

Coastal/Marine/Large Marine Ecosystems Issues

Examination of issues related to effective management of coastal areas and large marine ecosystems (LME).

1. How effectively has the “ecosystem approach” been used?

The **Black Sea** experience demonstrates that the protection of the red algae bed ecosystem is only possible through the addressing of the significant damaging inputs at the whole Danube basin level. Only then, can the ecosystem start showing signs of recovery. 17 countries have committed to putting a cap on nutrients with their own funding. In the case of the Black Sea, there are 2 priority areas which are being, or need to be, addressed:

- Importance of getting nitrogen levels down (without loss of productivity by using "clever" agricultural practices)
- Importance of connecting all the basin's population to sewerage systems

The **Programme for Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia** (PEMSEA) adopts integrated coastal management (ICM) as the ecosystem approach for managing multiple uses of the goods and services generated by the coastal (terrestrial and marine) ecosystems.

PEMSEA has adopted this approach for the Gulf of Thailand, the Malacca Straits and the Manila Bay and Bohai Sea.

PEMSEA's experience has suggested that the ecosystems approach, while requiring time (minimum 10 years) and effort, is perhaps the only effective mechanism for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources

The **Gulf of Guinea's** experience highlights that the ecosystem approach is required since pollutants and living resources do not have boundaries

2. Are International Waters OPs supportive of interventions needed to address transboundary coastal/marine issues?

Black Sea experience that while OPs were supportive of the first steps, OPs are not supportive of the next steps due to lack of allocation of committed funding.

PEMSEA's experience suggests that Operational Programs are generally supportive of interventions needed to address transboundary CZM issues. However, there is still confusion in clearly defining the interventions falling under national responsibility and those eligible for GEF funding. Also, PEMSEA encountered difficulties in the desire to involve the private sector (as emphasized in the OPs) and the rigid rulings of some UN executing agencies.

3. What is the optimal scale for addressing a range of marine and coastal issues:

Black Sea experience demonstrates that the whole basin approach enables progress towards the protection of fish species, control of land-based pollution. As to the effects

on climate change, it is unknown as it is difficult to measure.

PEMSEA's experience shows that ICM operation is effective at the local government level.

4. Specific impediments to the design and implementation of projects?

Black Sea experience highlights poor listening skills as a major impediment.

PEMSEA's experience highlights the following impediments:

1. Design of regional projects.
 - Difficulties in obtaining common understanding and priority on transboundary environmental issues affect the determination of priority areas that require collective actions.
 - Different levels of capability between concerned countries affect designed target outputs
 - Political sensitivity affects geographical scope and nature of activities
2. Implementation.
 - Different socioeconomic, cultural, technological and political backgrounds amongst the participating countries affect project operations, target outputs and data sharing
 - Difficulty of finding a common language weakens dissemination of project outputs .

TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme. Often, at the launching phase of the project, a number of project staff lacks adequate training

GESAMP's Assessments of the state of the global marine environment have concluded that the root causes of marine environmental damage from land-based activities are poverty, poorly managed social and economic development, and unsustainable consumption patterns.

5. Specific innovative solutions that have been created/discovered to address these impediments?

The Black Sea experience indicates that adaptation to needs, wise management and government commitment are essential ingredients to successful implementation as well as listening skills.

PEMSEA's solutions include:

- Organizing regional workshops to build consensus amongst participating countries
- Creating opportunity for south-south cooperation in project design
- Project framers should be aware of political sensibilities and avoid issues where possible.
- Special consideration needs to be given in countries with lower capacity in project implementation such as special in-service training or intensifying south-south cooperation scheme.
- Translation in local languages of project objectives and procedures and report production in local languages
- Intensive pre-project implementation training

The Gulf of Guinea experience highlights 3 lessons learned:

1. Networking is a key to success. In this case, networking with the 17 main institutions in the region has enabled integration of all activities.
2. Grassroot participation and community-based actions in project design and implementation are fundamental to success.
3. Ministerial level actions will only materialize through the use of top-down approach. Top decision makers endorsement will lead to legislative instruments and regional agreements. Once top constituency was obtained, then technical and grassroots concerns could be addressed using a bottom-up approach.

PEMSEA's experience indicates that investments are needed to remove nutrients and provide a framework for regional parties to work together

The TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme (TSC) has been an instrumental tool in building local and regional capacity on integrated coastal (terrestrial and marine) zone management. The courses are tailored to the specific needs of each GEF project. TSC is promulgating the integration of Course development Units with the local or regional administrative structure in order to sustain the capacity building effort. TSC's Central Support Unit has also focused on teambuilding at all levels of a project, thereby enhancing communication and decision making of all partners involved, and avoiding duplication in training..

GESAMP's Assessments of the state of the global marine environment recommends the 3 action priorities to control land-based activities:

- Preventing habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity through education combined with the development and/or enforcement of legal, institutional and economic measures appropriate to local circumstances; and through establishment of protected areas for habitats and natural/cultural heritage sites, including elimination of overfishing.
- Preventing pollution through primary attention to adequate sewerage treatment (major human health impact), nutrients reduction (especially nitrogen), and sediment mobilisation
- Designing national policies that take account of the economic value of environmental goods and services and provide for the internalisation of environmental costs