

Recommendations from Session 1 (Day 10:30-4:00), Workshop 3: Coastal and Ocean Governance in the EAS: from National to Region

From panel presentations and discussion that covered 7 Large Marine Ecosystem (LME), multinational programs:

1. Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program (ATSEA)
2. Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)
3. Partnership in the Environmental Management in the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
4. Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME)
5. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
6. Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
7. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Recommendations to enhance institutional sustainability of LME programs

- All regional LME programs need to be very sensitive to local national and sub-national capacities to undertake technical work, planning, financial planning and governance in order to ensure more sustainable outcomes
- Regional and National plans of action need to move towards alignment to ensure synergy and a good leverage of national investment
- Need to work towards alignment and common understanding for common implementation mechanisms (e.g. ICM, EBM, MPA management, fisheries management, measures for adaptation to climate change, etc.)

Recommendations to enhance institutional sustainability (cont'd)

- Sustainable finance mechanisms, such as a trust fund, can enhance long term financial revenues but may only work in more developed settings/countries (NOWPAP has a working model)
- Stable and well-established institutional mechanisms are a prerequisite to long term program operation and may include, but not be limited to, functional secretariats, resource facilities, regional activity centers, technical working groups, most of which are multinational in structure

Recommendations to enhance coordination and synergies among LME programs

- Working agreements among LME programs should be formed both through formal and informal means to enable efficiencies of work, to minimize redundancies among programs and to help clarify roles and functions among overlapping programs
- All programs that work in the same geographic realm should clarify functions to avoid redundancies and coordinate on prime counterparts for member countries to minimize parallel work for national representative agencies

Recommendations to improve the use and function of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms across LME programs

Key points raised to make M&E more effective are:

- Need good baseline data to measure change
- Need good information systems that track data and make it publically available and to enhance potential analysis
- Need alignment of goals and objectives and indicators across ministries and sectors in a country and to the regional scale
- Need to differentiate process vs outcome (impact) indicators for M&E systems
- Must realize it takes time to develop and implement an effective M&E system which is usually only possible in mature programs