

# Coral Reef Partnership UNEP - Regional Seas

9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected  
Areas  
Suva, Fiji, 2-6 December 2013



# Ecosystem Services

- High biodiversity, 25% of known marine species
- Healthy reefs can produce 35 tons of fish per km<sup>2</sup> each year
- Pacific dependence on fisheries for livelihoods and sustenance 50-90%
- Very high service value for tourism, shoreline protection



# Coral Reef Crisis

- A fifth of the world's coral reefs have been lost
- In the Pacific 50% of reefs are threatened, 20% high or very high threat
- Direct stresses including overfishing, sewage, nutrient and other pollution are compounded by climate change and ocean acidification
- Urgency of action reflected in international commitments: Aichi Target 10 and ICRI

# UNEP's work on coral reefs

- Partnership approach to mobilize UNEP affiliated centers and Regional Seas in collaboration with governments, technical organizations and private sector
  - Catalyse and support an ecosystem approach to management of coral reefs and surrounding areas, towards achieving Aichi Target 10 and other commitments
- ⇒ global level community of practice to support exchange of lessons learned and, where required, develop new tools and approaches
- ⇒ regional level adaptation of approaches, tools and methods, and facilitating their adoption through regional intergovernmental mechanisms
- ⇒ national level pilot or demonstration implementation and capacity building

# Thematic Work Areas

***Management for resilient coral reefs:*** collect, share and, as necessary, develop indicators, methods, planning tools, and policy guidance to build capacity for adaptive, ecosystem-based management

***Sustaining coastal ecosystem services for people and businesses:*** enable application of an ecosystem services approach in public and private sector decision-making, and development of sectoral codes of practice

***Knowledge for coastal policy:*** support Regional Seas state of environment reporting and other assessment for coral reef decision-making; develop and apply indicators for tracking progress towards targets



# Coral Reef Resilience Indicators and Tools for Ecosystem Based Management

Reef management must anticipate and accommodate climate change and ocean acidification impacts, address multiple stresses, and secure ecosystem services for dependent people and sectors.

## Activities

- Scientifically robust coral reef resilience metrics for use in existing planning and decision support frameworks, development of related planning tools
- 'Whitepaper' on coral resilience in MSP early 2014
- National demonstration projects and capacity building, starting late 2014
- Socio-ecological resilience in coral reef areas
- Provide input for CBD Specific Work Plan on Coral Bleaching; SBSTTA 18



# Ecosystem Service Approach

Public financing of coral reef management is insufficient and a broader support base is needed. More strategic use of ecosystem service assessment and valuation as well as economic instruments is required.

## Activities

- Guidance for policy/decision oriented ecosystem service valuation
- Regional training for policy makers and planners
- Pilot/demonstration application:
  - Ecosystem service valuation for public and private investment decisions
  - Financial instruments such as PES, offsets, compensation/mitigation
  - Business planning and engagement especially in the tourism sector



# Coral Reef Assessment and Reporting for Decision Making

Tracking long-term reef change is critical for understanding the effects of multiple stresses and identifying appropriate planning and management responses at national as well as regional levels.

## Activities:

- Comprehensive regional GCRMN reports with long term trend analyses
- Development of regionally appropriate coral reef indicators and reporting formats for regional adoption and use
- Data management solutions for coral reef status reporting, analytical outputs
- Integration of coral reef status reporting with global coral reef habitat data
- GCRMN Global Status and Outlook Report 2016



# SIDS and the Pacific

- Rio+20: The Future We Want
- SIDS Barbados 1994, Mauritius 2005, Apia 2014
- Pacific Oceanscape framework, SPREP Strategic Plan
- Pacific Action Strategy for Nature Conservation

=> Enhanced delivery against international and regional obligations

=> Support for regional and national implementation of regional strategies and plans

=> Projects, technical capacity and tools addressing regional priorities





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