



Draft Bahrain Action Plan for Marine World Heritage

Identifying Priorities for the World Heritage Marine Programme and enhancing the role of the World Heritage Convention in the IUCN WCPA Marine Global Plan of Action for MPAs in our Oceans and Seas



Global and Regional Workshop report, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, February 2009, organised by UNESCO and IUCN WCPA Marine





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This study is produced as part of IUCN's role as advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention on natural heritage.

IUCN
Programme on Protected Areas
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland
www.iucn.org/wcpa
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Editors:

Laffoley, D.d'A. & Langley, J. 2009.(editors).

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Programme on Protected Areas

Rue Mauverney 28

CH-1196 Gland

Switzerland

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Foreword

We live in an ocean world. Over 70% of the surface of Earth is ocean and more than 95% if you measure the habitable space by volume. Our oceans are the life blood of our planet – they contain the bulk of the water, process essential gasses, removing carbon dioxide, and produce life-giving oxygen. They contain the least explored areas on earth and habitats that exist nowhere else, be it the underwater sulphur volcanoes in the Pacific, or the communities around deep sea thermal vents that gain their energy from chemical reactions rather than the sun. Every week we expand our knowledge as new species are discovered.

In the past decade or so we have only begun to better recognise the variety and beauty of our marine world, but also the essential role it plays, unseen, day-on-day, in keeping our world functioning. We have come to recognise that it is under ever increasing pressures. The World Heritage Convention is a high profile global conservation agreement that can both recognise the outstanding importance and quality of our marine habitats, and act as a global mechanism to secure their conservation. Marine World Heritage properties are our flagship sites. They show the world the importance and variety of habitats, as well as encouraging nations to do more to protect other areas in waters under their control.

The challenge is that the Convention has not been applied to anywhere near its full potential in the marine environment. Indeed despite all other actions, out of the 878 existing heritage properties just 41 are protected in full or partly for marine nature interests. In addition areas of ocean beyond the jurisdiction of any individual countries cover half the surface of the Earth – a vast area with World Heritage values that currently goes unrecognised and unprotected. There is simply too little recognition of our marine environment through the Convention. Though the Convention cannot be applied to international waters, there is no reason why the methodology for identifying areas with outstanding universal value, recognized by 187 signatory parties to the Convention, cannot be used as a model to help prioritize efforts. It was against this background that the Kingdom of Bahrain joined forces with UNESCO and IUCN's World Commission of Protected Areas to support the scaling up of action through the marine World Heritage Programme. The results of the subsequent workshop have shaped and formed the Bahrain Action Plan.

We commend this plan to you as a major vehicle for expanding and accelerating the recognition the World Heritage Convention can give to our oceans and seas and the amazing wildlife and distinctive habitats that they contain.

Saeed A Al Khuzai
Advisor for Natural Heritage
(Kingdom of Bahrain)

Marc Patry
Programme Specialist
UNESCO World Heritage
Centre

Prof Dan Laffoley
Vice Chair – Marine
IUCN's WCPA - Marine

Executive Summary

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, 2002, most countries of the world committed to establishing representative networks of Marine Protected Areas by 2012. This was in recognition of the significant and degrading impacts that humanity was having on the oceans, and that MPAs are widely accepted as a key tool for securing biodiversity and societal and economic benefits.

Since that time two pivotal issues have come to the fore – first is that action by countries is lagging well behind what is needed to deliver MPA networks by 2012, and second is that our oceans and seas are under considerably more pressures and stresses than when the original decision was taken.

The World Heritage Convention is the apex protection mechanism available to recognise and protect the very best marine sites around the globe. Countries are struggling to establish sufficient scale and variety of sites to reflect the 70% of our planet that is ocean. A focussed effort is now needed to accelerate progress whilst maintaining the overarching standards and ambitions of the Convention.

A key step to targeted application of the Convention has now been made by the creation of the Bahrain Action Plan for the marine World Heritage Programme. The plan outlines five actions on: (1) capacity building, (2) delivery of new marine protected areas with potential World Heritage values, (3) improving networking, (4) improving marine protected area data and visibility, and (5) developing an IUCN Thematic study on Marine World Heritage. The following pages set out the background to the Action Plan, and itemise the steps needed in the next two years to achieve improved recognition of outstanding universal value in our oceans and seas.

It is hoped that this renewed impetus being given to marine World Heritage, combined with strong new partnerships developing at global and regional levels will encourage, assist and support nations to better recognise their outstanding marine areas using the Convention.

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1. Introduction

A key role of the World Heritage Convention to be a flagship for the function protected areas play in biodiversity conservation, and associated cultural, spiritual and economic values. Protected areas provide the most significant, front-line response to the global extinction crisis and currently cover 12% of the Earth's land surface. These special places face many significant challenges, from direct degradation due to human pressures, lack of political support, lack of sustainable financing, and to climate change impacts.

The World Heritage Convention provides a unique framework for securing the conservation of almost 200 of the world's most important natural places recognized by the Convention as being of *outstanding universal value*. They include many of the 'household names' of conservation such as the Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Galapagos Islands, Grand Canyon and Great Barrier Reef. The total area of natural World Heritage properties is almost 180 million hectares – around 8% of protected areas worldwide.

One of the key challenges of the Convention is to expand its application to our oceans and seas. The world's oceans, covering 71% of Earth's surface, contain rich, largely unexplored, undersea worlds from the sea surface to an average depth of 3790 meters. Currently, it is estimated that only about 0.8% of Earth's shores and marine areas have any form of protected status, and only 0.01% of the globe area is reserved as "no-take", fully protected from extractive uses. While the number and extension of marine protected areas (MPAs) is growing, progress has been slow, even as countries strive to meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target on establishment of representative networks of MPAs, consistent with international law and based on scientific information, by 2012¹.

Of the multiple and overlapping conventions increasingly involved in marine conservation, the World Heritage Convention and its Marine Programme provide a comprehensive policy and conservation framework for safeguarding the world's most outstanding and biologically diverse marine areas. Successful application of the Convention in support of marine protection combines legislation with action and local and national pride, and operates at multiple spatial scales, on an international level down to the grassroots level.

There are, however, significant challenges to achieve effective application of the Convention to our oceans and seas. Progress is far behind what might be expected by comparison to terrestrial protected areas. Of the existing 878 World Heritage properties, 199 are listed for their natural values of which just 41 protected at least in part for their marine biodiversity values. In addition to this there are major challenges to effective networking across the existing properties, effective management of their outstanding universal value and ecological integrity, and issues concerning the adequacy or otherwise of data on marine World Heritage properties as a basis for public visibility and decision making.

Tackling these issues and developing a road map to scale-up the application of the marine World Heritage programme has accordingly become an increasingly significant global priority. As the

¹ World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg set a target to establish marine protected areas and networks by 2012. A/CONF.199/20 chapter 32(c)

Advisory Body to the World Heritage Convention for natural heritage, IUCN places the importance of achieving greater use of the Convention to protect our oceans and seas alongside the importance of finding ways to secure conservation of wildlife and habitats on the High Seas, areas of ocean beyond the jurisdiction of any individual country. The global Plan of Action for IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (Laffoley, 2008) establishes renewed and enhanced action on marine World Heritage as one of the essential measures now needed alongside protection of wildlife and habitats on the High Seas.

It was against this background that the Kingdom of Bahrain in partnership with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas hosted a workshop from 24 to 26 February 2009. The focus was to build on previous analyses of inadequacies and imperatives of the Convention with regard to the marine environment and to develop a clear road map of actions. The road map, which when implemented, would significantly move the world community closer to more effective application of the Convention in the marine environment. The roadmap is called the Bahrain Plan of Action for marine World Heritage.

This report reviews recent progress on developing the marine World Heritage programme and within the global and regional context sets out the Bahrain Action Plan.

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2. Background to the Bahrain meeting

2.1. Early progress on marine World Heritage

In 1996, IUCN's Natural Heritage Program began to prepare a global strategy for Natural World Heritage properties. Towards this goal a working paper on wetlands was prepared with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and support of Australia's Department of Environment. This paper also benefited from consultations with the professional staff based at the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.² The working paper provided a global overview of the coverage of existing World Heritage properties with wetland and marine values in 1997. Potential wetland and marine areas which might merit future nomination to the World Heritage List were also proposed.

In addition to the 1997 paper on Wetland and Marine Protected Areas on the World Heritage List, the background to the Bahrain meeting on marine World Heritage, held in February 2009, can be traced back to a UNESCO/IUCN/United Nations Foundation workshop held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2002. The Hanoi workshop identified and recommended to States Parties of the World Heritage Convention more than 100 marine, coastal and small island areas with high biological diversity in the tropical realm. As follow-up to Hanoi three pilot projects were developed with national and international partners to promote serial and trans-boundary approaches: the Southern Caribbean Islands (Venezuela, Netherlands Antilles); Central Pacific Islands and Atolls (Kiribati, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and US areas); and Marine Conservation Corridor in the Eastern Pacific (Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica).

In 2003 a one-day workshop was held in conjunction with the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, for site managers and experts to discuss the development of a partnership based World Heritage Marine Programme and the World Heritage Marine Site Manager's Network. This was followed by work to prepare a provisional World Heritage Marine Strategy. Alongside this ideas started to be generated to convene a workshop to discuss marine World Heritage nomination opportunities.

The following year a US\$ 3,135 million United Nations Foundation /Global Conservation Fund supported project was initiated by UNESCO and Conservation International in the Eastern Tropical Pacific at existing and proposed marine World Heritage properties in Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama (Galápagos Islands, Cocos Island National Park, Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection, Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary as well as Las Baulas Marine National Park). In the framework of the project, on-going support was provided to the Governments of Colombia and Panama to prepare their World Heritage nominations as well as for project document writing and project management. Alongside this a marine policy workshop was held in Paris to further develop the marine approach under the Convention.

² Thorsell, J 1997 Working Paper 2: A Global Overview of Wetland and Marine Protected Areas on the World Heritage List. IUCN

2.2. Creation of the UNESCO Marine World Heritage programme

Marine conservation is high on the international conservation agenda, as stated for example in the IUCN WCPA – Marine Plan of Action (2008), the Durban Action Plan emanating from IUCN’s World Parks Congress (2003) and the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Initial consultations with various donor organizations have led the WCPA to believe that a programmatic approach is an important factor in enhancing donor confidence. The official endorsement of the Marine Programme by the World Heritage Committee is therefore an important signal to the international community about the importance it places on this approach.

In 2005, the World Heritage Committee established the UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme at the 29th session of the Committee held in 2005 in South Africa. The Marine Programme provides an important contribution to achieve the five Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention set out in the Budapest Declaration of 2002^{3 4}. Its establishment (the marine programme?) had been called for by the expert meetings held in 2003 in conjunction with the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, and the Marine Policy workshop (who sponsored this and for what?) held in 2004. Also the Hanoi World Heritage Marine Biodiversity workshop held in Vietnam 2002 called for strategic approaches for addressing the gaps in the World Heritage List in relation to the marine environment.

2.3. Focus and development of the marine World Heritage programme

The Twenty-Year Vision for the marine World Heritage programme is that

‘all marine areas of “outstanding universal value” will be inscribed as World Heritage thus leading to a better protection of marine biodiversity and associated cultural, spiritual, and economic values . All marine World Heritage properties will be exemplary models of effective and results-based management benefiting coastal communities and biodiversity [for present and future generations] around the world.’⁵

Recommendation: The focus on benefits to coastal communities undercuts support for offshore areas and therefore it is recommended that ‘coastal’ be dropped and replaced with ‘results-based management benefiting communities and biodiversity [for present and future generations].

IUCN defines a protected area as:

‘A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values’⁶

Having complied with the above definition, the marine protected area is further clarified:

³In 2007 a fifth strategic objective on ‘communities’ was added see Decision 31 COM 13B

⁴ WHC.07 /31.COM /13A Evaluation of the results of the implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Committee Document P.3 <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/31COM/documents/>

⁵ UNESCO World Heritage Centre Marine Programme’s Five Year Business Plan: Saving Marine Areas of Outstanding Universal Value. Draft

⁶ Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland:IUCN.

*'Any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment'*⁷

The overall goal of the Marine Programme is effective conservation of existing and potential marine and coastal protected areas of outstanding universal value. In particular, the Programme aims to work with States Parties to assist new nominations or extensions to existing properties as well as to provide support to site management through capacity building and the promotion of management effectiveness (best practices), fundraising, establishment of strategic partnerships and networking.

The Marine Programme aims to facilitate collaboration between governments and stakeholders for the conservation of marine protected area networks, using the prestige of the World Heritage Convention to leverage support. Partnerships are critical in order to support nominations in areas with less policy-making capacity, political commitment or a smaller information base on MPAs, as well as to manage sites effectively. The objectives of the Marine Programme⁸, as approved by the World Heritage Committee include:

- Contribute to establishment of a more balanced and representative World Heritage List by supporting new marine nominations and extensions to existing properties;
- Assist States Parties to effectively manage existing marine World Heritage properties;;
- Increase awareness of the World Heritage Convention as an international legal instrument for achieving conservation of marine ecosystems;
- Contribute to the goals of international marine conservation agenda such as those established by the Summit on Sustainable Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Action Plan of the World Parks Congress;
- Establish strategic partnerships to implement the above-mentioned objectives;
- Use the World Heritage Convention innovatively to promote large-scale marine conservation, for example by encouraging transboundary and serial nominations taking into account that networks of marine protected areas;
- Build a Marine World Heritage Managers Network to strengthen conservation capacity, effective management and to enhance marine conservation.

2.3.1. Programme Features:

- On-going technical support to marine nomination preparation, including serial and transboundary nominations.
- Training workshops on application of the World Heritage Convention to the marine environment, the identification of potential marine sites (see the World Heritage Marine Biodiversity workshop, Hanoi, Vietnam, 2002), and the preparation of nominations. Designing, fundraising for, and implementing projects targeting existing and potential marine sites. The current portfolio for marine World Heritage projects is upwards of US\$ 3.5 million.

⁷ Kelleher 1999 in Kelleher, G. 2002. *Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 3. Gland and Cambridge: IUCN.

⁸ The marine World Heritage Programme was presented at the 29th session of the Committee in 2005 WHC 05/29COM/5 see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/marine>

- Updating the Business Plan for establishing and managing marine World Heritage Sites that was developed in 2005.
- On-going collaboration and coordination with other UN organisations, such as the International Maritime Organisation, Food and Agricultural Organization, and United Nations Development Programme.

2.3.2. Categories of 'marine World Heritage' for the purposes of this programme is:

- properties for which marine values have been the principal reason for inscription as World Heritage (e.g. Great Barrier Reef);
- properties, which are terrestrial, but which also have a marine protected area attached (e.g. Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve);
- properties that have only coastal components with no marine protected areas attached (e.g. Dorset and East Devon Coast); and
- properties that have been inscribed for cultural heritage criteria but could potentially be inscribed as mixed properties to include a natural marine component.

2.3.3. Due to limited capacity, the majority of activities under the Marine Programme have so far focused on the first two categories.

2.4. Delivery of the marine World Heritage programme

2.4.1. In the preparatory phase, the World Heritage Marine Programme was run by one professional in the World Heritage Centre, who initially was supported by the Government of Finland and more recently by an extra-budgetary project with financing from the UN Foundation and Global Conservation Fund. In addition to these, financial support for the Marine Programme and its projects has been secured from the Governments of France, Italy and Netherlands, WCPA Marine, MacArthur Foundation and World Heritage Fund. To implement the Programme's full potential and provide services to the States Parties, the Programme is managed by the World Heritage Centre and should permanently report to the World Heritage Committee its activities and on the implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. Efforts to raise extra budgetary funding for staff and programme implementation support are on-going – a recent private sector partnership with luxury watch maker Jaeger LeCoultre and the International Heritage Tribune is providing support for a full time marine programme specialist over a three year period.

2.4.2. The Marine Programme as it develops will closely collaborate and coordinate with a variety of agencies and organisations. Within UNESCO, collaboration is planned with the World Heritage Centre's regional desks, regional and thematic programmes, the Sustainable Tourism Programme and the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Programme, with UNESCO Science Sector (International Oceanographic Commission, Man and Biosphere Programme and Division of Science Policy & Sustainable Development). Outside UNESCO partnerships or collaboration is planned with IUCN (including the Programme on Protected areas and the Global Marine Programme) and its WCPA network (WCPA Marine has supported the Marine Programme development from the beginning) as well as various NGOs, and Secretariats of other environmental agreements such as Convention on Biological Diversity and the private sector.

2.4.3. The regional initiatives that the Marine Programme supports include the Pacific 2009 Action Plan, Caribbean Capacity Building Action Plan, as well as the follow-up to the Periodic Reports from Arab, Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America regions.

2.5. 'Our Sea of Islands' initiative

2.5.1. In 2007, collaboration between NOAA and the World Heritage Centre resulted in the meeting the "Our Sea of Islands" for Oceania, on Marine Managed Areas and World Heritage. This meeting was convened in response to a recommendation from the Hanoi workshop to provide training in the Pacific region on the Convention and nomination process. The main obstacles identified during the Hanoi workshop to advance nominations of (marine) World Heritage Sites in the Pacific region included: lack of knowledge on the nomination process (most Pacific countries are new member states of the Convention); existing guidelines are not necessarily geared to the Pacific context; lack of knowledge on the implications of World Heritage listing, which leads to unwillingness to commit; lack of sufficient management and/or legal protection of potential World Heritage marine areas; and limited institutional capacity to prepare nominations.

2.5.2. The 2007 meeting on World Heritage addressed these challenges by:

- Providing information on the World Heritage nomination process, requirements and implications;
- Sharing examples and lessons learnt on the use of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific region;
- Discussing ways and means to better adapt the nomination requirements for the specific situation in the Pacific (e.g. cultural and spiritual linkages) and gathering recommendations to the World Heritage Committee to this end for submission to Committee.

2.6. The Bahrain Action Plan

2.6.1. It was against this background and the urgent need to maintain momentum that IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas identified the scaling-up of marine work under the Convention as a global priority in its Plan of Action.

2.6.2. As a result, the Bahrain Meeting was convened in February 2009 as a partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain, the UNESCO World Heritage Programme, and IUCN WCPA – Marine. A list of attendees is provided in Annex 1, with supporting documentation and presentations being provided in the accompanying CD or online at: <http://sites.google.com/site/danlaffoley/marine-world-heritage--bahrain>

3. An Arabian Seas regional focus

The Arabian Seas region is under-represented in natural World Heritage. However, the international conservation community and public recognise many particular and distinctive marine ecosystems and biodiversity values within the region. The coincidence of the Periodic Reporting cycle and significant membership from the region on the World Heritage Committee combined to generate strong interest in furthering marine World Heritage. Also, the region has several enabling attributes to support the establishment of marine protected area networks including regional organisations and conventions.

3.1. Enabling context

Within the Arabian Seas region complementary actions are being developed to improve the implementation of the Marine Programme activities and the establishment of marine protected areas with potential outstanding universal value. Two key players in these activities are the regional organisations: the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), and the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

The member states of *The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden* (PERSGA) are Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan.⁹ The Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention) 1982 provides the legal foundation for PERSGA.

The member States of the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Since its establishment in 1978, ROPME has provided technical coordination to the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) and assisted its member states in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, including environmental assessment, environmental management, public awareness and training.

Marine conservation activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (RSGA) region have included: establishing marine protected areas; capacity building and developing management experience; expanding the scientific understanding of some species and ecosystems; and improving safety measures for maritime transport. The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden was executed by PERSGA with GEF support, and largely through a diverse set of training, workshops, surveys, and action plan development to deal with the various threats facing the coastal and marine environments in the region.

3.2. Marine Heritage and potential Outstanding Universal Value

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden contain unique coastal and marine environments. While the Red Sea is famous for its globally important repository of marine biodiversity, represented by clear waters, an extraordinary system of coral reefs and their associated fauna and flora,

⁹ PERSGA. 2006. State of the Marine Environment, Report for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. PERSGA, Jeddah.

the Gulf of Aden, being influenced by nutrient rich upwelling waters, is known for prodigious fishery production.¹⁰

Deep and coastal habitats in ROPME Sea Area (RSA) are extremely variable and support a large variety of productive marine ecosystem. Furthermore, the coastal and marine habitats found in the RSA, categorized into benthic deep and shallow subtidal habitats, intertidal habitats, rocky shores, sand shores, and mud shores. The interaction of the physical factors in RSA produces a severe regime for the marine biota of the region, especially the intertidal zones, so that diversity is lower within the inner part of the sea area than in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean in general.

The existing MPAs do not fully represent the range of regionally significant and representative habitats and species (mangroves, turtle nesting and feeding, breeding seabirds). Therefore it is likely that the potential outstanding universal value of marine heritage in the region has not been identified or protected and regional tentative lists could be incomplete.

3.2.1. Additional MPAs are needed to fill these gaps. Information gaps prevent an assessment of the current status of some species (breeding seabirds, marine mammals, and marine turtles) and the distribution and status of many habitats (sabkha, saltmarsh, sandy shores, rocky shores, seagrass in some countries, and subtidal soft substrata).

3.3. Information

A manual of standard survey methods for key habitats and key species in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region has been produced. Baseline data on key habitats and species has been collected to produce ecosystem status reports and increase knowledge of RSGA corals, coral communities, and reefs.

In the PERSGA region MPA survey data has been entered into a regional GIS. Site-specific master plans, with management guidelines, have been written for some of the existing MPAs with the involvement and participation of local stakeholders. A large number of managers, rangers, and scientists have been trained (via workshops and on-the-job training) in MPA management, field surveys, and monitoring techniques.

3.3.1. Further research, training and preparation and implementation of management plans are needed.

3.4. Planning and Policy

The Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity and the Establishment of Protected Areas by PERSGA member, December 2005, provides a regionally coordinated approach to conservation. A Regional Master Plan for the Regional Network of Marine

¹⁰ PERSGA ;Abuzinada A. H, Joubert, E. and Krupp, F 2000 Proceedings of an international symposium on: The Extent and Impact of Coral Bleaching in the Arabian Region. National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development, published 2005 Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Protected Areas has been produced and a progress is occurring towards the complete establishment of the RSGA Regional Network of marine protected areas.

The protocol provides for: the protection and conservation of species; the protection of selected marine and coastal areas; the application of a common management framework throughout the region (including integrated coastal area management; environmental impact assessment; restoration of ecosystems and populations of species; criteria for selection of additional protected areas); specific measures (such as access to genetic resources and technology exchange); and an institutional framework for national implementation and oversight of the Protocol.

Initiatives to protect the environment at the national level have depended mainly on command and control mechanisms, particularly legislation. The main avenues for the implementation of environmental policy in the region have been national institutions coordinating environmental management and enforcing laws (e.g. ministries, general directorates and the environment protection councils or departments) and the setting of standards and norms through legislation.

Recognizing the need for collective action to control pollution to protect the degradation of the marine environment, the countries of the ROPME adopted in 1978 the Kuwait Regional Convention, the Marine Emergency Protocol, and the Action Plan.

3.5. Capacity Building

There is limited technical capacity and experience in the region in MPA management. Some countries lack the necessary pool of experts to provide the knowledge, training and skills necessary for management. Much of the existing capability is in Egypt, where there is the best example of a fully functional MPA in the region.

- 3.5.1. There is a region-wide need to strengthen surveillance and enforcement in MPAs. Gaps in existing MPA distribution need to be filled and some habitats are not currently protected within existing MPA networks.

3.6. Potential for MPA networks

Though the situation varies between the countries, the general underlying impediments to effective management include poorly developed national environmental legislation: lack of funding (for research, management, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement); the need to strengthen the political will to implement management; and insufficient scientific expertise and experience in marine environmental management. Furthermore, there has been limited use of community-based monitoring.

The coastal zones and adjacent marine habitats in the ROPME region are potentially the sites of extreme resources conflicts, including over-exploitation, mismanagement and pollution from human activities causing environmental degradation. The Kuwait Convention requires the Contracting Parties to take all necessary measures to protect the marine and coastal areas and to prevent, reduce, and combat pollution of the sea areas from the potential sources. Articles of this Convention not only provides a legal framework

for preserving coastal and marine ecosystems, but also suggest that nations will be giving increasing attention to conserving coastal and marine living resources.

Marine and coastal habitats may be protected through national or regional policies for the establishment of protected areas. The success of these policies depends on the existence of appropriate legal frameworks, general acceptance by local inhabitants, the delineation of areas so that they can be treated more or less as self-contained units, and an effective and well supported managerial system.

Coastal habitats are often susceptible to mismanagement of activities in upland areas. The most serious threat is habitat destruction through: the replacement of entire habitats by settlements, harbours, and other human constructions, by cropland, grazing land, and plantations, and by mines and quarries.

- 3.6.1.1. Designation of coastal and marine protected areas would therefore help maintain ecosystem integrity and productivity and safeguard essential ecological processes by controlling activities that disrupt them or that physically damage the environment. It would also help conserve biological (genetic) diversity and protect ecosystems that are critical and unique.

3.6.2. Networks

PERSGA initiatives have highlighted that an ecosystem approach to conservation and management is most appropriate to ensure long-term sustainability of the region's critical habitats and populations of globally important species. This would be achieved by establishing an integrated regional network of MPAs supported by effective integrated management and planning. Twelve MPAs were selected for the regional network of MPAs and to be representative of the RSGA region's biogeography (and include representative habitat types and species as well as bird and turtle nesting sites, and seagrass beds used by dugong), and include feeding, breeding and roosting sites, larval sources and sinks, and migratory routes of key biota. In total, 75 MPAs have been established or recommended for the RSGA. Cultural heritage is also under consideration.

- 3.6.2.1. Each of the MPAs at the RSGA region is at a different stage of establishment and implementation. Their progress towards establishment and implementation of day-to-day management should be monitored for future state of the environment reports as indicators of the effectiveness of management.
- 3.6.2.2. The Regional Network includes sites in each country that are regionally significant and representative. National networks of MPAs are also required in each country to ensure representation of all levels of marine environmental diversity throughout the RSGA.
- 3.6.2.3. PERSGA is striving to integrate current research and monitoring into global initiatives such as the ICRI, GCRMN, and IUCN, as well as the ongoing research and monitoring of PERSGA member states. These initiatives could benefit from a coordinated approach with ROPME.

The region illustrates much potential to develop MPA networks and assess potential marine World Heritage nomination through the potential leadership two regional organisations of PERSGA and ROPME. These organisations already play a key role in regional policy implementation and research. However, the actions proposed indicate the potential for increased management effectiveness in existing MPAs. Further data sharing and compilation could provide the support needed to develop nomination dossier proposals. Communicating the benefits from increased designation of MPAs in this region, such as the maintenance of bio-productivity of fisheries, could also aid conservation efforts in the region. Continued fish production means continued livelihood for fisherman and for other fishing industry and hence means continued social, cultural, and economical stability.

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4. The Bahrain Action Plan for the marine World Heritage Programme 2009 – 2014

4.1. Structure and focus to the Action Plan

The key issue which the Bahrain 2009 meeting tackled was the underlying reasons for the apparent gap between interest in better protection of our oceans and seas, and a paucity of actions being taken under the World Heritage convention. It became apparent during workshop discussions that there is no single measure that, if implemented, could have sufficient impact to move the process forward.

What became apparent is that three aspects are hindering greater progress:

- Existing information is not visible – there is simply insufficient information available, accessible and highly visible both on existing marine World Heritage properties and also on how to progress new sites
- The guidance for, and articulation of, arguments for marine World Heritage needs strengthening – leading on from the first point, those materials that do exist need to provide better guidance, especially on how to articulate the arguments on meeting the World Heritage criteria for outstanding universal value and conditions of integrity that are needed to underpin future proposals by State Parties.
- We need to bridge the gap between knowledge to support marine World Heritage nominations and information already available on MPAs – alongside World Heritage-specific guidance there is a greater need for better dissemination of existing information on marine protected areas to help with the establishment and effective management of new marine World Heritage properties.

In light of these concerns the workshop developed a suite of measures to tackle these concerns, which form the backbone of the Bahrain Action Plan for marine World Heritage. In summary the measures focus on:

- Actions for capacity building – more and better informed policy-makers, advisors and managers will lead to more effective and faster implementation of the Convention in marine areas.
- Actions for delivery of new marine protected areas with potential World Heritage values – reviewing Tentative Lists and providing access to relevant studies can accelerate the rate that nominations are made by State Parties.
- Actions for improving networking – more effective and efficient networking across regions and the world, where best practice and knowledge is exchanged will help accelerate a successful nomination process.
- Actions for improving MPA data and visibility – better data and greater visibility of that information will provide a solid basis for improved decision-making and better

articulation of the underlying arguments for outstanding universal value for new nominations.

- Production of a thematic study on marine areas as World Heritage properties - recognition of the fact that implementation of the World Heritage Convention in marine areas can be accelerated by fit-for-purpose guidance to assist State Parties to the Convention with the nomination process.

Each of these five areas is considered in more detail below. Some of the steps are simple whilst others may take more concerted action. In developing this framework, it is acknowledged that the division into the five areas is idealised and that in reality a measure identified in one area may overlap significantly into another area. However, the framework does provide a coherent overview of the types of activities that, if implemented *en masse*, can accelerate the marine World Heritage process significantly.

4.2. Actions for Capacity building

4.2.1. Research and Analysis

- 4.2.1.1. To target capacity building appropriately in each region, a regional assessment is required to determine target groups, their specific needs, and the mechanisms that will meet those needs in the most cost-effective manner. Since this varies considerably from region to region, these assessments should be the first priority activity of the capacity building effort.

4.2.2. Regional capacity building workshops

- 4.2.2.1. The participants in the Bahrain Meeting recognized the importance that regional capacity building workshops have already played, and could continue to play in the future. Key priorities for future workshops were identified as not just building scientific capacity but also the political capacity needed to move the marine World Heritage agenda forwards. A plain language step-wise approach for achieving marine World Heritage (in the form of a simple document) was advocated (perhaps by updating the current marine brochure). Attention should also be given to the infrastructural needs within the given region and ensuring that key institutions that could potentially support World Heritage site managers are brought into the process from an early stage.

4.2.3. Opportunities with training and missions

- 4.2.3.1. An excellent way in which to augment regional capacity is by encouraging regional experts and those learning about the World Heritage process to accompany senior experts as they undertake evaluation missions. Whilst this approach has a limited capacity, dependent on the number of sites IUCN independently evaluates in a given year and the funding available for this, it has the benefit of immersing key individuals in marine World Heritage to the degree that it should dramatically grow their individual capacity. Broader evaluation training could complement such activities for a wider audience.

4.2.3.2. IUCN also monitors existing World Heritage properties. The process of monitoring existing properties and taking part in missions or other forms of support offers opportunities for experts to gain a deeper understanding of the Convention. Activities such as the development of retrospective Statements of outstanding universal value or supporting States Parties in the periodic reporting process are also a potential forum for experts to develop the necessary understanding of the Convention to support successful nomination of properties and improved management.

4.2.4. Regional training centres

4.2.4.1. Where feasible, encourage the identification of appropriate training centres for collaboration and strengthening of existing training centre partnerships¹¹ to support management of existing marine World Heritage properties, whilst encouraging the development of new nominations by State Parties to the Convention. These Centres, in turn, should be part of a network of training institutions that use approved World Heritage Training Modules and are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

4.2.5. Mentoring Programmes

4.2.5.1. Mentoring programmes¹², which pair experienced and novice World Heritage site managers and policy makers, have proven effective in enhancing the management of existing World Heritage Properties and in guiding the preparation of nominations. Indeed, in some instances mentoring programmes can be more cost effective than workshops, because they result in advice and learning that is tailored to specific locations and contexts. Mentoring programmes could be a part of the work of Regional Training Centres, but where appropriate, could also be run by regional IUCN and/or UNESCO Offices.

4.2.6. Training Sites

4.2.6.1. In many regions there may be scope for designating existing World Heritage Properties as training sites, so that training activities are linked to on-the-ground experiences and realities. These sites might also be coordinated with regional training institutions and the mentoring programme to take advantage of synergies and gain maximum effect.

4.3. Actions for delivery of new marine protected areas with potential World Heritage values

4.3.1. Reviewing Tentative Lists and regional MPAs

4.3.1.1. Helping State Parties develop their tentative lists from which nominations are made is critical to producing quality proposals. The World Heritage Centre,

¹¹ List of UNESCO recognized centres and those working with IUCN and ICCROM are available from the World Heritage Centre

¹² A variety of mentoring programmes exist, for example the USA National Parks Service

together with IUCN, plays an important role by holding workshops to support the regional harmonization of tentative lists.¹³ The synthesis of coordinated regional lists is a strong basis from which State Parties can launch their nomination processes.

4.3.2. Toolkits and web-based resources for guidance

There are many existing studies and World Heritage nomination dossiers that can inform the development of dossiers for new sites. Some excellent web sites also exist such as that developed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park authority. An extremely useful role for the marine World Heritage programme in association with IUCN WCPA – Marine would be to bring such information together to provide a central resource. This would build on the work undertaken in this respect to support the Bahrain workshop – see <http://sites.google.com/site/danlaffoley/marine-world-heritage--bahrain>

4.3.3. Thematic Review (see 4.6 and Annex 3 later in this report)

4.3.4. Supporting studies

- 4.3.4.1. The workshop concluded that a greater understanding of the role of marine ecosystems in providing goods and services¹⁴ would be an excellent initiative to strengthen arguments to implement with the World Heritage Convention and nominate more sites. A clearer understanding of the goods and services protected within MPAs can provide site managers with stronger arguments to support the World Heritage nominations process, which represents a significant investment of time and resources. Such a study on marine ecosystem services should build on work that has already been done in this regards, and should focus not only on marine World Heritage but on a broader articulation of goods and services of marine ecosystems.

4.3.5. Communication Strategy

- 4.3.5.1. It is evident that we need to move from a mainly ad hoc communications strategy to one that plays to the current strengths of the materials currently available on marine World Heritage, while ensuring both representation at, and join-up across, key meetings in a systematic and planned way. The International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC) was identified amongst other global meetings as an excellent and regular (every 4 years) platform from which to achieve a more consistent profile and to promote activities in support of enhanced implementation of marine World Heritage Programme.

- 4.3.5.2. The implementation of the World Heritage Convention provides excellent opportunities for reaching out to States Parties with clear and simple messages

¹⁴ Ecosystem Services e.g. reports and research in some World Heritage properties have quantified the value, particularly tourism value, e.g. in Australia, and are looking into REDD, e.g. in Indonesia and other mechanisms.

on current gaps in marine World Heritage, and how they can best assist in filling those gaps.

4.3.6. Cultural Heritage (www.ICOMOS.org)

4.3.6.1. From the marine perspective not only is there a need to bring together effective guidance on marine ecosystem issues but also the need to ensure that guidance is available in an appropriate form on cultural issues. This is because marine environments are often shaped by cultural uses close to shore or indeed contain outstanding examples of cultural activities from both the recent and distant past. Therefore increased guidance on marine cultural and spiritual values from ICOMOS and on cultural seascapes could enhance the nomination process for future marine properties.

4.3.7. Non- traditional (Expanding the) applications of the Convention

4.3.7.1. The reality of application of the World Heritage Convention is that it currently can be applied to just half the world's surface. The remaining 50% is covered by the High Seas, areas of ocean beyond the responsibility of any individual country, which remain unprotected. The High Seas do have features of potential outstanding universal value that are found nowhere else on earth. In the coming years mechanisms will be found to protect the wildlife, habitats and value of the High Seas. To 'future-proof' the Convention it is therefore critical that actions now commence to consider what might be protected in the open ocean and deep sea beyond national jurisdiction so that as mechanisms come along, or if jurisdictions change, there is an understanding of how the Convention can play a similar role to the one it has played for the other half of Earth. The workshop concluded that this could, at this time, be achieved by a 'non-paper' that explored these issues whilst respecting the current jurisdiction of the Convention to areas within State Party control. A shadow list of High Seas areas that have features of potential outstanding universal value could at the same time spur progress, both in the form of independent agreements amongst the key range States as in the Convention on Migratory Species and the United Nations Convention Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to enhance cooperation, consistent with international law, as well as justification for further consideration of mechanisms to extend the World Heritage Convention to over the other 50% of the globe. Consideration of where these features might be found is evolving and can be seen by the evolving field of deep sea research and publications¹⁵.

4.3.7.2. Alongside High Seas issues it was also felt that further exploration, in a similar vein, could be turned to how the Convention might interface with other international instruments and institutions. Collaboration and integration on policy, monitoring, reporting and management offers the potential to reduce efforts at the Site level rather than increase site managers' workloads when implementing international instruments in marine areas. Instruments offer

¹⁵ UNESCO. 2009. *Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS) – Biogeographic Classification*. Paris, UNESCO-IOC. (IOC Technical Series, 84.)

benefits in terms of capacity building, networks of experts and States Parties focal points. International instruments of relevance include: Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity and its Programme of Works on Protected Areas (CBD POWPA), Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR) and the Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty regarding Environmental Protection, the International Seabed Authority, the Migratory Species Convention, the regional seas conventions and agreements (e.g., OSPAR, Cartagena, Nairobi), International Maritime Organisation (and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas), and other relevant instruments and mechanisms.

4.4. Action for improving Networking

4.4.1. Regional *Fora* and updates

4.4.2. Improved networking is critical to achieving greater progress with effective management of marine heritage. In many instances, lack of progress is due as much to ineffective networking as to gaps in knowledge. Thus, significant improvements in the nomination of new properties and in management of existing properties could be realized through regular networking within and between regions. For example, it was noted at the Bahrain Meeting that much better use could be made of the existing Middle East Biodiversity Network for networking with respect to marine protected areas.

4.4.3. Focal points for networking

4.4.3.1. Effective networking is also hindered by simply not knowing who to contact in other countries of the region. A pre-requisite should be to ensure that at a regional scale a clear line of communication is provided across the countries involved with marine World Heritage to support effective networking. It is also important to ensure that lines of communication include contacts for representatives of International Conventions, UN Agencies and Regional Agencies - such as Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNEP, PERSGA, ROPME and organisations such as IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM and others.

4.4.4. Social Networking for Marine Protected Area Managers

4.4.4.1. Whilst developing networks will support implementation of marine World Heritage, how relationships and communications between those involved in the day-to-day work of managing protected areas develop is also important. Marine Protected Area social networks can be improved by ensuring that those working in existing MPAs are aware of and are in contact with peers in their region and broader networks. Networks such as IUCN WCPA – Marine, and other international networks are critically important to pass information and lessons learnt between site managers, States Parties, and the broader marine conservation community. This might include guidance to help develop an effective regional or national nomination process, and to respond to unexpected or complex management issues that need urgent consideration and action.

4.4.5. Websites and IT resources to help make work easier

- 4.4.5.1. As mentioned elsewhere in this Action Plan, bringing together web-based resources into one place will invariably help countries and experts find guidance and supporting information. Key materials should be available in English, Spanish and French, as a minimum, and within regions, in the predominate language – e.g. Arabic for the Arabian Seas region.

4.5. Actions for improving MPA data and its use

4.5.1. States Parties, site managers and relevant agencies to update information on MPAs in their area of expertise using existing mechanisms such as the World Database on Protected Areas and Protect Planet Ocean web portal.

4.5.2. In 2009 it is amazing to think that as a global community we still can not produce an accurate map of ocean protection or indeed have a good inventory of why each MPA has been established, who manages the site, and the degree of management effectiveness. An urgent global priority which this Action Plan supports is the need for accurate information on marine World Heritage properties and more broadly MPAs. This is both so we can make compelling cases for new nominations but also know what strategic gaps in coverage exist and are a priority to be filled by future nominations. A key step for the Action Plan is therefore for those connected to specific properties to review and update the information on their site held by the World Database on Protected Areas¹⁶ so we rapidly move to a position of far more accurate information on marine protected areas worldwide.

4.5.3. Data sharing and support

- 4.5.3.1. Data management and handling is fundamental to the World Heritage process –for individual MPAs (whether for nomination or ongoing management) and also at the network scale. Current data handling and sharing is not good, hence the uncertainty on the status of marine World Heritage; both total area of protection and degree of protection are uncertain. Two approaches to address these limitations include using existing international initiatives and collaborating to reduce costs. States Parties and organisations should make the most of current capacity and institutional arrangements, such as the World Database on Protected Areas¹⁷ and Protect Planet Ocean¹⁸ partnership being developed with UNEP WCMC and through existing platforms hosted by international organisations and partnerships^{19 20}. The extent of the limited progress on MPA data sharing is evident by the lack of maps and other overarching sources

¹⁶ The WDPA is a joint project of UNEP and IUCN, produced by UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas working with governments and collaborating NGOs. <http://www.wdpa.org/Default.aspx>

¹⁷ The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organization, and WCMC 2000, a UK-based charity. <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/aboutWCMC/>

¹⁸ The interactive Marine Protected Area pages, a joint partnership <http://impas.protectplanetocan.org/>

¹⁹ The List of World Heritage, hosted by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

²⁰ The Ramsar Sites Information Service, developed by Wetlands International <http://ramsar.wetlands.org/>

showing the extent of marine biodiversity protection. Also, recognising that funding data management is difficult at the regional or country levels, developing partnerships for mutual benefit based on exchange of data or capacity or use of existing tools can reduce costs related to data management.

4.5.4. Gaining access to existing studies on MPAs

- 4.5.4.1. Whilst many documents that can help provide information on MPAs exist in the public domain there are some notable exceptions that are critical to future progress. Foremost amongst these are MPA feasibility studies that could help inform a strategy for further development of the marine World Heritage. Agencies and NGOs ensure that such reports are available through internet-based conservation resource tools to help shape the future marine World Heritage programme.

4.6. Development of the IUCN thematic study on marine World Heritage properties

One of the main themes for discussion during the Bahrain Meeting was on how to best apply the World Heritage Convention in our oceans and seas. Guidance on this would help increase the number of successful nominations and thus significantly add to the current series of marine sites. The good guidance which already exists, it is not easily available in an accessible format or found in one location. An IUCN thematic study on marine World Heritage properties would help to pull together the disparate information and tools on areas of exceptional value in marine areas and how to protect them. This study will constitute a fundamental element of the Bahrain Action Plan. The nature and content of such a study were considered in detail at the Bahrain meeting. The results are presented in outline in Annex 3.

- 4.6.1. A thematic study on marine World Heritage should be completed by 2011 for presentation to the World Heritage Committee. Alongside this work progress should also be initiated on preparing the guidance for the conducting Global Comparative Analysis for marine World Heritage, a requirement of the nomination dossier, before 2011.

- 4.6.2. The purpose of a thematic study on marine World Heritage properties is to advise States Parties on:

- The coastal and marine ecosystem/biodiversity values and marine cultural landscapes already represented on the World Heritage List and the potential and priorities for further future recognition of marine ecosystems and biodiversity on the World Heritage List in relation to the relevant World Heritage criteria.
- The requirements for integrity and management that should apply to marine protected areas on the World Heritage List, and more widely. (i.e. Standards of protection, management in relation to the requirements of World Heritage set out in the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention)

- 4.6.3. The geographical scope of the study will be global, including, but not limited to, the territory of member states of UNESCO. Some limited attention should be given to high

seas protection in anticipation that protective mechanisms will be developed soon and the World Heritage Convention needs to be well informed on outstanding universal value of the High Seas and opportunities for its protection.

4.6.4. The thematic scope of the study will be on properties included, or with the potential (especially tentative list sites – such as sites already identified by States as candidates they may wish to put forward) to be included on the World Heritage List:

- cultural landscapes/seascapes,
- coastal and marine wetlands,
- marine sites of particular importance for their ecological and biodiversity values,
- protection of poorly understood marine regions such as deep sea ecosystems etc...

4.6.5. The report will summarise:

- A conceptual framework for the identification of marine seascapes, ecosystems and biodiversity. This should be devised with reference to appropriate classifications of marine ecosystems.
- A review of marine seascapes and marine protected areas already included in the World Heritage List as being of outstanding universal value, and placed, together with relevant tentative list sites, within the conceptual framework developed above.
- Recommendations for the principal remaining gaps, at a conceptual level, of marine seascapes, ecosystems and biodiversity within the World Heritage List.
- Recommendations at an overview level of the principal factors required for marine protected sites in relation to the requirements of integrity and management on the World Heritage List, and consideration of the application of the IUCN Categories for Protected Areas, with particular attention to acceptable activities in MPAs
- A short list of the priority sites with potential for World Heritage Listing as marine properties of outstanding universal value. IUCN notes that advice to States Parties on sites on tentative lists that may be unlikely candidates would be helpful to guide these sites towards consideration of alternative or complementary means of listing including national mechanisms, or Conservation International's seascapes, Man and Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites or UNESCO Geoparks.
- Guidance will be required on the preparation of comparative analyses, and Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.
- A section should be included which explains other opportunities for further support the conservation of MPAs from international instruments such as the designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas through the International Maritime Organisation and oil spill compensation programmes.

- An introduction to applying the World Heritage Convention methodology to identifying properties of OUV to the high seas, for discussion purposes.

4.6.6. A draft table of contents for the thematic study was developed during the Bahrain Workshop, as a key element of the Action Plan, and is set out in Annex 3.

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5. Performance indicators and the 5 Cs

In progressing the Bahrain Action Plan for marine World Heritage it is important to understand how it will not only accelerate application of the Convention to our oceans and seas, but also how it fits with the overall objectives of the Convention and the marine World Heritage programme.

The World Heritage Convention has 5 Strategic Objectives – the 5 Cs - credibility, conservation, capacity building, communication, and community. These objectives represent recommended performance indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of the Bahrain Action Plan.

5.1. The Bahrain Action Plan has 5 Strategic Objectives (5 Cs), as follows:

- **Credibility:** by contributing to the implementation of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage list²¹ through actions that will support studies for potential serial and transboundary marine World Heritage nominations in underrepresented regions and promote the interconnected nature of marine ecosystems and to maintain or restore integrity;
- **Conservation:** by championing actions to support appropriate nominations, improve the management of existing properties through effective use of best practice, share information and knowledge on MPAs and marine ecosystems; and by mobilising adequate investment of human and financial resources for the recognition and effective management of the most important marine properties of outstanding universal value.
- **Capacity building:** by supporting the development of improved networking and joint learning among marine site managers;
- **Communication:** by significantly raising awareness of the World Heritage Convention as a marine conservation instrument among public, partner organisations and institutions as well as private sector and through web site development for the Marine Programme and IUCN WCPA - Marine.
- **Community:** enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Particularly communities should be involved in the preparation of nominations, development of management plans, as well as in the protection and management of properties.²² For marine heritage, marine cultural landscapes, sometimes referred to as seascapes outside the Convention, are also important. Traditional and local knowledge can also be a useful tool to aid both design and management of marine protected areas.

5.2. The marine World Heritage programme has three performance measures that link to the overall aims of the Convention:

²¹ *Operational Guidelines paragraph 55.* The Global Strategy is designed to identify and fill the major gaps in the World Heritage List by encouraging increased membership to the Convention, the development of Tentative Lists and nominations of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/globalstrategy>). First adopted at the 18th Session of the Committee, Phuket 1994.

²² WHC.07 /31.COM /13A Evaluation of the results of the implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Committee Document P.3 <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/31COM/documents/>

- Increasing the credibility of the World Heritage List by ensuring protection for underrepresented marine values and recognising the importance of connectivity to maintain or restore integrity of marine biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Increasing the conservation of existing and proposed World Heritage marine properties through development of strategic partnerships;
- Building capacity to manage existing and proposed World Heritage marine properties through networking and sharing;

To these the workshop recommends adding performance indicators that include communication and community.

- Monitoring, Promoting and communicating progress towards expanded and increased effectively managed marine World heritage areas;
- Collaborating and recognising community knowledge, management role and values.

5.3. The Bahrain Action plan by its very design directly supports these performance measures much in the same way as it underpins implementation of the 5C's of the Convention as a whole. The relationship between the 5C's of the Convention and the individual steps in the Bahrain Action Plan is set out in Annex 4.

6. Conclusion and Next Steps

Accelerating the implementation of the World Heritage Convention with respect to our oceans and seas is a key global priority for marine conservation. The Bahrain workshop convened key experts to guide actions to improve management and support the inscription of marine World Heritage.

This Action Plan adds impetus and structure to safeguarding marine World Heritage. The key will be to engage partner organisations and individuals and to grow the momentum created in Bahrain. The marine World Heritage programme has a critical role to play and the actions in this report will guide the work programme as marine World Heritage capacity increases in the World Heritage Centre. Equally, IUCN has a critical role to play, not just by conducting the thematic review, but also by emphasising marine World Heritage with its member organisations and networks of experts, and by connecting the marine World Heritage Programme to other capacity building initiatives.

Conservation initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations can also generate the conditions to put in place many of the actions set out in this plan. However, none of this will have full impact unless the global marine community as a whole and society more broadly, from the individual MPA manager to the Heads of State, recognise the urgency and importance of better protecting our oceans and seas for us and future generations. The Bahrain Meeting should be seen as a turning point, the opportunity for key experts and individuals to come together to ensure that the very best places in our ocean world are recognised through the World Heritage Convention.

This attention to the expansion of marine networks does not however, negate the importance of improving the management effectiveness of existing marine World Heritage properties and considering the strengthening and/ or recognition of marine values within existing properties. There is a significant potential to assess the potential to extend existing properties to include adjacent marine areas with potential outstanding universal value.

The need to ensure management effectiveness and sufficient protection in all marine protected areas whether World Heritage, other international and national designations cannot be overstated. That resource extraction occurs in significant portions of existing marine World Heritage offers the potential to increase protection but also to suggest higher levels of protection of marine resources than is actually the case. It is hoped that this plan will play a key role in achieving and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target on establishment of representative networks of MPAs by 2012 for the conservation of biodiversity in our oceans and ensure the preservation of natural marine heritage for future generations.

For this plan to have any impact the following next steps need to be taken:

- Communicating the Bahrain Plan of Action and findings of the workshop
- Promoting the Bahrain Plan of Action with States Parties, institutions and NGOs
- Fundraising for its implementation

Glossary *(To be completed)*

Criteria – The World Heritage Convention recognises 4 natural criteria

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity

CI – Conservation International

ICCROM

ICOMOS

IUCN – the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

MPA – Marine Protected Area. any area of the intertidal or sub.

OUV- Outstanding Universal Value

PERSGA

Property – term used to refer to a cultural or natural area listed under the World Heritage Convention

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

ROPME

TNC- The Nature Conservancy

UNCLOS – United National Convention on the Law of the Sea

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO

UNFCCC

WCPA – IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas

World Heritage Convention

World Heritage Site – only used for full title of a World Heritage property, see ‘property’

Bahrain Action Plan for marine World Heritage

Annex 1: Attendees at the Joint Workshop on Global Marine Heritage Site Selection and World Heritage & Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf & Red Sea, Kingdom of Bahrain, 24-26 February 2009.

State Party or Organization	Region	Surname	First Name	Contact details	Country	Agency-Department	Title
IUCN WCPA	Vice Chair, WCPA Marine	Laffoley	Dan	Dan.Laffoley@naturalengland.org.uk	UK	Natural England	
IUCN WCPA	Chair WCPA, IUCN Councillor	Lopoukhine	Nik	nik.lopoukhine@pc.gc.ca	Canada	Parks Canada	
IUCN	World Heritage	Langley	Josephine	josephine.langley@iucn.org	Switzerland	IUCN	
IUCN	Head	Lundin	Carl Gustaf	carl.lundin@iucn.org	Switzerland	IUCN	
IUCN	West Asia	Eltayeb	Mohammed Mustafa	mohamed.eltayeb@iucn.org	Saudi Arabia	IUCN ROWA - West Asia Regional Office, Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Science	Marine Program Officer
IUCN Marine	WCPA Mediterranean and Black Seas	Notarbartolo di Sciara	Giuseppe	giuseppe@disciara.net	Italy		
IUCN Marine	WCPA North-West Atlantic	Smith	Jennifer	jsmith@wwfcanada.org	Canada	WWF-Canada	
IUCN Marine	WCPA North-East Atlantic	Ashworth	Jen	Jen.Ashworth@naturalengland.org.uk	UK	Natural England	MPA Specialist
IUCN Marine	WCPA Wider Caribbean	Wiener	Jean	jeanw@foprobim.org	Haiti	Foprobim	Director
IUCN Marine	WCPA West Africa	Karibuhoye	Charlotte	Charlotte.Karibuhoye@iucn.org	Senegal	Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin FIBA	MPA Program Coordinator
IUCN Marine	WCPA Central Indian Ocean	Sridhar	Aarathi	aarthisridhar@yahoo.co.uk	India	Dakshin Foundation (www.dakshin.org)	
IUCN Marine	WCPA East Asian Sea	Tan	Moi Khim	m.tan@cgiar.org	Malaysia	World Fish Centre	Database Manager
IUCN Marine	WCPA Region 2 Polynesia	Walls	Kathy	kathy.walls1@gmail.com	New Zealand		
IUCN Marine	WCPA Australia/New Zealand	Day	Jon	j.day@gbmmpa.gov.au	Australia	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Director, Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Use, GBRMPA
IUCN Marine	WCPA North-East Pacific	Ladell	Kate Willis	kate.ladell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Canada	Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Marine Planning and Protected Areas Specialist
IUCN Arabian Seas	WCPA Arabian Seas	Kotb	Mohammed	mohammed.kotb@persga.org	Jeddah	PERSGA	
IUCN Marine	WCPA North-West Pacific	Hibino	Kohei	khibino@jwrc.or.jp	Japan	Japan Wildlife Research Centre	Research Scientist

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Organization	Region	Surname	First Name	Contact details	Country	Agency-Department	Title
UNESCO/Jakarta office		Steffen	Jan	j.steffen@unesco.org	Indonesia	UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the pacific	Programme Specialist
UNESCO/Doha office		Böer	Dr Benno	b.boer@unesco.org	Qatar	UNESCO/Doha office	
UNESCO		Hendili	Karime Andre	karim.hendili@info.gov.bh	Bahrain	UNESCO WHC-Bahrain	
UNESCO		Patry	Marc	ma.patry@unesco.org	France	UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Programme Specialist
UNESCO		Haraguchi	Sachiko	s.haraguchi@unesco.org	France	UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Assistant Programme Specialist
UNEP/ROWA	West Asia	Haddad	Abdul-Majeid	majeid.haddad@unep.org.bh	Bahrain	UNEP	
RAMSAR		Young	Llewellyn	young@ramsar.org	Switzerland	RAMSAR Convention Secretariat	Senior Advisor - Asia/Oceania
USA NOAA		Hillary	Annie	Annie.Hillary@noaa.gov	USA	NOAA	
CGIAR/IWMI	East/Horn of Africa	Rebelo	Lisa- Maria	L.REBELO@CGIAR.ORG	Ethiopia	IWMI	Researcher
Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum	Arabian Seas Region	Krupp	Friedhelm	f.krupp@senckenberg.de	Germany	Senckenberg Research Institute	Research Scientist
French Marine Protected Areas Agency	IUCN councillor	LEFEBVRE	Christophe	christophe.lefebvre@aires-marines.fr	France	French Marine Protected Areas Agency	
CaMPAM		Bustamante	Georgina	gbustamante@bellsouth.net	USA	Caribbean MPA Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM)	Coordinator
Walton Family Foundation		Rothschild	Michael	mrothschild_2000@yahoo.com	Costa Rica	Walton Family Foundation	Advisor for the ETPS (Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape)
Kuwait University		Behbehani	Manaf	drmanaf@hotmail.com	Kuwait	Kuwait University	

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State Party representatives from the Arabian Seas Region

State Party or Organization	Surname	First Name	Contact details	Agency/ Department	Title
Bahrain	Al-Zayani	Dr Adel			
Bahrain	Khamis	Abdulqader			
Bahrain	Al Khuzai	Dr Saeed	saeed@alreem.com		
Bahrain	Al-Khalifa	Ebrahim	ealkhalifa@info.gov.bh		
Bahrain	Al-Qaseer	Jassim	jag52@batelco.com.bh		
Bahrain	Al-Khalifa	Khalifa	khalifa.a.alkhalifa@gmail.com	Public Commission for Protection of Marine Resources, Environment & Wildlife	
Bahrain	Sayed Hashim Saeed Ali		kalmhashm@yahoo.com	Marine Resources	
Bahrain	Ali Mansoor	Abbas	alie@pew.gov.bh	Public Commission for Protection of Marine Resources, Environment & Wildlife	
Egypt	Hamied	Waheed	hamiednature@hotmail.com		
Eritrea	Gheresus Kiflay	Yohannes	jhonak22@yahoo.com	Northern Red-sea Regional Museum, Massawa	Director
Djibouti	Rirache Roble	Houssein	housseinrirach@yahoo.fr	Direction of Environment and Land Use	Deputy Director
Iraq	Nsaif	Hayfaa Abdulkareem	moen_iraq@yahoo.com	Ministry of Environment, Directorate Urban Sector, Bagdad Unit	Director
Jordan	Al Mohaisen	Hamza	hamaqaba@yahoo.com hmohaisen@aseza.jo	/ Aqaba Marine Park	
Kuwait	ALYAMANI	Dr Faiza Yousif	fyamani@safat.kisr.edu.kw		
Qatar	Al Kuwari	Ali	alialkuwary@hotmail.com		
Saudi Arabia	Khushaim	Omar	khushaim2006@hotmail.com		
Saudi Arabia	Al-Sheikh	Khalid	kalshaikh@hotmail.com		
Sudan	Ahmed Ali Mousa	Abdelrahim	halngi009@yahoo.com		
Sudan	Alamein Al Hassan	Nassreldin Mohamed	wildlife_sudan@yahoo.com	Wildlife & Tourism Ministry /Wildlife General Administration	
UAE	Al-Cibahy	Ashraf Saad	aalcibahy@ead.ae		
Yemen	Khamis	Fouad Naseeb Saeed	zenahfouad@yahoo.com		

Annex 2. Arabian Seas Region Context for establishing marine protected areas with potential World Heritage values

3.1. Enabling context

Within the Arabian Seas region complementary actions are being developed to improve the implementation of the Marine Programme activities and the establishment of marine protected areas with potential outstanding universal value. Two key players in these activities are the regional organisations: The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), and the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

3.1.1. The member states of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) are Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. The key achievement of the PERSGA initiative was the signing of the Jeddah Convention (1982), its Marine Emergency Protocol, and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention) 1982 provides the legal foundation for PERSGA. The Secretariat of the Organization was formally established in Jeddah following the Cairo Declaration of September 1995.

3.1.2. The member States of the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment are Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Since its establishment in 1978, ROPME has provided technical coordination to the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) and assisted its eight member states of Gulf region in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and projects, including environmental assessment and environmental management, and public awareness and training.

3.1.3. Since the Jeddah Convention and establishment of PERSGA, marine conservation activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (RSGA) region have included: establishing marine protected areas; capacity building and developing management experience; expanding the scientific understanding of some species and ecosystems; and improving safety measures for maritime transport. The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, is executed by PERSGA with GEF support, and largely through a diverse set of training, workshops, surveys, and action plan development to deal with the various threats facing the coastal and marine environments in the region.

3.2. Marine Heritage and potential Outstanding Universal Value

3.2.1. The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden contain unique coastal and marine environments. While the Red Sea is famous for its globally important repository of marine biodiversity, represented by the extraordinary system of coral reefs and their associated fauna and flora, the Gulf of Aden, being influenced by nutrient rich upwelling waters, is known for prodigious fishery production.

3.2.2. Deep and coastal habitats in ROPME Sea Area (RSA) are extremely variable and support a large variety of productive marine ecosystem. Furthermore, the coastal and marine habitats found in the RSA, categorized into benthic deep and shallow subtidal habitats, intertidal habitats, rocky shores, sand shores, and mud shores. The interaction of the physical factors in RSA produces a severe regime for the marine biota of the region, especially the intertidal zones, so that diversity is lower within the inner part of the sea area than in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean in general.

3.2.3. The existing MPA's do not fully represent the range of regionally significant and representative habitats and species (mangroves, turtle nesting and feeding, breeding seabirds). Therefore it is likely that the potential outstanding universal value of marine heritage in the region has not been identified or protected and regional tentative lists could be incomplete.

3.2.4. Additional MPAs are needed to fill these gaps. Information gaps prevent an assessment of the current status of some species (breeding seabirds, marine mammals, marine turtles) and the distribution and status of many habitats (sabkha, saltmarsh, sandy shores, rocky shores, seagrass in some countries, and subtidal soft substrata).

3.3. Information

3.3.1. A manual of standard survey methods for key habitats and key species in the RSGA has been produced. Baseline data on key habitats and species (coral reefs, mangroves, seabirds, turtles) has been collected to produce ecosystem status reports and increase knowledge of RSGA corals, coral communities, and reefs. Regional Action plans (following regional surveys) were developed for corals, mangroves, turtles, and breeding seabirds and are being implemented nationally via national action plans.

3.3.2. In the PERSGA region survey design guidelines for MPA's have been prepared and ecological and socio-economic surveys have been completed in some of the region's MPA's. All MPA survey data has been entered into a regional GIS. Site-specific master plans, with management guidelines, have been written for some of the existing MPA's with the involvement and participation of local stakeholders. A large number of managers, rangers, and scientists have been trained (via workshops and on-the-job training) in MPA management, field surveys, and monitoring techniques. There has been an international, regional, and national exchange of experience.

3.4. Planning and Policy

3.4.1. Among few other protocols, the signing of the Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity and the Establishment of Protected Areas by PERSGA member states in December 2005 provided a regionally coordinated approach to conservation. A Regional Master Plan for the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas has been produced and a progress is occurring towards the complete establishment of the RSGA Regional Network of marine protected areas.

3.4.2. The protocol provides for: the protection and conservation of species; the protection of selected marine and coastal areas; the application of a common management framework throughout the region (including integrated coastal area management; environmental impact assessment; restoration of ecosystems and populations of species; criteria for selection of additional protected areas); specific measures (such as access to genetic resources and technology exchange); and an institutional framework for national implementation and oversight of the Protocol.

3.4.3. Initiatives to protect the environment at the national level have depended mainly on command and control mechanisms, particularly legislation. The main avenues for the implementation of environmental policy in the region have been national institutions coordinating environmental management and enforcing laws (e.g. ministries, general directorates and the environment protection councils or departments) and the setting of standards and norms through legislation.

3.4.4. Realizing the need for collective action to control pollution to protect the degradation of the marine environment, the countries of the ROPME adopted in 1978 the Kuwait Regional Convention, the Marine Emergency Protocol, and the Action Plan. Three other protocols were signed during 1990s and these protocols are expected to further reinforce the efforts towards prevention and control of marine pollution and to help setting up relevant national policies.

3.5. Capacity Building

3.5.1. There is limited technical capacity and experience in the region in MPA management. Some countries lack the necessary pool of experts to provide the knowledge, training and skills necessary for management. Much of the existing capability is in Egypt, where there is the best example of a

fully functional MPA in the region. Lack of surveillance and enforcement in MPA's is widespread. There are also gaps in existing MPA distribution and some habitats are not currently protected

3.6. Potential for MPA networks

3.6.1.1. Though the situation varies between the countries, the general underlying impediments to effective management include poorly developed national environmental legislation: lack of funding (for research, management, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement); the need to strengthen the political will to implement management; and insufficient scientific expertise and experience in marine environmental management. Furthermore, there has been limited use of community-based monitoring.

3.6.1.2. The coastal zones and adjacent marine habitats in the ROPME region are potentially the sites of extreme resources conflicts, including over-exploitation, mismanagement and pollution from human activities causing environmental degradation. The Kuwait Convention requires the Contracting Parties to take all necessary measures to protect the marine and coastal areas and to prevent, reduce, and combat pollution of the sea areas from the potential sources. Articles of this Convention not only provides a legal framework for preserving coastal and marine ecosystems, but also suggest that nations will be giving increasing attention to conserving coastal and marine living resources.

3.6.1.3. In line with above obligations, marine and coastal habitats may be protected through national or regional policies for the establishment of protected areas. The success of these policies depends on the existence of appropriate legal frameworks, general acceptance by local inhabitants, the delineation of areas so that they can be treated more or less as self-contained units, and an effective and well supported managerial system.

3.6.1.4. Coastal habitats are often susceptible to mismanagement of activities in upland areas. The most serious threat is habitat destruction through: The replacement of entire habitats by settlements, harbours, and other human constructions, by cropland, grazing land, and plantations, and by mines and quarries. The impact of destructive activities include: dams (blocking spawning migrations, drowning habitats, and altering chemical and thermal conditions); drainage, channelization and flood control; pollution and solid waste disposal (from domestic agricultural, industrial, and mining sources); overuse of groundwater aquifers (for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes); removal of materials (such as vegetation, gravel, and stones) for timber, fuel, construction, and so on; dredging and dumping; and Erosion and siltation.

3.6.1.5. Designation of coastal and marine protected areas would therefore help maintain ecosystem integrity and productivity and safeguard essential ecological processes by controlling activities that disrupt them or that physically damage the environment. It would also help conserve biological (genetic) diversity and protect ecosystems that are critical and unique.

3.6.2. Networks

3.6.2.1. PERSGA initiatives have highlighted that an ecosystem approach to conservation and management is most appropriate to ensure long-term sustainability of the region's critical habitats and populations of globally important species. This would be achieved by establishing an integrated regional network of MPA's supported by effective integrated management and planning. Twelve MPA's were selected for the regional network of MPA's and to be representative of the RSGA region's biogeography (and include representative habitat types and species as well as bird and turtle nesting sites, and seagrass beds used by dugong), and include feeding, breeding and roosting sites, larval sources and sinks, and migratory routes of key biota. In total, 75 MPA's have been established or recommended for the RSGA. Cultural heritage is also under consideration.

3.6.2.2. Each of the MPA's at the RSGA region is at a different stage of establishment and implementation. Their progress towards establishment and implementation of day-to-day

management should be monitored for future state of the environment reports as indicators of the effectiveness of management. The Regional Network includes sites in each country that are regionally significant and representative. National networks of MPA's are also required in each country to ensure representation of all levels of marine environmental diversity throughout the RSGA.

3.6.2.3. PERSGA is striving to integrate current research and monitoring into global initiatives such as the ICRI, GCRMN, and IUCN, as well as the ongoing research and monitoring of PERSGA member states.

Benefits for the region from increased designation of MPA's include the maintenance of bio-productivity for fisheries. Continued fish production means continued livelihood for fisherman and for other fishing industry and hence means continued social, cultural, and economical stability.

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Annex 3. Global Thematic Framework for marine World Heritage: Draft List of Contents and commentary

1. Introduction

- Roles e.g. State Party, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, WCPA, IUCN PPA,
- What role does/ can World Heritage Convention play as a tool for marine conservation?
- Other international designations for protected areas (Ramsar, MAB, Geoparks)

2. Scope of the Thematic Study

- Global Framework of marine protected areas (and context for World Heritage)
 - Eco-regions (relevant systems?)
- Technical framework for gap analysis and in marine areas/ Regional Gaps
- Explain criteria in context of marine (case studies). Thresholds for marine World Heritage
- Existing World Heritage and Tentative List Analysis, prioritisation, gaps MPAs and World Heritage
 - Extension and re-nomination of existing properties
- How to deal with coastal zone?
- How to deal with islands (remote versus intensively developed)?

3. Outstanding Universal Value and Integrity

- Distinctiveness and other criteria (see guidelines for evaluators and develop further for marine context)
- Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (refer to guidelines on retrospective statements and IUCN nominations guidelines)
- Global Comparative analysis- how to do this?

4. Key marine features

- Mixed properties
- Cultural Landscapes/ seascapes
- Vii- marine Phenomenon
 - Persistent oceanographic phenomenon – gyres, fronts, Upwellings
 - Seasonal aggregations e.g. spawning aggregations e.g. sea snakes, marine mammals, sharks.....
 - Waves/ tides ...
- Viii-marine Geology
 - Hydrothermal vents, sea mounts, fracture zones/ marine trenches
 - Topographical feature representation and links to biodiversity
 - Coastal processes
 - land/ water interfaces (esp re integrity)
 - Wave energy/ tidal action
- ix- marine Ecosystems and processes
 - Sea grass beds

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- Connectivity
- Upwellings
- Fresh water marine springs
- Coastal sabkha (salt flat)
- Role of terrestrial and
- X – marine Biodiversity
 - Endangered species
 - Fresh water marine springs and oyster beds
 - Sediment plain communities, deep sea communities
 - geological

5. Requirements for integrity

- Wholeness
- Completeness
- Design/ buffer zones
- Role of local community
- Threats

6. Protection and Management

- Legal framework (include IUCN PA categories)
- Site management & effectiveness
- Monitoring
- Risk management

7. Alternatives to World Heritage inscription

8. Global Comparative Analysis in marine areas (proving OUV-I/ justifying inscription)

9. Planned/ future detailed thematic marine studies

- IUCN World Heritage Thematic Study on fisheries?
- IUCN World Heritage Regional Thematic Study
 - Arabian Seas region

10. Publications/ Academic Studies

11. Expertise

- Oceanographers
- Marine ecologists
- Cultural experts/ anthropologists

The report will summarise:

- A conceptual framework for the identification of marine seascapes, ecosystems and biodiversity. This should be devised with reference to appropriate classifications of marine

ecosystems, but kept at a reasonably high level to avoid constructing a series based on very fine distinctions.

- A review of marine seascapes and marine protected areas already included in the World Heritage List as being of outstanding universal value, and placed, together with relevant tentative list sites, within the conceptual framework developed in (a). IUCN's reports on previous marine biodiversity, and the decisions of Committee in relation to marine properties should be reviewed as part of this exercise.
- Recommendations for the principal remaining gaps, at a conceptual level, of marine seascapes, ecosystems and biodiversity within the World Heritage List.
- Recommendations at an overview level of the principal factors required for marine protected areas in relation to the requirements of integrity and management on the World Heritage List.
- A short list, maximum of 3-5 properties per region– but ideally fewer – of the priority sites with potential for World Heritage Listing as marine properties of outstanding universal value. The existing tentative lists of States Parties to the World Heritage List should be reviewed as part of this process. However the scope of recommendations should not be limited to properties included on existing tentative lists. IUCN notes that it would ideally wish to have a view that could lead towards the potential 'completion' of World Heritage listing of marine properties, and that advice to States Parties on sites on tentative lists that may be unlikely candidates would be helpful to guide these sites towards consideration of alternative or complementary means of listing including national mechanisms, or Conservation International's seascapes, Man and Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites or UNESCO Geoparks.
- Expectations for the levels of integrity and the quality of conservation, education and visitor management (and its documentation and monitoring) for World Heritage marine properties. This may serve as an exemplar for the management of marine areas more generally including advice relevant to Geoparks, and to national and regionally recognised protected areas which are significant marine areas.
- A section should be included to guide States Parties on the preparation of comparative analyses.
- A section should be prepared to guide States Parties on the preparation of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.
- A section should be included which explains other opportunities for further support the conservation of MPAS from international instruments such as the designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas through the International Maritime Organisation and oil spill compensation programmes.
- An introduction to applying the World Heritage Convention methodology to identifying properties of OUV to the high seas, for discussion purposes.

Summary information in tables and diagrams is strongly encouraged. This report should be prepared for the 2011 meeting of the World Heritage Committee, which will require a first draft by April, 2010, and completed manuscripts by February, 2011

A draft table of contents for the thematic study was developed during the Bahrain Workshop, as a key element of the Action Plan, and is set out in Annex 2.

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Annex 3. Relationship between the 5Cs of the World Heritage Convention and specific steps recommended in the Bahrain Action Plan.

The current Strategic Objectives (also referred to as “the 5 Cs”) are the following:

1. Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List: Filling the gap in the marine areas, finding a way to address the 50% of the high seas
2. Ensure the effective Conservation of World Heritage Properties: Management effectiveness, Levels of protection and no-take
3. Promote the development of effective Capacity-building in States Parties; Networking between States Parties and site managers.
4. Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication; using existing platforms
5. Enhance the role of Communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention: Identification of outstanding universal value, design and management of MPAs

In 2002 the World Heritage Committee revised its Strategic Objectives (Decision 31 COM 13) . The Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (2002) is available at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/budapestdeclaration>

		Credibility	Conservation	Capacity	Communication	Community
1	Actions for Capacity Building					
1.1	Research and Analysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
1.2	Regional capacity building workshops		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
1.3	Opportunities with training and missions		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.4	Regional training centres		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.5	Mentoring programs		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.6	Training Sites		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	Actions for delivery of new marine protected areas with potential World Heritage values					
2.1	Reviewing Tentative Lists and regional	<input type="radio"/>				<input type="radio"/>
2.2	Toolkits and web-based resources for		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
2.3	Thematic Review	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
2.4	Supporting studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
2.5	Communication Strategy		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.6	Cultural Heritage	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.7	Expanding the application of the Convention	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	Action for improving Networking					
3.1	Regional Fora and updates		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2	Focal points for networking		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
3.3	Social Networking for MPA managers			<input type="radio"/>		
3.4	Websites and IT resources as aids for work	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
4	Actions for improving MPA data and its use					
4.1	Sharing and updating data quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.2	Mapping boundaries and management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>
4.3	Data sharing and support		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
4.4	Gaining access to existing MPA studies	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		
4.5	Improving MPA data and its use					
4.6	Development of the IUCN thematic study on marine World Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Annex 4. Provisional work Programme, budget and institutional roles to implement the Bahrain Action Plan. [to be further developed]

		Lead Institution	Outputs	Expected Results and Outcomes	Measure/ Indicator	Budget	Donor
1	Actions for Capacity Building						
1.1	Research and Analysis						
1.2	Regional capacity building workshops						
1.3	Opportunities with training and missions						
1.4	Regional training centres						
1.5	Mentoring programs						
1.6	Training Sites						
2	Actions for delivery of new marine protected areas with potential World Heritage values						
2.1	Reviewing Tentative Lists and regional MPAs						
2.2	Toolkits and web-based resources for guidance						
2.3	Thematic Review						
2.4	Supporting studies						
2.5	Communication Strategy						
2.6	Cultural Heritage						
2.7	Expanding the application of the Convention						
3	Action for improving Networking						
3.1	Regional Fora and updates						
3.2	Focal points for networking						
3.3	Social Networking for MPA managers						
3.4	Websites and IT resources as aids for work						
4	Actions for improving MPA data and its use						
4.1	Sharing and updating data quality						
4.2	Mapping boundaries and management zones						
4.3	Data sharing and support						
4.4	Gaining access to existing MPA studies						
4.5	Improving MPA data and its use						
4.	Development of the IUCN thematic study on marine World Heritage						
6							

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Supporting CD: meeting agenda, presentations & resources (web-based version to be updated, CD – multimedia PDFs etc)

Itemise content to be included - Sachiko to develop using the online resources

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