



*Toward the Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management Strategy (EBM)
for ROPME Sea Area*

Dubai, UAE, 4 - 7 April 2016

**Provisional Workplan of the Working Group on
a Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area**

(Updated)

A Working Group on a Regional EBM Strategy will be organized as the main vehicle for the development of the Regional EBM Strategy. Based on the draft terms of reference of the Working Group on a Regional EBM Strategy for the ROPME Sea Area (ROPME/WD/EBM-5), the participants proposed the following as a provisional work plan of the Working Group:

Timeline	Activity	Responsible members	Remarks
April 2016	Agreement on the work plan	Working Group members	
August – September 2016	ROPME will send an official letter Finalization of initial membership of the WG	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2016	Preparation of terms of reference for a scoping study and inventory	ROPME and UNEP	
May – September 2016	Preparation of a report which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study, which will identify elements for the Strategy; • Inventory of existing policies, activities, projects and institutions relevant to EBM based on information provided by the countries¹. 	ROPME Secretariat	
May – September 2016	Preparation of a preliminary ecosystem assessment report ²	UNEP ROWA (ROPME will decide on a partner organisation ³)	

¹ Recommendation Paragraph 7

² Recommendation Paragraph 5

³ Initial consultation with AGEDI was proposed

October 2016	<p>Organization of the First Working Group Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalized Working Group to decide on Chairmanship; • Clarify the responsibilities of the Working Group Members; • Review preliminary results of the inventory study; • Identify regional priorities. 	ROPME and Working Group members	
November 2016	Preparation of national information gathering form	ROPME Secretariat	
March – June 2017	Draft an outline of the Strategy	ROPME will decide on a partner organization	
March – June 2017	Preparation of national report on existing policies and activities related to the EBM Strategy	Working Group members	
March – October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of national inter-ministerial committees for the EBM Strategy in each country • Information gathering in each country based on the format prepared by the ROPME Secretariat 	Working Group members	
March – October 2017	Finalization of the preliminary ecosystem assessment report ⁴ , inventory report, and scoping study	ROPME Secretariat	
July 2017	<p>Hold the Second meeting of the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the scoping study, inventory and ecosystem assessment report; • Identify stakeholders; • Identify common goals, interests and objectives; • Identify areas for further studies; • Review and finalize the draft outline of the strategy; 	Chair and the Working Group members	Agree on the draft outline of the Strategy.

⁴ Recommendation Paragraph 5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on stakeholder consultation methods (e.g. unified questionnaire; public hearing); ROPME will establish a module for the network of regional professionals for EBM⁵. 		
July 2017	ROPME will send out the draft outline of the Strategy to countries	ROPME Secretariat	
July – September 2017	Conduct the first round of stakeholder consultation to start preparing national inputs to the decided at the Second Working Group meeting	Working Group members	
October – December 2017	Prepare the first draft of the Strategy	ROPME will decide on a partner organisation	
February 2018	Organize the third Working Group meeting for the EBM Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the first draft of the Strategy; Identify ToR for a Scientific Review subgroup 	Chair and the Working Group members	
February - May 2018	Incorporate feedbacks from the third Working Group meeting for the EBM Strategy and prepare second draft of the Strategy according to the agreed outline	Working Group members	
June 2018	Organize a Scientific Review subgroup to assess needs and prepare assessments and implementation mechanisms of the Strategy	Working Group	Note: assessments includes performance review of Strategy (based on the targets and indicators set by the Strategy)

⁵ Recommendation Paragraph 8

September - December 2018	- Conduct a wider second round of consultation on the second draft of the Strategy	Working Group members	
January - March 2019	- Finalize the Strategy incorporating comments from stakeholders including the network of regional technical professional (a subgroup of the Working Group)	Working Group members	National, regional and international entities across sectors for consultation
April 2019	Organize the Second Regional EBM Workshop to adopt the Strategy	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2019	Incorporate comments for submission to a High-level regional forum (such as the ROPME Council meeting)	Working Group and the ROPME Secretariat	