

Basis for action

4. The coastal area is important for human settlements and for development through agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, various industries, port development, shipping, marine and coastal transport, shore protection, tourism and recreation, national security, waste disposal and conservation of marine ecosystems. The Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) is also very important for people and for development because in this area the coastal States exercise an active protection on the natural resources. Despite efforts at national, regional and international levels, the current sector and discipline oriented approach to the multiple use of marine and coastal resources does not provide an effective framework for achieving sustainable development. A holistic, multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach to planning and management is required in coastal areas (particularly in island States, low coastal countries, enclosed and semi-enclosed seas) to identify and deal with potential interactions; allocate resources; anticipate and avoid conflict; minimize environmental degradation and face the challenge of potential climate change. There is an opportunity to optimize the sustainable use of the coastal and EEZs areas and resources, building on the experience of regional programmes.(12)

[4bis Problems extend beyond fisheries. Coral reefs and other largely tropical coastal habitats such as seagrass communities, mangroves and estuaries among the most highly diverse, integrated and productive of the earth's ecosystems. They often serve important ecological functions, provide protection from hazards of the open sea, and are critical natural resources for food, energy, and economic development. In various parts of the world such coastal and marine systems are under stress or threatened due to factors ranging from local cultural practices to changes in sea temperature and or sea level.]

Objectives

5. Integrated management should provide the developing needs of coastal states, making full and cost effective use of natural resources, while maintaining and enhancing those resources for the use of future generations.

6. Assess, plan and manage on a rational economical base, the sustainable development of the coastal and the EEZ areas and their resources while protecting, restoring and enhancing its productivity and conserving its biodiversity, regulating access to resources and rates of use, promoting environmentally safe technology, ensuring compatibility among sectoral developments, cooperating on transboundary issues and assessing effects of potential climate change, particularly the sea level rise.(13)

7. Agree on guidelines for integrated coastal zone and the EEZs area management and development by 1994, and establish at national, regional and global levels integrated planning management and development processes for sustainable use of coastal zones and EEZs by the year 2000.(14)

8. Adopt programmes on the establishment of protected areas and other measures to maintain species and their habitats in coastal areas and EEZ.