

# Sustaining Large Marine Ecosystems

Governance Principles

# 1. The Ecosystem Approach

- Humans are integral to the ecosystem  
Management objectives are societal choices
- Management is decentralized and multi-sectoral
- Incorporation of economic considerations
- Appropriate temporal and spatial scale
- Conservation of ecosystem function and resilience
- Respect interconnectedness and long term vision

## 2. Adaptive Management

- Learning by doing
- Long term goals are achieved through a series of pragmatic action based steps
- Consulting with stakeholders
- Setting time limited operational objectives
- Ensuring that the appropriate institutional measures are in place to oversee implementation of agreed upon actions
- Conduction an evaluation to document progress in light of new scientific and social information and then adjust the program

# 3. Full Stakeholder Participation

- The TDA and SAP process must reflect a shared vision that enables stakeholders to be identified and fully involved in the TDA and SAP process.
- The Program that is adopted should reflect a social & economic assessment and be subjected to open stakeholder participation

# 4. Transparency

- The TDA is a document that will be in the public domain.
- During the fact finding process, stakeholders should freely share the necessary information.

# 5. Precautionary Principle

- If the consequences of an action are unknown or unclear, but are judged to have potential for major irreversible negative consequences...  
  
 , then it is better to avoid that action.

# 6. Subsidiarity

- Solutions to trans-boundary problems require action at regional, national and sub-national levels.
- The more clearly defined are the national and sub-national actions the greater the chances of achieving ecosystem goals
- The SAP should clearly address the balance between levels of governance and assign the most appropriate implementation mechanism to the level closest to the problem

# 7. The Polluter Pays Principle

The principle that  
those who cause pollution  
should pay for the cost  
of removing it or provide compensation to  
those that are affected by it.