



## CPPS WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED REGIONAL OCEANIC POLICY

**Organised by the CPPS, in collaboration with the Partnership for Regional Governance (UNEP, IASS, IDDRI)**

### **PLACE:**

Bogota, Colombia.

### **DATE:**

28<sup>th</sup>– 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To explore options for an integrated regional ocean policy in the South-East Pacific, including for areas beyond national jurisdiction

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since 1952, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) is the appropriate organization that coordinates regional maritime policies in order to adopt concerted positions of its Member States (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) in international negotiations, development of the Law of the Sea, International Environmental Law and other multilateral initiatives. CPPS is also engaged in capacity building processes at the national and regional levels in scientific, socio-economic, policy and environmental areas. The geographic scope of the CPPS covers the marine and coastal environment of the South-East Pacific.

At the VIII.CPPS Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in Puerto Ayora, Galapagos, Ecuador, on 17 August 2012, the Ministers agreed on a series of decisions related to the governance of the South-East Pacific in the so-called “Commitment of Galapagos for the XXI. Century”.<sup>1</sup> In paragraph I.1, the Ministers “[...] express their commitment to the new strategic orientation of the Organization, according to which the CPPS, in view of the challenges of the XXI Century, will support Member Countries to achieve in an integrated perspective, their sustainable development. This, as defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Agenda 21, taking into account, among others, the Ecosystem Approach, the Precautionary Principle and the international instruments aimed at the protection of seas and oceans, respecting national policies and mechanisms in effect in each country. This orientation applied in the areas of sovereignty and jurisdiction of Member States of the CPPS, will also guide its projection beyond that zone, including the Pacific basin”.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://cpps.dyndns.info/asambleas/x\\_asamblea/Commitment%20of%20Galapagos%20for%20the%20XXI%20Century.pdf](http://cpps.dyndns.info/asambleas/x_asamblea/Commitment%20of%20Galapagos%20for%20the%20XXI%20Century.pdf)

Global trends towards integrated ocean policies have been recognized by the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and have been confirmed by the post-2015 development agenda 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. This highlights the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources through Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Already in 1952, the Santiago Declaration in its preamble stated that "*governments are bound to ensure their people's access to necessary food supplies and to furnish them with the means of developing their economy*".

Later at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, world leaders agreed on the Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which advocates the widespread application of the Precautionary Principle as a key governance principle in the following terms:

*"In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation".<sup>2</sup>*

Both the Santiago Declaration and the Precautionary Principle have been recognized in the Commitment of Galapagos<sup>3</sup> and have become framework elements of CPPS' future action.

Another important element incorporated in the Commitment of Galapagos for the XXI. Century is the Ecosystem Approach, which "*is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention [on Biological Diversity]. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integrated component of ecosystems*".<sup>4</sup>

All these commitments complement the Santiago Declaration and facilitate its modern interpretation. To ensure coherency of the CPPS statutes and other strategic documents, and in light of these developments, the CPPS considers a process to formulate a proposal for an integrated regional ocean policy document for the South-East Pacific.

Based on commonly agreed ocean governance principles for the region, it could be feasible to design a regional ocean policy that ensures also a strong position of the region in international forums.

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<sup>2</sup>Principle 15, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>. (Voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development).

<sup>3</sup> CPPS - Commitment of Galapagos for the XXI Century (2012).

<sup>4</sup>Convention on Biological Diversity. <https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/>

## **CPPS WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED REGIONAL OCEAN POLICY:**

In view of these developments, the Secretary General of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific has invited the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG), an initiative launched in 2015 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), to provide support in organizing and implementing, in conjunction with the CPPS, a workshop which will gather 15 to 20 experts from the CPPS, and other international and regional organisations, civil society and research centres, in Bogota, Colombia, from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The aim of this workshop is to discuss a vision of an integrated regional ocean policy within the national jurisdiction of CPPS Member States and adjacent waters beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and inform related decision-making within the CPPS and its Member States.

Specifically, this workshop will:

- Explore the relationships between national ocean policies designed and developed in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, their connections with other global ocean governance issues, such as the governance of ABNJ, and the overall role of Regional Seas programmes and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in this context;
- Review lessons learnt from integrated ocean policies in other regions and explore their possible application to the South-East Pacific;
- Identify possible options and steps forward towards an integrated regional ocean policy for the South-East Pacific;
- Explore possible means of implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and identify levers to link the implementation of the ecosystem approach to broader issues related to sustainable development, such as food security, land-based activities, employment, health, and other important factors.