



**The
Adriatic Sea
Partnership**

Working Group I

**Regional cooperation, eco-system approach and
stakeholder participation
In addressing maritime environmental challenges**

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Ashgabad, March 6-7, 2008**



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International and regional approach to cooperation

- Frameworks provided by global MEAs (MARPOL, UNCLOS, Basel Convention)
 - Generally worded and wide geographical application
 - Not sufficiently tailored for specific issues/problems in sub-regions and individual countries
- Regional initiatives targeting the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention, Euro-Med, MAP, PAP/RAC) providing a good legal and institutional basis for further sub-regional commitments



Sub-regional approach to cooperation

- Increasing focus on developing the sub-regional approach to marine protection:
 - Designation of seas as particularly sensitive sea area (PSSA) according to the ecosystem approach
 - EU legal and policy framework also providing for the sub-regional approach. For instance, by encouraging regional and sub-regional action plans on protection of seas, establishing financial mechanisms (SMAP III)
 - MAP programmes and activities increasingly promoting the sub-regional approach



Examples of sub-regional arrangements

There are arrangements which include **both legal and institutional frameworks** such as:

- Helsinki Convention and Helsinki Commission for Baltic Sea
 - Awarded, groundbreaking regional Baltic Sea Action Plan
- OSPAR Convention and OSPAR Commission for North-East Atlantic Sea
 - Wide mandate tackling many issues





Source: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/oceans/oap-pao/img/seaotterr.jpg>

Eco-systems approach – vital for sensitive seas

- There is an increasing tendency to take an eco-system approach to marine protection and contingency planning
- One example is the IMO designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA)
- This designation would have several implications:
 - Measures and cooperation is defined by the limits of the ecosystem and not geographical borders or boundaries of political cooperation
 - Cooperation and measures should be adjusted to the needs of the ecosystem
 - Calls for the development of a regional seas action plans
 - More stringent measures need to be introduced to protect the PSSA against additional pollution and biodiversity loss
 - Strict restrictions on potentially polluting activities (e.g. oil platforms, gas terminals or even shipping of polluting substances) near to the coast line
 - EIA would be required for virtually all human activities close to sea and measures might also have to be taken to reduce the environmental impact from tourism.
 - Additional marine protecting measures including shipping restrictions (technical requirements), designation of marine species etc.



We need a mix of international, regional and sub-regional mechanisms to address environmental challenges

- Clear legal requirements in the form of binding agreements (e.g. global, regional or sub-regional agreements)
- Institutions that are efficient and can take quick coordinated action
- Established formalised cooperation between countries with mechanisms for rapid response and exchange of information (agreements, institutions, regional seas action plans)
- Forums for informal communication and information exchange involving a wide range of stakeholders (e.g. ASP)



Stakeholder should be involved in contingency planning and oil spill prevention

- Mechanisms for wide consultation and participation in such planning
 - EIA
 - SEA
 - Access to environmental information legislation
- Benefits
 - Transparent process
 - Greater support for oil extraction activities by the general public
 - Ensure sufficiently strict legal requirements and emergency preparedness plans



The background of the slide is a photograph of a large blue and white ship, possibly a research vessel or cargo ship, on the ocean. In the foreground, two dark-colored iguanas are perched on dark, jagged rocks. One iguana is on the right, facing left, and the other is on the left, facing right. The ocean is a deep blue, and the sky is clear and light blue.

Thank you for your attention!

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