



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

**Dubai, UAE, 4 - 7 April 2016**

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

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 work plan of the Working Group:

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible members</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
April 2016	Agreement on the work plan	Working Group members	
April 2016	ROPME will send an official letter	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2016	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 2016 – September 2016	Preparation of a report to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scoping study, which will identify elements for the Strategy;</li><li>• Inventory of existing policies, activities, projects and institutions relevant to EBM based on information provided by the countries<sup>1</sup>.</li></ul>	ROPME Secretariat	
May 2016 – September 2016	Preparation of a preliminary ecosystem assessment report <sup>2</sup>	UNEP/ ROWA (ROPME will decide on a partner organization) <sup>3</sup>	
May 2016 – September 2016	Draft an outline of the Strategy	ROPME will decide on a partner organization	

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation Paragraph 7

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation Paragraph 5

<sup>3</sup> Initial consultation with AGEDI was proposed

September 2016	<p>Organization of the First Working Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalized Working Group to decide on Chairmanship;</li> <li>• Review of the scoping study, inventory and ecosystem assessment report;</li> <li>• Identify stakeholders;</li> <li>• Identify common goals, interests and objectives;</li> <li>• Identify areas for further studies;</li> <li>• Review of the draft outline;</li> <li>• Decide on stakeholders consultation methods (e.g. unified questionnaire; public hearing);</li> <li>• Review of the module for the network of regional professionals for EBM to be established by ROPME<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>	ROPME and Working Group members	
September – December 2016	Finalization of the ecosystem assessment report <sup>5</sup> .	ROPME Secretariat	
December 2016	Finalization of the outline of the Strategy	Working Group members	
December 2016	ROPME will send out the outline of the Strategy to countries	ROPME Secretariat	
January 2017	Conduct a consultation with relevant stakeholders and incorporate comments as decided at the First Working Group meeting	Working Group members	
March 2017	Hold the Second meeting of the Working Group	Chair and the Working Group members	Agree on the draft outline of the Strategy
March 2017 - June 2017	Prepare and organize the Second Regional Workshop for the EBM Strategy.	ROPME Secretariat	
July 2017	Incorporate feedbacks from the Second Regional workshop for the EBM Strategy and draft the Strategy according to the agreed outline	Working Group members	

<sup>4</sup> Recommendation Paragraph 8

<sup>5</sup> Recommendation Paragraph 5

September 2017	Prepare the first draft of the Strategy		
October 2017	Organize a Scientific Review subgroup to 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)
November 2017	Conduct a wider consultation on the first draft of the Strategy	Working Group members	
December 2017	Finalize the draft Strategy incorporating comments from stakeholders including the network of regional technical professionals (a subgroup of the Working Group)	Working Group members	National, regional and international entities across sectors for consultation
2018	Incorporate comments for submission to a High-level regional forum (such as the ROPME Council meeting)	Working Group and the ROPME Secretariat	