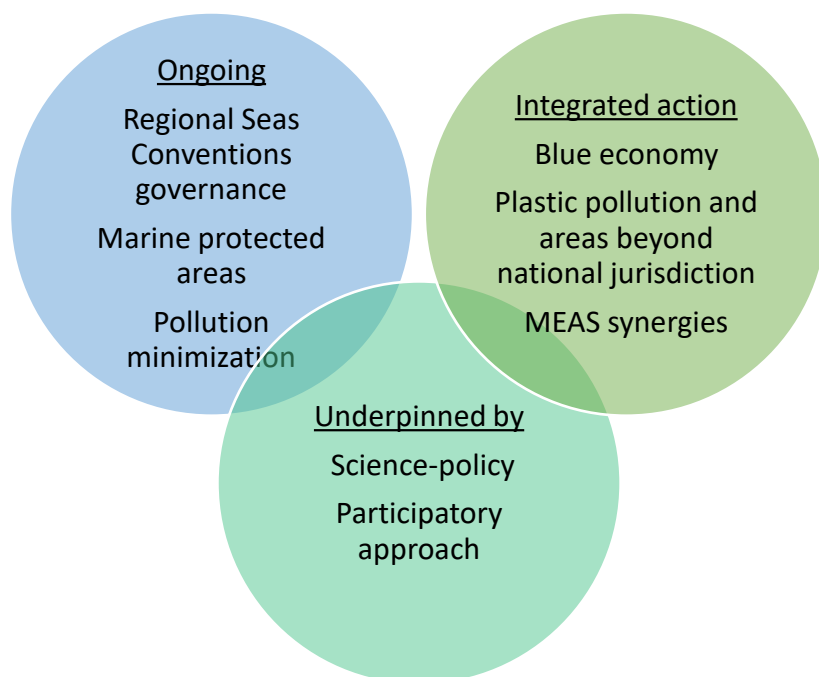
- a) Reinforcement of the Regionals Seas Conventions' governance frameworks and associated protocols;
- b) Development and management of regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
- c) Reduction of the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment; and
- d) Effective communications, outreach and awareness raising for increased stakeholder engagement and political will

The proposed activities broadly consist of strengthening the implementation of the respective Conventions and Protocols and promoting effective, integrated ocean governance through capacity building, technical guidance and strategic partnerships at national and regional levels. Activities also aim at facilitating the ratification of these and other relevant Conventions and Protocols by those countries that have not yet done so and supporting countries in the development of relevant legislations and guidelines. Based on baseline assessments, each region is committed to developing overarching strategies or frameworks, including on MPAs, pollution prevention and coastal tourism, that suit their unique needs and circumstances in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. Science-policy interface and participatory approach

Moving forward, these activities need to be underpinned by strong science-policy interface, and participatory approach. The importance of strengthening the uptake of science in environmental and sustainability policies cannot be overemphasized, as Gro Harlem Brundtland put it, "politics that disregard science and knowledge will not stand the test of time" (1997) and as outlined, for example, in United Nations Environment Assembly [resolution 1/4](#) on "Science-policy interface". The ACP MEAs Programme can leverage, in its communication and outreach efforts, the findings of various global assessment reports, such as that produced by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity (IPBES), whose latest report (2019) concluded that "Marine ecosystems, from coastal to deep sea, now show the influence of human actions, with coastal marine ecosystems showing both large historical losses of extent and condition as well as rapid ongoing declines (established but incomplete)".

The ACP MEAs Programme can also reinforce its scientific and evidence-based approaches to ocean governance by partnering with regional universities and research institutions and facilitating the translation of complex science into accessibly policy relevant data. Further, this science should be based on co-creation (collaboration)¹⁰ with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth. For ocean governance, science and knowledge generation should essentially engage those involved in fishery, marine and coastal tourism and shipping industries as well as communities that depend socioeconomically and culturally on the ocean. In other words, for science to have meaningful policy impact, they should be “localized” with inputs from diverse stakeholders and become part of community knowledge that is credible, relevant and legitimate.¹¹



2. Blue economy

The transition to a sustainable blue economy (SBE)¹² and blue economy approaches is an opportunity for governments, financial institutions and other stakeholders to re-cast how ocean resources are used, managed and protected in line with the UN SDGs 13 – Climate Action and 14 – Life Below Water, and the UN Decades on (1) Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and (2) Ecosystem Restoration.

¹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme (2021). Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future: A contribution to the dialogue on the Science-Policy Interface.

¹¹ van Kerkhoff, Lorrae E., and Louis Lebel. "Coproductive capacities: rethinking science-governance relations in a diverse world." *Ecology & Society* 20, no. 1 (March 2015): 447-452.

¹² A sustainable blue economy is one which provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations; restores, protects and maintains diverse, productive and resilience marine ecosystems; and is based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows.

There are two complementary approaches to mobilizing finance for the ocean: integrating “blue” into financial processes and financing for projects and businesses aligned with SDG 14. Concerted action from governments and regulators, the private sector, and development partners is needed to achieve both approaches. However, for most financial institutions, regardless of focus, size or breadth, the ocean and marine ecosystems are unchartered territory.

SBE finance needs to be guided by a strong SBE policy framework and grounded in a strong regional ocean governance setup. UNEP is spearheading two closely coordinated and mutually supporting action areas, a) the SBE Finance Principles – the world’s foremost guiding principles for aligning financial flows with a SBE; b) an operational SBE Transition Framework to support countries in navigating and formulating a policy shift that enables and harnesses the multiple co-benefits of a climate resilient and restorative blue economy.

At the nexus of both focus areas, there is a significant gap in aligning public finance strategies and national policymaking to leverage private capital in this space. Neither a framework to guide public finance nor a guidance on leveraging both private and public finance jointly for ocean governance currently exists.

The following actions are proposed to advance blue economy in the context of the ACP MEAs III programme

- a. Policy briefs : (i) Link to global biodiversity framework (indicators, reporting, financing, marine conservation); governance (a combined brief elaborating various governance frameworks and approaches); (ii) finance (linking blue and green finances); (iii) Link to marine pollution (control, prevention and reduction) including improved incorporation of sustainable consumption and production, waste as a resource and circular economy into national policies and decision-making processes;
- b. Pilot UNEP’s SBE integrated policy framework to accelerate the creation of a public-private SBE finance enabling environment.
- c. Replicate UNEP Climate Finance Unit’s approach to facilitating capital flows toward ocean restoration including by hosting a “restoration marketplace” for marine projects, highlighting the need to finance marine nature-based solutions (NbS) as one solution for FIs who committed to net zero initiatives (ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus).

Table 3: Blue economy

In addition to providing significant value to humanity through multiple ecosystem services, the economic value of ocean is estimated at USD 24 trillion with the annual value of produced goods and services across multiple sectors such as seafood, shipping and tourism estimated to be at least USD 2.5 trillion per year, equivalent to the world's 7th largest economy in GDP terms. A recent report highlights that a business-as-usual approach to the management and use of ocean resources and impacts from land-based activities would risk the loss of USD 8.4 trillion to the global economy over the next 15 years.

3. Emerging legal frameworks

At the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Member States adopted resolution 5/14 on “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument” which mandates an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, henceforth referred to as “the instrument”. The first meeting of the INC will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2022 in Uruguay. The development of the instrument provides an opportunity for the Regional Seas Conventions to showcase their work on fighting plastic pollution, while providing region-specific inputs to. The ACP MEAs Programme can support this process by preparing guidance documents on creating synergies between the Conventions and the instrument.

Equally important is the ongoing [Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction](#), taking place pursuant to [General Assembly resolution 72/249](#) entitled “International legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.” The Regional Seas Conventions need to make informed inputs and identify entry points to leverage the potential instrument in the further development and implementation of the activities related to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (for example, activity 2.1.4 under the Abidjan Convention 2: Conservation and sustainable use of the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction in collaboration with the African Union Commission (Decision CP.12/12)). Parties to the Conventions may also find capacity building on related issues useful in meaningfully contributing to the negotiation process.

4. Synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and instruments

There are many relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and instruments that whose outcomes need to be reflected in the new regional and national strategies and management plans for ocean governance. For example:

- The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, expected to be adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022;

- The [World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](#) adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022, which marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies.
- The work of FAO including the findings of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (2022) and the meetings of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariat's Network.

By capturing and integrating these and other relevant inputs, efforts to promote effective ocean governance through the ACP MEAs Programme can maximize interlinkages and synergies across various SDGs and contribute to a balanced achievement of all dimensions of sustainable development.

V. Annex 1: Agreed work plans under the ACP MEAs 3 in relation to oceans issues

PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER EXPECTED RESULT 2.1				
REINFORCEMENT OF REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS' GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS AND ASSOCIATED PROTOCOLS				
2.1	Abidjan Convention	Nairobi Convention	Cartagena Convention	Nooumea Convention
1	Promote and facilitate ratification, adoption and implementation of the Abidjan Convention and its related Protocols	In collaboration with partners, organize consultations and support the process of amending the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region necessary to mitigate options to minimize the impact of developments on biodiversity and the natural environment	Convene national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related biodiversity (CBD, CITES and CMS) and chemicals (Minamata, BRS) MEAs including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as ocean acidification, marine litter and sargassum.	Carry out awareness raising activities targeting non-parties to the Nooumea Convention to encourage additional SPREP members to ratify, adopt, and implement the Nooumea Convention and its related protocols
2	Assess the progress of the Abidjan Convention to identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen the implementation and application of the Convention and its related Protocols, and including linkages to other global and regional MEAs and the SDGs	Working with regional economic communities (e.g. East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), African Union), regional fisheries	Convene sub-regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/approach and road map for enhancing ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean region including through the use of blue economy, ecosystem based management and	Increase the capacity of the Secretariat for the Nooumea Convention to effectively implement its main functions to support the implementation of the Convention

		management organizations (e.g. Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and partners (e.g. Commission de l'océan Indien-Indian Ocean Commission (COI-IOC), Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C)), facilitate the development of the Western Indian Ocean region ocean governance strategy	other spatial planning and governance tools and approaches and facilitate exchanges between Regional Seas Programmes on common issues of concern.	
3	Develop a regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics through the scope of the Abidjan Convention in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC)	Building on the partnership between the Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC, address priority marine and coastal issues linking policy makers and key stakeholders (scientists, national-regional associations, WIO-C, NGOs, practitioners, Regional Economic Communities - SADC, COMESA, IGAD, EAC, IOTC - and others) in the fisheries and environment sectors for sustainable ocean governance and fisheries management	Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in particular the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) and to facilitate increased ratification of those instruments.	Develop guidelines, baselines, regional indicators, monitoring and reporting systems and training on reporting to the Noumea Convention
4	Improve ocean governance through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of an integrated coastal and ocean management policy (Decision CP.12/7); • Conservation and sustainable use of the 	Advance a partnership between the Nairobi Convention and the SADC, and facilitate the development of a blue economy strategy for Nairobi Convention/SADC countries to		Provide technical assistance to support the integration of environment and conservation concerns/issues into national ocean policy formulation

	<p>marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction in collaboration with the AUC (Decision CP.12/12);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cooperation between member countries and other relevant Regional Seas Conventions 	<p>ensure a harmonised approach in implementation of blue economy initiatives</p>		<p>processes in at least three Pacific Island Countries</p>
5	<p>Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment at national and regional levels through development of guidelines, baselines, regional indicators, monitoring and reporting systems and processes in collaboration with AUC, the World Bank West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program and the USAID West African Biodiversity and Climate Change Program</p>	<p>Build partnerships with CMS and within the WIO-C (e.g. Wildlife Conservation Society) on the conservation of migratory species</p>		<p>Facilitate and organise information exchange between and among parties including non-parties to the Noumea Convention to share lessons learned and good practices with links to UNEP's global support interregional South-South cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions</p>
6	<p>Support member states with the development and initial implementation of integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation in three target countries – Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome e Principe</p>	<p>Through the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean region (FARI), at national and regional levels, identify priority issues and define policy dialogue indicators relevant to fisheries- and marine environment-related interventions by the Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC and develop a regional</p>		<p>To resource and assist in applying monitoring and then enforcing the 2017 -04 conservation management measures (CMM2017-04) on marine pollution</p>

		marine environment status report on the Western Indian Ocean		
7	Strengthen collaboration with relevant organizations (CMS, CITES Ramsar) to facilitate exchange of scientific, technical and legal information necessary to coordinate conservation measures among signatories, experts and collaborating partners	Through FARI, at national and regional levels, assess trends and impacts of ocean acidification in the Western Indian Ocean region		Facilitate dialogue and consultations between environment and key economic development sectors such as mining, fisheries, agriculture and including the private sector to address specific environmental management issues within the scope of the Noumea Convention
8	Convene a meeting of signatories to the Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership to assess its implementation and develop a workplan that would provide better opportunities for members to implement the Partnership.	Develop marine spatial planning strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region		Facilitate and organise exchange of scientific, technical and legal information necessary to coordinate conservation measures among signatories, experts and collaborating partners to support the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region .
9	Develop and strengthen marine spatial planning capacity at national and regional level to support planning,			Convene a meeting of signatories to the Cetaceans MoU to assess the

	monitoring, management and governance of marine and coastal resources			implementation of the MoU and develop a workplan that would provide better opportunities for Members to implement the MoU
10	Development of the Abidjan Convention Area Regional Practical Guidelines for researchers and users of genetic resources in the region			Develop and build SPREP's geospatial technical and technological capacity and use of the tools to support decisions and implementation of the Noumea Convention at national and regional levels
11				Implement the regional environmental impact assessment (EIA) of coastal tourism guidelines through the delivery of capacity building and training for selected stakeholders within the tourism sector
12				Develop regional environment auditing guidelines specifically for coastal tourism development
				Develop and implement regional EIA guidelines for sand mining, dredging, land reclamation and

				other coastal engineering activities
				(1) Development of the Pacific Regional Practical Guidelines for researchers and users of genetic resources in the Pacific (2) Establish a coordinated and cooperative regional approach to prevent misappropriation of the Pacific genetic resources and to penalise such misappropriation when it occurs
PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER EXPECTED RESULT 2.2				
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF REGIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE NETWORKS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA)				
2.2	Abidjan Convention	Nairobi Convention	Cartagena Convention	Noumea Convention
1	Develop guidelines in collaboration with the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme for MPA management, including knowledge sharing (best practices) on monitoring and surveillance to support selected countries to implement Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14	Implement recommendations from the Western Indian Ocean MPA Outlook to strengthen management effectiveness at designated MPAs in the region	Develop an operational network of Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW) MPAs according to existing guidelines	Develop guidelines for protected area management and build capacity on monitoring and surveillance to support Pacific Island countries implement Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14
2	Develop the Abidjan Convention Protocol on MPA	Working with partners, and contracting parties of the Nairobi Convention, support the national and regional process of developing a	Establish SPAW MPAs Networking Group to lead the inter-regional network of MPAs and for enhancing Caribbean Marine Protected Area	Provide technical assistance for the implementation and establishment either as national EEZ-wide whale sanctuaries or

		critical habitats outlook for the Western Indian Ocean region to address SDG14.2 to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems and take action for their restoration	Management (CaMPAM) Network of MPAs	MPAs including identified Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)
3	Develop Regional Environment Auditing Guidelines specifically for coastal tourism development. Stakeholder mapping in all Abidjan Convention Countries (to be delivered in synergy with the World Bank West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program)	Support the review, design and development of holistic MPA management plan in at least one country in the Western Indian Ocean region for the strengthening of MPA management, reflecting common goals and approaches	Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks	Develop and strengthen SPREP's technical capacity for environmental spatial data management and use of spatial data to support planning, monitoring, reporting and decision making
4	Assist and support the implementation and establishment of MPAs	Develop capacity for managers and the local community for improved governance and strengthening management of MPAs in compliance and effective enforcement across the Western Indian Ocean region and engage private sector (e.g. shipping and tourism industries) in collaborative efforts to improve conservation and sustainable development of MPAs	Provide technical support, monitoring and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs	Assist selected Pacific Island countries implement ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) through MPAs, particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs) and other area-based management approaches and related processes (PSSA – Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau) etc.
5	Assess the ecological representativeness of the new sites in relation to the existing national and regional networks, develop implementation plans and engage	Support the preparation of an Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Programme to support adaptive,	Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers	Adapt and implement protected area management effectiveness through other area-based

	national and local partners to develop management regimes for high priority sites as part of the Abidjan Convention regional network of protected areas.	dynamic management and decision-making process (to include indicators of ecosystem variability, climate change, socioeconomic status, community livelihoods and welfare, etc.)	and staff through national and regional workshops to improve the MPA Management	management tools including MPAs in selected countries
6	Extend the Abidjan Convention and Grid Arendal experience in pilot projects (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana) to the wider Abidjan Convention Area (trainings; workshops, webinar, etc.)	Contribute and support participation in national and regional negotiations for biodiversity protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction		
PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER EXPECTED RESULT 2.3				
REDUCTION OF THE INFLUX OF WASTE (PLASTICS AND OTHER FORMS OF HUMAN AND INDUSTRIAL LIQUID AND SOLID WASTE) ENTERING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FOUR REGIONS				
2.3	Abidjan Convention	Nairobi Convention	Cartagena Convention	Noumea Convention
1	Assist and support national processes for developing policies on single use plastics, styrofoam and plastic packaging in selected countries to be delivered with Sustainable Seas Trust toward zero plastic to the seas in Africa	Support the implementation of the regional action plan on marine litter for the Western Indian Ocean region	Convene national/regional capacity building meetings and workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). This will assist in their ratification and subsequent implementation of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean region. ¹³	Assist and support national processes for developing single use plastics, styrofoam and plastic packaging policy in selected Pacific Island countries including those with existing policies

¹³ The primary focus will be on reducing environmental and human health impacts of marine litter including plastics, untreated domestic wastewater and nutrient discharges into the Caribbean Sea including discussion on possible new Annexes and/or Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.

2	Support recycling efforts in the Abidjan Convention countries in relation to private actors and local NGOs. Support research and technical assistance in the recycling of plastics and styrofoam.	Develop national marine litter action plans in at least two countries of the Western Indian Ocean region	Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least five Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans. ¹⁴	Develop a regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics through the scope of the Noumea Convention Marine Litter Action Plan 2018 - 2025 endorsed by the SPREP Executive Board and supported by the Forum Leaders in 2018
3	Support the development and the implementation of the Abidjan Convention Marine Litter Action Plan	Establish regional standards for marine water quality and associated environmental quality objectives and targets in partnership with the appropriate mandated bodies (e.g. IGOs, Conventions, national counterparts)	Implement local/national ecosystem-based management (EBM) projects, promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. ¹⁵	Facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons learned on public-private partnership on recycling and waste management for example between Samoa and Fiji through the Pacific regional infrastructure facility regional recycling efforts
4			Develop/update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least six Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol	Assist three countries with the adoption of extended producers responsibility systems

¹⁴ This will support national implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and Strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy (under development through the [UNDP GEF Caribbean & North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems \(CLME+\) Project](#)).

¹⁵ This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.

			as well as those under SDG 6 on water and sanitation.	
5			Implement innovative decentralized, rural community-based interventions for wastewater management in at least four Contracting Parties working with civil society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF-funded projects on wastewater. Focus will be on nature-based solutions and use of wastewater as a resource.	Provide policy and technical assistance to formulate national marine Litter Action Plans in three Pacific Island countries to contribute towards implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Plan
6			Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter and the Trash Free International Programme. ¹⁶	Assist at least three countries (Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) to develop environment standards for end of pipe and receiving environment
7			Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce	

¹⁶ These projects should demonstrate enhanced partnerships between national governments, civil society and the private sector and promote circular economy approaches to waste and plastics management.

			pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction. ¹⁷	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNDER EXPECTED RESULT 2.4				
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND AWARENESS RAISING FOR INCREASED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL WILL				
2.4	Abidjan Convention	Nairobi Convention	Cartagena Convention	Noumea Convention
1	Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues at all levels	Organise participatory workshops for identification and prioritization of issues of waste management and marine pollution in the livelihoods of youth, women and men in related local fishing communities	Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like styrofoam	Raise the visibility of relevant environmental, conservation and pollution issues at all levels
2	Promote outcomes and results of the project to key stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional levels	Organise local level awareness campaigns on challenges facing the Western Indian Ocean region in combating pollution of receiving waters from land-based sources and activities	Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity	Promote outcomes and results of the project to key stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional levels
3	Develop a regional model communication, awareness and education action plan and implement in countries to address practical outcomes and change behaviour towards marine pollution	Working with the private sector and local communities, promote the 3Rs (reducing, reusing, recycling) to manage the generation and input of marine litter and plastic waste to the marine environment of the		Develop and implement a communication, awareness and education action plan for the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan and implement in countries to address practical outcomes and

¹⁷ This will support the implementation of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and the Annex V Special Area Status for the Caribbean Sea. This will be done in coordination with the [Joint UNEP/IMO Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center for the Wider Caribbean \(RAC REMPEITC\)](#) based in Curacao.

		Western Indian Ocean		change behaviour towards marine pollution.
4	Raise the profile of the Abidjan Convention and establish links with other related MEAs and regional frameworks			Produce promotional videos and published materials to raise awareness of the Noumea Convention and establish links with other related MEAs and regional frameworks

VI. Annex 2: Four Regional Seas Conventions covered under the ACP MEAs 3 Programme component 2

Abidjan Convention

- Entered into force on 5 August 1984.
- 14 Parties: Benin, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo

Cartagena Convention

- Entered into force on 11 October 1986.
- 26 Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela
- Supported by the following protocols:
 1. [Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region](#)
 2. [Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region](#)
 3. [Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities](#)

Nairobi Convention

- Entered into force on 30 May 1996, amended on 31 March 2010.
- 10 Parties: Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania
- Supported by the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities.

Noumea Convention

- Entered into force in on 22 August 1990.
- 12 Parties: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, USA
- Supported by the following protocols:
 1. Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping, which was amended in 2006 but the amendment has not yet entered into force.
 2. Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region
- The following protocols, once entered into force, will supersede the above 2. Emergencies Protocol. These protocols were adopted at the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries in 2006.

1. [Protocol on oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation in the pacific region.](#)
2. [Protocol on hazardous and noxious substances pollution, Preparedness, response and cooperation in the pacific region.](#)