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**Coordinating Body on the
Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)**

**Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of the
Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)**
Bangkok, Thailand, 25-26 April 2018

**Report of the Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia**

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 *Welcome address and opening remarks*

1. Ms. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific Office of the United Nations Environment Programme delivered her opening remarks on behalf of the Executive Director. She mentioned that regional cooperation in addressing the challenges affecting the marine environment in the region was essential for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly achieving Goal 14. She emphasized the importance of the new COBSEA Strategic Directions that provides a blueprint for how COBSEA could be leveraged as a governance mechanism in addressing most pressing marine environmental challenges of the region, including land-pollution and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine areas. She noted that the meeting had an important task of finalizing and adopting the Strategic Directions, and that the next phase of COBSEA would focus more on the implementation of the shared vision addressed in the new Strategic Directions. The meeting would also provide opportunities for the participating countries to discuss the revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. She concluded her remarks by encouraging participating countries to further enhance regional cooperation through COBSEA, addressing issues that are prioritized in the Strategic Directions.
2. Mr. Nippon Phongsuwan, Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Resources and Environmental Research Specialist, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Government of Thailand, welcomed delegates to the 2nd Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting. He noted that the main objective of the meeting was to adopt the new COBSEA Strategic Directions, which would provide guidance towards the protection of marine and coastal environment of the region. He also highlighted the importance of the issues related to marine pollution, particularly marine litter and microplastics, which had become a global concern, and required regional cooperation in tackling the issues. In this regard, the revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter would be urgently needed to support countries in the prevention and mitigation of marine litter as well as information sharing and capacity building. He mentioned that the new Strategic Directions would play an important role in strengthening regional cooperation in the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal environment, and looked forward to the strong support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Strategic Directions. He concluded by emphasizing Thailand's continued commitment to cooperate with COBSEA countries, international organization and donors in pursuing the activities set in the new COBSEA Strategic Directions.

1.2 *Introduction of participants*

3. The participants introduced themselves to the meeting.

1.3 *Presentation of Credentials*

4. The Bureau of the Meeting examined the credentials of the representatives of countries participating in the 2nd Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, in accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, applicable mutatis mutandis to this meeting.
5. The representatives of the eight COBSEA Participating Countries were in attendance (Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), five of which had submitted to the COBSEA secretariat (Secretariat) satisfactory credentials in their original (Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand). In addition, the Secretariat had received copies of satisfactory credentials for the Representatives of the Philippines. The Meeting decided to accept the copies of the credentials for the representatives of the Philippines on condition that the originals be submitted to the COBSEA Secretariat within 14 days after the close of the meeting.

6. The Secretariat noted that for the opening of the meeting the applicable Rules of Procedure (Rule 32) required the presence of one third of participating countries with valid credentials, i.e. at least three of the nine Participating Countries. It further noted that for decisions to be taken, such as adoption of strategic documents, the applicable Rules required the presence of a majority of the participating countries with valid credentials, i.e. at least five of the nine Participating countries. On the basis of the received credentials, the meeting agreed that the necessary quorum for the opening of the meeting and decision-making had been met.
7. The Representative of Viet Nam explained that according to recent national regulation on the issuance of credentials, if the head of the delegation to an intergovernmental meeting like the COBSEA intergovernmental meeting was below the Director General level, credentials for the participation, even if required by the meeting, would not be issued and therefore could not be presented. The Meeting took note of the information.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Designation of officers

8. In accordance with the applicable Rules of Procedure, the Participating Countries were invited to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.
9. The Meeting agreed to elect the following officers:

Chairperson	Mr. Niphon Phongsuwan, Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Resources and Environmental Research Specialist, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
Vice-Chairperson	H.E. Mr. Kim Nong, Deputy Secretary General for National Committee for Coastal Management and Development and Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
Rapporteur	Mr. Pei Xiangbin, Director Level, Division of Coastal and Marine Environmental Management, Department of Water Environmental Management, Ministry of Environmental Protection, People's Republic of China

The list of participants is attached as **Annex I** of this report.

2.2 Organization of work

10. The Chair announced that the meeting would take place on 25 and 26 April 2018 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary.
11. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce the working and information documents as presented in information document UNEP/ COBSEA IGM EO 2/INF 2.
12. The Secretariat briefed the meeting participants on the logistical arrangements for the conduct of the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would be conducted in plenary and in English.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

13. The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce the provisional agenda for the meeting, presented as working document UNEP/ COBSEA IGM EO 2/1. He noted that the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional

agenda had been circulated, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure applicable to the meeting, six weeks in advance of the meeting.

14. The Secretariat requested that brief updates on notable upcoming events relating to the work of COBSEA be provided under the agenda item 8 “Any Other Business”, such as activities to follow-up on UN Environment Assembly Resolution 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics, the World Oceans Assessment, the Regional Ministerial Meeting and the lead up to the Fourth Session of UN Environment Assembly, as well as the status of recruitment of the COBSEA Coordinator.
15. After considering the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretariat, the meeting adopted the agenda attached as Annex II to this report.

2.4 Opening remarks by participating countries

16. The Chair invited the participating countries to make short opening statements related to their support to COBSEA.
17. Cambodia stated that it hoped to adopt the COBSEA Strategic Directions, and looked forward to also discussing other matters in the agenda, such as the COBSEA project pipeline and the revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. Cambodia said that it would continue to engage in regional collaboration through COBSEA towards the successful implementation of the Strategic Directions.
18. The People’s Republic of China expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat in preparing for the meeting, and highlighted the importance of finalizing and adopting the COBSEA Strategic Directions at the meeting. The People’s Republic of China informed the meeting that there was organizational reform within the Government in April this year, including the establishment of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment. The new Ministry would contribute to effective and efficient marine environmental management and protection. The People’s Republic of China also emphasized the importance of the meeting in finalizing and adopting the COBSEA Strategic Directions as well as discussing the revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.
19. Indonesia expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Thailand for their support in organizing the meeting. Indonesia noted that COBSEA was one of the key strategic entities for the country and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The Government is updating the Environmental Quality Index to add marine and coastal environment, with a view to strengthening its efforts for protecting marine and coastal environment. Active engagement with the COBSEA processes was important for Indonesia in this regard.
20. The Republic of Korea thanked the Government of Thailand, the United Nations Environment Programme and the COBSEA Secretariat in preparing for the meeting, and looked forward to the successful deliberations and adoption of the COBSEA Strategic Directions, as well as reviewing the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and participating actively in the implementation of the Strategic Directions.
21. The Philippines thanked the Government of Thailand in hosting the meeting, and expressed its appreciation to the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the COBSEA Secretariat. The Philippines looked forward to discussing and finalizing the COBSEA Strategic Directions, revised Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, as well as information on the status of the GEF South China Sea project. The Philippines expressed its continued support and commitment to COBSEA.
22. Singapore thanked the Government of Thailand and the COBSEA Secretariat in organizing the meeting. Singapore recognised the importance of COBSEA’s mandate in the development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of the East Asian Region. It highlighted the importance of finalizing and adopting the Strategic Directions, which would enable the country to move to the next important step of operationalising the Strategic Directions. Singapore also looked forward to the discussion of the draft Regional

Action Plan on Marine Litter at the meeting. Singapore recognised that marine litter issues had become one of the top priorities of the global environmental agenda, particularly following the outcomes of the 3rd UN Environment Assembly.

23. Thailand thanked and expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and COBSEA Secretariat for the preparation for the meeting. Thailand recognized the importance of the Strategic Directions in providing a framework and guidance to the participating countries in the protection of marine and coastal environment in the next five years. Noting the efforts made in developing the new Strategic Directions, to ensure that it reflects the needs of the participating countries in achieving SDG 14 and related targets, Thailand looked forward to the adoption of the Strategic Directions of COBSEA at the meeting so that the efforts could focus on the implementation phase. Thailand placed great importance on issues related to marine litter and microplastics and in this regard, looked forward to discussing the revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, which would become a useful instrument in supporting countries in preventing and mitigating marine litter, through info sharing and capacity building efforts. Thailand also emphasized the importance of ecosystem-based approach in managing Marine Protected Areas (MPA), and protecting marine and coastal resources which is essential for achieving the sustainable ocean economy. Thailand welcomed the continued support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme in implementing the COBSEA Strategic directions, and also encouraged other partners to support the related efforts.
24. Viet Nam noted that the issues related to sea and islands, which are being handled by the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands under the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, are of great importance to the country. A representative of the Ministry of Finance is also present at the meeting, as the Ministry is the focal point and responsible for confirming the co-financing arrangements for international projects.

AGENDA ITEM 3: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

25. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present the final draft COBSEA Strategic Directions, as contained in working document UNEP/COBSEA IGM EO 2/3.
26. The Secretariat presented the final draft of the Strategic Directions as contained in UNEP/COBSEA IGM EO 2/3. The preparation of the COBSEA Strategic Directions was initiated after the 22nd COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting, where the participating countries agreed to entrust a consultant recruited by United Nations Environment Programme to identify the priorities and strategic directions for COBSEA. Draft Strategic Directions were then presented to the 23rd COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting, and the meeting requested the COBSEA Secretariat to further develop the Strategic Directions based on comments from countries, current regional priorities and priorities expressed in the 2030 Development Agenda. Countries then agreed to undertake national consultations on the revised draft and to submit comments in writing to the COBSEA Secretariat, to be reflected in the further development of the Strategic Directions. A revised draft of the Strategic Directions was prepared by the Secretariat for national consultation and review, and a consultation workshop was convened in September 2017 towards the finalization of the Strategic Directions prepared the final draft presented in UNEP/COBSEA IGM EO 2/3.
27. The Secretariat provided an overview of the Strategic Directions, noting it has been collectively developed with inputs from participating countries. The document has three sections: 1) introduction; 2) Strategic Directions; and 3) monitoring and evaluation. The Strategic Directions covers the following components: 1) land-based marine pollution; 2) marine and coastal planning and management; and 3) governance, resource mobilization and partnerships.
28. The Chair invited the participating countries to make comments based on the document.

29. Indonesia requested for clarifications on how the Strategic Directions related to efforts to reduce land-based pollution being implemented in the context of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (GPA). The Secretariat clarified that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans around the world are viewed as instruments through which priorities identified under the GPA are addressed, and that such regional collaboration can be facilitated to promote collective actions. The Strategic Directions embody this, and the relevance to the GPA is also referred to in the Strategic Directions.
30. Overall, there was general support from countries to the final draft of the Strategic Directions presented in UNEP/COBSEA IGM EO 2/3. Some countries suggested revisions to the document, some of which are editorial in nature and to add further clarity. Other changes suggested related to the need to ensure consistency in the use of agreed texts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the need to include references to relevant UN Environment Assembly resolutions, as well as changes related to the mandate of an international organization on marine litter issues.
31. Thailand requested for clarification on the nature and the contexts of the Sustainable Development Global (SDG) Implementation Outlook mentioned in paragraph 34, and on the application of the SDG Outlook guidance document referenced. The Secretariat clarified that the purpose of the Outlook was to support countries in planning and tracking of relevant SDGs at the regional level and facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among the participating countries, and also noted that development of this would draw on the guidance document while ensuring the process addresses the needs of the region.
32. Singapore requested for clarification on whether the purpose, measures and activities included in the Strategic Directions were exhaustive, or open for changes and additions in the future. Several countries shared the views that the Strategic Directions had to be kept focused and realistic, given limited resources available for implementation, thus should not deviate too much from the original texts. It was also noted that provisions for monitoring, evaluation and adaptive responses of the Strategic Directions as well as future consultations among the participating countries would provide opportunities to add activities and make changes to the Strategic Directions if needed.
33. With the suggested changes, the meeting adopted the COBSEA Strategic Directions, **as contained in Appendix I to the Resolution in Annex III to this report**. The Chair thanked the participating countries, the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme for all the efforts put into the development and adoption of the Strategic Directions, and noted that it would provide important strategic directions for COBSEA to operate as a regional policy mechanism in supporting the participating countries in addressing environmental challenges.

AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF THE PROCESS FOR REVISION OF THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

34. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present the first draft of the Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (COBSEA RAP MALI), as contained in working document UNEP/ COBSEA IGM EO 2/4.
35. The Secretariat presented an overview of the Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, highlighting the background to and the process for its development. The COBSEA Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter was adopted at the 19th COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting in 2008. New Strategic Directions for COBSEA (2008-2012) identified marine litter as an emerging issue, but limited progress was made in tracking its implementation. Since then, globally adopted UN Environment Assembly resolutions have called for increased regional efforts in tackling marine litter, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs, in particular SDG 14 Target 1, also called for actions on marine litter. Participating countries have been scaling up their efforts to address the issues. On the basis of this background, the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter would merit revision, to ensure it is fit for purpose. Furthermore, review and revision of

the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and its implementation is also included in the COBSEA Strategic Directions.

36. The Secretariat further explained the process to date in preparing the draft Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, which had been supported by a consultant with inputs and technical collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme and the GPA Coordination Office/Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The Secretariat introduced the structure of the Revised Action Plan, containing four main actions: 1) preventing reducing marine litter from land-based sources; 2) preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources; 3) monitoring and assessment of marine litter; and 4) activities supporting implementation of the Regional Action Plan, with sixty-seven activities identified under the four actions.
37. The Chair invited the participating countries to comment on the document and discuss the process towards finalization and adoption of the document.
38. The Republic of Korea stated that it places great importance on issues related to marine litter, and thanked the COBSEA Secretariat for preparing the draft Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. The Republic of Korea expressed its support to the further process in developing the Action Plan, and looked forward to strengthening the cooperation with other participating countries in marine litter management. Singapore also expressed support to the approach and the document presented by the Secretariat, and stated that it looked forward to further contributing to the discussions on the Revised Action Plan.
39. There were shared views among the participating countries that having detailed discussion on the content of the draft Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter was premature, and that the meeting should focus on discussing and agreeing a process for further developing and adopting the Revised Action Plan.
40. Cambodia stated that it would be difficult to undertake necessary national consultation in 2018, due to an upcoming national election in the country and also due to budgetary constraints.
41. Indonesia stated that organizing meetings for consultation is challenging, noting that the Government is already engaged in the organization of two major meetings on oceans this year, including Our Oceans Conference and the GPA Intergovernmental Review.
42. The Republic of Korea suggested that it would be beneficial to first engage with experts and academia through national consultations, followed by further consultation involving policy-makers.
43. The People's Republic of China emphasized the importance of taking into account lessons learned from the first Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, noting that there had been limited success in implementing the Action Plan, with no specific actions nor projects implemented under the Plan. It would also be important to undertake national consultations first to review and prioritize activities proposed in the draft Revised Action Plan, before further consultations could be conducted at the regional level on what activities should be implemented collectively among the participating countries.
44. Singapore noted that it would be useful to see the ongoing discussions at the global level on marine litter, such as the work conducted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Marine Litter mandated in UN Environment Assembly Resolution 3/7, and ensure that the results of these discussions are reflected, as appropriate, in the further development of the Revised Action Plan.
45. The Secretariat clarified that the Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, in the form presented to this meeting, was an aspirational plan aiming to provide an overarching framework with common priorities some of which may be addressed primarily at the national level and some of which requiring strong regional collaboration. The Action Plan was designed to build cohesion in national level actions taken on marine litter, and would help monitor the progress at the regional level.

46. In conclusion, countries agreed on the need for the Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. Based on the discussions the meeting adopted the steps for further development and finalisation of the Revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter contained in the **Resolution in Annex III to this report**:
47. Before closing the discussion on the Agenda Item 4, the Chair invited the Secretariat to read the statement submitted in writing by the UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) as an invited observer to the meeting. WESTPAC had initiated a region-wide effort in harmonising standard operating procedures, in order to understand the distribution, sources and fate of micro plastics in coastal and marine environment. Many Southeast Asian countries have been actively engaged in this programme as the programme would provide technical support and coordinate the development of the regional network. Additionally, WESTPAC was to establish an IOC regional training and research centre on anthropogenic pollution including plastic and micro plastic research. Once it is established, the RTRC would provide trainings to young scientists from the developing countries in the region. WESTPAC encouraged collaboration among relevant regional organizations in addressing marine litter.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROJECT PIPELINE

48. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present an overview of COBSEA projects, provided in information document UNEP/ COBSEA IGM EO 2/INF 7.
49. The Secretariat presented the project pipeline, including an update on current projects and projects under development in the context of the East Asian Seas Action Plan. The Secretariat suggested that the project pipeline may provide a source of information for participating countries, and may be used to support and track future project development.
50. The Secretariat elaborated on the project “Reducing marine litter through addressing the management of the plastic value chain” aiming to minimise adverse impact of marine litter by reducing plastic leakage from land, contributing to implementation of provisions of COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter as well as Sustainable Development Goal Targets on 14.1, 12.4, and 17.17 accordingly.
51. The Secretariat pointed out the four components or outputs to the participating countries, which are Market-based solutions, Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making, Outreach on marine litter and plastic pollution as well as Regional networking.
52. The Chairperson invited recommendations and comments from participating countries on presented project.
53. Responding to the comments and questions, the Secretariat clarified that the project is under negotiation with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and that other bilateral donors are being kept informed of the process.
54. Participating countries welcomed the project and noted the importance of ensuring consultation with countries on their engagement in project development as well as implementation. In this regard it was recommended that the inception process of the project be used for formal engagement with participating countries.
55. Sida, attending the meeting as an observer, noted that the project presented an opportunity to deliver on provisions of the COBSEA RAP MALI adopted in 2008, and expressed its appreciation to United Nations Environment Programme and COBSEA Secretariat for their engagement on this issue including in relation to exchange of knowledge and consultation. She further noted the project would respond to the adopted Strategic Directions, and encouraged COBSEA countries to also supporting the project through technical and other inputs as possible.
56. The Secretariat further presented the approved small-scale pilot project “Including coral reef resilience and vulnerability to climate change in marine spatial planning in Malaysia”, which including coral reef resilience and vulnerability to climate change in marine spatial planning in Malaysia. The project aims to assess spatial

variation in climate vulnerability for a network of co-managed MPAs, as well as provide recommendations for similar efforts in Malaysia. Besides, the project's approach and results will be shared through COBSEA

57. The Secretariat further presented projects under development including the following:
 - i. "Protecting the Marine and Coastal Environment of East Asian Seas through Pollution Reduction and Integrated Marine and Coastal Management". The project is under initial development in the context of the United Nations Environment Programme and People's Republic of China Ministry of Science and Technology Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding and grant facility. The project would support COBSEA countries in identifying of sources of nutrients, sediments and wastewater, and prevention, reduction and control through appropriate measures.
 - ii. "Promoting Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Coastal and Marine Ecosystems: Phase 1 Data platform". The project would support planning by providing access to information in an open-access online platform, jointly hosted by ACB and COBSEA, and taking into account of a key gap in science-based decision support.
 - iii. "Assessment of investment opportunities arising from activities implemented in the context of the East Asian Seas Action Plan." The project would enable the development of an initial list of potential projects on pressure reduction and maintenance of ecosystem service provision, with identification of suitable investment instruments, and generating a shortlist of bankable projects.
58. The Chairperson invited recommendations and comments from participating countries on presented projects.
59. Participating countries took note of the progress made in development of a project pipeline for COBSEA, expressing appreciation for these efforts towards implementation of the Strategic Directions. Countries further emphasized the importance of ensuring communication and information exchange on projects being developed, including to ensure country input in relation to project activities and implementation arrangements, and using COBSEA communication channels in this regard. Information on projects currently under development will be circulated to participating countries.
60. An update on the current status of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea' was provided by Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck, GEF International Waters Task Manager, United Nations Environment Programme, through Skype video call. She notified the meeting that execution agreements for the project were signed, with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in January 2018 and with United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in April 2018, and that on that basis project inception can now be proceeded. She further noted that efforts have been made to address the GEF requirements of complete separation of Implementing Agency and Executing Agency functions, as well as to ensure more alignment between fisheries and land-based sources of pollution components of the Strategic Action Programme, with the fisheries component executed by SEAFDEC under the project 'Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand'. She also emphasized the important role of COBSEA in the project as a regional policy mechanism.
61. The Chairperson invited recommendations and comments from participating countries.
62. The Republic of Korea stated that due to technical difficulties arising from use of videoconferencing, it would be beneficial to have the updated information on the current status of the SCS projects in document form.
63. The People's Republic of China emphasized that, bearing in mind that an update on the project is included on the Agenda of this meeting, information provided by videoconferencing is not sufficient, also bearing in mind the importance countries attach to the project. She further reiterated the need for formal consultation regarding project execution arrangements as well as inception planning to address concerns previously raised.
64. Indonesia stated that there is a need to follow up the project since it was approved in 2016 but that the national context has since then changed, and recommended conducting a meeting to clarify the current situation and way forward.
65. Thailand also provided a recommendation on having urgent inception workshop to be organized to move the project forward.

66. Noting the constraints arising from use of videoconferencing, the Chair proposed that the current update of the South China Sea projects will be provided to the participating countries in writing.
67. In summary, the meeting concluded that several points had been raised relating to project execution arrangements and inception planning that indicate the need for clarity and a common understanding. Further communication has not been clear or sufficient on some aspects of project planning and reporting, and in this regard more formal communication would be important. The meeting recommended that a formal process be used for addressing these issues and requested United Nations Environment Programme to provide a recommendation in writing.
68. The Secretariat expressed commitment to supporting the United Nations Environment Programme GEF team and participating countries in achieving a successful project that meets both GEF requirements and the desires of the countries.
69. Ms. Vanderbeck further provided brief updates on the current status of other relevant GEF International Waters projects.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REVISED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE 2017-2018 BIENNIUM

70. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the draft revised work plan and budget for COBSEA for the biennium 2017-2018, as contained in working document UNEP/COBSEA IGM EO 2/5.
71. The Secretariat presented the work plan and budget, drawing attention to proposed changes to the adopted biennial work plan and budget. It was noted that efforts are being made to secure extra-budgetary contributions towards project activities, as presented under agenda item 5, and that United Nations Environment Programme continues to provide in-kind support to the COBSEA Secretariat, including in relation to project development, political engagement and administration, with the technical support from United Nations Environment Programme professional staff based in Bangkok and Nairobi
72. The COBSEA Participating Countries agreed to revise the budget to incorporate 25,000 USD for the COBSEA RAP MALI Workshop scheduled to be held before the next Intergovernmental Meeting. Utilization of this fund will be the last resort after the Secretariat has made efforts to acquire other funding.
73. The COBSEA Participating Countries approved the workplan and budget for 2017 and the indicative budget for 2018 as contained in **Appendix II to the Resolution in Annex III to this report.**

AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

74. The Chairperson invited proposals and offers from the participating countries on the venue of the 24th intergovernmental meeting of COBSEA. It was agreed that the Secretariat will invite proposals from participating countries, through formal communication with national Focal Points
75. Hosting of the Intergovernmental Meeting on a rotational basis among participating countries was raised. However, as this new issue had not been raised before, further discussion was not pursued. Instead, the proposal could be discussed at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

76. The Chairperson invited participating countries to raise any other matter that would like to be discussed in the meeting.
77. The Republic of Korea mentioned the workshop “Capacity building for marine debris prevention and management in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region, Phase 2 – Implementation of advanced marine debris management” which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, 18-21 June 2018 and invited the COBSEA secretariat as an expert speaker to share information regarding the COBSEA RAP MALI.

78. The Secretariat informed the meeting of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group mandated in UN Environment Assembly Resolution 3/7, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2018, encouraging COBSEA countries to participate and to provide position statements according to the established timeline. It was also noted that new dates and venue for the GPA 4th Inter-Governmental Review (IGR-4) are being identified, since the meeting had to be postponed from the planned dates in 2017 due to force majeure. The secretariat further provided updates on World Ocean Assessment and Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection Working Group 40 (GESAMP WG 40).
79. Mr. Subrata Sinha, Programme Officer at the Asia and the Pacific Office of United Nations Environment Programme, shared information on the upcoming United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific. The forum provides an opportunity to bring an Asia Pacific perspective, including the region's emerging and priority environmental issues, to discussions at the UN Environment Assembly, which will meet in March 2018 in Nairobi. It is also an occasion for partners, including UN agencies, private sector representatives, scientists, academia, and civil society to bring their perspectives and ideas to achieve the environmental dimension of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE MEETING REPORT

80. The meeting adopted the report of the Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

81. The Chairperson declared the meeting closed, on 26 April 2018 at 18:15.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
 - 1.1 Welcome address and opening remarks on behalf of the Executive Director
 - 1.2 Introduction of participants
 - 1.3 Presentation of Credentials
- 2. Organization of the meeting**
 - 2.1 Designation of officers
 - 2.2 Organization of work
 - 2.3 Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.4 Opening remarks by participating countries
- 3. COBSEA Strategic Directions**
 - 3.1 Presentation of the final draft COBSEA Strategic Directions
 - 3.2 Discussion
 - 3.3 Adoption of the COBSEA Strategic Directions
- 4. Status of the process for revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter**
 - 4.1 Presentation of first draft revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
 - 4.2 Discussion
- 5. COBSEA project pipeline**
 - 5.1 Update on GEF South China Sea SAP Implementation Project
 - 5.2 Update on marine litter project development
 - 5.3 Other projects
 - 5.4 Discussion
- 6. Revised Work Plan and Budget for the 2017-2018 biennium**
- 7. Date and Venue for the next meeting**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Adoption of the Meeting Report**
- 10. Closure of the Meeting**

ANNEX III

Resolution of the 2nd Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA

The Participating Countries of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, taking part in its 2nd Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting:

Recalling the resolution, adopted by the 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and particularly the pathway towards finalization and adoption of COBSEA Strategic Directions therein;

Recalling also the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its commitment on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans;

Recognizing the role of COBSEA in supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals;

Concerned with marine litter and microplastic pollution in the East Asian Seas region, and in this regard *recalling* UN Environment Assembly resolutions 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7 and global priorities identified therein as well as the 2030 Agenda and in particular SDG 14 Target 1;

Welcoming efforts made by the COBSEA Secretariat in initiating a process for revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (COBSEA RAP MALI), and thankful for support from United Nations Environment Programme, Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities Coordination Office and Global Partnership on Marine Litter towards this;

Welcoming efforts by the COBSEA Secretariat in developing projects towards implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan and addressing priorities identified jointly by COBSEA participating countries, including activities addressing marine litter;

Showing appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme for its commitments demonstrated through financial, human and technical support including assistance to the Secretariat, the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (East Asian Seas Action Plan), mobilization of funds and the management of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund;

1. *Thank* the Government of Thailand for hosting the 2nd Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA;
2. *Reiterate* our determination to strengthen the implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan and its current priorities through an enhanced and revitalized COBSEA;
3. *Adopt* the COBSEA Strategic Directions as contained in Appendix I to this resolution, and commit to implement the COBSEA Strategic Directions;
4. *Agree* that the further development and finalization of COBSEA RAP MALI will include the following steps:

Two rounds of National consultation, one on basis of the current draft (as presented in UNEP/COBSEA/IGM EO-2/4);
Revised drafts of the COBSEA RAP MALI addressing input from national consultations shared with participating countries;
At least one regional workshop for COBSEA RAP MALI to be held before the next Intergovernmental Meeting (draft COBSEA RAP MALI to be shared with participating countries at least one month before the workshop);
A decision on COBSEA RAP MALI will be made at the 24 th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA;

5. *Request*, in this regard, the COBSEA Secretariat to organize a COBSEA RAP MALI workshop before the next Intergovernmental Meeting, and to explore external funding opportunities for the workshop;
6. *Request* the Task Manager of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea' to prepare a written document on the updating of the project and provide to respective COBSEA National Focal Points;
7. *Request* the COBSEA Secretariat to work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme to accelerate implementation of the GEF funded project 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea';
8. *Request* the COBSEA Secretariat to further develop the project pipeline, ensuring information sharing on project development with COBSEA national focal points, including regarding country participation in and contribution to projects, noting that projects provide opportunities to directly address national needs in terms of capacity building, technical advice and exchange;
9. *Request* the COBSEA Secretariat, in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme, to continue development of the regional project on marine litter, ensuring formal consultation with participating countries in the inception phase of the project, and encourage donors as well as participating countries to support the project;
10. *Approve* the revised work plan and budget for 2017 and 2018, as contained in Appendix II to this resolution;
11. *Decide* to hold the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting in 2019, and invite offers to host the Meeting from participating countries, to be submitted to the Secretariat. In the event no participating country offers to host the meeting, the COBSEA Secretariat will convene the meeting in Bangkok.

APPENDIX I

COBSEA STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022

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Preface

- i. The East Asian Seas Action Plan defines the specific functions of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), which include regular examination, evaluation and revision of its strategy (paragraph 34.1).
- ii. In Resolution 1 adopted at the 22nd Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of COBSEA, held from 27 to 28 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, COBSEA participating countries agreed to entrust a consultant recruited by United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to identify the current priorities and strategic directions for COBSEA. Draft Strategic Directions were prepared based on consultations with all COBSEA Focal Points, national experts, UN Environment staff, representatives from regional projects and programmes, and donors. Supporting information was also gleaned from COBSEA IGM reports, the independent review of the East Asian Seas Action Plan carried out in 2004; reports and evaluations of COBSEA-implemented projects from the past ten years; as well as strategies of UN Environment-administered Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020, relevant UN Environment Assembly Resolutions, and relevant UN Environment strategic documents including the Programme of Work 2014-2017 and 2018-2021.
- iii. The Draft Strategic Directions were presented to the 23rd COBSEA IGM, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 27-28 February 2017. In Resolution 1 adopted at the meeting, COBSEA participating countries requested the COBSEA Secretariat to further develop the Strategic Directions based on comments from Participating Countries, current regional priorities and priorities expressed in the 2030 Development Agenda; and agreed to undertake national consultations on the revised draft and to submit comments in writing to the COBSEA Secretariat, based on which Strategic Directions would be finalized and adopted through an Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting to be held in 2017. A revised draft of the COBSEA Strategic Directions was prepared by the COBSEA Secretariat for national consultation and review, and a workshop was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, 9 September 2017, towards finalization of the COBSEA Strategic Directions.
- iv. This document contains the final COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022, as adopted by the Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-26 April 2018.

1. Introduction

1. The Regional Seas Programme was launched by UN Environment in 1974. Today more than 143 countries have joined 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment.
2. Individual Regional Seas programmes reflect a similar approach, tailored to address regional context and environmental challenges. Action plans adopted by participating governments establish a framework for protecting the environment and promote sustainable development. In most cases, Action Plans are underpinned by a regional Convention and associated Protocols. Several Regional Seas have established Regional Activity Centres which carry out activities related to the Action Plan, guided by Regional Seas governing bodies and secretariats.
3. The Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (the East Asian Seas Action Plan) was adopted in April 1981, by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. An Intergovernmental Meeting in December 1981 determined the institutional and financial arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan. This established the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). At the request of participating governments, the Executive Director of UN Environment established the Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Seas Action Plan (EAS/RCU) in 1993, functioning as a Secretariat for COBSEA. The East Asian Seas Action Plan was revised in 1994, with five additional countries joining COBSEA: Australia¹, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Vietnam.
4. The principal objective of the East Asian Seas Action Plan is the development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas, for the protection of the health and wellbeing of present and future generations. Specifically, the Action Plan is aimed at assessment of the state of the marine environment including effects of marine and land-based activities on environmental quality; and development of coordinating measures for successful implementation of the action plan.
5. Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan is guided by strategies adopted by the COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting². The COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 were developed in response to Resolution 1 adopted at 22nd COBSEA IGM and as further directed in Resolution 1 adopted at 23rd COBSEA IGM, based on consultation with Participating Countries and addressing current regional priorities and priorities expressed in the 2030 Development Agenda.

1.1 Environmental Status and Trends

6. East Asian Seas hold incomparable marine biodiversity, including the world's largest expanses of coral reef, mangrove and seagrass, underpinning high productivity. However, rapid change over the past decades, including demographic change, social and economic development, and altered lifestyles, have had significant implications for marine environmental health³.
7. Hundreds of millions of people in the region rely on seafood for much of their protein intake, and many nations are major seafood exporters. This drives over fishing, in some instances destructive fishing, and expansion of coastal aquaculture. Agriculture, logging and other land use contribute to

¹ Australia withdrew from COBSEA in 2011

² Past strategies in the context of the East Asian Seas Action Plan include "Long term strategies (1987-96) for the East Asian Seas Action Plan"; "Long-term strategy (1994-2009) of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia"; "Vision and Plan – A Systematic Approach" adopted in 1999; and "New Strategic Direction for COBSEA (2008-2012)"

³ UNEP 2016. GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.

siltation and delivery of nutrients, herbicides and pesticides to the marine environment. Disposal of untreated or partially treated wastewater, including domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewater, are significant sources of coastal pollution. With changing economies and lifestyles, marine litter has emerged as a major challenge, and the region may generate as much as half the world's marine plastic litter⁴. Pollution from maritime transport may have locally severe impacts. There is also significant alteration of the shoreline and coastal environment through reclamation as well as shoreline armouring to address coastal vulnerability to erosion.

8. These pressures on the marine environment have led to widespread habitat degradation. Over half of the original mangrove cover has been lost, and the annual rate of loss remains high in many countries⁵. Human activities directly threaten 95% of the region's coral reefs, with half of reefs under "high" or "very high" threat⁶. Data on seagrass and wetland loss are limited, but is estimated to be comparable to that of mangroves and coral reefs. This ecosystem degradation results in loss of biodiversity as well as ecosystem services and associated economic values that underpin fisheries, tourism and shoreline protection.
9. Climate change and ocean acidification increasingly add to direct anthropogenic pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems. Among the most visible and destructive impacts of sea surface temperature increase is coral bleaching, which is projected to become more frequent and severe. Increasing sea water temperature also leads to enhanced stratification and decreased oxygen concentrations. Ocean acidification impacts in coastal areas are likely to be aggravated by nutrient pollution. Loss of mangroves, seagrass beds and coastal wetlands reduces carbon sequestration and releases carbon to the atmosphere from sediment and biomass reservoirs. Coastal erosion and vulnerability to natural hazards, already significant challenges in many parts of the region due to poorly planned land use and degradation of coastal ecosystems, will become more severe with sea level rise and changed weather patterns.
10. While demographic and development pressures are major drivers of marine and coastal degradation in the region, adverse environmental consequences stem in part from poorly conceived planning of coastal and marine areas and challenges associated with national and regional policy and governance frameworks. Environmental management and economic development are characterized by sectoral approaches, insufficient planning for development of coastal and marine space as well as land, and often ineffective use of environmental economic data, such as coastal and marine ecosystem service values, in decision-making. Regional environmental data management and sharing remains limited.

1.2 The Role of COBSEA

11. A range of UN agencies, regional organizations, initiatives and partnerships address marine environmental degradation and development in the East Asian Seas region or among countries participating in the East Asian Seas Action Plan (see Annex A).
12. COBSEA is a regional intergovernmental policy forum, recognized as the sole decision-making body for the East Asian Seas Action Plan (paragraph 52 of the Action Plan). The COBSEA Secretariat provides overall technical coordination and supervision of the implementation of the action plan (paragraph 55). National Focal Points in each participating country act as a channel of communication, to coordinate participation of and guide national institutions in implementation of

⁴ J. R. Jambeck et al. 2015 "Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean," *Science*, Vol.347, No. 6223; and Ocean Conservancy 2016: 'Stemming the Tide: Land-based Strategies for a plastic-free ocean'.

⁵ Spalding et al 2010: World atlas of mangroves. ISBN 978-1-84407-657-4

⁶ WRI 2011: Reefs at Risk Revisited, ISBN 978-1-56973-762-0

COBSEA-approved programmes (paragraph 59). National institutions provide the institutional basis for carrying out the projects under the action plan (paragraph 60).

13. COBSEA activities towards implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan under the “New Strategic Direction for COBSEA (2008-2012)” have focused on Information Management; National Capacity Building; Strategic and Emerging Issues; and Regional Cooperation, emphasizing, in particular, land-based sources of marine pollution, sustainable management of critical habitat, related spatial planning including to build climate change resilience, as well as assessment and knowledge management. Notable achievements include development of a State of the Marine Environment Report, adoption of a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, implementation of a regional project on coastal and marine spatial planning, development of two UN Environment GEF projects for implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea, and implementation of sub-regional projects addressing coastal erosion, environmental sustainability in the dive tourism industry, and participation in natural resource governance on small islands. Annex B provides brief information on ongoing and emerging efforts through COBSEA and UN Environment directly contributing to implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan.
14. COBSEA provides an intergovernmental mechanism for science-based policy setting at the regional level. Decisions of recent Intergovernmental Meetings of COBSEA have ensured a foundation for a sustainable COBSEA Secretariat, funded through the East Asian Seas Trust Fund, hosted by Thailand, and administered by UN Environment. However, the East Asian Seas Action Plan has not been revised since 1994, and thus does not consider recent global policy development, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and relevant UN Environment Assembly Resolutions, and may not fully reflect the marine environmental needs of the region.

1.3 The 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

15. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ establishes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development. While the agenda is integrated, indivisible and universally applicable, SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development” is particularly and directly relevant to the East Asian Seas Action Plan and the work of COBSEA (see Annex C).
16. Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of progress made in implementing the SDGs and targets, at national, regional and global levels (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 47). Follow-up and review at the regional level can, as appropriate, provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices, discussion on shared targets. Inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level. The cooperation of regional organizations is welcomed in this respect (paragraph 80). Bearing in mind the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level, Member States are encouraged to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, and United Nations regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting Member States in this regard (paragraph 81).

⁷ United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, 25 September 2015, UN General Assembly resolution 70/1

17. The Call for Action adopted at the 2017 Ocean Conference⁸ provides further and more specific direction in pursuing implementation of SDG 14, including in paragraph 13 which calls on all stakeholders to take actions on an urgent basis, including: Strengthening cooperation, policy coherence and coordination at all levels; Strengthening and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships; Accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear; Promoting waste prevention and minimization and development of sustainable consumption and production patterns; Implementing long-term and robust strategies to reduce the use of plastics and microplastics; Supporting the use of effective and appropriate area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (MPAs) and other integrated, cross-sectoral approaches, including marine spatial planning (MSP) and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM); Supporting resilience to ocean and coastal acidification, sea-level rise, and increase in ocean temperatures, and addressing impacts of climate change on coastal and blue carbon ecosystems and coral reefs; Supporting the promotion and strengthening of sustainable ocean-based economies; and Increasing efforts to mobilise the means necessary for the development of sustainable ocean-related activities and the implementation of Goal 14.

2. Strategic Directions

18. The purpose of the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 is to guide COBSEA participating countries and the COBSEA Secretariat in action towards development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of East Asian Seas, leveraging COBSEA as an intergovernmental policy mechanism towards planning, implementation and tracking of delivery of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the global "Regional Seas Directions 2017-2020"⁹.
19. To this end the Strategic Directions encompass two substantive themes: Land-based marine pollution; and Marine and coastal planning and management; as well as an over-arching Governance theme. The substantive themes identify priority issues relevant to the region's marine and coastal environment and sustainable development, where COBSEA has a particular mandate or comparative advantage to catalyse and deliver policy development, projects and other activities. The governance theme addresses COBSEA as a regional policy mechanism and identifies priorities in creating the necessary conditions for COBSEA and its Secretariat to efficiently deliver their mandates.

2.1 Land-based Marine Pollution

20. The East Asian Seas Action Plan identifies 'Scientific activities leading towards management', including quality assurance for pollution monitoring, effects of pollution and pollution prevention. Marine pollution is a transboundary issue, requiring regional approaches in diagnosing as well as designing and prioritizing coherent, effective policy and management responses.
21. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) is a key mechanism for action to achieve SDG target 14.1, to prevent and

⁸ United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14; New York 5-9 June 2017; UN General Assembly resolution 70/226

⁹ Adopted at the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, October 2015, encompassing four themes: i) Reduce marine pollution; ii) Increase resilience, health and productivity; iii) Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies, paying close attention to blue growth; and iv) Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.

significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds and in particular from land-based activities. Three priority source categories of land-based marine pollution were identified in the 2012 Manila Declaration: nutrients, marine litter and waste water.

22. These global priorities are reflected at the regional level, with deterioration of coastal water quality and the coastal environment as a result of land-based pollution a central concern for COBSEA participating countries. COBSEA adopted a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in 2008, and participating countries are already initiating national level efforts to address marine litter providing a foundation for further action. Relevant UNEA Resolutions also provide guidance for additional actions.
23. In addressing land-based pollution, COBSEA will focus on a) Nutrients, sediments and wastewater; as well as b) Marine litter and microplastics, as follows:

a) Nutrients, sediments and wastewater

<i>Purpose</i>	Prevent and reduce eutrophication and sedimentation and their impact on the marine and coastal environment
<i>Measures</i>	Identification of sources of nutrients, sediments and wastewater (such as from agriculture, aquaculture, municipalities); and Prevention, reduction and control through appropriate measures.
<i>Activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Development of regional guideline for identifying and addressing sources of nutrients, sediments and wastewater; ii. Policy and information exchange, including sharing of outputs, results and best practice from projects addressing land-based sources of pollution, including activities towards implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the South China Sea; iii. Technical training and capacity building.

b) Marine litter and microplastics

<i>Purpose</i>	Prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics in the marine and coastal environment
<i>Measures</i>	COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
<i>Activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review and revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter adopted in 2008, including alignment with the 2030 Agenda and relevant UNEA Resolutions; ii. Implementation of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter through development of a regional initiative/project.

24. Opportunities for use of public-private partnership approaches and catalysing investment in implementation addressing land-based pollution will be identified. This may include e.g. pollution reduction through infrastructure development, waste management or land-use management. This approach is in line with the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020), and can where relevant draw on global partnerships established in the context of the GPA. Enhanced collaboration and synergies will be sought with the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Collaboration with the private sector will also be strengthened in relation to sharing of information and best practices and transfer of technology. Other forms of marine litter, such as abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded

fishing gear, requires coordination with competent agencies in the UN system, such as FAO, and relevant regional organizations.

2.2 Marine and Coastal Planning and Management

25. The East Asian Seas Action Plan envisages implementation of integrated marine and coastal management, including the establishment of a viable network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in order to conserve biodiversity and maintain productivity. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) provides a means to achieve integration across economic sectors and ecosystems, and enable embedding of MPAs and MPA networks within broader development plans. This embodies an ecosystem-based approach based on the best available scientific evidence. It is also noted that the plan will adhere to the provisions of international law such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
26. Balancing use of marine space and resources and biodiversity protection directly supports delivery on SDG target 14.2, to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts and strengthen resilience; SDG target 14.5 to conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas; and can also contribute to increasing the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources in line with SDG target 14.7, and reducing climate change vulnerability in coastal areas, including supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation in line with SDG targets 13.1 and 13.2.
27. COBSEA has contributed to the resource base for ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management. This includes technical tools as well as a network of national institutions and resource persons, such as the working groups on coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, coastal wetlands and fishery refugia established in the context of developing and implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea. However, national legal and policy frameworks often do not sufficiently enable or encourage integration of coastal and marine spatial planning and management across sectors, relevant ministries and agencies. While significant progress has been made in the region in terms of establishment of Marine Protected Areas, there are still gaps in relation to, for example, Marine Protected Area coverage, networking, and integration of Marine Protected Areas within broader spatial planning efforts.
28. In addressing marine and coastal planning and management, COBSEA will strengthen use of ecosystem-based management approaches based on the best available scientific evidence, including MPAs and MSP, towards achievement of relevant SDGs and Aichi Targets, as follows:

<i>Purpose</i>	To enhance and strengthen ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management based on the best available scientific evidence, focusing on MPAs including networks of MPAs as well as MSP in the COBSEA region
<i>Measures</i>	<p>Strengthening biodiversity conservation in line with Aichi targets, including increasing conservation of marine and coastal area to 10% in the COBSEA region.</p> <p>Increasing resilience to adverse impacts of climate change through coastal and marine planning and management.</p> <p>Facilitating the formulation of national and regional policy on ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management including MPAs and MSP.</p>

	Strengthening and mainstreaming action plans for ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management including MPAs and MSP in each country, in line with national SDG actions.
<i>Activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review of national and regional legal and policy frameworks in the COBSEA region and recommendations for creating enabling conditions for ecosystem-based approaches; ii. Developing regional guidelines for an ecosystem-based approach to marine and coastal planning and management; iii. Building capacity on marine and coastal planning and management, including to address climate change in the coastal and marine environment; iv. Exchange of information, knowledge and best practice; v. Establishing a COBSEA network of MPAs; vi. Evaluating the effectiveness of the management of MPAs.

29. This may entail particular focus on critical habitat such as coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, coastal marshes, and other areas important for fishery productivity, ensuring that ecosystem service values and costs associated with loss of such values are considered in design and implementation of policies and other measures, and identifying opportunities for use of public-private partnership approaches and catalysing investment in implementation addressing regionally identified priorities.
30. This will contribute to an enabling policy and institutional environment for integrated and ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management, and promoting regional cohesion and synergies. Project interventions, such as ongoing efforts towards implementation of the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme, establishment of Fishery Refugia and Marine Protected Area management, provide a foundation for further action, including efforts to enhance climate resilience of spatial conservation, in line with UNEA Resolution 2/12 on Sustainable coral reefs management.

2.3 Governance, Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

31. The East Asian Seas Action Plan identifies COBSEA as the overall authority to determine the content of the action plan, to review its progress and to approve its programme of implementation (paragraph 52). It further, *inter alia*, identifies COBSEA's role in providing information and guidance on the coordination of coastal and marine environmental activities (paragraph 52.6); and in exploring the feasibility of development and adoption of suitable legal frameworks (paragraph 50). It also recognizes assessment and monitoring, data management and reporting as important underpinning activities essential for the success of the action plan; and recognizes the need for collaboration to build a foundation of knowledge and experience for the East Asian Seas region (paragraph 51).
32. The governance theme reinforces COBSEA's role as a catalyst of actions that support regional delivery of the SDGs and in particular SDG 14. This includes aligning regional marine and coastal ecological objectives and actions with the 2030 Agenda, and using COBSEA as the regional mechanism for supporting planning, tracking and reporting on relevant SDGs, in line with paragraph 5 of UNEA Resolution 2/10¹⁰ and drawing on guidance provided by UN Environment¹¹ Regional

¹⁰ UNEA-2/10, paragraph 5, *inter alia*, invites Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans to work towards the implementation of and reporting on ocean-related SDGs and associated targets

¹¹ UN Environment (2017): Moving to Strategy and Action: Regional Seas Outlook for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

objectives, goals and targets established in the context of the East Asian Seas Action Plan have been tentatively mapped against SDGs and their targets. Further development of the regional policy framework through review and revision of existing or development of new policy instruments may be pursued on this basis. It may also include expanding participation in and area coverage of the East Asian Seas Action Plan, in line with paragraphs 12 and 13 of Resolution 2/10 of the UNEA¹².

33. By serving as a forum for exchange of experiences, policy and practice related to the two substantive themes, COBSEA’s role as a regional policy mechanism is strengthened. Its value to participating countries as a sustainability mechanism for project activities is also enhanced, in terms of policy uptake as well as in terms of legacy activities related to data and knowledge outputs and networks of experts and institutions.

34. Priorities under the governance theme are as follows:

<i>Purpose</i>	Provide an effective regional policy mechanism for the coastal and marine environment
<i>Measures</i>	Regional objectives and associated actions towards achievement of SDGs relevant to COBSEA substantive themes Regional forum for exchange of experiences, policy and practice, related to COBSEA substantive themes
<i>Activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Preparation of a regional SDG Implementation Outlook focusing on COBSEA substantive themes; ii. Regional follow-up and review of progress in implementation of the outlook; iii. Information sharing, communication and outreach, including development and implementation of a brief communication and outreach strategy, and redeveloped COBSEA web presence for regular information sharing with participating countries, partner institutions and other stakeholders; iv. Review and updating of existing and/or development of new policy instruments; v. Analysis of COBSEA Secretariat requirements for effective delivery of the Strategic Directions and development of a plan for strengthening human capacity and resource mobilization.

Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

35. The East Asian Seas Trust Fund was established in 1982 to provide financial support for the Action Plan. Participating countries make annual financial contributions to the Trust Fund in line with decision 1 of the 21st Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA. The Trust Fund supports core functions of COBSEA including the Secretariat and Intergovernmental Meetings. However, at current contribution levels this provides only the minimum required and does not encompass funding for activities, including project development.

¹² UNEA-2/10, paragraph 12, encourages Member States to become parties to regional seas conventions and action plans; paragraph 13 encourages Regional Seas to consider increasing the coverage of the Regional Seas instruments.

36. A plan for strengthening resource mobilization and enhancing COBSEA Secretariat in terms of human capacity will therefore be developed. The strategy may encompass consideration of revising the scale of national contributions to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund; establishment and resourcing of an additional activity trust fund for the East Asian Seas Action Plan (as in the case of North West Pacific Action Plan); development of framework funding agreements with bilateral or other donors; and placing emphasis on development and resourcing of regional projects addressing priorities in the COBSEA Strategic Directions. Expanding the pool of partners funding the work of COBSEA is important. In line with paragraph 69 of the Action Plan, this may, for example, include broadening the basis of bilateral donors; broadening funding obtained from multilateral funds, including GEF resources beyond the International Waters focal area, exploring projects funded through the Green Climate Fund as well as development banks; increasing collaboration with philanthropy organizations, and expanding private sector collaboration and investment. It may also encompass joint fundraising with partners where such a basis exists, e.g. in the context of the UN-ASEAN Work Plan or other partnership agreements.
37. COBSEA is recognized as the sole decision-making body for the East Asian Seas Action Plan, with a mandate that also encompasses coordination of coastal and marine initiatives in the region, facilitating policy development, and development and implementation of projects. Key to fulfilling this mandate is strong partnerships with national and regional institutions on specific aspects of the Strategic Direction. It may also include exploring establishment of regional centres of excellence hosted by participating countries, drawing on the model for Regional Activity Centres established in the context of other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and in line with paragraph 63 of the Action Plan.
38. COBSEA participates in UN Environment's Regional Seas Programme, and through that engages in global coordination and collaboration on regional ocean governance as well as development and use of indicators and reporting that support tracking of SDG implementation. It also enables leveraging of UN Environment's global efforts in relation to land-based pollution, ecosystem-based management, MPAs, MSP, coral reefs and blue carbon.
39. Enhanced collaboration and synergies may be explored especially with NOWPAP, which adjoins COBSEA, and shares some participating countries as well as thematic priorities with COBSEA. Deepened partnership with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) may be defined based on the UN-ASEAN Action Plan under development, drawing on COBSEA's past engagement in the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment and with the ASEAN Environment Division, including in relation to marine litter and SDG tracking and reporting. Efforts to tackle marine litter arising from fisheries requires engagement with Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and Asia Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC). Efforts in relation to coastal and marine planning and management can be strengthened through information sharing, coordination or partnerships e.g. with SEAFDEC and APFIC in relation to fisheries refugia; Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) in relation to municipal level ICZM; and the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in relation to marine protected areas. Efforts to tackle marine litter arising from international shipping should be administered through the relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) instruments. Collaboration may be deepened with PEMSEA specifically in relation to investment, to more effectively leverage the foundation provided by Strategic Action Programmes developed through GEF projects.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

40. Guided by COBSEA participating countries through the Intergovernmental Meeting, the COBSEA Secretariat is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Strategic Directions as well as related monitoring and evaluation. The purpose of monitoring and evaluation is to measure progress made towards indicative outputs and intended outcomes; assess performance; and enable adaptive approaches in implementation of the Strategic Directions. Monitoring and evaluation will also support efforts to communicate action taken through COBSEA and showcase results, and will contribute to sharing of best practices across participating countries, among Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and other partners.
41. The COBSEA Secretariat will conduct annual assessment of progress made towards implementation of the Strategic Directions, and communicate findings and actions taken to participating countries. This will be largely desk-based, drawing on published material, reporting on projects and other activities, as well as consultation with participating countries and partners.
42. The COBSEA Secretariat will present monitoring and evaluation reports on implementation of the Strategic Directions to Intergovernmental Meetings, including recommended action to be taken, for the consideration of participating countries.
43. A Terminal Evaluation of the Strategic Directions will be carried out in its last year. This will serve both as a performance evaluation of the present Strategic Directions and a formative evaluation for the development future Strategic Directions. The terminal evaluation will, subject to availability of resources, be externally commissioned and carried out in close consultation with the COBSEA Secretariat as well as Participating Countries.

Annexes

Annex A. Relevant Regional Organizations and Initiatives

Regional organizations, initiatives and partnerships addressing marine environmental degradation and development in the East Asian Seas region or among countries participating in the East Asian Seas Action Plan include the following:

- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the regional development arm of the United Nations. ESCAP promotes regional cooperation and collective action in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through analysis, policy recommendations, technical assistance and capacity building;
- The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), established to accelerate economic development and trade, and promote peace, collaboration and trust. The ASEAN Working Group on the Coastal and Marine Environment focuses on marine water quality standards, establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas, fisheries capacity, capability and economic benefits, and cooperation in addressing pollution. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity facilitates regional cooperation, capacity building and provision of information and tools in relation to biodiversity conservation;
- The North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), adopted in 1994 by the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Four Regional Activity Centres focus on Data and Information Network; Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response; Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment; and Pollution Monitoring. Activities include a regional initiative on marine litter;
- The Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific of the Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC/WESTPAC), which promotes ocean knowledge and sustained ocean observations and services for the improvement of ocean governance;
- The Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), which works to improve understanding, awareness and cooperation in fisheries issues in the Asia-Pacific region;
- The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), focusing in particular on transfer of new technologies, research, information dissemination and capacity building to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region;
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), with a primary focus on developing integrated coastal management, including through a range of pilot sites mainly at the municipal level, as well as provision of related tools and support to partnership processes;
- The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), focusing on coral reef protection, management and rehabilitation, including through marine protected areas, fisheries management, and climate change adaptation; and
- Mangroves for the Future (MFF), a regional partnership for strengthening resilience of ecosystem dependent communities through knowledge management and dissemination, empowerment and integrated management approaches, using mangroves as a flagship ecosystem.

Annex B. Relevant UN Environment GEF projects

UN Environment GEF International Waters projects directly contributing to implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan include the following:

- projects towards implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea, including 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea', which addresses the habitat, land-based pollution and regional coordination components of the Strategic Action Programme, and is starting in 2017; 'Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand', which started in 2016 and implements the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme, executed by SEAFDEC; and a number of medium sized projects targeted at demonstration sites identified in the Strategic Action Programme;
- 'Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System', which aims to improve the understanding of the global and regional nitrogen cycle and investigate and test practices and management policies at the regional, national and local levels with a view to reduce negative impacts of reactive nitrogen on the ecosystems. The project will include target sites in the East Asian Seas region.
- 'Standardized Methodologies for Carbon Accounting and Ecosystem Services Valuation of Blue Forests', which aims to apply methodologies and approaches for carbon accounting and ecosystem service valuation in blue forests so as to provide evidence-based experience that supports replication, up-scaling and adoption of blue forests concepts by the international community and the GEF, and includes target sites in the East Asian Seas region.
- 'Addressing Marine Plastics – A Systemic Approach', which aims to capitalize on a growing baseline of knowledge on marine plastics sources, pathways and environmental impacts to inform the GEF and the application of a systemic approach to global plastic issues, which includes target countries in the East Asian Seas region; and
- an emerging project to apply an inter-regional The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) approach for oceans and coasts, to catalyze actions that fully integrate the value of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Annex C. Sustainable Development Goals relevant to COBSEA

SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development”, is immediately relevant to the East Asian Seas Action Plan and the work of COBSEA.

SDG 14 targets and indicators are summarized below¹³.

Target

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

Top level indicator

14.1.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication (ICEP) and Floating Plastic debris Density

14.2.1 Proportion of national Exclusive Economic Zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches

14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations

14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

¹³ Final list of proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators, as contained in Annex IV of the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1

Target

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

Top level indicator

14.a.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology

14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

Other SDGs and associated targets relevant to the East Asian Seas Action Plan include:

- SDG 1, especially target 1.5 on building resilience and reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events environmental shocks and disasters;
- SDG 2, especially target 2.4 on sustainable food production systems;
- SDG 5, especially target 5.a on giving women equal rights to resources;
- SDG 6, especially targets 6.3 on improving water quality; 6.5 on integrated water resources management, including through transboundary cooperation; and 6.6 on protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems;
- SDG 7, especially targets 7.2 on renewable energy and 7.a on international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology;
- SDG 8 especially targets 8.3 on supporting productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation; 8.4 on resource efficiency in consumption and production and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation; and 8.9 on sustainable tourism;
- SDG 11, especially target 11.6 on reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management;
- SDG 12, especially targets 12.2 on sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources and 12.4 on environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle;
- SDG 13, especially targets 13.1 on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters and 13.2 on integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning;
- SDG 17, especially targets 17.16 on enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the achievement of the SDGs and 17.18 on enhancing capacity-building support.

Annex D. Individuals Consulted in Development of the Strategic Directions

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Other Entities

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NOWPAP: Mr. Lev Neretin, Senior Coordinator, NOWPAP, Mr. Alexander Tkalin, former NOWPAP Coordinator, Mr. Chunwei Han, Project Officer, Data and Information Regional Activity Center (DINRAC)

UNESCO IOC/WESTPAC: Mr. Wenxi Zhu, Head UNESCO/IOC Regional Secretariat for the Western Pacific

Ramsar Secretariat: Mr. Lew Young, Advisor for Asia-Pacific

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Mr. Hugh Kirkman, Seagrass Ecologist, and former COBSEA Coordinator

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APPENDIX II

ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2018

Revised Budget for the Secretariat of COBSEA 2017-2018			
Budget Year		2017	2018
Personnel Component			
Coordinator		74,920	112,380
Programme Officer		-	-
Administrative Assistant (G6)		78,650	78,650
Senior Secretary (G6)		-	-
Administration and Programme Support (HQ/ROAP)		20,000	10,000
Consultants		-	-
Sub-total: Personnel		173,570	201,030
Activities			
Governance	COBSEA IGM 23	25,000	-
Governance	COBSEA Extraordinary IGM	-	20,000
Governance	COBSEA IGM 24	-	25,000
Governance	Travel	10,000	10,000
Governance	Proposal development	-	-
Governance	Consultative meeting to finalize the draft COBSEA Strategy	25,000	-
Governance	Preparation of SDG implementation outlook	-	15,000
Governance	Marine litter workshop*	-	25,000
Sub-total: Activity		60,000	95,000
Operational component			
Rent		10,000	12,700
Office Equipment and Misc.		9,000	8,000
Sub-total Operational component		19,000	20,700
Grand total		252,570	316,730
13% Programme support cost (PSC)		29,057	36,438
Grand Total with PSC		281,627	353,168

*explore options for extrabudgetary funding before utilizing the trust fund allocation

