



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



Group of Experts for the  
Assessment of Assessments of  
the Regular Process for Global  
Reporting and Assessment of  
the State of the Marine  
Environment, Including  
Socio-Economic Aspects



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission  
of United Nations  
Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural  
Organization

GRAME/GOE/1/7

English only unedited

**Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects**

**Group of Experts for the “Assessment of Assessments”**

**First Meeting:**

Paris, France 28-30 March 2007

**First Meeting of the Group of Experts for the start-up phase, Assessment of Assessments of the Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects**

**Report of the Secretariat**

*Summary*

The present report provides an account of the first meeting of the Group of Experts for the “Assessment of Assessments” of the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, held from 28 to 30 March 2007 at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Paris, France. The meeting was convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/30 XI, by which the Assembly established the *Ad Hoc* Steering Group to oversee the “Assessment of Assessments” and invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to jointly lead the process and among others to produce a report on the results of the “assessment of assessments”, including a framework and options for the Regular Process, to be presented to the General Assembly.

The meeting was attended by the selected Group of Experts approved by the AHSG with the chair of the AHSG in attendance. The Group of Experts discussed and developed the overall working approach of the Assessment of Assessments. They also considered and developed an annotated outline, a work plan and timetable and considered the utility of the survey and database for the Assessment of Assessments. The assessment of assessments is to be completed within two years from its launch date, as stipulated by the General Assembly; provided that the necessary financial resources will be provided.

## **I Agenda Item 1 – Opening and Organization of the meeting**

### **A. Welcome and opening**

1. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 March 2007, by Mr. Patricio Bernal Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and Assistant Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Mr. Bernal welcomed the members of the Group of Experts to its first meeting on behalf of the lead agencies, IOC of UNESCO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mr. Salif Diop spoke on behalf of the representative of UNEP, Mr. Ivar Baste, Chief, Scientific Assessment Branch, Division of Early Warning and Assessment. Mr Bernal invited the participants to introduce themselves.

### **B. Election of co-chairs**

2. The Group of Experts elected Prof. Jacqueline McGlade from the UK and Dr. Kwame Koranteng from Ghana as co-chairs for the duration of the assessment of assessment process.

### **C. Adoption of agenda**

3. The Group of Experts adopted the agenda for the meeting as per Annex I.

### **D. Presentation of the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group**

4. Ms Elva Escobar, Chair of the Ad Hoc Steering Group (AHSO) presented a brief report, providing some context to where the work of the Group of Experts will fit into moving towards a regular process for reporting and assessment of the marine environment. She presented the outcomes of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group and a message from the AHSO to the Group of Experts.

### **E. Attendance**

5. The meeting was attended by 17 experts, selected and approved by the AHSO of the assessment of assessments, to undertake the actual work of assessing the various assessments. The chair of the AHSO Ms. Elva Escobar, the GESAMP Officer from the International Maritime Organisation and a representative of GOOS were in attendance as observers. The list of participants, including the members of the Secretariat and observers present, is contained in Annex VII.

## **II Agenda Item 2 – Overall working approach**

6. The Group of Experts considered its mandate as outlined by the UNGA Resolution A/60/31 and A/RES/61/222 and the Report of the first Meeting of the AHSO. An overall working approach was agreed and is presented as Annex II.

7. The group agreed that the Regular Process should aspire to at least include the elements contained in the definition presented below. The group agreed that the Assessment of Assessments itself would consider information, knowledge and best practices generated through a broad range of different kinds of assessment processes relevant to the marine environment.

**“An Integrated Scientific Environmental Assessment** is a critical, peer-reviewed evaluation of information, for purposes of guiding decisions on a complex public issue, following a well-defined process. The scope (topic under consideration) is defined by multiple stakeholders, who are typically decision-makers. Findings are policy-relevant but not prescriptive, and reflect, for example, an “if ... then ...” approach. It is conducted by a credible group of experts with a broad range of disciplinary and geographical experience and representation, in a balanced and transparent manner. It reduces complexity but adds value by summarizing, synthesizing and building scenarios, and identifies consensus by sorting out what is known and widely accepted from what is not known or not agreed. It sensitizes scientific communities to policy needs and the policy community to the scientific basis for action (UNEP2005).”

The Group agreed that the Assessment of Assessments is *not* doing a global assessment of the status and trends of marine ecosystems, including their social and economic uses. It is developing guidelines and best practices for how such an assessment should be done.

### **III Agenda Item 3 – Conceptual Framework of the Assessment of Assessments**

8. The Group of Experts discussed at length the application of a range of conceptual frameworks for the assessments of each of the individual GRAME Regions. It was agreed that it would make use of available conceptual frameworks as appropriate in the analysis. The consideration of an overall conceptual approach for a Regular Process will be considered in part 3 of the Assessment of Assessments as described in proposed outline as per Annex III.

### **IV Agenda Item 4- Presentation of the survey report as commissioned by UNEP and IOC of UNESCO**

9. A representative of the writing team of the publication “A survey of global and regional assessments and related activities of the marine environment” presented a brief of the findings of the survey and demonstrated the use of the online database. The publication was prepared at the request of the lead agencies to facilitate the work of the Group of Experts. The Group of Experts agreed on the usefulness of the Survey and the database, and reflected on how these tools could be developed further to support Assessment of Assessments and the activities as set out in the action plan. It was requested that the Secretariat work on the modalities for the further development of the database.

### **V Agenda Item 5 – Annotated outline of the Assessment of Assessments**

10. The Group of Experts developed an annotated outline for the Assessment of Assessments as is contained in Annex III. The Group of Experts agreed on a sequential approach to the analysis.

### **VI Agenda Item 6 – Global Reporting and Assessment of Marine Environment (GRAME) Regions**

11. The Group of experts discussed the proposed descriptions and noted the tentative regional breakdown of a regional coverage approach presented as Annex IV. The Secretariat will revise it based on consultations with experts and will elaborate on the justification for the regions presented. The regional descriptions would also serve as the basis for distribution of responsibility amongst experts for Part 1 of the Assessment as per the outline elaborated in Annex III. It was agreed that a draft chapter for region 4 (North East Atlantic) would be developed in the first instance and circulated amongst the Group of Experts for comment. Once revised and agreed by the experts, the draft for region 4 would serve to provide guidance for the elaboration of regional chapters for the remaining 20 regions according to Annex IV. In general terms, the following elements will be assessed at the regional scale:

- a. *What* assessments are being conducted, organized by:
  - i. Are they intended to be “integrated ecosystem assessments”, and if so, integrated across what parts of the “ecosystem”;

- ii. Are they intended to be sector specific assessments of ecosystem goods and services, including social and economic uses;
  - iii. Are they intended to be assessments of specific *parts* of the bio-physical-chemical ecosystems.
- b. What *information* is available for use in each assessment (data, traditional knowledge, expert opinion etc);
- c. What *practices* are applied in conducting each assessment (models, data analyses methods, delphic methods, etc), including critical evaluation focusing on:
  - i. what practices might be considered “best practices” for the “regular process”;
  - ii. what practices could be improved;
  - iii. what uncertainties are associated with use of specific methods;
  - iv. what preconditions should be met if specific practices are to be applied.

Part I of the outline will also highlight: gaps in information, assessment, and knowledge; institutional arrangements; orientation (objectives and scope); process and methods employed; efforts to strengthen institutional, scientific, and technical capacity; outreach and communications; and best practices in general with respect to scientific credibility, legitimacy, policy relevance, usefulness.

## **VII Agenda Item 7 – Action Plan and timetable**

12. The Group of Experts agreed on a plan of action and timetable to take forward the Assessment of Assessments within a two-year timeframe as recommended by the AHSG. This is presented as Annex V and VI respectively. Although the preparation of parts 1, 2 and 3 of the outline (See Annex III) would occur sequentially, it was recognised that this would not restrict experts from initiating work on the later parts as soon as is feasible.

13. The experts agreed that the action plan would be implemented as in kind contributions from the Group of Experts. However it was recognised that some experts would require financial and institutional support to facilitate their contribution. Such support would be identified between the experts and the Secretariat on a case-by-case basis.

14. It was agreed that additional experts are needed for undertaking the Assessment of Assessments. This could also include small grants to support the engagement of graduate students. The Secretariat was requested to help identify experts and resources.

15. The need for additional resources was recognised by the Group of Experts. The Secretariat was requested to continue their efforts to mobilize resources with the support of the members of the Ad Hoc Steering Group and Group of Experts. The Secretariat was also requested to approach relevant governments and institutions to solicit their in kind support to experts involved in the Assessment of Assessments.

16. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group of Experts would take place in early November 2007 (possibly 8-10 November) at a date and venue to be confirmed through a rapid consultation by 15 April 2007.

## **VIII Closure of the meeting**

17. The meeting was closed at 13:30 hrs on Friday 30 March 2007 by Mr. Patricio Bernal Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and Assistant

Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Mr. Ivar Baste, Chief, Scientific Assessment Branch, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda**

**Agenda Item 1** – Opening and Organization of the meeting

- A. Welcome and opening
- B. Election of co-chairs
- C. Adoption of agenda
- D. Presentation of the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group

**Agenda Item 2** – Overall working approach

**Agenda Item 3** – Conceptual Framework of the Assessment of Assessments

**Agenda Item 4** - Presentation of the survey report as commissioned by UNEP and IOC of UNESCO

**Agenda Item 5** – Annotated outline of the Assessment of Assessments

**Agenda Item 6** – Global Reporting and Assessment of Marine Environment (GRAME) Regions

**Agenda Item 7** – Action Plan and timetable

**Agenda Item 8** - Closure of the meeting

### Overall Working Approach

As set out in the conclusions of the second international workshop on a regular process (A/60/91, Annex) and the report of the first meeting of the *Ad hoc* Steering Group (AHSG) of the assessment of assessments (A/61/GRAME/AHSG/1), the Group of Expert is to undertake an assessment of assessments:

1. To cover ecological, social and economic aspects, at global and regional levels, complemented by available selected national assessments with broad geographical representation
2. To evaluate the credibility, policy relevance, usefulness, communications, capacity-building, networking and legitimacy involved in existing assessments, in particular by identifying:
  - a. Best practices and approaches
  - b. Coverage and thematic, geographical and data availability gaps
  - c. Issues of scale
  - d. Assessment methodologies
  - e. Policy evaluation and effectiveness
  - f. Costs of inaction and loss of ecosystem services
3. To answer key questions of global, regional and local relevance
4. To identify a framework and options upon which to build the Regular Process, including potential opportunities for streamlining of activities and reducing additional costs.

Keeping in mind the internationally agreed goals and targets relating to marine environmental challenges and how to measure progress toward them, and the implications of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration, in areas such as those aspects of human health, food security, poverty alleviation, energy and disaster-preparedness that are related to the marine environment.

### Outline of the Assessment of Assessments (150 pages)

#### Summary for Decision Makers (15 pages)

##### **Part 0: Introduction (5 pages)**

To establish the context of the Assessment of Assessments

##### **Part 1. The state of the assessment landscape for oceans and coasts. (40 pages)**

A regional overview and assessment of existing oceans and coastal areas assessments, amongst others with regard to food security, public health and safety, ecosystem health and function, and economic and social benefits in relation to global and regional ecosystem goods and services.

The overview will be based on a structured assessment of the existing assessment landscape for oceans and coasts. It will be based on the approach outlined in the tentative regional breakdown described in Annex III. It will apply a set of criteria outlined in the Appendix below (Part 1: Check List). For each regions, a short introduction will be written to present the most important pressures and states of the region. A concluding statement should also provide directions on how to build upon existing data collection and assessment activities for a global assessment. This will provide the basis for the evaluations in Part 2 and the rationale behind the proposed framework and options in Part 3.

##### **Part 2. Evaluations of assessments (50 pages)**

This part will analyse the current assessment landscape through a lens of five major criteria groups in order to distil elements of best practice that may contribute to the guidelines developed in part 3 of the Outline:

- (i) Scientific credibility
- (ii) Policy relevance
- (iii) Communication
- (iv) Legitimacy
- (v) Usefulness

##### **Part 3. Framework and options for a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. (40 pages)**

In drawing on Parts 1 and 2, this part will present a proposed approach to including a framework and options for a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the estate of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects.

This part would consider:

- (i) Institutional arrangements
- (ii) Interplay between national, regional and global levels;
- (iii) Networking and capacity building requirements;
- (iv) Cost estimates for the process;
- (v) Investment and benefit evaluation in relation to current expenditures on marine knowledge infrastructures by sectors (it is proposed that a study will be commissioned to support this analysis)

## Appendix to the Outline: Elaboration of Parts 1 and 2

### PART 1: Check List

It is the aim of this first part to provide a current state of knowledge of existing assessment processes and related activities *in each of the 21 regions* and supra regional issues that have been identified.

This may include non-marine specific assessments. The below non-exhaustive list of considerations would be taken into account. These will be developed into a template, which would facilitate the examination of the current assessment landscape as well as a set of brief guidelines for their application. This includes the consideration of the following features and characteristics of the assessments:

- a. Institutional arrangements:
  - (i) the Client(s) and authorising environment(s);
  - (ii) the institution/body/partnership undertaking/responsible for the assessment.
- b. Orientation:
  - (i) the context into which the assessment is placed;
  - (ii) the Objectives and setting within the policy and science cycle;
  - (iii) its scope (spatial/temporal/thematic/policy) including baselines, timeframe and complexity. The following elements will be assessed at the regional scale:
    - What assessments are being conducted, organized by:
      1. Are they intended to be “integrated ecosystem assessments”, and if so, integrated across what parts of the “ecosystem”
      2. Are they intended to be sector specific assessments of ecosystem goods and services, including social and economic uses
      3. Are they intended to be assessments of specific *parts* of the bio-physical-chemical ecosystems.
    - What *information* is available for use in each assessment (data, traditional knowledge, expert opinion etc)
    - What *practices* are applied in conducting each assessment (models, data analyses methods, delphic methods, etc), including critical evaluation focusing on:
      1. what practices might be considered “best practices” for the “regular process”,
      2. what practices could be improved,
      3. what uncertainties are associated with use of specific methods
      4. what preconditions should be met if specific practices are to be applied.
- c. Relevance of findings:
  - (i) regularity and frequency (recurrent or non-recurrent);
  - (ii) to what extent could the findings of the assessment represent the scale in question e.g. the region in question;
  - (iii) timeliness and shelf life of the findings;
  - (iv) expression of the degree of confidence level;
  - (v) expression of the level of certainty;
  - (vi) relevance of findings to policy makers including for enhancing human well-being.
- d. Process:
  - (i) analytical and conceptual framework e.g. DPSIR approach and LME conceptual approaches;
  - (ii) methods e.g. scenarios, modelling, interactive scenarios and information systems;

- (iii) characteristics of the social processes involved e.g. engagement of and interaction between policy makers, experts and stakeholders including transparency of the process;
  - (iv) evidence and structure of partnerships and networking modalities;
  - (v) sources of data and information and their subsequent use, including metadata;
  - (vi) the presence and characteristics of a peer review process e.g. involving internal experts, independent experts, stakeholders and governments;
  - (vii) credibility of methods and process;
  - (viii) to what extent is the assessment applicable to different scales;
  - (ix) mechanisms for dealing with disagreements e.g. political and scientific dissent;
  - (x) mechanism for dealing with local and traditional knowledge;
  - (xi) links and complementarities with other processes.
- e. Is there evidence of quality assurance mechanisms for data and the process?
- f. Efforts to strengthen institutional, scientific and technical capacity including through training, fellowships and support to participation in assessments and networking;
- g. Outreach and Communications:
- (i) which languages are the assessments available in;
  - (ii) is there a communication strategy for dissemination of outputs;
  - (iii) style and accessibility of outputs.
- h. Is there evaluation e.g. self evaluation or independent evaluation.
- i. Highlight elements that could be further studied in Part 2.

**Part 2: Expert Evaluation**

(i) *Scientific Credibility (authoritative)*: The discussion of the Group of Experts recognized that to evaluate the credibility could be hard and would require external support. The credibility will not be centred on solely scientific credibility but include the best practices of both social and natural sciences components. Guidelines will be developed by members of the group of experts.

<i>Scientific Credibility (authoritative)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. assured quality of data and information;</li> <li>2. the involvement of recognized experts in (i) producing assessment reports and (ii) independent peer review;</li> <li>3. transparent criteria/qualifications for selecting experts, who participate in their independent capacity;</li> <li>4. agreed procedures for dealing with uncertainty and disagreement;</li> <li>5. agreed peer review process;</li> <li>6. provision for ‘level of confidence’ ratings in assessments;</li> <li>7. up to date data?</li> <li>8. type of methodology (model/qualitative/quantitative), degree of extrapolation</li> <li>9. replicability</li> <li>10. accessibility to data</li> <li>11. measures to incorporate traditional knowledge</li> </ol>	<p><i>Identified Experts to contribute</i></p> <p>Andy Rosenberg, Lawrence Mee, Rodrigo Bustamante, Lee Kimball, Elva Escobar, Beatrice Ferreira, Michael Huber, Jake Rice</p>
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(ii) *Legitimacy*: The term seeks to identify best practices in the context of rights to make a judgment. During the discussion session it was questioned if it actually had to be considered at all for the phase of

assessment of assessments. Legitimation was suggested as a better term that will be analysed. Guidelines will be developed by members of the group of experts.

<i>Legitimacy</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communication/participation by all stakeholders/users:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. for governments: balanced developed and developing and among regions;</li> <li>b. private sector users</li> <li>c. NGOs</li> <li>d. IGOs,</li> <li>e. scientists;</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Who takes part in defining objectives and scope (geographic &amp; thematic ) of each assessment;</li> <li>3. Who takes part in nominating the pool of experts from which to draw for assessments and peer review;</li> <li>4. Who takes part in identifying emerging issues;</li> <li>5. Who takes part in in peer review,</li> <li>6. Assuring that assessment process is open and transparent, e.g.:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. transparent selection criteria and terms for experts;</li> <li>b. communicate broadly and continuously during the assessment regarding its content and process;</li> <li>c. provision for observer participation in intergovernmental meetings within the structure of the assessment process;</li> <li>d. widespread public availability of reports and, as appropriate, data; reviewer comments;</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Broad sourcing of reports (based on agreed approach: e.g., peer reviewed journals/publications, with possible provision for use of non-peer reviewing documentation (grey literature));</li> <li>8. Review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the assessment process;<sup>1</sup></li> <li>9. Legitimation process (following recognized procedures) (see Bremen report)</li> </ol>	<p><i>Identified Experts to contribute</i></p> <p>Jill Jaeger, Matti Pertilla Jake Rice</p>
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(iii) *Policy relevance (not prescription)*: This term was integrated from the global environmental assessments by the social scientists and found great reception being integrated since. This term is focused to report balanced actions measuring legitimacy with the international community of the perception of the ownership and stewardship of the assessment in response to the mandate. Guidelines will be articulated and developed by members of the group of experts.

<i>Policy relevance (not prescription)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dialogue with governments (and other stakeholders/users) to define             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. objectives and scope (geographic and thematic),</li> <li>b. intended target audience(s) and outputs/products to reach them;</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Timely schedule for outputs in relation to target decision-making body(ies);</li> <li>3. Assessment of pressures and impacts in each region that identifies not only the nature of environmental changes</li> </ol>	<p><i>Identified Experts to contribute</i></p> <p>Lee Kimball, Franklin Mc Donald, Jake Rice, Ljubomir Jeftic, Hartmut Heinrich, Haiqing Li</p>
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<sup>1</sup> UNEP (2007) Global marine assessments: A survey of global and regional assessments and related activities of the marine environment. UNEP/UNESCO-IOC/UNEP-WCMC re MA, GIWA – pp. 13-14, 17, 21-23.

	<p>(e.g., nutrient loading, loss/degradation of habitat, marine debris) but also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the specific human activities (sectors) that cause each, and their <i>relative</i> importance, so that policies are targeted appropriately; and</li> <li>b. how these changes affect human well-being (health, food security, subsistence activities, cultural values and commercial activities that provide employment and revenue);</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Assessment of response options related to the sectors involved, including level of confidence in these assessments;</li> <li>5. Provision for intergovernmental and/or governmental review/comment/acceptance of expert reports and review/approval of synthesis/summary reports for policymakers;</li> <li>6. Use/role of the assessment in the policy cycle accountability</li> </ol>	
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(iv) *Usefulness*: This criterion focuses on how each assessment has been able to modify a norm, a law or generated a change in a strategy affecting the marine system i.e. on how resources are being extracted or waste is being disposed of after the assessment reached the users/clients, public, through the enforcement of government, other institutions or the population in a region or location. Discussion during the GoE meeting recorded that the term could generate ambiguity due to the closeness to the term relevance suggested within a context of moving towards a new level or different action plan and could reflect a trend of the information observable across sectors. Guidelines will be developed by members of the group of experts.

<i>Usefulness</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clear identification of causes of change (particular sectoral activity(ies)) at the regional level and their relative importance(as above);</li> <li>2. Products designed for identified decision-making bodies and users;</li> <li>3. Timely and user-friendly products (including maps, spatial data and graphics, models, scenarios);</li> <li>4. Review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the assessment process;</li> <li>5. Provision for cataloguing and storing papers, reports, graphics material for use in future assessments;</li> <li>6. Linked to policy cycle (identification of priorities/evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken or planned))</li> <li>7. Cross-sectoral</li> <li>8. Showing trends</li> <li>9. Gap analysis</li> <li>10. Complementarities to other assessments</li> </ol>	<p><i>Identified Experts to contribute</i></p> <p>Lee Kimball, Alan Simcock, Mike Huber, Wajih Naqvi</p>
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(v) *Communication*: This criterion considers three aspects. Aspect one focuses on solving limitation presented by the original language in which the assessments were done and its translation to a language and make available the content to the group of experts. A second aspect is related to the way the assessments were presented looking for the best practice to communicate the assessment content. The third scope will address the way the final report of the assessment of assessment should be prepared to

reach successfully its messages to the UN GA and deliver properly the findings of the group of experts. Guidelines will be developed by members of the group of experts.

<i>Communication</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Format of reports tailored to the end-users</li><li>2. Use of communication experts (science writers, journalists)</li></ol>	<i>Identified Experts to contribute</i>  Franklin McDonald, Gunnar Sanders, Ljubomir Jeftic
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## Annex IV

### Tentative regional breakdown of the world's oceans and Seas for the Purposes of the Assessment of Assessments

The table below presents the tentative regional breakdown for the world's oceans and seas that could be used by the Assessment of Assessments expert group. Initial modifications have been made in the light of the discussions during the GoE meeting, and a further review will be carried out. Responsibilities have been distributed amongst experts in order to initiate Part 1 of the Assessment of Assessments.

No	Suggested GRAME Regions	Lead Authors Contributors	Related Regional Sea Programme(s)	Related Regional Fisheries Body/Bodies	FAO Major Fisheries Area (and Sub-Area/Division where needed)	Related Large Marine Ecosystems (GIWA assessment for those marked *)	Coastal States of the suggested GRAME Region
01	Antarctic Ocean	HARTMUT HEINRICH	CCAMLR	CCAMLR	Atlantic (Antarctic), Antarctic and Southern Indian Ocean, Pacific (Antarctic)	Antarctica	[The Contracting Parties of the Antarctic Treaty]
02	Arctic Ocean	GUNNAR SANDER JAKE RICE	PAME	CCBSP, NAMMCO, NEAFC,	Arctic Sea, Atlantic Northeast (Sub-Areas I, II, V and XIV)	Arctic Ocean, Beaufort Sea, Hudson Bay, West Greenland Shelf*, East Greenland Shelf*, Iceland Shelf, Faeroe Plateau*, Norwegian Shelf, Barents Sea*, Kara Sea*, Laptev Sea*, East Siberian Sea*, Chuckchi Sea*, West Bering Sea*, East	Canada, Denmark (Greenland and Faeroes), Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United States

No	Suggested GRAME Regions	Lead Authors Contributors	Related Regional Sea Programme(s)	Related Regional Fisheries Body/Bodies	FAO Major Fisheries Area (and Sub-Area/Division where needed)	Related Large Marine Ecosystems (GIWA assessment for those marked *)	Coastal States of the suggested GRAME Region
						Bering Sea	
03	Baltic Sea	MATTI PERTTILLA	HELCOM	[IBSFC now non-operational <sup>2</sup> ]	North-East Atlantic (Divisions IIIb, IIIc and III d - Sound, Belt Sea and Baltic Sea)	Baltic Sea*	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden
04	Black Sea	LAWRENCE MEE LJUBOMIR JEFTIC	Black Sea Commission	GFCM	Mediterranean and Black Sea (Black Sea)	Black Sea*	Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine
05	East Asian Seas	HAIQUING LI	PEMSEA	APFIC, SEAFDEC,	Pacific West Central (part)	Gulf of Thailand, South China Sea*, Sulu-Celebes Sea*, Indonesian Sea*, Yellow Sea*, East China Sea, Kuroshio Current	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam,
06	Eastern African Seas	KWAME KORANTENG	Nairobi Convention	SWIOFC	Western Indian Ocean (Sub-Areas 5, 6, 7 and 8)	Agulhas Current, Somali Coastal Current	Comoros, France (Réunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)

<sup>2</sup> Since the expansion of the European Union (EU) to include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, fisheries management questions in the Baltic are handled bilaterally between the EU and the Russian Federation. The International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission is being wound up.

No	Suggested GRAME Regions	Lead Authors Contributors	Related Regional Sea Programme(s)	Related Regional Fisheries Body/Bodies	FAO Major Fisheries Area (and Sub-Area/Division where needed)	Related Large Marine Ecosystems (GIWA assessment for those marked *)	Coastal States of the suggested GRAME Region
07	Mediterranean	LJUBOMIR JEFTIC LAWRENCE MEE	Barcelona Convention	GFCM	Mediterranean and Black Sea (Mediterranean)	Mediterranean Sea	Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Palestinian Authority
08	North Central Pacific Ocean	ANDY ROSENBERG	(none)	IATTC	Pacific Eastern Central (part), Pacific Western Central (part)	Insular-Pacific Hawaiian (GIWA assessment of Eastern Equatorial Pacific)	United States (Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands <sup>3</sup> , other Pacific Islands (Canton Island, Halfway Island etc, but excluding American Samoa)
09	North-East Atlantic Ocean	ALAN SIMCOCK	OSPAR	ICCAT, NASCO, NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic (Sub-Areas/ Divisions IIIa, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII)	Iberian Coastal, Celtic-Biscay Shelf, North Sea	Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
10	North-East Pacific Ocean	ANDY ROSENBERG JAKE RICE	Antigua Convention	IATTC, IPHC, IPMC, NPAFC, OLDEPESCA, PSC	Pacific East Central (part), Pacific Northeast	Pacific-Central American Coastal, Gulf of California*, California Current, Gulf of Alaska	Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, United States
11	North-West Atlantic Ocean	JAKE RICE	(None)	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic	Northeast US Continental Shelf,	Canada, Denmark (Greenland), United States

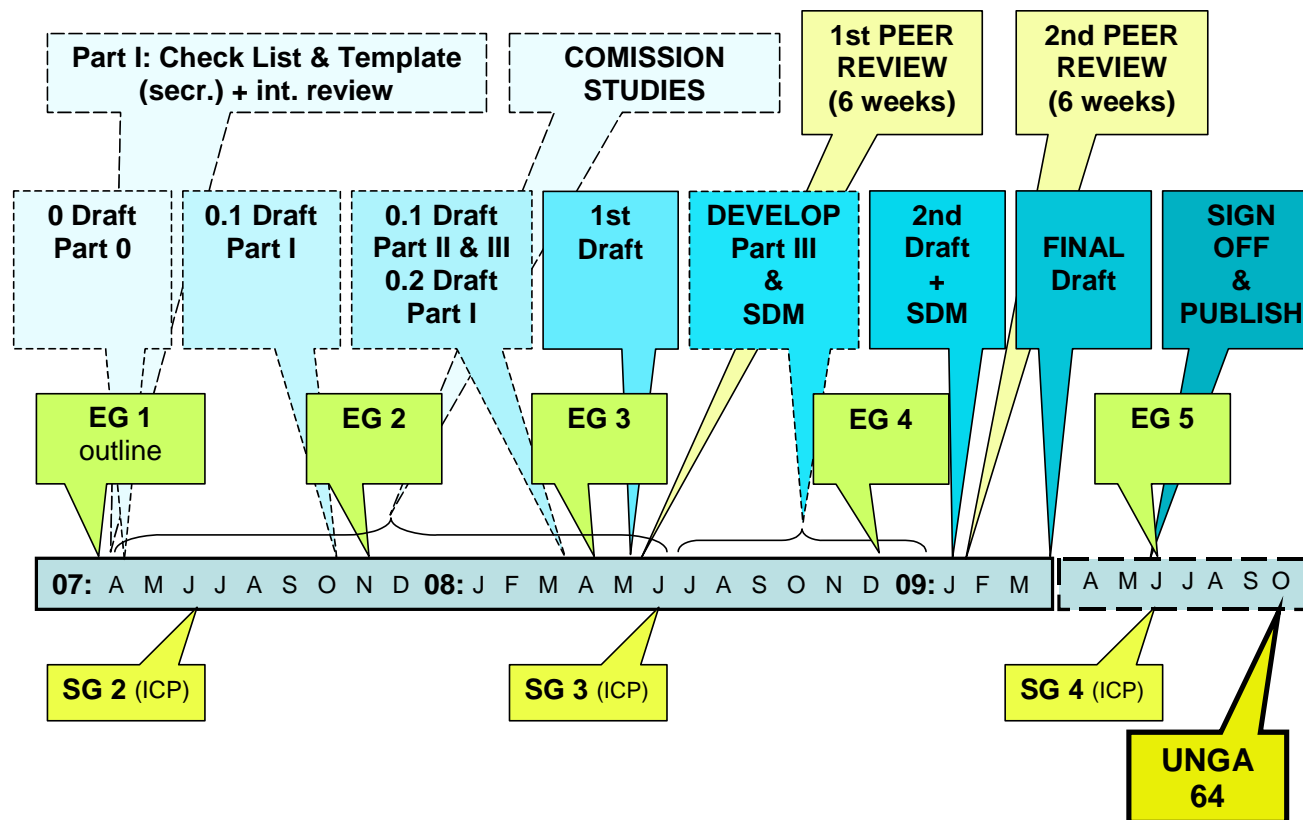
<sup>3</sup> The Northern Mariana Islands participate in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and SPREP, but lie north of the equator.

No	Suggested GRAME Regions	Lead Authors Contributors	Related Regional Sea Programme(s)	Related Regional Fisheries Body/Bodies	FAO Major Fisheries Area (and Sub-Area/Division where needed)	Related Large Marine Ecosystems (GIWA assessment for those marked *)	Coastal States of the suggested GRAME Region
						Scotian Shelf, Newfoundland-Labrador Shelf,	
12	North-West Pacific Ocean	ANDY ROSENBERG	NOWPAP	APFIC, NPAFC	Pacific Northwest	Kuroshio Current*, Sea of Japan	Japan, Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation
13	Red Sea & Gulf of Aden	WAJIH NAQVI	PERSGA	(none)	Indian Ocean Western (Sub-Area 1)	Red Sea	Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen
14	ROPME/RECOFI Area	WAJIH NAQVI	ROPME	RECOFI	Indian Ocean Western (Sub-Area 2)	Arabian Sea (part)	Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
15	South Asian Seas	WAJIH NAQVI	SAS	BOBP-IGO, CCSBT, IOTC,	Indian Ocean Western (Sub-Areas 3, 4 and 5)	Arabian Sea, Gulf of Bengal (GIWA assessment of Indian Ocean Islands)	Bangladesh, India, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yemen
16	South-East Pacific Ocean	RODRIGUO BUSTAMANTE	CPPS	CPPS, IATTC, OLDEPESCA	Pacific Southeast, Pacific Southwest, Indian Ocean Western (Sub-Area 6)	Humboldt Current*	Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
17	Southern Indian Ocean	WAJIH NAQVI RODRIGUO BUSTAMANTE	(none)	SIOFA	Indian Ocean Eastern (Sub-Areas 2, 3, 4 and 5), Indian Ocean Western (Sub-Area 7)	North Australian Shelf, North-West Australian Shelf, West-Central Australian Shelf, Southwest Australian Shelf	Australia, France (Kerguelen and other islands),
18	Southern Pacific Ocean	MICHEAL HUBER	SPREP	FFA, WCPFC (SPRFMO)		North-East Australian Shelf and Great Barrier	Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of

No	Suggested GRAME Regions	Lead Authors Contributors	Related Regional Sea Programme(s)	Related Regional Fisheries Body/Bodies	FAO Major Fisheries Area (and Sub-Area/Division where needed)	Related Large Marine Ecosystems (GIWA assessment for those marked *)	Coastal States of the suggested GRAME Region
		RODRIGUO BUSATMANTE		under negotiation)		Reef, East-Central Australian Shelf, Southeast Australian Shelf, New Zealand Shelf (GIWA assessment of Pacific Islands)	Micronesia, Fiji, France (French Polynesia and New Caledonia), New Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom (Pitcairn Islands), United States (American Samoa), Vanuatu
19	South-West Atlantic Ocean	BEATRICE FERREIRA	(none)	COFREMAR	Atlantic Southwest	Patagonian Shelf*, South Brazil Shelf, East Brazil Shelf, North Brazil Shelf (GIWA assessment of Brazil Current)	Argentina, Brazil, United Kingdom (Falkland Islands), Uruguay
20	Western African Seas	RODRIGO BUSTAMANTE KWAME KORENTANG	Abidjan Convention	CECAF, COMHAFAT, COREP, ICCAT, SEAFO	Atlantic Eastern Central, Atlantic Southeast	Canary Current*, Guinea Current*, Benguela Current*	Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo
21	Wider Caribbean	ELVA	Cartagena	OLDEPESCA,	Atlantic Western	Caribbean Sea*	Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize,

No	Suggested GRAME Regions	Lead Authors Contributors	Related Regional Sea Programme(s)	Related Regional Fisheries Body/Bodies	FAO Major Fisheries Area (and Sub-Area/Division where needed)	Related Large Marine Ecosystems (GIWA assessment for those marked *)	Coastal States of the suggested GRAME Region
	Sea	ESCOBAR FRANK MC DONALD	Convention	WECAFC	Central		Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France (French Guyana, Guadeloupe and Martinique), Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands (Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles), Nicaragua, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands), United States, Venezuela

### Draft Timeline of The AofA





## Annex VI

### Inter-sessional Action Plan (April – November 2007)

The action plan presented below was agreed. The tasks identified, and responsibilities for the tasks have been assigned to the Secretariat and the individual experts as appropriate.

<b>Management/Coordination Issues</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Identify required support for individual members of the GoE	Secretariat	April 07
Identification of additional experts needed and related financial requirements	Secretariat	April 07
Contacting host institutions of Members of GoE, to invite them to fully support (in-kind/financial) the work of the experts	Secretariat	April 07
<b>PART 0</b>		
Draft synthesis of the process (Part 0)	Secretariat	April 07
Confirm assignments of experts (Part 1 and 2)	Secretariat	Beg. April 07
<b>PART 1</b>		
Regional Rationale document to be drafted	Secretariat Alan Simcock	April
Check List Template to be finalised and sent to GoE	Secretariat	Mid April
GoE to provide guidelines for filling out the templates UNEP WCMC to compile guidelines and distribute	GoE	End April
Revision of GRAME regions based on the inputs received by GoE	GoE Alan Simcock	Mid April
Drafting of one GRAME regions chapter as an example, and distribution to GoE as guidance for comment.	AS	Beg. May
Following review and agreement of example chapter by GoE circulation of the example chapter for guidance.	AS	May
Moderation and Clearing house mechanisms for Part 1 Regional overview of AoA	Secretariat AS	May-Sept
Identification of Global Assessment/supra national issues to be included in Part 1	Co-Chairs	May-Sept
Identification of Good Practice elements in existing Assessments which would be developed as guidelines in Part 2.	GoE	May-Sept
Communication to regional partners and institutions (eg. Regional seas, etc..) on the task assigned to GoE and invite them to assist in the provision of regional information and explore resources	Secretariat	April
<b>PART 2</b>		
Specific Evaluations Development of Best Practice Guidelines as assigned in Annex III and its associated Appendix.	GoE	January-June 08
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT/COMMUNICATION</b>		
Confirm contact details of Experts	Secretariat	April 07
Establish email address for the GoE/ e-forum	Secretariat	April 07
Establish virtual library where assessments documents can be posted and accessed by the whole group	Secretariat	April-May 07
Establish mechanism for accessing hard copy documents electronically	Secretariat	April-May 07
Submit additional or updated entries to the GRAME Database	GoE	On-going
Develop graphics for displaying analytical results of Part 1	Secretariat	September 07

## Annex VII

### List of Participants

The list of participants provides details of the experts, members of the secretariat and observers present at the meeting, as well as Apologies received.

<b>I. Experts</b>					
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Primary Expertise</b>	<b>Address</b>
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