

## Promoting Integrated Oceans Governance

### *A Governance System Adapted to the Interrelationship among Uses and Processes in the Coast and Ocean*

While most coastal nations of the world already have a variety of sectoral policies in place to manage different uses of the ocean (such as shipping, fishing, and oil and gas development), it has only been in the last decade that coastal nations have undertaken concerted efforts to articulate and implement an integrated vision for the governance of ocean areas in their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)--to harmonize existing uses and laws, to foster sustainable development of ocean areas, to protect biodiversity and vulnerable resources and ecosystems, and to coordinate the actions of the many government agencies that are typically involved in oceans affairs.

This is a very encouraging development, responding, as it does, to the reality of serious conflicts of use in most national ocean zones and to the prescriptions articulated in both the Law of the Sea and in the 1992 Earth Summit (given the interrelationship among uses and processes in the coast and ocean, ocean and coastal governance must be “integrated in content and precautionary and anticipatory in ambit”).

As they develop integrated and ecosystem-based national ocean policies, national authorities are often plowing new ground, in terms of the principles that apply in EEZs: management approaches: means of ensuring interagency and intergovernmental coordination; approaches to regional marine planning and governance; means of sustainable financing. It is thus useful for national authorities from various countries to come together to compare approaches, draw lessons from existing practice and assess their possible suitability in other contexts, and begin to develop international guidance on emerging best practices in the development and implementation of national and regional ocean policies, and to encourage further dissemination of ecosystem-based integrated approaches to oceans.

### *Integrated Governance: A Major Theme of the Global Ocean Forum's Work as early as 2001*

In 2001, the Global Ocean Forum assessed progress achieved on oceans, coasts, and SIDS since the 1992 Earth Summit, focusing especially on the implementation of the prescriptions contained in Chapter 17 (the oceans, coasts, and SIDS chapter of Agenda 21), which emphasize integrated management of oceans and coasts. At the Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts at Rio+10: Toward the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg,



December 3-7, 2001, UNESCO, Paris, working group discussions emphasized the need to build capacity for integrated coastal and ocean management in order for actual implementation to take place. In the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, integrated ocean and coastal management was featured prominently as was the allied concept of ecosystem-based management (see wording in Box 1.)

Following the WSSD, the Global Ocean Forum has carried out a number of activities to help achieve the WSSD targets of achieving integrated ocean and coastal management and ecosystem-based management.

### *TOPS 2005, High Point of the Global Ocean Forum's Work on Integrated Governance*

As part of the GEF-MSP, and with the support of the Nippon Foundation and other partners, the Global Ocean Forum organized the TOPS 2005: The Ocean Policy Summit *International Conference on Integrated Ocean Policy: National and Regional Experiences, Prospects, and Emerging Practices* held on October 10-14, 2005, in Lisbon, Portugal, to present and analyze the experiences of 20+ nations and four regions of the world that have taken concrete steps toward cross-cutting and integrated policy (cross-national study undertaken by the Nippon Foundation Research Task Force on National Ocean Policies). The conference also presented other work on integrated national and regional ocean policies, such as work undertaken by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, Large Marine Ecosystems supported by the Global Environment Facility, and other regional experiences. The conference drew lessons from the comparative analyses and began to develop international guidance on best practices.

The conference brought together 218 participants from governments, regional organizations, UN agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, and industry representatives, representing 53 countries.

Through conference working groups, international guidance on emerging best practices in the development and implementation of national/regional ocean policies was drawn from the experiences reported, and subsequently featured during a one-day Ocean Strategy Workshop for decision makers on ocean policy development and implementation, with a special emphasis on decision makers from small island developing States, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition.

### ***The Discussions Continue at the 4th Global Oceans Conference***

Discussions on national and regional perspectives on integrated ocean and coastal management were held at the 2008 4th Global Oceans Conference (GOC4) in Hanoi, Vietnam.

GOC4 underlined that Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICM) implementation guidelines were well established, and that Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) implementation guidelines were less well codified. Progress in implementation at various levels was highlighted, but the need to better communicate the benefits of EBM to policy makers was stressed. The need: 1) to maintain collaboration on ICM and EBM at the international level; 2) to emphasize capacity building of and support to developing States; and 3) to establish a systematic process to track progress on ICM and EBM implementation by 2010 using common indicators was underlined.

### ***A Major Publication: Book on Integrated Ocean Policy***

A book on Integrated Regional and National Ocean Policies: Comparative Practices and Future Prospects, resulting from the work reported at TOPS 2005: The Ocean Policy Summit will be published in 2012 by the United Nations University Press. The book, which brings together the experiences of 18 countries and 4 regions in integrated ocean policy, includes 23 chapters authored by 53 authors (see Box 16).

*In bringing together key national level officials, regional organizations, UN agencies, scholars specializing in national ocean policy, donors, nongovernmental organizations, and industry to examine the growing experience around the world with the formulation and implementation of integrated ocean policies at national and regional levels, the Global Ocean Forum was able to produce important work from which we were able to draw lessons and suggest emerging best practices for the development of the national ocean policy of Mexico.*

- Antonio Diaz de Leon, Director-General, Environmental, Regional Integration and Sectoral Policy, Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (SEMARNAT), Mexico

*The work that the Global Ocean Forum completed on comparative national and regional ocean policies, funded by the Nippon Foundation and the Global Environment Facility as partners, was very useful in our effort in Japan in drafting and achieving enactment of the Japanese Basic Ocean Law.*

- Hiroshi Terashima, Executive Director, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan



Dr. David VanderZwaag, Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Prof. Mario Ruivo, and Mr. John Roberts

### ***Improving Governance: A Major Theme of the 5th Global Oceans Conference***

“Improving Governance: Achieving Integrated, Ecosystem-Based Ocean and Coastal Management” was one of the three major themes of the 5th Global Oceans Conference (2010). Prior to the Conference, the Global Ocean Forum produced a Policy Brief on *Improving Governance: Achieving Integrated, Ecosystem-Based Ocean and Coastal Management* to elicit discussion and debate. The GOC5 concluding statement emphasized the need for the development of adequate and nested strategies at different scales (from local to global) for Ecosystem-based Ocean and Coastal Management at Local, National, and Regional Levels, and in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

### ***Towards Rio+20***

The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development is one of the two themes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and the Global Ocean Forum worked on assessing the extent of achievement of ecosystem-based, integrated ocean and coastal management in preparation for Rio+20 (see section IV of this report).

## Box 16. Book on INTEGRATED NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OCEAN POLICIES: COMPARATIVE PRACTICES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Biliana Cicin-Sain, David VanderZwaag, and Miriam C. Balgos, Editors

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