

1 CODE: UNEP/1/1  
2 COMMITTEE: United Nations Environment Programme  
3 SUBJECT: Taking Steps toward Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management  
4

5 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

6  
7 *Recognizing* the importance of the *Stockholm Convention* on the security of ecosystems against  
8 persistent organic pollutants including oil spills, industrial waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and  
9 other anthropogenic activities,

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11 *Commending* the achievements of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) which promotes  
12 sustainable economic development, and is financially supportive of a wide range of global  
13 environmental issues,

14  
15 *Acknowledging* the success of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in its contributions to  
16 environmental programs and restoration processes as well as their collaborative work with the  
17 UNEP and its partner to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change,

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19 *Recognizing* the explicit relationship between marine and coastal ecosystems and ecotourism,  
20 which can improve environmental conditions and increases revenue, as exhibited through the  
21 United Nations World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) ability to increase biodiversity  
22 investments,

23  
24 *Drawing attention* to UNEP's acknowledgement of ecotourism as part of comprehensive coastal  
25 and marine Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) strategies, as demonstrated by the partnership  
26 of the UNEP with the GRID-Arendal in the Linking tourism and Conservation Initiative,

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28 *Taking note of A/RES/43/196* that constitutes the necessary allocation of environmental funds to  
29 be distributed at the volition of the bodies of UNEP and Member States to address pollutants,  
30 hazardous waste and the pursuance of effective measures for environmental protection through  
31 means of sustainable economic growth and to improve international cooperation,

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33 *Affirming* the notions set forth in *A/RES/67/78* and *A/RES/67/79* which encourage the  
34 international community to practice sustainable ocean activities, to remain mindful of hazardous  
35 effects that can be experienced from mismanagement and addressing the implementation of all  
36 relevant instruments and agreements,

37  
38 *Recalling* Article 194 Sub-clause 1 and Article 197 in the *Convention on the Law of the Sea*,  
39 which state that international cooperation over marine based environmental policies are  
40 unspecific to regional groupings and should, in the interest of environmental improvement, relate  
41 to more specific unified bodies,

42  
43 *Further recalling A/RES/67/213* which outlines institutional and financial arrangements for  
44 international environmental co-operation with annual reporting to the Governing Council of the  
45 UNEP,

- 46 1) *Requests* that the next Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report be published by 2016  
47 in order to:
- 48 a. Strengthen the initiatives that have been previously implemented *inter alia*  
49 capacity building, food security, and global response mechanisms;
- 50 b. Further develop Environmental Education and Training Unit efforts to foster  
51 region-specific education and public awareness programs;
- 52
- 53 2) *Encourages* the international community to follow the obligations asserted under the  
54 *Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)*, which monitors the effects of climate change  
55 to the environment, and assess the impact of industrial, chemical and biological threats to  
56 the global environment;
- 57
- 58 3) *Stresses* the need for regional and national entities to establish or revise legislation in  
59 light of marine and coastal concerns, paying special attention to:
- 60 a. Wildlife management, the diversity of coastal regions, and environmental  
61 sustainability;
- 62 b. Encouraging regional bodies to develop regulation frameworks in partnership  
63 with experts provided through UNWTO and UNEP;
- 64
- 65 4) *Urges* the creation and establishment of regional environmental research centers as a sub-  
66 body of the Regional Seas Program, recommending that this program expands its  
67 research functions through explicit data and research on:
- 68 a. Regional specific needs decided at the discretion of each regional office under the  
69 Regional Seas Program;
- 70 b. Furthering the progression of preserving the nature of these unique ecosystems;
- 71
- 72 5) *Stresses* the importance of establishing a framework to disseminate collected data in the  
73 form of an annual report which will be:
- 74 a. Named the *Framework for Regional Responsibility on Marine and Coastal*  
75 *Ecosystems*;
- 76 b. Produced by UNEP in conjunction with local and regional stakeholders;
- 77 c. Comprised of environmental assessments, information gathering, information  
78 sharing;
- 79 d. Facilitated through coordination among regional centers with assistance of the  
80 UNEP secretariat in order to determine effective EBM strategies;
- 81
- 82 6) *Strongly urges* Member States to collaborate in providing the necessary funding in order  
83 to achieve success in protecting, preserving, and maintaining these valuable ecosystems;
- 84
- 85 7) *Invites* the cooperation of relevant stakeholders in and beyond the United Nations  
86 System, including but not limited to the World Bank, United Nations Development  
87 Programme (UNDP), United Nations Habitat, UNEP, UNWTO, GCOS, and the UN  
88 Environmental Education and Training Unit program on Education for Sustainable  
89 Development;
- 90

- 91 8) *Encourages* Member States to honor their Official Development Assistance (ODA)  
92 quota commitments as outlined by the *Monterrey Consensus*, to support the global  
93 movement in guaranteeing the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems;  
94
- 95 9) *Further encourages* UNDP and UN Habitat to coordinate with the UNEP Sub-  
96 Programme for Ecosystem Management to implement specialized review systems that  
97 survey marine-based ecosystems in specific regions and provides critical analyses and  
98 critiques that provide environmental benefits and regional profits;  
99
- 100 10) Requests the assistance of UNWTO and the UN Industrial Development Organization  
101 (UNIDO) to further support coordinated efforts of public and private sectors to bolster  
102 EBM efforts to promote environmental sustainability, and to reduce the administrative  
103 and financial burdens on the UNEP during its efforts to stimulate the development of  
104 ecotourism;  
105
- 106 11) *Calls upon* Member States to recognize that coastal and marine EBM requires the  
107 development of sustainable ecotourism practices for the economic growth of local coastal  
108 regions:  
109 a. Recognizing that ecotourism promotes revenues that are naturally dispersed to the  
110 sustainability and management of coastal and marine ecosystems,  
111
- 112 b. Acknowledging that tourism is a significant contributor to economies and  
113 ecotourism can help to create environmental awareness in tourism as well as the  
114 management of tourism effects during their interaction with marine and coastal  
115 ecosystems.