



REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
KUWAIT

**Towards the Development of an
Ecosystem Based Management
Strategy for ROPME Sea Area
Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016**



REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

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Background

1. Based on Decision CM16/7 of the 16th ROPME Council, which stressed the importance of an integrated management stating “*Promotion of Ecosystem Based Management Approach as a Road Map towards the sustainability of the marine environment, its resources and its services, in partnership*”, the ROPME Secretariat has been promoting the implementation of the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) in the region. In recognition that long-term sustainability of the ROPME Sea Area (RSA) requires an integrated management, the ROPME Secretariat proposed to develop a Regional Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Strategy (hereafter the EBM Strategy) for the ROPME Sea Area.



2. The first workshop entitled “*Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area*” was held from 4-7 April in Dubai, UAE in order to conduct brainstorming sessions on the development of such a Regional EBM Strategy with stakeholders from the contracting parties of the Kuwait Convention.
3. The objectives of the workshop were set as the following: (1) To review existing marine environment related policies and management mechanisms at the national and regional levels in the ROPME Sea Area; (2) To review the global discussions affecting the Regional Seas policies and strategies, such as 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and CBD Biodiversity Strategic Plan (Aichi Targets); (3) To discuss on how the Ecosystem-Based Management can be incorporated into a regional strategy, which eventually involves various ocean related sectors (mainly, environment and fisheries); (4) To explore common objectives across the two sectors for the development of a Regional

EBM Strategy; (5) To learn lessons from the other regions which established strategies/programmes on a regional seas scale based on the ecosystem approach; and (6) To agree on the process and timeline for the development of the ROPME EBM Strategy mainly through a ROPME-EBM working group.

4. The workshop documents and information documents were provided to the participants prior to the workshop as preparatory documents for the workshop through the ROPME website. The Annex includes the list of workshop documents (Annex 1), the programme of the workshop (Annex 2) and the list of participants (Annex 3). All the sessions of the workshop were conducted in English.

Day 1: (Monday 04 April 2016)

Opening of the Workshop

5. Mr. Salim, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates (UAE), opened the workshop, welcoming the participants to Dubai, UAE. Annex-4 includes his speech in Arabic.
6. Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, UNEP ROWA, gave a statement on behalf of UNEP stressing the importance of the workshop especially in the context of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. He emphasized the support that UNEP has continuously provided to the region (Annex-5).
7. Dr. Hassan Mohammadi, ROPME, explained the objectives of the workshop on behalf of ROPME, welcoming the participants to the workshop. He described the history of the region, stressing the unique physical, biological and historical characteristics of the RSA.

Organization of the work

8. Dr. Mohammadi explained the approach to designate a facilitator to each session throughout the workshop rather than designating one Chairman. The participants agreed on the approach.
9. He further explained the concept of the workshop to have brainstorm sessions on the development of the EBM Strategy. He clarified that the Secretariat has decided to take an incremental approach to EBM, starting with a dialogue between the environment and the fisheries sector. The process is expected to take several years.
10. Ms. Diane Klaimi, Ms. Kanako Hasegawa and Dr. John Burt were designated as rapporteur for the workshop and the participants welcomed the assignment.
11. The participants introduced themselves, their affiliation and their career.
12. The workshop agenda was adopted by the workshop participants.

Session I: Introduction of EBM to the Regional Seas Scale

13. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP, provided a brief overview of the concept of EBM. He started with the definition of ecosystem, ecosystem services and the ecosystem approach. He described the ecosystem services and their benefits derived from the marine and coastal ecosystems. The core elements of EBM were described: recognizing connections; ecosystem services perspective; cumulative impacts; multiple objectives and learning and adapting. He then described the general steps for implementing EBM. He stated that this workshop would serve as a visioning process toward the implementation of EBM. He continued with the explanation on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He focused on the Goal 14 and described the Targets. He proposed that the SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other global and regional goals be considered for the proposed EBM Strategy. The implementation of the EBM Strategy could be monitored by indicators and these indicators could be aligned with the global indicators including the SDG indicators. All Member States are going to report on the progresses of achieving SDGs and thus ROPME and RECOFI mechanisms could potentially be used for monitoring the progress.
14. Mr. Bamaileh, Saudi Arabia asked a question on how to implement the SDG indicators as it is a concern. Mr. Abbas, Bahrain, asked UNEP's experiences in developing EBM strategies in other regions. Mr. Nakamura, UNEP, described UNEP's plan on the Regional Seas indicators to which ROPME is also actively participating. He also explained that there are different experiences of implementing EBM in other regions, which would be further explained on the Second day of the workshop.

Session II: Introduction of the ROPME Instruments

15. Dr. Mohammadi, Coordinator of ROPME, explained the core ROPME legal instruments for the protection of the RSA. He stressed the importance of the Kuwait Action Plan, Kuwait Convention and its Protocols. He highlighted the past oil spill incidents in the region and relevant ROPME protocols and guidelines for the prevention of these incidents. Furthermore, he described the proposal on the development of a Regional EBM Strategy for the RSA, highlighting the linkage between the proposed EBM Strategy and the existing ROPME legal instruments and programmes. As an emerging issue, he described nuclear radiation pollution from a number of nuclear power plants being constructed or under construction in the region. He added that on biodiversity, ROPME has developed the Biological Diversity Protocol to be signed shortly.
16. Responding to the presentations highlighting environmental issues in the region, Capt. Al-Diwani, UAE, asked what ROPME has done to prevent the coastal destruction as the regional environmental authority. In response to the question, Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, stressed that ROPME has developed various instruments and guidelines for the protection of the RSA for the implementation by the participating countries.
17. Ms. Shoaie, I.R. Iran, asked whether the revision of Kuwait Action Plan is in the agenda as it has not been updated since 1978. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, explained that the plan

of developing a Regional EBM Strategy would be a long process over years and the engagement of the countries in the process is the key to the process in order to consider different options such as the reorientation of Kuwait Action Plan.

Session III: Existing policies, mechanisms and activities in Member States

18. Eng. Marzooq, Kingdom of Bahrain, explained the existing national policies and initiatives through the presentation entitled “*Toward EBM in Bahrain*”. He started with the explanation on the national strategies: The Economic Vision 2030 for Bahrain, Bahrain 2030 National Planning Development Strategies; Bahrain 2030 National Land Use Strategy; and National Environmental Strategy. All the strategies incorporate the concept of sustainability. He continued with the national policies and legislation. He also described the existing Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), which facilitated the implementation of the above mentioned strategies. In terms of inter-sectoral activities, there are various examples including fisheries and tourism. As a case study, he described a project supported by UNEP/ROWA. The project assessed the environmental status as well as economic, social and environmental policies to determine the environmental goals. Lastly, he described challenges for EBM such as stakeholder engagement and inter-sectoral cooperation.

19. Ms. Shoaie, Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R. Iran), explained the existing national policies and initiatives in I.R. Iran. She started by describing the general environmental policies in I.R. Iran. The “Five Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan” is the medium-term strategic framework for the development of the country. She further described the national environmental laws including hunting and fishing act, environmental protection and enhancement act, and protection of the seas and navigable rivers against oil pollution act. She highlighted the latest law and the national contingency plan on oil pollution. With regards to marine protected areas (MPAs), there are nine protected areas in I.R. Iran. The Dara National Park will soon be approved by the government. In terms of fisheries, the future policies during 5 years plan (2017-2021) set strategic directions for Iran’s fisheries. Regarding the inter-sectoral activities, a national sustainable development committee (NCSD) has been established. Under the NCSD, there are various committees established. Lastly, she described the opportunities and challenges in implementing EBM in Iran. She highlighted inconsistency between different institutions and lack of cooperation between sectors. As a recommendation, she stressed the engagement of other sectors such as oil and gas and shipping from the planning phase. She proposed that ROPME hold more training workshops on EBM.

20. Eng. Al-Adlan, Republic of Iraq , explained the existing national policies and initiatives in Iraq. It has the national environmental strategy of Iraqi Environmental Protection and Work Program (2013-2017). Under the strategy, there are 11 strategic objectives including an objective to maintain the marine and coastal environment. He continued explaining the plans for the local work. Regarding the protection of biodiversity, the National Strategy of Biodiversity and Execution Plan in Iraq (2015-2020) sets out the national actions including on MPAs. The Expectation on Environment Status of Iraq stresses the importance of implementing legal agreements, working closely with the

relevant bodies including ROPME. He described the characteristic of Iraq environment, highlighting the Shat Al-Arab River flow which impacts on the fisheries activities of the entire region. Due to the current reduction of freshwater discharge, the status of RSA has been impacted. He finished by describing the recommendations including provision of capacity building and support for projects.

21. Dr. Le Quesne on behalf of the Delegation of the State of Kuwait (Kuwait), explained the existing national policies and initiatives. He started with the overview of the Framework on EBM in Kuwait. The Kuwait Environment Protection Law lays out the strategic objectives and guides the implementation of EBM. The law includes monitoring and reporting obligations. The National Plan for Marine Environmental management guides the implementation of the environmental law. The management objectives were set to be able to measure the progress on management activities based on the 6 themes: biodiversity; food and water quality; environmental pollution; fisheries; HABs and Coastal processes. With regards to monitoring, the status and pressure are monitored. He stressed that the National Plan provides framework for inter-sectoral cooperation. He closed the presentation with a set of recommendations including regionally consistent monitoring programmes. He stressed the importance of prioritising key pressures and issues to start moving forward with EBM rather than waiting for all the data to be ready.
22. Echoing with the presentation, Dr. Al-Subiai, Kuwait, stressed the importance of taking actions to avoid environmental disasters which could occur if the business as usual model continues.
23. Dr. Al-Shihi, UAE, explained the existing national policies and initiatives in UAE. He started explaining the National Strategies, highlighting the three relevant strategies to the marine ecosystems: UAE National Strategy for Marine and Coastal sustainability; UAE National Biodiversity Strategy; and UAE Strategy for Green Development. As an example of inter-sectoral cooperation, he highlighted the UAE National Climate Change Adaptation Policy, which includes all the relevant sectors including fisheries, aquaculture and environment sector. He explained ongoing initiatives including AGEDI, UAE Blue Carbon project and UAE's Wildlife Sustainability programme. In addition, he presented an overview of the Gulf Environmental Partnership and Action Program (GEPAP), supported by the World Bank. He pointed out that the implementation, risk assessment, application of DPSIR approach and data availability would be challenges for the development of the strategy. In terms of opportunities, he emphasized opportunities for harmonizing the monitoring programmes among Emirates. He concluded with recommendations to link monitoring and evaluation with the regional scheme.
24. Eng. Bamaileh of the Presidency of Meteorology & Environment (PME), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, explained the existing national policies and initiatives. He begun by describing the history of the environment works in the country. In 1986, PME-IUCN Coastal Zone Study was conducted. PME has had a significant role for the protection of marine environment. In terms of multi-sectoral cooperation, he highlighted the 6th committee of Reclamation and Dredging, which was organised involving different ministries including ministry of agriculture, fisheries and environment. With regards to

challenges, he pointed out the lack of coordination is a major challenge as was mentioned by the previous speakers. He concluded stating that coordination and cooperation between two Regional Seas, ROPME and PERSGA, are important. He also mentioned that the coordination between UNEP and UN-Habitat is also important.

25. Mr. Bulushi, Sultanate of Oman, explained the existing national policies and initiatives. The General Environment Policies of Oman were presented including the law of conservation of the environment and prevention of pollution and national contingency plan. He explained that marine discharge is not allowed in Oman. In terms of national strategies, the national strategy for protection the Omani environment (1986) to be updated soon, is the overarching strategy. The development of marine environment conservation strategy and action plan (2016-2020) will be initiated with the support from JICA. He stressed that the action plan would be connected with the ROPME EBM Strategy. In May 2016, the national strategy for biodiversity will be formalized. Subsequently, Mr. Al Mufarji, Oman, explained the fisheries policies in Oman, highlighting the Shark Management plan.
26. The delegates from UAE asked whether UAE and Oman can make a joint shark management plan as the sharks might be impacting fisheries activities in the EEZ of UAE. Other participants also questioned why only sharks are managed out of many other species. Dr. Mannini, RECOFI, clarified that shark is an important species in the region, however it is important to integrate the shark management plan in the overarching fisheries management plan.

Session IV: Breakout Groups

27. Four breakout groups were formed of all participants. Two groups discussed on the policy relevant topic, “*What are the gaps in the existing mechanisms and policies in the region?*” The other two groups discussed on the science-oriented question, “*How science could help the Regional EBM process?*”. Annex VI includes the distribution of participants into the four groups.

Session V: Report Back to Plenary

28. The Science Group 1 represented by Ms. Hasegawa, UNEP, reported the discussions to Plenary. She explained that the group identified the following points from the discussion: (1) There is no network of marine scientists; (2) There is no systematic data sharing mechanisms between countries and between ROPME and the contracting parties; (3) The knowledge on aquaculture and the basic understanding of ecosystems are lacking in the region; (4) There seems to be no national strategy for scientific research in the region; and (5) Scientific studies in the region is often driven by the management or the government requests rather than independent studies.
29. The Science Group 2 was represented by Ms. Klaimi, UNEP/ROWA. The group reviewed the existing mechanisms through which science inform policies including

project reports, publications, workshops, capacity building and integrated database. The group also reviewed regional mechanisms including RECOFI, GCC Fisheries Committee, United Nations University (UNU) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). In terms of knowledge gaps, the group identified that the general baseline data and research on fisheries are scarce. She presented the areas where scientific research could help the process of EBM including aquaculture, modelling, hydrography, population genetics and remote sensing.

30. Mr. Bamaileh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reported the discussion of the Policy Group 1 to Plenary. He started by explaining that there are diverse sectoral policies in the countries and there is not much policy gap. However, there is a lack of inter-sectoral coordination in each of the countries. In addition, the implementation of legal agreements is a challenge in the region and thus follow up mechanism is needed. In terms of institutional arrangement, an integrated marine authority could be established although the effectiveness is not guaranteed since environmental consideration is limited in the decision making mechanisms. Lastly, he described possible ways forward which were identified in the group: (1) ROPME and other sectoral organisations could organize joint meetings; (2) data and information materials could be shared among the countries using the ROPME information sharing platform (database) and (3) integrated coastal zone management could serve as a basis for the EBM.
31. Ms. Al Salami, Oman, reported back to Plenary on behalf of the Policy Group 2. She explained that the group noted that there is a need to formulate legislation on aquaculture including guidelines. The low availability of data and their sharing are constraints to advance scientific understanding of the region. She also stressed that the group identified that the national and fisheries management policies often do not consider EBM or Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). With regards to the question related to the gaps, the group found that coordination among relevant fishery management and environmental conservation institutions could be reinforced. Finally she stated that there is a lack of regional common vision and strategies for sustainable development.

Session VI: Ocean Governance Framework

32. During a remote presentation, Mr. Schewchuk, DOALOS, explained the global ocean governance framework and the work established under the framework of UNCLOS. The presentation addressed two main contents: (1) the governance framework (legal, institutional and policy framework); and (2) global framework for ocean governance. He stressed the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation for the conservation of the shared water body within the framework of UNCLOS. At the national level, this could mean institutional cooperation between different ministries while at the regional level, regional sea programmes, regional fisheries bodies and other regional political organisations could be important mechanisms for implementing the relevant laws and policies. Lastly, he highlighted the recent progress on the preparatory committee for the protection of biodiversity in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) to inform participants on the ongoing process.

33. Ms. Klaimi, UNEP asked the relationship with EBSA in the framework of the GA. Mr. Schewchuk replied that it has been reported to the GA and the engagement of CBD has been essential in the preparatory committee for ABNJ.
34. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, asked whether certain activities that DOALOS handles are already conducted by the other agencies, using examples on marine litter handled by UNEP and fishery management handled by FAO. Mr. Schewchuk emphasized that UNCLOS provides the overall framework for the different sectors to work together in the oceans, although there are certain level of overlaps at the global as well as regional level. These overlaps could be reduced by improving coordination.
35. Dr. Glowka, CMS, asked whether the reporting from ROPME to the DOALOS and the GA has been regularly conducted. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, clarified that ROPME regularly reports to DOALOS directly as well as through UNEP's coordination. He stressed the importance of national reporting to represent the regional view to the global process. Mr. Nakamura, UNEP, added that efforts have been started to harmonize reporting for different multilateral environmental agreements to reduce burden of the countries for reporting to various MEAs.

Day 2 : (Tuesday 05 April 2016)

Welcome back and outlook for Day 2

36. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, welcomed back the participants to the workshop. Ms. Klaimi, UNEP-ROWA, provided a brief summary of the discussions during the first day. She emphasized the importance of applying the ecosystem approach to the ROPME Sea Area, to which various threats and pressures exist. Referring to the breakout groups, she highlighted the common elements emerged from the breakout groups such as the need for stronger coordination and cooperation. She stressed the importance of capitalizing the existing frameworks.

Session VII: Existing Regional initiatives

37. Dr. Mannini, RECOFI, presented the challenges and opportunities for regional fisheries management and aquaculture development in the RSA. His presentation provided a brief overview of RECOFI and a case study of the work conducted by the organisation. He started by explaining the legal framework under which the flag and coastal States have the obligation and duty to cooperate. RECOFI was established in 2008 with eight member states as a FAO Article XIV body and this means that it can make binding recommendations. There have been two binding recommendations in 2009-2015. RECOFI and ROPME have exactly the same geographical coverage, which makes it clear to cooperate in the region. He stated that many of the technical reports produced by RECOFI are not well used by the governments, civil society and regional organisations including ROPME. RECOFI has its information system online (RAIS) for regional aquaculture. For socio-economic issues, its task group collected information and analysed the information. He stressed that the socio-economic information is highly relevant to

ROPME. As a way forward to address challenges, the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East at its 32nd session (2014) recommended to make a partnership with relevant organisations including ROPME. He concluded by stressing the partnership between ROPME and RECOFI as an opportunity.

38. Dr. Le Quense, Kuwait, made a comment on data-limited harvest control used by ICES, using modelling. Dr. Mannini responded that RECOFI needs the basic data of the region including environment and social aspects before start using models. Ms. Shoaie, I.R. Iran, asked whether ROPME has been invited to RECOFI workshops. Dr. Mannini explained that ROPME is an official observer to RECOFI although ROPME has not attended the previous workshops. She stated that inter-sectoral cooperation is needed and important for ROPME to cooperate with RECOFI. ROPME can play a model role to RECOFI. Mr. Kerr, WWF, commented on the IUU fishing and questioned about the relationship with IOTC. Mr. Shahifar, I.R. Iran, commented that IOTC has a working group on bycatch.
39. Ms. Glavan, AGEDI-UAE, provided an overview of AGEDI's Research activities that could be relevant to the development of a Regional EBM Strategy. She explained the five core principles of EBM and stressed that AGEDI has been working to collect data to fill the science to policy gaps. She presented the activities on blue carbon. The project in Abu Dhabi calculates the carbon stock in the marine and coastal ecosystems scaled up to the national level. The project involved ecosystem service valuation in monetary terms to understand how the ecosystem services are impacted by different risks. She stressed that all the data from AGEDI's activities are available for the stakeholders. She concluded by highlighting the need to share experiences and knowledge through open databases.
40. Ms. Klaimi, UNEP-ROWA, described UNEP's support for sustainable coastal management in the region. She explained the on-going process on UNEA-2 and resolutions on oceans and seas including the one on marine litter. She explained the Aichi Biodiversity targets, highlighting Target 6, Target 10 and Target 11, which are particularly relevant to the marine and coastal ecosystems. Referring to NBSAPs, she stated that it is important to improve coordination between national and regional bodies as well as between sectors.
41. Dr. Al-Abdulkader, RECSO, presented the work conducted by the organisation for the protection of marine environment from oil spills. He highlighted the long-lasting cooperation between RECSO and ROPME. He also explained that RECSO has an annual activity to release juvenile fish, highlighting importance of the initiative.
42. Dr. Lyra, Islamic Development Bank, presented the ongoing work in the region through the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). She focused on various agricultural projects which involves salinity management. ICBA promotes best management practices for agriculture and provides policy advice and analysis. It also conducts field demonstrations and holds training courses to enhance knowledge sharing. She concluded by providing recommendations for the development of the EBM Strategy including setting timeframe for each activity based on strategic thinking and planning.

43. Mr. Harada, JICA, provided an explanation of the organisation and described its planned work under the existing MOU between ROPME and JICA. Under the MOU, various technologies are planned to be introduced to the region including water treatment, conservation methods, aquaculture, monitoring and marine litter. He proceeded with the description of the two ongoing projects in the region, one in I.R.Iran and the other in Oman. In I.R.Iran, the project aims to develop and implement a Master Plan for Environmental Conservation and Management of Southern Coastal Areas. In Oman, the project aims to develop the Marine Environment Conservation Strategy 2050 and Action Plans. He stressed that these projects will contribute to this regional process toward the development of EBM Strategy.
44. Dr. Burt, NYU-AD, gave a presentation providing an overview of the coral reef ecosystems of the region, highlighting its significant values to the region. He pointed out that although there are studies on coral reefs in the region, the data are not well shared. He thus indicated the necessity to discuss how to improve the coordination of data sharing and knowledge exchange. He stressed further that communication between scientists and policy makers could be improved for a better management.

Session VIII: Experiences from the other regions

45. Mr. Glowka, CMS, gave a brief explanation on the work conducted by CMS. He started with the explanation of the migratory species in the RSA including Dugong and marine turtle species. He pointed out the relatively limited knowledge on baseline of the migratory species. He stated he would like to learn more about the biodiversity protocol being prepared under ROPME as it would be relevant to CMS. He also provided a brief description on the works targeted to the protection of sharks.
46. Capt. Al-Diwani , UAE, provided an explanation on the issue related to ballast water. Starting with the description of what ballast water is, he described how ballast water is used for ships. He explained that many non-indigenous species are transported through ballast water. MSEC in Abu Dhabi is working to implement BWM Convention. He pointed out only UAE and Iran have ratified the convention in the region, stressing the importance of other ROPME countries to join the convention.
47. Mr. Leone, coordinator of MAP during a remote presentation, described the Mediterranean experience to incorporate the ecosystem approach in the region. He highlighted the process in 7 steps to incorporate the ecosystem approach to the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan: (1) Definition of an Ecological Vision for the Mediterranean; (2) Setting of common Mediterranean strategic goals; (3) Identification of important ecosystem properties and assessment of ecological status and pressures; (4) Development of a set of ecological objectives corresponding to the Vision and strategic goals; (5) Derivation of operational objectives with indicators and target levels; (6) Revision of existing monitoring programmes for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets; and (7) Development and review of relevant action plans and programmes.

48. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, asked him to describe the lessons learnt from the IMPA process. Mr. Leone responded that there are three lessons to be shared. Firstly full commitments of the contracting parties are necessary as indicators can be largely different among countries. Secondly, national implementation is the key to achieve common assessment. Thirdly, there is a need for a system to collect and access data for IMAP.
49. Mr. Williams, NEAFC, shared the experiences of cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR, describing the long process over more than 10 years to formulate a formal agreement. He described that NEAFC covers the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). OSPAR and NEAFC cover the same geographical area. Referring back to the presentation by DOALOS, he described the process of PrepCom. He then proceeded with the history of dialogue between NEAFC and OSPAR from the first workshop between secretariats to the Collective Arrangement. He explained that they have cooperated in different themes including the nomination of EBSAs, management, scientific advices and MPAs.

Session IX: Breakout Groups

50. The participants formed four breakout groups. Two groups discussed on the policy relevant topic, *“What are the areas of common interests and objectives for inter-sectoral cooperation?”* The other two groups discussed on the science-oriented question, *“How science can help create inter-sectoral cooperation?”*

Session X: Report Back to Plenary

51. The reporters from the four groups reported back the summary of the discussions to Plenary.
52. The Science Group 1 represented by Dr. Al-Sayegh, Kuwait, reported back to Plenary. The group identified several priority research areas especially related to the impacts of fisheries and the baseline data on the RSA ecosystems. As a way forward, the group proposed a joint workshop between ROPME and RECOFI.
53. The Science Group 2 represented by Ms. Klaimi, UNEP/ROWA, reported back to Plenary. The group emphasized that basic assessments including valuation of ecosystem services and socio-economic studies are needed. The group also pointed out that several workshops have proposed to create a network of scientists but follow-up has been limited.
54. The Policy Group 1 was represented by Mr. Nakamura, UNEP. The group identified that the objectives of fisheries and environment are somewhat different. The fisheries sector is concerned on food production and employment. On the other hand, the main concern of the environment sector is provisioning of ecosystem services. Regarding the priority areas, land-use planning and marine and coastal spatial planning, including power plants and agriculture planning were recommended. Exchange of data between the fisheries sector and environment sector was highlighted to be an important element.

55. The Policy Group 2 represented by Dr. Pourang, I.R. Iran, reported back to Plenary. The group identified that there should be policies and legislation addressing impacts of fisheries on the environment. The common objectives for the two sectors identified by the group are harmonizing different institutions and stakeholders, coherence in legislation and policies, region-wide management system, identification of common areas of importance, and promotion of cooperative fisheries management in shared ecosystems.
56. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, thanked all the participants for the engagement in the sessions and closed the Second day of the workshop.

Day 3 : (Wednesday 06 April 2016)

Welcome back and outlook for Day 3

57. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, welcomed back the participants to the workshop. Ms. Klaimi, UNEP-ROWA, provided a brief recap of the work realized during the second day of the workshop. She highlighted various ongoing initiatives in the region. Referring back to the breakout group, she stressed the importance of engagement by the ROPME countries to lead the process.
58. Dr. Khalil, PERSGA, shared the experiences of EBM initiatives in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region. He started by giving an explanation on the Jeddah Convention (1982) and the Action Plan. Throughout the history, PERSGA has developed various regional instruments including the one on biodiversity and MPA. He highlighted the Strategic Ecosystem Management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SEM) Project 2014-2017, funded by World Bank and GEF.
59. The participants emphasized that stronger cooperation between ROPME and PERSGA is needed particularly with regards to the EBM. The experience in the PERSGA region could feed into the future process for the development of the EBM Strategy in the RSA.

Session XI: Discussion in Breakout Groups

60. The participants formed four breakout groups. All the four breakout groups addressed the same question “*What are the elements to be included in the future EBM Strategy?*”

Session XI: Discussion in Plenary

61. Science Group (1 and 2 combined) reported back represented by Mr. Bulushi, Oman. The group discussed the relationship between the Regional EBM Strategy and national strategies. The group concluded that the Regional Strategy will be a broad guidance, while each country has its sovereign right to manage their territorial water.
62. Policy Group 1 reported by Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP. The group found that there are already many strategies. The objective of the Regional Strategy will be to harmonise the national level implementation under common objectives. The group recommended

developing common ecological quality objectives. These objectives could be aligned with the SDGs and Aichi Targets as well as the existing strategies.

63. Policy Group 2 reported back to the plenary represented by Dr. Al Sayegh, Kuwait . The group recommended that the Regional EBM Strategy should be aligned with the national strategies, while pursuing cross sectoral approaches at the national and regional levels. The group concluded that the promotion of effective scientific and institutional regional cooperation is needed for EBM. Collaboration between ROPME and RECOFI would be important component for such cooperation.
64. The participants were invited to identify potential vision and objectives of the EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area. Several participants stressed that food security is one of the priorities in the region. The participants further suggested various objectives including: (1) To address the cause of loss of ecosystem services in the region; (2) To reduce the pressure on the ecosystem services (including fisheries); (3) To enhance the cooperation between the institutions in the region in order to share knowledge and information; (4) To develop ecosystem based management strategy at the regional level as the guideline to the national implementation in the future; (5) To conserve and sustainably use the ecosystem services for current and future generations; (6) To enhance ecosystem services; (7) To improve the status of ecosystem services; (8) To sustainably manage coastal zone; and (9) To engage and form partnership with various sectors including oil and gas sector and navigation sector.
65. Based on the preliminary discussion, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a text for the consideration of the workshop participants based on the suggestions made during the discussion.
66. The participants worked on the text of EBM vision, aim and objectives and concluded as in Annex VII. The participants agreed that the vision would be a broader direction to which the region should move towards. As a Working Group will be formed for the development of the Strategy, the participants concluded that the text on vision and objectives would be further refined and finalized by the Working Group.

Recommendations from the workshop

67. The participants were invited to consider the text of recommendations prepared by the three partners of the workshop based on the breakout groups discussions.
68. In terms of indicators, Mr. Williams, NEAFC, advised not to increase the number of indicators for monitoring as it would be difficult to monitor a large number of indicators. The participants noted the advice based on the experiences from NEAFC and OSPAR.
69. An intensive discussion pursued on the relationship between the Regional Strategy and national strategies. The ROPME Secretariat stressed that each country has the sovereign right to develop and implement national policies and strategies.

70. Some participants questioned the necessity of considering monitoring and assessments at this stage. It was agreed that the Working Group would consider this further during the process of developing the Strategy.
71. With regards to the cooperation between ROPME and RECOFI, the participants welcomed that a joint workshop to be organised.
72. The participants finished the first reading of the recommendation and it was agreed that they would make a second reading on the Day 4. It was also agreed that the participants entrust the ROPME Secretariat for the submission of the recommendations to the ROPME Council.

Session XII: Process and timeline for developing a Regional EBM Strategy

73. Dr. Awad, ROPME, presented the ToR of the proposed working group for the development of a Regional EBM Strategy. He stated that the provisional working group will meet on the fourth day of the workshop to work on the initial work plan for the working group. He stressed the importance of the quality and commitments of the working group members.
74. The participants agreed that they would need to consult with their respective decision makers in terms of nomination of the members to the Working Group. It was agreed that the ToR will be reviewed during the Provisional Working Group workshop (Day 4).
75. It was clarified that in terms of researchers and scientific communities, the Working Group would be able to form sub-committees for specific scientific activities. The participants also agreed that relevant organisations outside of the region would be able to participate in the Working Group as necessary.
76. Recognising potential difficulties in forming a regional Working Group, Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, stressed that this process may take a long time and the agreement on the ToR of the Working Group would be highly important.
77. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME and Ms. Klaimi, UNEP/ROWA thanked the participants for their valuable inputs and contributions and closed the workshop.

Day 4 : (Thursday 07 April 2016) Provisional Working Group workshop
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Welcome to the Provisional Working Group

78. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, welcomed the members of the provisional working group. He described the agenda, explaining that the recommendations from the Day 3 would be finalized during the morning. He provided explanation on the ToR and the initial Workplan.

79. The participants questioned whether the members invited to this provisional working group are permanent members or not. They reiterated the importance of consultation with their respective governments to confirm the members. The ROPME Secretariat clarified that an official letter requesting nomination from each country would be sent out to form the official Working Group.

Finalization of the recommendations

80. The participants were invited to have the second and the last reading on the recommendations from the workshop prepared by the Secretariat.

81. The participants reiterated the discussion on the relationship between the regional EBM strategy and the national implementation. Some commented that the regional EBM Strategy will guide national plans while the others stated that national strategies will feed into the regional strategy. The direction of guidance and the relationship between national and regional strategies were intensively discussed.

82. The recommendation text was adopted as in Annex VIII. It was also agreed that the agreed text would only be edited by the ROPME Secretariat for the purpose of correcting English language.

Discussion on the ToR for the Working Group

83. The participants were invited to discuss the proposed ToR of the Working Group.

84. Firstly, the membership of the working group was discussed. Questions were raised in terms of the roles of the international and scientific institutions. Several participants proposed to include different sectors such as agriculture sector and the private sector in general as the core idea of EBM is to involve multiple sectors.

85. It was agreed that the formal membership will be limited to the member states while there would be opportunities for external organisations to provide inputs as experts.

86. The participants discussed whether the ROPME Secretariat should draft the strategy or the countries should take the lead. Some suggested the responsibility of the Working Group would be to review the draft prepared by the Secretariat, while others stressed the importance of engagement of the countries. It was agreed to leave the flexibility in the ToR so that the formal Working Group would be able to decide on the method for drafting.

87. The participants discussed on the Chairmanship of the Working Group. Some argued that the ROPME Secretariat should be the chair of the Group, while others claimed that the countries should lead the process. Handling of national data by Chair raised an issue, while some participants shared experiences of using mailing list to make direct communications between countries. The ROPME Secretariat pointed out the sensitivity of data sharing in the region, while recommending the participants to consider efficiency of each option.

88. The participants concluded that the formal Working Group members, nominated by the governments would finalize the issue of Chairmanship, which was renamed as the “coordination of the Working Group”.

Discussion on the Work Plan of the Working Group

89. The participants were invited to discuss the proposed Work Plan of the Working Group.

90. Incorporating the recommendations finalized during the morning sessions (Annex VIII), the preparation of three reports was included in the work plan: (1) Scoping study to identify elements of strategy; (2) Inventory of existing policies, projects and activities; and (3) Ecosystem assessments.

91. Lack of socio-economic data in the region was highlighted by several participants. It was noted that training and capacity development activities would be required for this aspect.

92. It was suggested that an informal workshop among the ROPME ministers be organised at the margin of the United Nations Environment Assembly 2 (UNEA2) to raise the awareness of the EBM processes among them.

93. The participants pointed out the current provisional Working Group workshop should not be counted as the first workshop. The official first working group workshop will, thus, be organised once the countries formally nominate the members to the Working Group.

94. The participants agreed on the initial Work Plan of the Working Group as in Annex X and the content was reflected on the activities of the ToR as in Annex IX.

95. It was strongly suggested that key documents produced in the process of the EBM strategy development be translated into Arabic and Farsi. The ROPME Secretariat clarified that the official language of ROPME is English, while many documents have been translated into Arabic and Farsi. Although translation work is subject to the availability of funding, the Secretariat noted its importance particularly for the purpose of public consultation of the EBM Strategy.

Conclusion of the workshop and recommendations

96. Dr. Mohammadi, ROPME, thanked the participants for the active engagement during the provisional working group. Ms. Klaimi, UNEP-ROWA and Mr. Nakamura, UNEP-DEPI thanked them for the successful workshop. The Secretariat announced that the finalized recommendations, ToR of the Working Group and the Workplan would be circulated to the participants. All the presentations made during the workshop would be available on the ROPME workshop website within a week in pdf format.

97. The workshop was closed on 07 April 2016 at 18:20.

ANNEX I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS



ROPME/ID/EBM-2

***Towards the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy (EBM)
for ROPME Sea Area***

Dubai, UAE, 04 – 07 April 2016

Provisional List of Documents

Working Documents

ROPME/WD/EBM-1	Provisional Programme
ROPME/WD/EBM-2	Concept note for developing a Regional EBM Strategy in ROPME Sea Area
ROPME/WD/EBM-3	Discussion paper on regional priority issues
ROPME/WD/EBM-4	Work sheet for breakout groups
ROPME/WD/EBM-5	Draft ToR for the ROPME Regional EBM Strategy Working Group
ROPME/WD/EBM-6	Draft work plan for the ROPME Regional EBM Strategy Working Group

Information Documents

ROPME/ID/EBM-1	Information Note for Participants
ROPME/ID/EBM-2	Provisional list of participants
ROPME/ID/EBM-3	Provisional list of documents
ROPME/ID/EBM-4	State of the Marine Environment Report in the ROPME Sea Area 2013
ROPME/ID/EBM-5	Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas
ROPME/ID/EBM-6	Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
ROPME/ID/EBM-7	Taking steps toward Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management
ROPME/ID/EBM-8	Managing the Growing Impact of Development on Fragile Coastal And Marine Ecosystems: Lessons from the Region
ROPME/ID/EBM-9	Blue Economy
ROPME/ID/EBM-10	Blue Economy- COP8
ROPME/ID/EBM-11	The Regional Training Workshop on “Ecosystem-Based Management of Oceans and Coasts”
ROPME/ID/EBM-12	Kuwait Action Plan
ROPME/ID/EBM-13	Integrated Coastal Area Management- Guidelines for the ROPME Region
	Marine Spatial Planning. A Step-by-Step Approach toward Ecosystem Based Management

ANNEX II

PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP



Programme of the Workshop

Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

Monday, 04 April 2016			
08:30 - 09:00	Registration		Facilitator
09:00 - 09:30	Opening of the Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry for Climate Change and Environment - UAE - Director of UNEP/ROWA, Dr.IyadAbumoghli - Coordinator of ROPME, Dr. Hassan Mohammadi (Welcome and Objectives of the Workshop) 		Mr. Salim MOCCAIE
09:30 - 09:45	Organization of the Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designation of Chairman and Rapporteur - Introduction of Participants - Adoption of the Programme 	ROPME (Dr.Mohammadi)	Mr. Salim (MOCCAIE)
09:45 - 10:15	Session I: Introduction of EBM to the regional seas scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDGs - UNEP Step-wide guidelines on ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal areas - UNEP Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas - Blue economy <p>Questions and Answers</p>	UNEP/DEPI (Mr. Nakamura)	Mr. Salim (MOCCAIE)
10:15 - 10:45	Session II: Introduction of ROPME instruments <p>Kuwait Convention, Protocols and Kuwait Action Plan and their linkages with EBM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal for the development of a Regional EBM Strategy for the RSA <p>Questions and Answers</p>	ROPME (Dr.Mohammadi)	Mr. Salim (MOCCAIE)

10:45 - 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:15 - 12:30	<p>Session III: Existing policies, mechanisms and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations of national policies, initiatives (10 minutes per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingdom of Bahrain • Islamic Republic of Iran • Republic of Iraq <p>Questions and Answers</p>	Member States Representatives	Eng. J. Bamaileh (KSA)
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 - 15:00	<p>Session III: Existing policies, mechanisms and activities (Contd...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of national policies, initiatives (10 minutes per country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Kuwait • Sultanate of Oman • Kingdom of Saudi Arabia • United Arab Emirates <p>Questions and Answers</p>	Member States Representatives	Dr. N. Pourang (I. R. Iran)
15:00 - 15:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
15:20 - 16:30	<p>Session IV: Breakout Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Breakout Groups to discuss the two topics: <p><i>Policy Group:</i> <i>What are the gaps in the existing mechanisms and policies in the region?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Science Group:</i> <i>How science could help the Regional EBM process?</i> 	All	Mr.Nakamura Dr. Burt Mr. Williams Dr.Mannini

16:30 - 17:00	Session V: Report Back to Plenary - Identify areas for further research / information gathering	All	Mr. L. Glowka (CMS-AD)
17:00 - 17:30	Session VI: Ocean Governance Framework Global ocean governance framework (Remote presentation) Questions and Answers	DOALOS Mr. M. Shewchuk	Mr. L. Glowka (CMS-AD)
17:30	<i>End of Day 1</i>		

Tuesday, 05 April 2016			
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome back and outlook for Day 2 - ROPME		Dr. Mohammadi
09:15 - 10:20	Session VII: Existing Regional initiatives (15 min per presentation) - Presentations of existing policies and initiatives and identified gaps in regional sectoral organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries The Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI): challenges and opportunity for regional fisheries management and aquaculture development• Coastal Development Suggestions towards bridging the science to policy gap towards an EBM Strategy: AGEDI's Research Supporting the Discussion - Environment UNEP Support to Sustainable Coastal Management in West Asia with Biodiversity Regional Mechanisms Questions and Answers	RECOFI (Dr.P.Mannini) AGEDI-UAE (Ms. J.Glavan) UNEP/ROWA (Ms. D. Klaimi)	Dr. P. Mannini (RECOFI)
10:20 - 10:40	<i>Coffee Break</i>		

10:40 - 11:30	<p>Session VII: Existing Regional initiatives (Contd...) (15 min per presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Video Presentation of Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO) - International Canter for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) - JICA's Efforts Towards Ecosystem Conservation in the ROPME Sea Area - Coral reefs in the ROPME Sea Area: A valuable but vulnerable regional asset <p>Questions and Answers</p>	<p>RECSO (Dr. K. Al-Abdulkader Dr. D. Lyra</p> <p>JICA</p> <p>NYU-AD (Dr. J. Burt)</p>	<p>Dr. P. Mannini (RECOFI)</p>
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Session VIII: Experience from the other regions (15 min per presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECAP in the Mediterranean via remote presentation - Experience of cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR - PERSGA regional EBM initiative in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden <p>Questions and Answers</p>	<p>MAP (Mr. Leone)</p> <p>NEAFC (Mr. Williams)</p> <p>PERSGA (Dr. A. Khalil)</p>	<p>Ms. J. Glavan (AGEDI)</p>
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Session IX: Breakout Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four Breakout Groups to discuss the two topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy Group</i>: <i>What are the areas of common interests and objectives for inter-sectoral cooperation?</i> • <i>Science Group</i>: <i>How science can help create inter-sectoral cooperation?</i> 	<p>All</p>	<p>Mr. Nakamura</p> <p>Dr. J.Burt</p> <p>Mr. J.Williams</p> <p>Dr. Mannini</p>
15:30 - 15:50	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
15:50 - 17:00	<p>Session X: Report Back to Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of common interests and thematic areas for cooperation 	<p>All</p>	<p>Dr. H. Al-Mazrouai (RECOFI - Oman)</p>
17:00	<i>End of Day 2</i>		

Wednesday, 06 April 2016			Facilitator
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome back and outlook for Day 3 - ROPME / UNEP-ROWA (Ms. Klaimi)		Dr.Mohammadi (ROPME)
09:15 – 09:45	PERSGA regional EBM initiative in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA (Dr. A. Khalil))		Dr.Mohammadi (ROPME)
09:45 - 10:45	Session XI: Discussion in Breakout Groups - Prioritize issues for the EBM	All	Mr. Nakamura Ms. Klaimi Mr. Williams Dr.Mannini
10:45 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00 - 12:30	Session XI: Discussion in Plenary - Reporting back to Plenary from the breakout groups - Identification of future actions - Potential vision and objectives of the EBM Strategy	All	Mr. Nakamura
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 - 15:30	Session XII: Process and timeline for developing a Regional EBM Strategy - Working Group arrangements &ToR - Recommendations	All	Mr. Nakamura Dr. H. Awad (ROPME)
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:00 - 17:00	Summary of the meeting Closing Remarks and Recommendations	ROPME	Dr. Mohammadi (ROPME)

Provisional Working Group for Developing a Regional EBM Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Thursday, 07 April 2016			Facilitator
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome the Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the Meeting • Objectives of the Meeting • Adoption of Agenda / Programme 		
09:15 - 10:00	Finalization of the recommendations Discussion	All	Mr. Nakamura
10:00 - 10:45	Discussion on the ToR for the Working Group Discussion	All	Dr. Hassan Awad
10:45 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00 - 12:30	Discussion on the ToR for the Working Group Discussion on the Work Plan of the Working Group Discussion	All	Mr. A. Salim (MOCCA)
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 - 15:00	Discussion on the Work Plan of the Working Group Discussion	All	Mr. A. Salim (MOCCA)
15:00 - 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
15:30 - 16:30	Future course of action and time frame - Identification and distribution of tasks among the Working Group Members Discussion	All	Dr. H. Mohammadi
16:30 - 17:00	Conclusion of the Meeting and Recommendations Discussion	ROPME	Dr. H. Mohammadi
17:00	Closure of the Workshop	ROPME	

ANNEX III

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ANNEX IV

**STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ENVIRONMENT, UAE**

كلمة /وزارة التغير المناخي و البيئة

الورشة الإقليمية

" نحو تطوير استراتيجية إدارة النظم البيئية لمنطقة
بحر رومبي"

4 - 7 أبريل 2016 بدبي

أصحاب السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته،،

يسرني ان ارحب بكم جميعا في دولة الإمارات العربية
المتحدة في افتتاح الورشة الإقليمية بعنوان " نحو
تطوير استراتيجية إدارة النظم البيئية لمنطقة بحر
رومبي" التي تهدف إلى تسليط الضوء على أهمية
تطبيق نهج النظام الإيكولوجي للمحافظة على البيئة
البحرية و الساحلية.

كما أعرب لكم عن سعادتي البالغة لمشاركتكم اليوم
في هذا المحفل الهام و الذي يجمعنا مع شركائنا من
دول أعضاء المنظمة الإقليمية رومبي، كما أتقدم بجزيل
الشكر إلى الأخوة في الأمانة العامة للمنظمة على
مساهمتهم و جهودهم في تنفيذ المشاريع و البرامج
الإقليمية.

أصحاب السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

تتميز مياه الخليج العربي بأهمية كبيرة باعتبارها بيئة حاضنة للعديد من الموائل والأنواع الحية القادرة على التأقلم مع الظروف القاسية، وبالأخص درجات الحرارة والملوحة العالية، مما ساهم في لفت أنظار العالم إلى خواص بيئتنا البحرية ودورها المستقبلي في التكيف مع تبعات ظاهرة تغير المناخ، ومنها الاحتباس الحراري. وتعتبر البيئة البحرية والساحلية، بما تحويه من تنوع حيائي و تعدد موائلها من شعاب مرجانية و غابات أشجار القرم و مناطق الأعشاب البحرية من أهم المصادر الطبيعية المتجددة، وتعد أيضاً ذات قيمة عالية بالنظر إلى دورها المحوري في المحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي، و تعزيز الأمن الغذائي.

أصحاب السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

تواجه البيئة البحرية و الساحلية في المنطقة عموماً ضغوطاً متزايدة نتيجة النمو الاقتصادي والاجتماعي المضطرد خلال العقود القليلة الماضية، واتساع نطاق التغيرات الطبيعية والمناخية، و التي كان و مازال لها آثارٌ واضحة على البيئة البحرية والساحلية، نتيجة الملوثات الصادرة من بعض الأنشطة الاقتصادية و العدد الكبير من السفن التي تعبر مضيق هرمز باتجاه

الخليج العربي. كما تتأثر البيئة البحرية أيضاً بالتلوث الناجم عن بعض العوامل والظواهر الطبيعية، كظاهرة المد الأحمر.

و في سبيل مواجهة التحديات الحالية والمستقبلية المتوقعة بالشكل الأمثل وحماية الثروات و النظم الطبيعية البحرية وصولاً إلى استدامتها، يجب العمل معاً على وضع استراتيجيات و مبادرات تتماشى و التوجهات العالمية و أهداف الألفية لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة تعتمد نهج النظم الإيكولوجية كآلية و أداة هامة لتعزيز التنمية المستدامة .

أصحاب السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

إن نهج الأنظمة الإيكولوجية هو استراتيجية لإدارة المتكاملة للأرض والماء والموارد الحية، تعزز الحفاظ والاستعمال المستدام بطريقة منصفة ، وهو نهج يقوم على أساس تطبيق المنهجيات العلمية السوية التي تركز على مستويات التنظيم البيولوجي الشامل للهيكل الأساسي والعمليات والوظائف والتفاعلات بين الكائنات الحية وبيئتها. ويعترف هذا النهج بأن البشر ، بما لهم من تنوع ثقافي ، هم مكونة لا تتجزأ من مكونات كثير من الأنظمة الإيكولوجية. و تطبيق هذا النهج على مصائد الأسماك و إدارة المناطق الساحلية و البحرية أصبح حتمية علمية و عملية لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة 2030 و اهداف آيشي 2020 المتعلقة باستدامة النظم الإيكولوجية البحرية و الساحلية.

أصحاب السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

حظيت البيئة البحرية و الساحلية في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة باهتمام خاص، كونها إحدى أبرز الركائز الأساسية لمسيرة التنمية الشاملة والمستدامة، على المستويات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية و البيئية. وجاءت رؤية الإمارات 2021 لتؤكد أهمية المحافظة على البيئة الطبيعية، عبر التدابير الوقائية و التنظيمية التي تحمي الأنظمة البيئية الهشة من الضغوط التي تعرضت لها في السنوات الماضية، كما انضمت الدولة إلى عديد المنظمات البيئية الإقليمية و العالمية و وقعت على معظم الاتفاقات و البروتوكولات ذات العلاقة بحماية البيئة البحرية فأصبحت من الدول الفاعلة في إنفاذ شروط و متطلبات الاستدامة و الإدارة المتكاملة للنظم البيئة البحرية و الساحلية و استدامتها.

أصحاب المعالي و السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

لقد بادرت وزارة التغير المناخي و البيئة بالتعاون و التنسيق مع المؤسسات الاتحادية و المحلية و الجهات ذات العلاقة في الدولة بإعداد استراتيجية وطنية لاستدامة البيئة البحرية و الساحلية كان موجهها الأول المتعلق بحماية النظم الإيكولوجية البحرية و الساحلية وضمن استدامتها، أهم أحد ركائزها و اهدافها

الاستراتيجية، أتمد نهج النظم الإيكولوجية آلية رئيسية لتطوير خطة عمل متكاملة تمت صياغتها بمشاركة كل الفاعلين و اصحاب المصلحة من كل القطاعات و المؤسسات الحكومية و الخاصة.

كما أطلقت الوزارة عدد من المبادرات في مجالات البيئة البحرية والتنوع البيولوجي وجودة الهواء والموارد المائية والصحة النباتية و التي من ضمنها "البرنامج الوطني لاستدامة الحياة الفطرية و"مبادرة خارطة الإمارات الذكية لرأس المال الطبيعي" التي تهدف إلى تحديد الموارد الطبيعية وتقييمها بيئياً واقتصادياً، وتحديد خدمات النظم الإيكولوجية على المستوى الوطني وقيمتها الاقتصادية، وتوفيرها لمتخذي القرار لوضعها في الاعتبار عند اتخاذ القرارات ذات العلاقة باستخدامات الأراضي والفرص الاستثمارية.

من ناحية أخرى و سعياً منها إلى تعزيز الاستدامة البيئية و الاستفادة من خدمات النظم الإيكولوجية للموائل البحرية و الساحلية، أطلقت الوزارة بالتعاون مع شركائها التقرير الوطني لمشروع الكربون الأزرق الذي يهدف إلى توسيع النطاق المعرفي لمصطلح الكربون الأزرق وخدمات النظم البيئية المرتبطة به، وأهمية تقييم مخزونه في البيئات الساحلية.

وايماناً منها بأهمية الرصد و المراقبة في تعزيز حماية البيئة البحرية و الساحلية، فقد أطلقت الوزارة بنهاية عام 2015 البرنامج الوطني لرصد و

مراقبة البيئة البحرية و الساحلية و الذي يهدف إلى
توحيد الجهود و الاستفادة من البرامج القائمة في
الدولة لتطوير برنامج وطني متكامل و شامل للرصد و
التقييم المستمر لحالة البيئة البحرية و الساحلية
يسمح بتقديم الدعم الفني و بتبادل الخبرات و نقل
المعرفة في المجالات ذات الصلة بين جميع الأطراف و
التنسيق بينهم بشأن انشاء قاعدة بيانات وطنية
للبيئة البحرية و الساحلية.

أصحاب المعالي و السعادة

السيدات و السادة الكرام،،

ختاماً لابد لي الإشادة بالدور الهام الذي تقوم
المنظمة الإقليمية لحماية البيئة البحرية روبم و
التطور النوعي في برامجها و أنشطتها و التنسيق بين
الدول الأعضاء و بناء الشركات الدولية المستدامة.

و أود التأكيد على أن هذه الورشة تمثل فرصة هامة
لمختلف المشاركين على الاطلاع مبادئ و آليات تطبيق
نهج النظم الإيكولوجية للحفاظ على بيئة بحرية و
ساحلية مستدامة ، متمنية أن تحقق هذه الورشة
أهدافها من خلال إثراء المناقشات و تبادل الحوار
البناء.

وفقنا الله و إياكم، و السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته

مع خالص الشكر و التقدير

ANNEX V

STATEMENT OF UNEP/ROWA



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التغير المناخي
والبيئة



OPENING STATEMENT

OF THE

Towards the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

By

Iyad Abumoghli

Representative and Regional Director

United Nations Environment Programme/ Regional Office of West Asia

Mr. Salim Fareed Mohammed Akram representing His Excellency Dr. Thani Bin Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment

Dr. Hassan Mohammadi, ROPME Coordinator,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished delegates,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you today on behalf of The United Nations Environment Programme, to mark the beginning of an important new journey "towards the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area".

One year ago, The Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia in Bahrain, renewed their partnership, recognizing the emerging regional needs for a coordinated governance structure in the ROPME Sea Area that requires the attention of both organizations to join forces for innovation and knowledge sharing and facilitate collaboration across national and regional organizations and industries that manage the marine environment. We are highly honoured by the presence of regional and international expertise demonstrated today at this workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In the wake of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, UNEP is committed to support meeting all the SDG goals and in particular, in relation to our meeting today, the dedicated oceans goal-SDG15, which aims to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. UNEP underscores the importance of protecting the marine environment to deliver ecosystem services for food and water security, climate change adaptation, poverty alleviation and social justice jointly addressed in all 17 goals of the SDGs.

The UNEP-ROPME agreement emphasized the urgent need to collaborate on SDGs and strengthen awareness about pressing issues of the marine environment and the need for cooperation to carefully craft a facilitated regionally driven Ecosystem-based management Strategy that is both developed and implemented by the member states themselves and across conflicting sectors that influence the marine environment such as fisheries, tourism and industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The world's marine ecosystems are among its most productive, yet threatened ecosystems. They are central to people's well-being and coastal cities but are also highly vulnerable to natural risks including climate change and the impacts of human activities such as pollution, infrastructure development and resource extraction. Global data shows that about 350 million jobs around the world are linked to the oceans; 1bn people in developing countries depend on fish for their primary source of protein; today more than 30% of the world's fish stocks are over exploited, depleted or recovering from depletion; and about 46,000 pieces of plastic are afloat on every square mile of ocean. It is estimated that in a few years for every two tons of fishery there will be one ton of Plastic in the oceans.

Well-managed, healthy marine ecosystems do support sustainable development and human well-being. The marine waters of the RSA region provide fishery resources, a source of industrial cooling and desalination water, amelioration of coastal climate, transportation, amenities supporting tourism and enhanced quality of life. However, this marine body is also used as a sink for wastes, desalination effluent, oil spills, dredging and landfills which are serious human related activities impacting the integrity of the marine environment.

Ladies and gentlemen;

The marine ecosystems in West Asia host some of the world's most critically endangered species-such as dugongs, green and hawks bill turtles-and supports a variety of marine ecosystems, including sea grass bed, mangroves, coral reefs and mud flats that are uniquely adapted to the environmental extremes of the region.

The UNEP flagship report - Second edition of the State of Biodiversity in West Asia-assessed progress made by West Asia on Aichi Biodiversity targets including those related to marine ecosystems. While marine ecosystems in the West Asia are rich habitats in diversity of species, the report concluded that multiple anthropogenic and climatic pressures are interacting to threaten the integrity of marine ecosystems and coordination at the national and regional level remains to be weak.

The region's marine ecosystems are subject to a complex set of pressures arising out of major urban expansion and land-based development activities

focused along narrow coastal corridors such as land reclamation, dredging and pollution. Such pressures, for example desalinization plants, wastewater treatment discharge, sedimentation, eutrophication, and invasive species are also exacerbated by exploitation of marine fisheries and increasing frequency of episodes of thermal stress caused by rising sea temperatures which are, anecdotally, also undermining marine ecosystems. *The region is likely to be one of the hardest hit by the direct and indirect impacts of climate change;*

Ladies and Gentlemen;

UNEP also supported the ratification and implementation of biodiversity-related conventions such as CBD, CITES, CMS, WHC and the Ramsar Convention and promoted cooperation and synergy amongst them including on marine related issues.

The Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 framework has been an effective guide to inclusive and integrated country-driven processes in the past 6 years that in turn appreciated impacts of climate change on migratory species, poverty reduction, the green economy and sustainable development in West Asia. With support from UNEP, most ROPME member states such as UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain have diligently realigned their National Biodiversity and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the Aichi framework, and have set marine biodiversity targets indicators and action plans, reconciling conservation and development. In fact our host, the Ministry of Environment of the UAE, has lead a country driven biodiversity consultation in 2013 which resulted in an inclusive NBSAP. Today these national plans need to be coordinated with national and regional marine authorities and ROPME processes which will be part of our agenda at this workshop.

UNEP will be featuring its innovative tools of Ecosystem-based Management which aim to promote healthy marine ecosystems; protecting fragile coastal ecosystems, coral reefs and mitigating land-based activities, ocean acidification and combating marine litter.

UNEP also hosts the Regional Seas Programme which is the world's only legal frame work for protecting the oceans and seas at the regional level. As the world transitions to an inclusive green economy and looks towards the post-2015 development agenda, countries will continue to rely on the Regional Seas Programme" shared seas" approach to help restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and maintain their biodiversity.

Regionally, we also capitalize on the role of our valued partner ROPME which has a long history of providing a peaceful platform for the neighboring countries. ROPME has developed Protocols on combating oil spills, transboundary hazardous wastes, oil exploration and transportation, managing Land based activities and biodiversity conservation. Today however, there is a need to build partnerships and synergy between ROPME protocols and UNEP's strategic mandate in marine environmental management, MEAs and SDGs. The UNEP marine strategy articulates that urgent action is needed at all levels to maintain and rehabilitate marine and coastal resources, grounded in science that informs integrated marine policy development and implementation.

A long-term country driven EBM Strategy would be the answer to building a robust mechanism in the region that will improve our marine and coastal environments and ultimately reduce human impact. And today this will be a start of such an effort.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to reconfirm that this EBM strategy will be both driven and implemented by the member states representatives and supported by the regional and international organizations such as RECOFE, RECSO, Marinas, JICA, AGEDI, civil society and academia. We thank you all for your participation at this workshop which aims to document important knowledge and policies in the marine environment and move ahead with this EBM strategy. We also thank the efforts of ROPME experts, especially Dr. Hassan Awad and their vision as well as our UNEP Nairobi Marine team, in particular Mr. Takehiro Nakamura in organizing this workshop which took many months of consultation and planning with regional and international experts. Last but not least we appreciate the generous hosting of this workshop by the Government of the UAE, which has accompanied UNEP throughout the years as a leading member state in building a strategic environmental agenda for sustainable development in the region.

Thank you.

ANNEX VI

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE BREAKOUT GROUPS

Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

Session IV: Breakout Group

Policy Group -1

Facilitator: Mr. Takehiro NAKAMURA, UNEP/DEPI

S.No.	Names	Member States / Organizations
1	Dr. Hassan Mohammadi	ROPME
2	Eng. Hassan A. Marzooq	Bahrain
3	Mr. Reza Shahifar	Iran
4	Eng. Ammar A.M. Al Khafaji	Iraq
5	Dr. Fahad Al Ajmi	Kuwait
6	Dr. Will Le Quesne	Kuwait
7	Mr. Badar Y. Al Bulushi	Oman
8	Eng. Jamal A. Bamaileh	Saudi Arabia
9	Mr. Salim F.M. Akram	UAE
10	Dr. Khaled Al-Abdulkader	RECISO
11	Dr. Ahmed S. M. Khalil	PERSGA
12	Mr. Munehiro Mishima	JICA
13	Mr. Mohammad A.R. Hassan	UAE
14	Mr. Abdul W. Al Diwani	UAE
15	Ms. Ayesha Y. Al Blooshi	EAD

Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

Session IV: Breakout Group

Policy Group -2

Facilitator: Dr. Piero MANNINI, FAO/RECOFI

S. No.	Names	Member States / Organizations
1	Dr. Iyad Abumoghli	UNEP ROWA
2	Mr. Bassam M. Al-Skowikh	Bahrain
3	Ms. Farnaz Shoaie	Iran
4	Eng. Maytham M.M. Aladlan	Iraq
5	Dr. Lujain Al Sayegh	Kuwait
6	Eng. Mouza M. Al Salami	Oman
7	Mr. Khalid H. Busbait	Saudi Arabia
8	Dr. Dionyssia Lyra	IDB
9	Mr. Winston J. Cowie	EAD
10	Ms. Jane Claire Glavan	AGEDI
11	Dr. Ahmed Al-Mazrouai	RECOFI
12	Mr. Taigo Sasaki	JICA
13	Dr. Abubaker A.S. Elhakeem	UAE
14	Eng. Yaser O. Kayed	UAE

Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

Session IV: Breakout Group

Science Group-1

Facilitator: Mr. Johan WILLIAMS (NEAFC)

S.No.	Names	Member States / Organizations
1	Dr. Hassan Awad	ROPME
2	Mr. Ali M. Abbas	Bahrain
3	Dr. Zahra Alavian	Iran
4	Mr. Hayder I.H. Alhilali	Iraq
5	Dr. Sherain Al Subiai	Kuwait
6	Mr. Abdulla S. Al Mufarji	Oman
7	Mr. Saad A.F. Abu Zahrah	S. Arabia
8	Mr. Qays Y.M. Al Yamour	UAE
9	Ms. Fatima Ahmed	UAE
10	Ms. Bolor Bonaobra	RECISO
11	Ms. Marian Antonopoulou	WWF
12	Mr. Oliver J. Kerr	WWF
13	Dr. Ahmed Al-Mazrouai	RECOFI
14	Mr. Yoichi Harada	JICA
15	Ms. Kanako Hasegawa	UNEP
16	Dr. Mohamed M. Eltayeb	UAE
17	Ms. Allegue Maher	UAE

Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

Session IV: Breakout Group

Science Group-2

Facilitator: **Dr. John BURT (NYU, UAE)**

S.No.	Names	Member States / Organizations
1	Ms. Amna A. Alarayedh	Bahrain
2	Dr. Nima Pourang	Iran
3	Dr. Mustafa S.F. Ziyadi	Iraq
4	Mr. Saad A.F. Abu Zahrah	Saudi Arabia
5	Dr. Rashid Alshihi	UAE
6	Mr. Lyle Glowka	CMS
7	Dr. Dionyssia Lyra	IDB
8	Dr. Rima W. Jabado	EAD
9	Dr. David Currie	FAO
10	Mr. Satoshi Sasakura	JICA
11	Ms. Diane Klaimi	UNEP/ROWA
12	Ms. Kaltham Al-Shaibani	UAE
13	Ms. Hacina Bechir Ali Chihi	UAE
14	Eng. Entisar Alkatheeri	UAE

ANNEX VII

TEXT ON EBM VISION, AIM AND OBJECTIVE

Vision, Aim and Objectives of the Regional EBM Strategy

Vision:

Healthy and sustainable ROPME Sea Area consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Aim:

To sustainably manage the use of the marine and coastal ecosystem for the benefits of the current and future generations and biodiversity

Objectives:

The ROPME EBM strategy for the RSA will:

- 1.** Set consistent and common ecological quality objectives for the ROPME Sea Area (RSA), which are consistent inter alia with the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets as well as Aichi Targets;
- 2.** Guide the national level action in the incorporation of EBM in their marine areas and integrated coastal zones management plans and action programmes, and in achieving the ecological quality objectives; The national action should address the causes and threats to the marine and coastal ecosystem services in the RSA;
- 3.** Give priority to ecosystem services to ensure environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable food security;

Engage relevant stakeholders and promote partnership with other sectors, such as fisheries, oil/gas, transportation, coastal development, tourism and water resources.

ANNEX VIII

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

**Recommendations from the participants of the workshop “Toward the
Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management
Strategy for ROPME Sea Area”
Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016**

The following recommendations were made by the participants of the workshop. It should be noted that these recommendations are not legally binding:

1. Recognizing the importance of the Ecosystem Based Management¹ (EBM) for the sustainable management of the ROPME Sea Area as adopted by the 16th Meeting of ROPME Council in 2013, the process of developing a Regional EBM Strategy (hereafter EBM Strategy) for the ROPME Sea Area should be continued for the final approval of the Strategy by the ROPME Council.
2. The EBM Strategy will set clear regional ecological objectives and associated targets and indicators. The EBM Strategy will provide overarching framework to inspire national marine strategies and plans.
3. A Working Group should be established comprised of the government designated representatives as well as of relevant regional and international organizations for the development of the EBM Strategy.
4. The EBM Strategy should be consistent with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention of Biological Diversity so that the EBM Strategy will serve as a regional implementation strategy for these in the ROPME Sea Area.
5. Recognizing the current level of understanding of the marine and coastal ecosystems in the ROPME Sea Area and the existence of knowledge gaps, coordinated ecosystem assessments in accordance with existing national assessments are necessary as part of the EBM Strategy. The assessments will form the baseline against which further strategy implementation will be measured.
6. Recognizing the need for enhanced data and information sharing, existing data should be collected and gaps should be identified.

¹ UNEP (2011) ‘Ecosystem-based management, or EBM, is an approach that goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: a rich mix of elements that interact with each other in important ways’

7. In order to create further synergies between different policies and projects across the region, an inventory of policies, legislation, organizations, projects and initiatives at the national and regional level needs to be utilized.
8. A network of regional technical professionals for EBM in the ROPME Sea Area should be established by ROPME affiliated with the Working Group for the EBM Strategy in order to mobilize and support scientific information for the development of the EBM Strategy.
9. Cooperation with other regional and appropriate organizations should be made for the development of the EBM Strategy, given the range of human activities in the ROPME Sea Area.
10. Considering the identical geographical coverage and membership of ROPME and RECOFI, it would be highly desirable and advisable to establish an effective and viable cooperation framework. In this regard, ROPME and RECOFI should discuss areas for cooperation through a joint meeting.
11. Recognizing the range of scientific and technical fields that need to be involved for the development of the EBM Strategy, the process should be accompanied by relevant trainings and transfer of relevant marine technologies.
12. Pilot projects in support of the EBM Strategy should be developed and implemented with financial support by ROPME.

ANNEX IX

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التغير المناخي
والبيئة



ROPME/WD/EBM-5

Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy (EBM) for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on a Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area

Background

In April 1978 the eight Governments of the Region (Bahrain, I.R. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE) agreed on the Kuwait Convention and the Action Plan. Subsequently in 1979 the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) was established to coordinate the Member States' efforts towards protection of the water quality in ROPME Sea Area and protect the environment system as well as marine life and to abate pollution caused by development activities of the Member States. Since then, ROPME has been playing an essential role to unify the exerted efforts of the Member States towards protection of marine environment and to follow up the procedures of each Member State.

Pursuant to Decision CM16/7 of the 16th ROPME Council, the ROPME Secretariat has been promoting a shift towards more integrated ecosystem-based approaches to the management of the ROPME Sea Area (RSA). Traditional sector-based management often overlooked connectivity and interaction of different activities conducted in the same ecosystems. The current environmental status shows that the sectoral approach has not been successful in preventing degradation of the marine and coastal ecosystems. The ecosystem-based management, on the other hand, takes the ecosystem as whole and recognised interactions of various human activities with the environment. This approach, thus, calls for cooperation of various sectors sharing the same ecosystem in order to move towards a more sustainable management. Today, the ecosystem-based ocean management is seen as a prerequisite for maintaining health of oceans and seas.

The ROPME Secretariat identified the need for cooperation at the regional level to take a consistent approach towards the implementation of the ecosystem-based management in the ROPME Sea Area. Sustainably managed, healthy ROPME Sea Area will in turn continue the delivery of ecosystem goods and services essential for the life of people in the region. Thus the ROPME Secretariat has proposed to develop a Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area, which will be shared between all the eight Member States of the Kuwait Convention.

The first workshop “*Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy for ROPME Sea Area*” is thus organised from 4 to 7 April 2016 in Dubai, UAE, in order to explore opportunities and processes for the development of a regional strategy, identifying gaps of existing policies and mechanisms. At the meeting, the representatives of Member States agreed to form a Working Group for the development of the Regional EBM Strategy.

Scope

The Working Group will prepare a draft Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area to be submitted to the ROPME Council.

Activities

The Working Group, in relation to the development of a Regional EBM Strategy will:

1. Collect and compile information on relevant national and regional policies, plans and projects relevant to development of a future Regional EBM Strategy with particular attention to the relevant EBM national and regional sectoral policies and strategies whenever possible. Initially, environment and fisheries sectors will be the focus with future participation of other sectors.
2. Identify gaps in the existing national and regional mechanisms in developing an integrated ecosystem-based and cross sectoral strategy and methods to address the gaps;
3. Prepare with the support of the ROPME Secretariat, an outline of the Regional EBM Strategy to be discussed among relevant stakeholders;
4. Conduct a consultation on the draft outline with relevant stakeholders;
5. Prepare the first draft of the Regional EBM Strategy incorporating inputs from stakeholders;

6. Prepare a proposal on potential monitoring of the Strategy and its implementation mechanisms;
7. Form a Scientific Review subgroup for the Regional EBM Strategy to review monitoring of the Strategy and its implementation mechanisms;
8. Conduct a wider public consultation on the Regional EBM Strategy in respective countries involving local authorities, academia, private sectors and non-governmental organisations;
9. Finalize the Regional EBM Strategy document to be submitted to the ROPME Ministerial Council Meeting.

Membership

Each of the eight Member States of the Kuwait Convention will nominate members to the working group. Each Member State may designate two representatives one from environment sector and one from fisheries sector.

In addition, inter-disciplinary experts will be suggested by the Working Group or by the ROPME Secretariat to provide specific inputs.

All members will participate in the Working Group with an equal footing.

Coordination

The Working Group members as and when selected by their respective countries will decide on coordination mechanisms.

Secretariat /Administrative support

The ROPME Secretariat will function as the secretariat for the Working Group. Within the available resources, the secretariat will provide administrative and secretarial services to the Working Group, including maintenance and distribution of meeting documents.

Modality of communication

The Working Group will agree on a schedule, frequency of meetings and workplan. The Working Group will conduct all the meetings through telephone conferences during the inter-sessional period with potential in-person meetings depending on the availability of funds.

The Working Group will start working as a Plenary. It is proposed to organize a Scientific Review subgroup, and in addition to this group, the Working Group may organize other activity groups for specific activities. External experts may be involved to facilitate activities of the Working Group and its activity groups.

ANNEX X

WORK PLAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP



Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy (EBM) for ROPME Sea Area

Dubai, UAE, 4 - 7 April 2016

Workplan of the Working Group on a Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area

A Working Group on a Regional EBM Strategy will be organized as the main vehicle for the development of the Regional EBM Strategy. Based on the draft terms of reference of the Working Group on a Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area (ROPME/WD/EBM-5), the participants proposed the following as a work plan of the Working Group:

Timeline	Activity	Responsible members	Remarks
April 2016	Agreement on the work plan	Working Group members	
April 2016	ROPME will send an official letter	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2016	Finalization of initial membership of the WG	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2016	Preparation of terms of reference for a scoping study and inventory	ROPME and UNEP	
May 2016 – September 2016	Preparation of a report to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scoping study, which will identify elements for the Strategy;• Inventory of existing policies, activities, projects and institutions relevant to EBM based on information provided by the countries¹.	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2016 – September 2016	Preparation of a preliminary ecosystem assessment report ²	UNEP/ ROWA (ROPME will decide on a partner organization) ³	
May 2016 – September 2016	Draft an outline of the Strategy	ROPME will decide on a partner organization	

¹ Recommendation Paragraph 7

² Recommendation Paragraph 5

³ Initial consultation with AGEDI was proposed

September 2016	<p>Organization of the First Working Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalized Working Group to decide on Chairmanship; • Review of the scoping study, inventory and ecosystem assessment report; • Identify stakeholders; • Identify common goals, interests and objectives; • Identify areas for further studies; • Review of the draft outline; • Decide on stakeholders consultation methods (e.g. unified questionnaire; public hearing); • Review of the module for the network of regional professionals for EBM to be established by ROPME⁴. 	ROPME and Working Group members	
September – December 2016	Finalization of the ecosystem assessment report ⁵ .	ROPME Secretariat	
December 2016	Finalization of the outline of the Strategy	Working Group members	
December 2016	ROPME will send out the outline of the Strategy to countries	ROPME Secretariat	
January 2017	Conduct a consultation with relevant stakeholders and incorporate comments as decided at the First Working Group meeting	Working Group members	
March 2017	Hold the Second meeting of the Working Group	Chair and the Working Group members	Agree on the draft outline of the Strategy
March 2017 - June 2017	Prepare and organize the Second Regional Workshop for the EBM Strategy.	ROPME Secretariat	
July 2017	Incorporate feedbacks from the Second Regional workshop for the EBM Strategy and draft the Strategy according to the agreed outline	Working Group members	

⁴ Recommendation Paragraph 8

⁵ Recommendation Paragraph 5

September 2017	Prepare the first draft of the Strategy		
October 2017	Organize a Scientific Review subgroup to prepare assessments and implementation mechanisms of the Strategy	Working Group	Note: assessments includes performance review of Strategy (based on the targets and indicators set by the Strategy)
November 2017	Conduct a wider consultation on the first draft of the Strategy	Working Group members	
December 2017	Finalize the draft Strategy incorporating comments from stakeholders including the network of regional technical professionals (a subgroup of the Working Group)	Working Group members	National, regional and international entities across sectors for consultation
2018	Incorporate comments for submission to a High-level regional forum (such as the ROPME Council meeting)	Working Group and the ROPME Secretariat	