

15. Set Up a Regional Coordinating Mechanism on coastal and EEZ development bringing together relevant international agencies, regional programmes, and donors including the regional development banks. Regional bodies could develop guidelines for improving compatibility between ecological and socio-economic concerns and among sectors, for restoring degraded natural systems to productive use and social benefit, and for transferring clean production technologies into coastal and EEZ development projects.(16)

#### Data and Information

16. Enhance the capacity of the developing countries for the acquisition and availability of information and data adequate for prior assessments of the potential significant adverse environmental impacts of [and informed judgments] about major governmental policies, programmes and projects affecting the coastal and EEZ environment.

To improve the information base, it is necessary to:

- a) Assess the fishing resources [marine resources].
- b) Rationalize and expand the data base available in most countries for management of coastal seas resources, with specific needs in mind. In particular, strengthen global coastal shelf and ocean observing systems, as proposed by IOC, UNEP and WMO need developing or strengthening.
- c) Assess technologies and information systems available to developing countries for storage and processing of data and for resources mapping, analysis and characterization (including remote sensing, coastal observing systems, etc). In particular, develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) including appropriate training and equipment.
- d) Assess present status of coastal zones urgently, including diagnostics on eutrophication, occurrence of coral bleaching, red tides, "ciguatera", bacteria at beaches, nitrification and salination of groundwater, fish abundance, habitat degradation levels, identification of local and upstream impacting activities (agriculture and others), wetland obliteration, etc.
- e) Prepare inventories (atlases) of present and potential activities in the coastal areas (including human settlements), or with impacts on such areas, in order to identify compatible or mutually exclusive activities and problem areas. Identify boundaries for specific pilot projects and zoning purposes.
- [f) Prepare inventories (atheses) of present and potential resources and activities in the EEZs.][Delete]

#### Capacity Building

17. Member States could create an interministerial mechanism, within the national planning and development bodies, for policy-making and long-term planning on EEZ and coastal areas. The main tasks could include the following:

- (a) Rationalize and/or coordinate sectoral responsibilities for EEZ and coastal areas within Governments and establish a reviewing mechanism to update and enforce relevant national legislation to EEZ/marine management and coastal development.