

**Recommendations from the participants of the workshop “Toward the  
Development of a Regional Ecosystem Based Management  
Strategy for ROPME Sea Area”  
Dubai, UAE, 4-7 April 2016**

The following recommendations were made by the participants of the workshop. It should be noted that these recommendations are not legally binding:

1. Recognizing the importance of the Ecosystem Based Management<sup>1</sup> (EBM) for the sustainable management of the ROPME Sea Area as adopted by the 16th Meeting of ROPME Council in 2013, the process of developing a Regional EBM Strategy (hereafter EBM Strategy) for the ROPME Sea Area should be continued for the final approval of the Strategy by the ROPME Council.
2. The EBM Strategy will set clear regional ecological objectives and associated targets and indicators. The EBM Strategy will provide overarching framework to inspire national marine strategies and plans.
3. A Working Group should be established comprised of the government designated representatives as well as of relevant regional and international organizations for the development of the EBM Strategy.
4. The EBM Strategy should be consistent with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention of Biological Diversity so that the EBM Strategy will serve as a regional implementation strategy for these in the ROPME Sea Area.
5. Recognizing the current level of understanding of the marine and coastal ecosystems in the ROPME Sea Area and the existence of knowledge gaps, coordinated ecosystem assessments in accordance with existing national assessments are necessary as part of the EBM Strategy. The assessments will form the baseline against which further strategy implementation will be measured.
6. Recognizing the need for enhanced data and information sharing, existing data should be collected and gaps should be identified.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP (2011) ‘Ecosystem-based management, or EBM, is an approach that goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: a rich mix of elements that interact with each other in important ways’

7. In order to create further synergies between different policies and projects across the region, an inventory of policies, legislation, organizations, projects and initiatives at the national and regional level needs to be utilized.
8. A network of regional technical professionals for EBM in the ROPME Sea Area should be established by ROPME affiliated with the Working Group for the EBM Strategy in order to mobilize and support scientific information for the development of the EBM Strategy.
9. Cooperation with other regional and appropriate organizations should be made for the development of the EBM Strategy, given the range of human activities in the ROPME Sea Area.
10. Considering the identical geographical coverage and membership of ROPME and RECOFI, it would be highly desirable and advisable to establish an effective and viable cooperation framework. In this regard, ROPME and RECOFI should discuss areas for cooperation through a joint meeting.
11. Recognizing the range of scientific and technical fields that need to be involved for the development of the EBM Strategy, the process should be accompanied by relevant trainings and transfer of relevant marine technologies.
12. Pilot projects in support of the EBM Strategy should be developed and implemented with financial support by ROPME.