

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

5 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*
6

7 *Deeply concerned* with the far-reaching environmental, economic, and societal effects of climate
8 change on all Member States,
9

10 *Recognizing* the need for the international cooperation to promote a long-term solution to
11 ecosystem management by following existing structures, such as the *Kyoto Protocol's* Article 7
12 Clause 2, which asks for each ratifying Party to the Protocol to supply necessary information to
13 demonstrate its compliance to commitments to the Protocol,
14

15 *Believing* that cooperation and collaboration among state, regional, and international authorities
16 is needed to promote responsible use of marine resources,
17

18 *Bearing in mind* that states and local authorities are valuable sources of information regarding
19 management of these systems and environments,
20

21 *Affirming* the importance of natural resources and biodiversity of marine and coastal areas that
22 benefit communities through economic growth,
23

24 *Emphasizing* that healthy ecosystems are significant long-term investments for future
25 generations, in agreement with *A/Res/61/156* Section 1, Clause 4, which says restoration of
26 ecosystem health will provide social and economic benefit and sustainable livelihoods,
27

28 *Stressing* that the current state of marine and coastal ecosystems is in deep decline and requires
29 prompt attention, as UNEP's Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has shown,
30

31 *Welcoming* the past efforts of UNEP to implement *Agenda 21* and Member States' commitment
32 to meeting the seventh and eighth Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
33

34 *Noting* that there is a lack of educational programs that play a key role in promoting responsible
35 ecosystem management,
36

37 *Realizing* that rising sea levels are an ongoing concern for all countries, particularly Small Island
38 Developing States (SIDS) and coastal areas, which can cause a disturbance between current
39 habitats of marine life as well as human life,
40

41 *Calling attention* to natural strategies, such as promoting the planting and protection of existing
42 mangroves, that mitigate impacts of climate change, by maintaining healthy ecosystems that
43 create habitats for many wildlife species, improving coastal water quality, and protecting
44 shorelines from storms and erosion,
45

46 *Realizing* that industrial and agricultural run-off is damaging to marine and coastal ecosystems
47 and environments, as well as to public health,
48

49 *Expressing its satisfaction* with the current contributions made by Member States,
50

- 51 1. *Encourages* Member States to continue to contribute resources to the UNEP's marine and
52 coastal ecosystem management programs,
53
- 54 2. *Endorses* the *Global Plan of Action for the protection of the Marine Environment from*
55 *Land Based Activities* to strengthen the ecological, economic, and social security of SIDS
56 to adapt and respond to natural disasters and climate change effectively;
57
- 58 3. *Reaffirms* the need for marine and coastal vegetation preservation programs as natural
59 strategies to mitigate impact of climate change;
60
- 61 4. *Calls for* transnational regional authorities to address the negative effects of overfishing
62 by:
 - 63 a. Requesting that regional authorities endorse the protection of existing Marine
64 Protected Areas (MPAs) through management authorities such as the Commission
65 on National Parks and Protected Areas, Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, and
66 the Marine Conservation Programme;
 - 67 b. Following the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2004 and 2010's target
68 for representative MPAs in 2020 and suggestions for approaches to implementing
69 EBM;
 - 70 c. Using the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) existing system of
71 reporting illegal and unregulated fishing worldwide;
 - 72 d. Minimizing by-catch, which is the unintentional killing and disposal of marine
73 life such as fish, through the research and development of efficient techniques or
74 management;
- 75
- 76 5. *Supports* the notion that developing states may need more assistance in the development
77 and implementation of sustainable ecosystem management initiatives when compared to
78 developed states with the annex system in the United Nations Framework Convention on
79 climate change;
80
- 81 6. *Recommends* that Member States report annually to appropriate regional bodies as
82 specified under the UNEP Regional Seas division, concerning the disposal actions of
83 corporations that have hazardous environmental impacts on their coastal and marine
84 ecosystems, by following the efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development
85 Organization's (UNIDO) Corporate Responsibility Programme within their Small and
86 Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
87
- 88 7. *Further recommends* that the UNEP Executive Director consider the viability of UNEP
89 facilitating this process through collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of
90 Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) initiative on Disaster Waste Management and give the

- 91 UNEP Sub-Programme on Harmful Substances and hazardous waste the authority and
92 the necessary funding to conduct these reports;
93
- 94 8. *Recommends* the creation of ecosystem-specific books of best practice in accordance with
95 the Ecosystem Management Series programme, focusing on agriculture, food security,
96 environmental preservation, and sustainable development for the six main types of
97 ecosystems, with topics to include:
98 a. Applying the Ecosystem Approach in Latin America;
99 b. Ecosystem Approach: Learning from Experience;
100 c. Island Voices Island Choices;
101
- 102 9. *Declares* that there is a lack of education and informational dissemination with the
103 purpose of promoting responsible long-term Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) to
104 people at a local level, so it is necessary to continue:
105 a. Promoting UNEP educational endeavours such as the Decade of Education for
106 Sustainable Development's (DESD), Environmental Education Training Unit
107 which works with universities, training centres and communities in collaborative
108 projects to provide education, training and networking;
109 b. Promoting programs that share international knowledge to local governments,
110 such as the Train-Sea-Coast Program, which trains local governments to develop
111 and integrate sustainable practices;
112 c. Promoting programs that target sustainable practices at the local level, such as the
113 FAO initiatives focusing on small-scale fisheries and fisheries management;
114 d. Calling upon the UNEP Education for Sustainable Consumption and the
115 Marrakech Task Force on Education for Sustainable Consumption to further
116 develop region-specific educational programs for Sustainable consumption and
117 production aspects of energy and industrial development, agriculture and Africa,
118 transport, chemicals and waste management, forest, biodiversity and tourism;
119
- 120 10. *Recommends* the preservation of biodiversity regional programs, such as the Sulu-
121 Sulawesi Marine Eco-region programme, and on an international level, the Convention
122 on Biodiversity's Aichi Targets;
123
- 124 11. *Acknowledges* that biodiversity is not constrained by borders, and that it is important to
125 invite and collaborate with other Member States and organisations such as the World
126 Wildlife Fund, International Union for Conservation of Nature and regional NGOs;
127
- 128 12. *Requests* the use of existing regional structures and organisations to implement
129 environment policies, such as the United Nations Developmental Programme (UNDP)
130 which works with national, regional and local planning bodies to help them respond
131 effectively, and Natura 2000 in Europe;
132
- 133 13. *Endorses* efforts to achieve incremental EBM with the ultimate goal of reaching
134 comprehensive EBM to mitigate impact of climate change, through:
135 a. Public awareness on current issues in ecosystems, specifically the EBM process,
136 b. Generating research on ecosystems to identify potential advancement,

- 137 c. Application of research into implementation initiatives;
138
- 139 14. *Expresses its full support* of Member States who follow the Kyoto Protocol, in particular:
140 Article 7, Clause 2, which calls ratifying states to supply necessary information to
141 demonstrate its compliance to commitments Kyoto Protocol, Article 17, which calls for
142 verification and accountability for emissions trading;
143
- 144 15. *Encourages* the continued implementation of provisions in Agenda 21 to address the
145 seventh and eighth MDGs through:
146 a. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as defined in Chapter 17 of Agenda
147 21, which is the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal
148 and marine areas;
149 b. Implementation of coastal and marine management at appropriate levels;
150 c. Assessments of previous steps and addressing the according strategies.