
Monitoring the Strategy



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A series of indicators have been developed to assess progress across the region regarding implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The indicators provide a systematic approach for each country to track its movement toward management arrangements, systems, and processes identified in the Strategy.

The desired outcomes and changes to be achieved by the vision, strategies, and objectives of SDS-SEA can be classified into three broad categories, namely:

- **institutional activities**, including the individual and collective policy, legal, and administrative actions of countries, in accordance with the Strategy;
- **operational activities**, describing the measures taken by countries to halt, mitigate, adapt to, or prevent damage to the environment caused by natural processes and human activities, as defined in the Strategy; and
- **environmental state**, referring to the quality and quantity of natural resources, and the state of human and ecological health. Indicators in this category reflect the ultimate benefits derived as a consequence of the SDS-SEA, and are chosen by considering biological, chemical, and physical variables and ecological functions.

One of the early initiatives of Strategy implementation involves countries of the region confirming/agreeing on these indicators, the desired targets or reference values for each indicator and the protocols for assessing them. In the interim, the following institutional and operational indicators may be employed in monitoring the Strategy. These were chosen to ensure consistency and applicability to all. Changes and additions will occur to the indicators over time, as monitoring and reporting systems develop and as the capacity of the various stakeholders at the national, local, and regional levels increases.

Monitoring National Level Implementation of the Strategy

Institutional

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Coastal/marine policy			
No. of countries:			
• Under development			
• In place			
b. Accession to key international environmental instruments*			
No. of countries:			
• Under development			
• In place			

*Note: The key international environmental instruments can be selected from those shown in Table 1, Annex 3 (p. 108).

Operational

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. National coastal and marine environmental strategy			
• Under development			
• In place			
b. National coastlines with land- and sea-use development plans			
Length of coastline (km):			
• Under development			
• In place			
c. Ship waste reception facilities in ports and harbors			
% of ports/harbors with licensed facilities and services:			
• Under development			
• In place			
d. National marine and coastal areas under environmental management programmes			
Total area (km ²):			
• Under development			
• In place			
e. River basins under ecosystem development and management programmes			
Total river basin area (km ²):			
• Under development			
• In place			

Monitoring Local Level Implementation of the Strategy

Institutional

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Local governments empowered to manage marine and coastal resources			
No. of countries:			
• Under development			
• In place			

Operational

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Local coastal strategies			
• Under development			
• In place			
b. Length of municipal coastlines under an integrated management program			
Length of coastline (km):			
• Under development			
• In place			
c. ISO 14000 certification of local governments			
No. of certifications:			
• Under development			
• In place			
d. Sewage treatment			
% of coastal urban population with treatment facilities:			
• Under development			
• In place			
e. Drinking water			
% of coastal urban population with treated water supply:			
• Under development			
• In place			
f. Waste management			
% of coastal urban population with garbage collection and licensed disposal facilities:			
• Under development			
• In place			

Monitoring Subregional Level Implementation of the Strategy

Institutional

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Intergovernmental environmental management mechanisms for transborder areas and LMEs			
No. of mechanisms:			
• Under development			
• In place			

Operational

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Transborder marine areas/LMEs under environmental management plans			
Total transborder/LME marine area (km ²):			
• Under development			
• In place			
b. Sea areas with regional contingency plans and compensation systems			
Sea area (km ²):			
• Under development			
• In place			

Monitoring Implementation of the Strategy by Other Stakeholders

Private Sector

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Number of ISO 14000 certification of industries and private enterprises			
• Under development			
• In place			

Civil Society

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Number of registered environmental NGOs			
• Under development			
• In place			

Academe/Scientific Community

Indicator Description	Current Status	Milestone Target 2005	Milestone Target 2015
a. Number of graduates from undergraduate or postgraduate programmes on environmental/coastal management			
• Under development			
• In place			
b. Number of graduates from short-term training programmes on environmental/coastal management			
• Under development			
• In place			
c. Level of funding of environmental research and development programs supported by national/international programmes (US\$)			
• Under development			
• In place			

Bibliography

Annexes

- 1. Major International Instruments Relating to the Coastal and Marine Environment**
- 2. Major International and Regional Programmes of Action on the Coastal and Marine Environment**
- 3. International Conventions**

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ANNEXES

Annex 1. Major International Instruments Relating to the Coastal and Marine Environment

1. Rio Declaration
2. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS)
3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992 (UNFCCC)
4. Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 (CBD)
5. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973 (CITES)
6. International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946
7. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971 (Ramsar Convention)
8. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972 (World Heritage Convention)
9. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979 (Convention on Migratory Species)
10. Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
11. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating Thereto (MARPOL 73/78)
12. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 and Its 1996 Protocol (London Convention)
13. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 1989 (Basel Convention)
14. International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC)
15. International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969 and Its 1992 Protocol (CLC)
16. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971 and Its 1992 Protocol (FUND)
17. International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (HNS)
18. Basel Convention Protocol on Liability and Compensation, 2000
19. International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Oil Convention)
20. International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 and Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances Other Than Oil, 1973 (Intervention)
21. International Convention on Salvage, 1989 (Salvage)

Annex 2. Major International and Regional Programmes of Action on the Coastal and Marine Environment

1. Agenda 21, Chapter 17
2. World Summit on Sustainable Development Declaration and Plan of Implementation
3. United Nations Millennium Declaration and Development Goals
4. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
5. Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, 1995
6. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Hanoi Plan of Action, 2000-2004
7. ASEAN Cooperation Plan on Transboundary Pollution, Kuala Lumpur, June 1995
8. ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1985
9. Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
10. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, and Strategic Action Programme, for the South China Sea, 2000, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) East Asian Seas Action Plan
11. Overview on Land-based Sources and Activities Affecting the Marine Environment in the East Asian Seas, 2000, UNEP East Asian Seas Action Plan
12. Vision and Plan: A Systematic Approach, 2000, UNEP East Asian Seas Long-term Plan
13. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
14. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment, 1997
15. Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for the Asia Pacific
16. Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL)
17. Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Programme

See also: A Sea of Troubles, GESAMP Report and Recommendations, 2001

Annex 3. International Conventions

International conventions have a crucial role in the management of the marine environment.

International conventions on the environment contain global standards by which the marine environment may be protected and managed. They provide both theoretical basis and practical means for addressing problems. In addition, they include a number of related international agreements to protect the environment, such as the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, and the Global Programme of Action (GPA), which are not legally binding but have gained moral force through widespread international acceptance. The past few years have added to this number with the United Nations declaring the ten-point Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) adopting a Declaration and Plan of Action as a follow-on to Agenda 21.

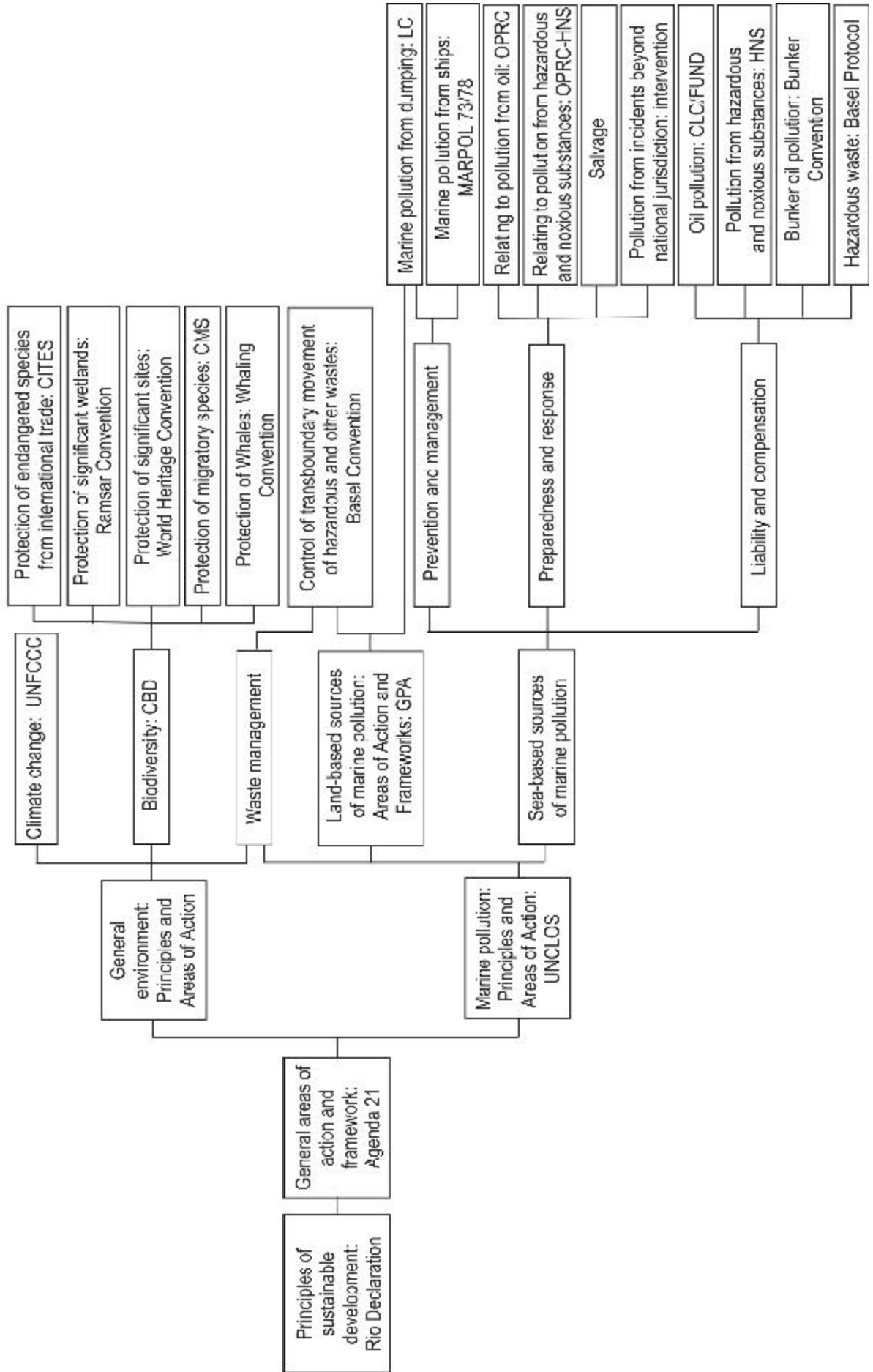
International conventions provide principles and frameworks upon which management of the marine environment rests. For example, the application of the precautionary and polluter pays principles are required by many conventions (the London Convention, the UNFCCC, the OPRC/HNS, etc.) and integrated coastal management is the “framework of choice” of Agenda 21, UNFCCC, CBD, and GPA.

International conventions on the environment are a relatively recent phenomenon in the realm of international law. At the time that they were drafted, it was already understood that environmental problems do not recognize boundaries. This is especially true for the marine environment because of the nature of the medium that binds this environment — water. Thus the conventions deal especially with transboundary environmental problems, particularly the marine environment, and take special recognition of the need for regional cooperation. This represents a departure from traditional international law. With regard to navigation, for example, ships have for centuries been regarded as an extension of the flag state's territory, and is therefore subject only to that state's jurisdiction. In the past three decades, International Maritime Organization conventions have evolved a system of port state control (without abandoning the flag state system) through which a state may impose environmental requirements over ships calling at its ports.

International Conventions in an Integrated Implementation Framework

Taken all together, international conventions provide an overall and integrated framework for the protection of the marine environment (see Figure 1). However, it is not yet a complete framework. There are many areas which may be the subject of future conventions, or which national legislation alone may cover. A key advantage of international conventions is that they represent global acceptance of environmental threats and solutions in addition to providing a framework for addressing transboundary problems on international and regional basis, as well as on a national basis.

Figure 1. International conventions in an integrated implementation network.



Implementation of International Conventions

International conventions and other instruments are not adopted according to a grand design. They are negotiated and concluded as the need arises, and may be as detailed and specific or general as is acceptable at the time. Thus conventions do not have the same level of “implementability” – some of them have provisions that are detailed enough to immediately enforce, while others need more development under national legislation and processes.

Acceptability to the majority of the states negotiating a convention also governs its provisions. For this reason, a convention may not reflect the best possible solutions or the application of the most advanced technology to particular problems. Thus, in implementing a convention, countries may, in a national context and/or multilaterally, go beyond the provisions of the convention.

The implementation requirements of international conventions intersect and combine to form a web of actions and approaches that protect the marine environment.

A legal, administrative, and facilities infrastructure can therefore be designed to promote the implementation of many conventions simultaneously.

For example, certain basic sets of actions such as monitoring, port state control, protected areas, and integrated waste management are included in a number of conventions. Table 1 shows how common implementation elements may bind different conventions together. By undertaking certain action programmes, obligations under many conventions are complied with.

Table 1. Action programmes for integrated implementation of international instruments.

Convention Action	Rio Declaration	Agenda 21	UNCLOS	UNFCCC	GPA	CBD	Ramsar	CITES	Basel Convention	London Convention	MARPOL	OPRC	CLC/FUND/HNS
ICM	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Integrated waste management	?	?	?		?				?	?	?	?	
Protected areas	?	?	?		?	?	?			?	?		
EIA	?	?		?	?	?			?	?			
Risk assessment		?		?	?	?				?		?	?
Monitoring		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
Port state control			?								?	?	?

A further advantage is provided by the ICM framework: local implementation of international conventions can be effectively achieved through this framework.

Implementing governments will discover the many synergies and linkages through the geographical scope of convention application and in the overlap between the functions and authority of national and local agencies. Harnessing these synergies and linkages through the ICM framework leads to effective local implementation of Agenda 21, GPA, the Biodiversity Convention, Climate Change Convention, Marine Pollution Conventions, indeed practically all international instruments.

Convention Implementation in the Region

To implement a number of conventions necessarily means to cooperate with neighboring states, either through general provisions for “regional cooperation” (i.e., UNCLOS, GPA, Agenda 21, etc.) or through specific actions that must be cooperatively implemented (OPRC, etc.).

Reviewing the international conventions and what they seek to address – protection of biodiversity, sustainable use of resources, pollution management, etc. – it is apparent that progress in the resolution of related problems has been imperceptible, despite the number of ratifications of the conventions as shown in Tables 2 and 3. This may be attributed to the fact that very little has been done to operationalize the conventions. While they may have been accepted, their provisions are still in the concept of what-ought-to-be, and not what-is-being-done.

This is not true of all countries in the region - it will be noticed that the high-income economies have progressed further than the others - but it is true in the majority. The reasons for the disparate implementation levels among the countries may be traced to the differences in available resources, in priorities of policymakers, and in bureaucracy and political systems, or failures in management.

The implementation of international conventions contributes to the broader aims of poverty alleviation, public health, food security, recreation, and good governance. It is clear that without the solutions proposed by the conventions, environmental degradation will continue, and will have devastating effect on the quality of life of each and every person. Implementation of conventions not only directly addresses public health concerns, but provides an effective and equitable framework of sustainable development and creates a stable regulatory environment that leads to a stable business climate, thus encouraging trade and investment.

The approach of this Strategy is to make the provisions of the conventions implementable by all the countries of the region, and to facilitate regional approaches for their implementation in order to address local and national level issues as well as transboundary issues. The Strategy aims to put countries in the region on equal footing with each other with regard to sustainable development, at the same time it recognizes the difference between countries.

Table 2. Ratification of international conventions relating to marine pollution (as of 31 August 2003).

Country	Conventions																					
	UN/CLOS 1982	MARPOL				London Convention		Intervention		CLC		FUND		Salvage 1989	OPRC 1990	OPRC-HNS 2000	HNS 1996	Bunker Oil 2001	Basel Convention 1989	Basel Protocol 1999	GPA on LBS 1995	
		73/78 Annex I/II	III	IV	V	VI	Convention 1972	Protocol 1996	Convention 1969	Protocol 1973	Convention 1969	Protocol 1992	Convention 1971									Protocol 1992
Brunei Darussalam	1996	1986								D	2002	D	2002					2002				
Cambodia		1994	1994	1994						1994	2001		2001					2001			Y	
China	1996	1983	1994	1988			1990	1990		D	1999		1999*	1994				1992			Y	
DPR Korea		1985	1985	1985																		
Indonesia		1986								D	1999	D						1993			Y	
Japan	1996	1983	1983	1983			1971			D	1994	D	1994		1995			1993			Y	
Malaysia	1996	1997		1997						1995		1995			1997			1993			Y	
Philippines	1984	2001	2001	2001							1997		1997					1993			Y	
RO Korea	1996	1984	1996	1996						D	1997	D	1997		1999			1994			Y	
Singapore	1994	1990	1994	1999	2000					D	1997	D	1997		1999			1996				
Thailand															2000			1997			Y	
Vietnam	1994	1991									2003							1995				

D - denounced.

Y - participated in the conference.

* - with application to Hongkong Special Administrative Region (SAR) only.

Table 3. Ratification of international conventions and agreements relating to the marine environment (as of 31 October 2002).

Country	Convention								
	UNFCCC 1992	Biodiversity 1992	Jakarta Mandate 1995	Ramsar 1971	CITES 1973	Migratory Species 1979	World Heritage 1972	Whaling 1946	Montreal Declaration 2001
Brunei Darussalam					1990				
Cambodia	1995	1995	Y	1999	1997		1991		Y
China	1993	1993	Y	1992	1981		1985	1980	Y
DPR Korea	1994	1994	Y				1998		
Indonesia	1994	1994	Y	1992	1978		1989		
Japan	1993	1993	Y	1980	1980		1992	1951	Y
Malaysia	1994	1994	Y	1995	1977		1988		Y
Philippines	1994	1993	Y	1994	1981	1994	1985	1981	Y
RO Korea	1993	1994	Y	1997	1993		1988	1978	Y
Singapore	1997	1995			1986				
Thailand	1994			1998	1983		1987		Y
Vietnam	1994	1994	Y	1989	1994		1987		

Notes: The numbers in the table represent the year of ratification/accession.
Y - participated in the conference.