

4th CONFERENCE OF THE WATER DIRECTORS OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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The European Marine Strategy

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European Commission

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Origin

Sixth Community Environment Action Programme 2002-2011

- “a thematic strategy for the protection and conservation of the marine environment taking into account inter alia the terms and implementation obligations of marine Conventions, and the need to reduce emissions and impacts of sea transport and other sea and land based activities”



Milestones

1. 6th Environment Action Programme (2002)
2. Communication 2002 "Towards a Strategy to Protect and Conserve the Marine Environment"
3. EU Council Conclusions 2003 and 2004, EU Parliament
4. Barcelona Convention, OSPAR, HELCOM
5. Stakeholder consultation conferences in 2002 and 2004
6. Working groups 2002-2005
7. Package adopted by the Commission, 2005
8. Institutional processes, technical developments, increased international cooperation
9. 2007: final agreement?



The Vision

« to protect and restore Europe's oceans and seas and ensure that human activities are carried out in a sustainable manner so that current and future generations enjoy and benefit from biologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas that are safe, clean, healthy and productive »

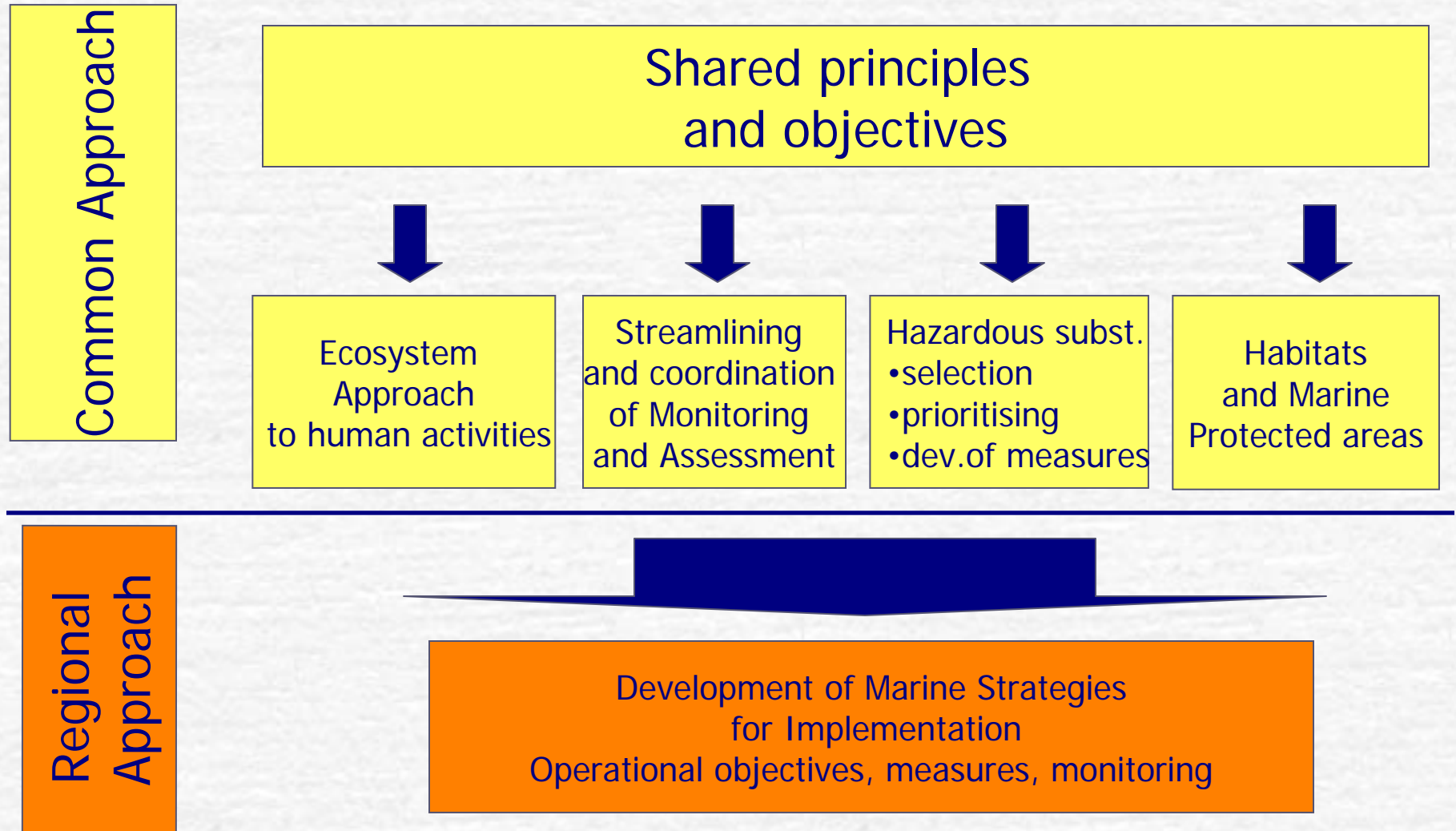


Obligations for EU Countries

- Assessment:
 - of environmental status
 - of environmental impact of human activities
- determination of good environmental status
- establishment of environmental targets
- monitoring programme
- programme of measures to achieve good environmental status designed and into operation.



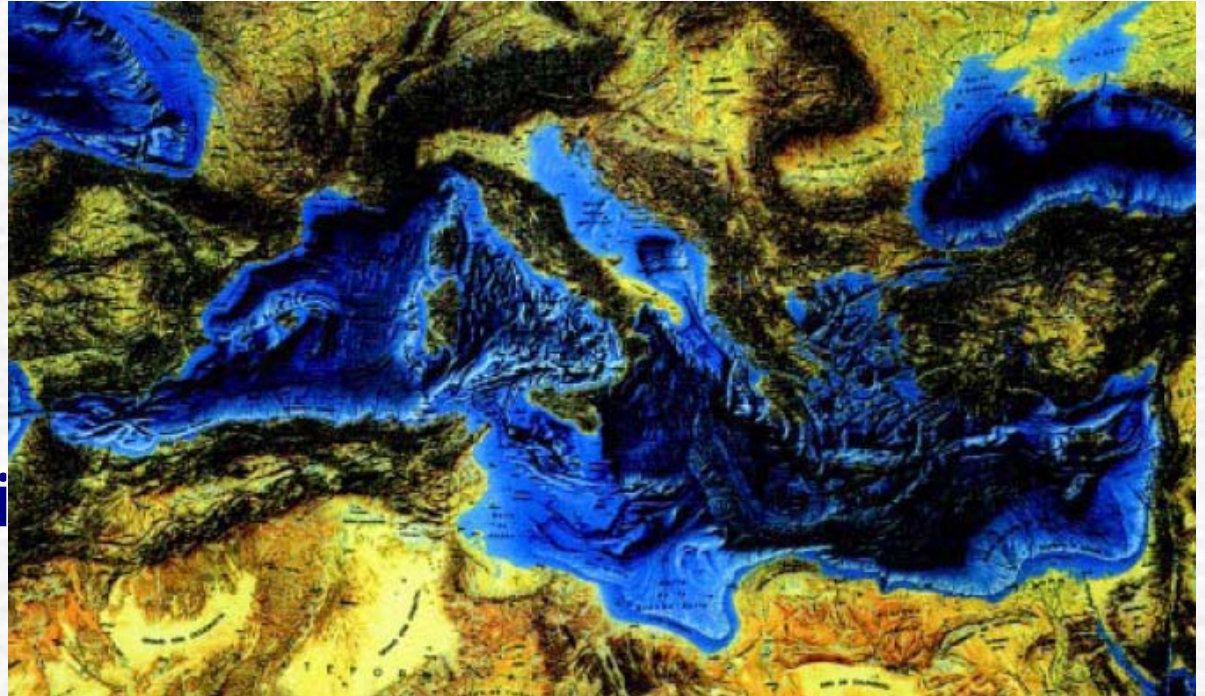
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Regions

- Baltic
- North East Atlantic
- Mediterranean
 - Western
 - Adriatic
 - Ionian
 - Aegean Levanti
- Black Sea



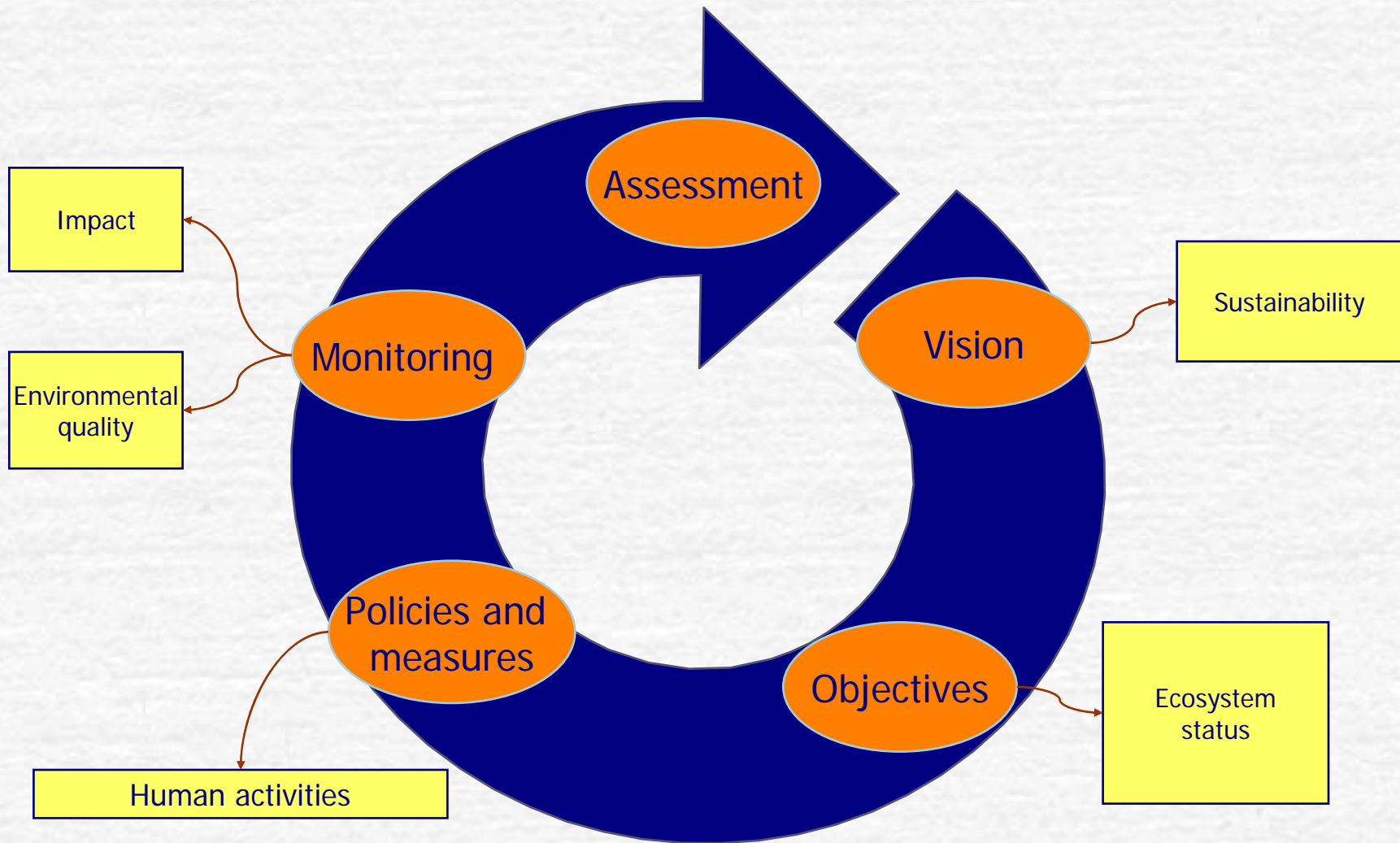


Ecosystem Approach





EMS: seeking for consistency





Regional Conventions

- HELCOM, OSPAR, Barcelona, Bucharest
- EU Members to “cooperate with” and “within”
- Recognition
 - History not always easy
 - No intention to take over
 - Multilateral cooperation: Barcelona, Black Sea



Regional Conventions

- A privileged forum to agree, develop long-term commitments and policies, which provide support/help to their implementation
- Agendas focussed on/ promoting widely accepted principles and policies
- RMCs should:
 - Carry political weight
 - Be resourced enough to deliver
 - Be accountable, transparent



More information at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm

Thanks!

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