



**PRCM**

PARTENARIAT RÉGIONAL POUR LA CONSERVATION  
DE LA ZONE CÔTIÈRE ET MARINE  
EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

RENEWED COALITION  
TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES  
ALONG WEST AFRICAN  
COASTLINE

Annual Report  
2012





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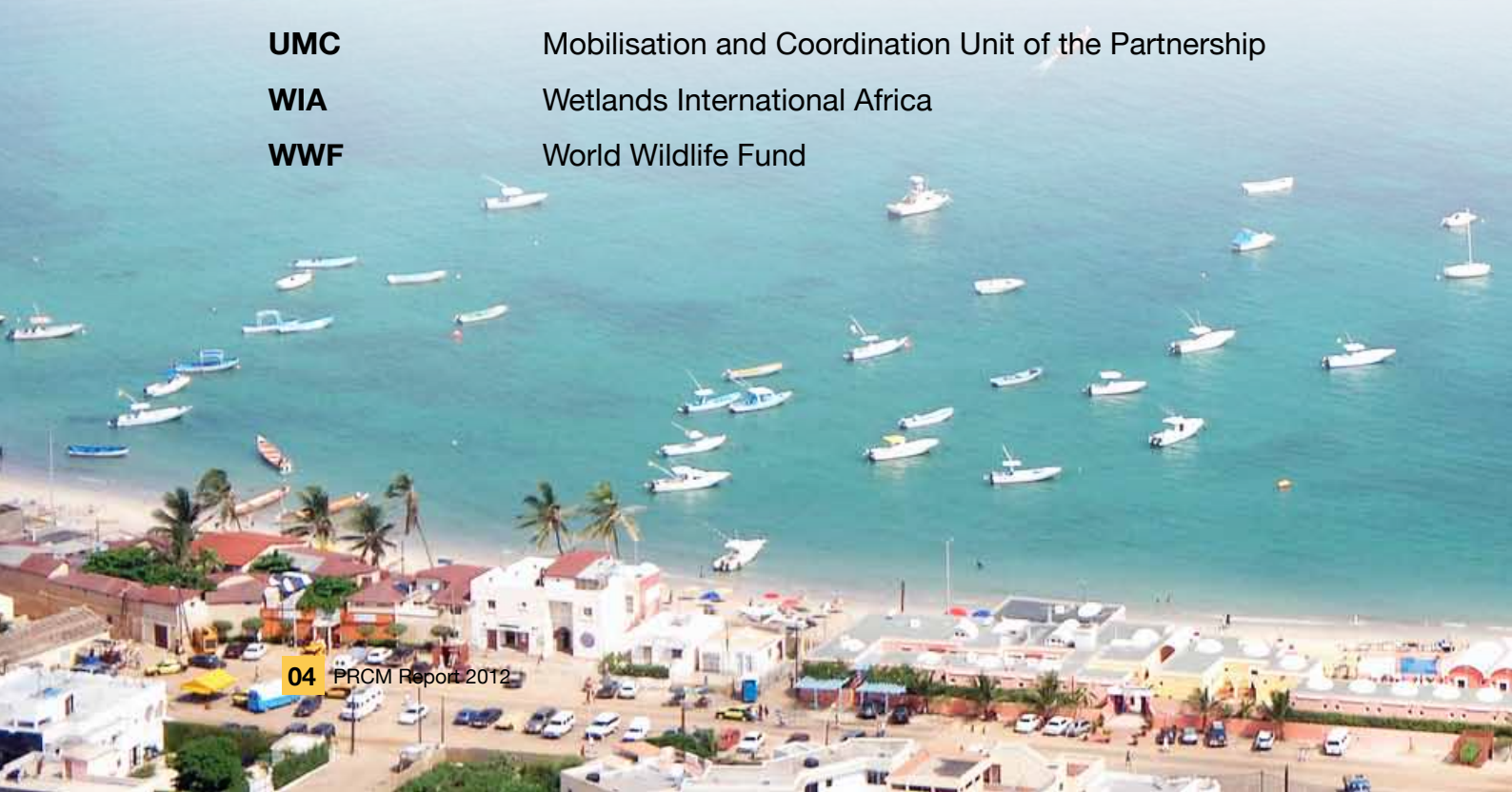
# Contents

Acronyms .....	4
Editorial .....	5
Vision and mission of the Partnership .....	6
Our priorities for action .....	7
Landmarks in the history of PRCM .....	8
The new PRCM governance system .....	12
Overview of the activities of the transition period .....	14
The outlook for the PRCM in 2013 .....	23



# Acronyms

<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>APPEL</b>	Alliance des Parlementaires et Elus Locaux pour la Protection de l'Environnementaux des pays du Littoral ouest-africain
<b>BIOMAC</b>	Réseau Ouest Africain de Biodiversité Marine et Côtière
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CRP</b>	Comité Régional de Pilotage
<b>SRFC</b>	Sub-regional Fisheries Commission
<b>FIBA</b>	International Foundation for the Banc-d'Arguin
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organisation
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>UNEP</b>	UN Environmental Program
<b>PRCM</b>	Regional Partnership for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Area
<b>RAMPAO</b>	West African MPAs Network
<b>REPAO</b>	West African Network on Fisheries Policies
<b>RESOCOTAO</b>	Réseau régional de planification Côtière EN Afrique de l'Ouest
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>UMC</b>	Mobilisation and Coordination Unit of the Partnership
<b>WIA</b>	Wetlands International Africa
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund



# Editorial

The year 2013 starts under favourable auspices. Indeed, the PRCM that gathered over a decade many actors in the conservation of the West African coast under a program, is changing a design and taking a new look. The process of reflection on the principles and guidelines of its third phase was completed in year 2012. PRCM is now considered a Partnership involving a broad regional coalition with common challenges, and not as a Program based on a portfolio of projects.

Under the leadership of the founding organizations of the program, namely Wetlands International Africa (WIA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Foundation for the Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), the Global Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), and financial partners who have been supporting this process for a long time, especially the Embassy of the Netherlands in Dakar and the MAVA Foundation, PRCM made the decision to broaden the movement by laying emphasis on national structures and actors. We all hope that within this inclusive platform, the expertise of everyone will be valorised and shared to create the necessary leverage for good environmental governance of our coastline.

To achieve this, the PRCM governance system has been revised and new areas of intervention have been reformulated. Thus, the partnership is now governed by a membership charter that sets out the membership criteria. The Steering Committee was expanded to include representatives of various stakeholders' categories grouped into "Colleges". PRCM mainly provides its members with value-added services and will provide them with expertise in the areas of advocacy and lobbying. Everything is ready to overcome all the new challenges that lie ahead and ensure concerted and constructive conservation of coastal and marine areas in West Africa.



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*Director of the Regional  
Partnership for Marine  
and Coastal Conservation  
(PRCM)*



# Vision and mission of the Partnership

The vision of PRCM is “to promote a healthy coastal and marine environment for the well being of West African populations.”

## *Its mission consists in :*

- \* Mobilizing and strengthening the capacity and skills of stakeholders;
- \* Promoting dialogue and building a shared vision among the different categories of stakeholders involved in coastal issues;
- \* Supporting, through its network of partners, the coherence and coordination of different active interventions at regional, national and local levels;
- \* Conducting policy advocacy to strengthen the process of conservation and management of the coastal zone;
- \* Supporting the consistency and harmonization of policies and agreements at national, regional and international levels;
- \* Sustainably mobilizing technical and financial resources through active representation in international institutions and cooperation agencies;
- \* Mobilizing, leveraging, and sharing research findings, local knowledge and good practices.



## Our priorities for action

Over the period 2012-2016, the Partnership will work primarily on four areas:

- \* **The governance of the coastal and marine area** : the aim is to strengthen the process of good governance for the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.
- \* **The conservation of coastal and marine areas and the sustainable management of its resources** : The objective is to effectively promote and implement tools and mechanisms for the conservation of coastal and marine areas, and the sustainable management and development of the resources.
- \* **The analysis, prevention and management of risks and issues in coastal and marine areas** : this is to better understand the risks and challenges facing the coast, their consideration at various levels of planning and response, and mitigation of negative impacts..
- \* **Mobilization and Coordination of the Partnership** : This area has the objective of broadening, sustaining, mobilizing and coordinating the Partnership to enable it to achieve the goals.

While directing its actions according to these four areas, the Partnership will remain as flexible and dynamic as possible to integrate new opportunities and priorities considered relevant. Facilitation of interactions between the partners, the coordination of their interventions, lobbying and advocacy with different target groups will be at the heart of its operations. It will also seek to promote the consistency of the different approaches and interventions implemented by its members and partners.





## *landmarks in the history of PRCM*

### **Before 1997: the first actions of the West African coastal conservation.**

The situation of coastal conservation efforts in West Africa was limited to the establishment of several marine protected areas and the implementation of a few projects in a piecemeal approach.

### **1997: Launch of the Regional Network on Coastal Planning – RESOCOTAO**

Designed as a network of expertise, it offered a number of guidelines which foreshadowed the PRCM, especially regarding the need to address eco-regional issues. One of the first interventions related to shark fishing





## **2000: Signing of a memorandum of understanding and partnership between IUCN, WWF, FIBA and WIA**

This memorandum establishes the principle of collaboration between international conservation organizations, materialized soon after by a workshop on the theme: “West African coastal zone conservation priorities.” Participants were struck on this occasion by the similarity of the priorities expressed by the different country representatives, in particular the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the sustainable management of fisheries resources, and the conservation of marine biodiversity and mangroves.

## **2002: First step towards the establishment of PRCM**

This began with a regional workshop on the theme “Marine Protected Areas in West Africa: how to strengthen their profitable contribution to fishing and biodiversity.” The ensuing regional strategy on MPAs is still valid and is now an international reference. It was submitted for validation to the Ministers in charge of Environment and Fisheries of the countries involved who have approved it by signing on this occasion a Policy Statement expressing their determination to support the PRCM initiative as a whole. This articulation with policies proved decisive in the achievements of the implementation of the strategy.

### **2003: Official launch of the PRCM**

The launch took place in Dakar during a first meeting of all the technical and financial partners of the program. On this occasion a memorandum of understanding and cooperation was signed with the Permanent PRSP Secretariat, which has since become a strategic partner of PRCM and covers the same geographical area. This protocol reflects the readiness of states for marine conservation and represents for the programme its necessary articulation with government policies and their harmonization at the regional level..

### **2004 - 2007: First phase**

During this period the achievements led to the creation of new MPAs and the establishment of their regional network (RAMPAO), to the conservation of critical habitats such as mangroves and of biodiversity with action plans for sharks and rays, marine turtles, seabirds, manatees or the monk seal, the management of fisheries, including shellfish, and the issue of offshore hydrocarbons. PRCM has also supported many research and communications activities. The Regional Marine and Coastal Area Forum gathered around 150 participants from 7 countries 3 times and in various capitals, to collectively build a shared vision of coastal development.





## 2008 - 2012: Second phase

The regional integration continued by regularly holding the Forum and implementing the various action plans for marine protected areas, biodiversity, fisheries, hydrocarbons. A particular effort has been directed towards strengthening the institutional capacity and expertise of partners through tools, small grants, training, exchange visits and fellowships. Besides RAMPAO, several networks have been created such as the network of parliamentarians and local elected officials for the environment, the network on fisheries policies, or the Regional Environmental Education Programme. The existence of these networks meets the need to structure concertation and collaboration in a way to promote the consistency of interventions and to strengthen capacities to lobby. A Charter for the Conservation of mangroves was signed by the Ministers of the Environment. Active collaboration was established with several international conventions, in particular the CBD and the Abidjan Convention.

## 2012: Refocusing PRCM and beginning the 3rd stage

The original Program became the Partnership for the conservation of the marine and coastal area in West Africa, following the decision of the representatives of the Forum held in Banjul.



## The new PRCM governance system

In its new guidelines, PRCM has evolved from a program structure into a platform for partnership between the various categories of stakeholders, from local to regional level grouped into “Colleges”. This change is intended, among other things, to better adapt to challenges by building and strengthening an inclusive coalition. The governance system responsible for setting priorities and the intervention mechanisms of the partnership was therefore revised to be as representational as possible of the diversity of actors and interests.

It includes the **PRCM Partners Forum** which brings together the various stakeholders’ categories in the coastal and marine areas that are national and intergovernmental institutions, scientific institutions, national and international NGOs, socio-professional organizations, the private sector (fishing, tourism, oil) and financial partners. It is within the Forum that the strategic orientations of PRCM, and its governance system are discussed, and that recommendations are made to stakeholders.





The PRCM governance system also includes Colleges. They are a major innovation in the new direction taken by the partnership. The Colleges, six of them in number, gather different categories of actors, namely :

- \* National Civil Society Actors
- \* Government institutions
- \* National and local elected officials,
- \* Professional fishing organizations,
- \* Those involved in research and teaching,
- \* International NGOs.

The **Regional Steering Committee** (RSC) performs the same function as previously, but with some rearrangements. In its new form, it consists of one representation per college and meets every six months. It includes eight permanent members, and technical and financial partners.





## *Overview of the activities of the transitional period*

The second half of 2012 was utilized to strengthen the governance of PRCM, to learn and present the main results achieved by the program during its second phase. During this period, the PRCM has participated in several regional and international events that were both opportunities to communicate its new orientations, and to give visibility to the results of previous phases.

### **Participation in the World Conservation Congress**

During the World Conservation Congress held in Jeju, South Korea, PRCM organized a side event to present its 2012-2016 strategy. The event was attended by the General Director of MAVA and other high-profile figures such as the President of the Good Energies Foundation, the Secretary General of the Conservation Wildlife Society (CWS), and the UNEP Policy Director. On this occasion, the DG of MAVA pledged a 2.25 million Euros contribution of his Foundation to the budget of PRCM.





The partnership also facilitated the participation of some members in this important global meeting for conservation, including the President of the National Agency for Environmental Protection of Sierra Leone and the Head of the West African Network on Fisheries Policies.

### **PRCM actively involved in the 10th COP to the Abidjan Convention**

PRCM and some of its partners (WIA, FIBA, the IUCN Coastal and Marine Program, and the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas) shared with the participants in the 10th Conference of Parties (COP) to the Abidjan Convention in October 2012, in a side event, some of the leading achievements of the program during its second phase in particular, the establishment of RAMPAO, and the process of signing the regional charter on mangrove conservation.

Regarding the mangrove, the countries covered by the PRCM signed at the Forum held in Nouakchott, a regional charter following the work carried out by IUCN and WIA. With reference to this process, the parties to the Convention adopted a motion to develop an additional protocol to the Convention on the mangrove. This motion is in recognition of the multiple environmental services provided by these ecosystems, which represent significant portions of the West and Central African coast. UNEP, IUCN, WIA with support from PRCM, are considering to jointly support the secretariat of the Abidjan Convention for the preparation of the Additional Protocol and its future implementation in the field.



On marine protected areas, PRCM also contributed its experience to the Abidjan Convention. The launch of RAMPAAO in 2007 was supported by FIBA and the PRCM. It now has 25 members established in six countries in West Africa. The network has developed a database and information system on MPAs and the eco-region, and has helped to significantly improve the quality of their management. With the support of PRCM, RAMPAAO has since 2012 an independent secretariat consisting of a Secretary General, a Communications Officer, and a Programs Manager. PRCM will continue in 2013 to support through a capacity building program for MPA managers and practitioners. This experience was instrumental in the definition of a strategic work plan on marine protected areas on the Atlantic coast of Africa.

PRCM also presented elements of a regional plan for coastal risks reduction in West Africa prepared by IUCN with the support of WAEMU and was commended for its support to the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention for the ratification by Mauritania and Guinea Bissau, bringing to 16 the number of signatory countries.



### **PRCM support to Mauritanian Government in plastic waste control**

Since 2010, PRCM is supporting initiatives to raise public awareness and to find alternatives to the use of plastic bags in Mauritania and Cape Verde. In this perspective, it supported the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mauritania (MDEDD) for awareness-raising on the threats associated with the use of plastic bags, and the development of viable and innovative alternatives.

In June 2012, the Decree N ° 157-2012 prohibiting the import, marketing and use of plastic bags and packets, and packaging in Mauritania was adopted, with entry into force on January 1st, 2013. The MDEDD held on December 31, 2012 in Nouakchott, the launch of the national campaign for the enforcement of this decree. Today, the look of different cities of Mauritania is beginning to change: plastic bags – zazou as they are called colloquially in Mauritania – are no more piling up in the streets like before. PRCM plans to popularize this initiative, particularly by encouraging meetings between Mauritanian stakeholders and those of Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde that are facing the same challenge.



## PRCM displays main challenges at CBD COP11

On the sidelines of the 11th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012, the PRCM organized a side event in collaboration with the regional office of WWF based in Senegal. The purpose was to share the achievements of the PRCM and its main challenges and prospects for the West African sub-region.

Mr. Nitin Desai, a member of the Board of WWF International, Mr. Lasse Gustavsson, Executive Director of Conservation of WWF International, Lamine Jawara, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Gambia, Ousmane Kane, President of RAMPAO, well as representatives of the PRCM present on this occasion have all taken the floor.

### Participants in this event made the following recommendations :

- \* The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by States;
- \* The development and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans for;
- \* Updating the manifestation of sub-regional intent in the Lifeweb process;
- \* The organization of a donors' roundtable by the PRCM in 2013;
- \* Diversification of technical and financial partners to support coastal conservation actions;
- \* Greater synergy between countries, particularly on cross-border aspects.



## PRCM supports dissemination of revised Convention on minimum requirements for access to fishery resources (CCMA)

The CCMA is a major tool for harmonizing policies and strategies of fishing in the sub-region. Recognizing the need to maintain the relatively abundant fishery resources, Member States had signed in 1993 a sub-regional legal instrument for regulating access conditions in waters under national jurisdiction called “Convention on the Determination of the Conditions for Access and Exploitation of fishery resources off the coast of SRFC member states”. Given the development of the fisheries sector, the Convention turned obsolete, hence the revision process initiated by the SRFC actors, supported by PRCM.

The adoption by the 13th Special Conference of Fisheries Ministers of the Convention concluded a long consultation process conducted in the seven countries. The Convention strengthens the governance framework of fisheries resources at the national and regional levels. Contacts have been initiated with the SRFC to define a process to promote the Convention and its popularization in countries, particularly through National Assemblies.



## PRCM supports think-tank on Pan-African policy framework for fisheries and the overall fisheries reform strategy in Africa

Under the leadership of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union - AU/IBAR, the validation meeting of the Reflection Group on the Pan-African policy framework for fisheries and comprehensive reform strategy of fisheries in Africa was held in Douala from 26 to 28 November 2012. Following the launch workshop held in June 2012 in Abidjan, the meeting aimed to validate regional evaluation reports, to agree on the strategic options for the reform of fisheries as well as outline the policy framework and strategy for reform. It gathered a hundred participants from members of the African Union and international partners of the fishing sector.

The sub-region is recognized as one of the most dynamic in the efforts of harmonization and consistency of fisheries policies. Having supported the efforts of the SRFC in the process of revising the Convention on Minimum Conditions for Access to Resources - CCMA (see above), the PRCM encourages and supports the participation of stakeholders in the region in this pan-African process and recognizes the importance of community policies and standards for the good governance of fisheries in the region.

Participants identified priority areas that should be taken into account in developing the pan-African fisheries policy framework. These are the conservation and sustainable use of resources, artisanal marine and inland fishing, sustainable aquaculture development, fair and responsible trade, strengthening regional cooperation, and the development of human capacities.





## Financial support to APPEL and REPAO networks

In 2012, the PRCM provided timely institutional support for several of its partners. Thus, the Regional Alliance of parliamentarians to protect the west African coast (APPEL) has received financial support to uphold the minimum network operation until the second phase of its support program (PREPARE) is funded. This has helped to maintain the parliamentary assistants assigned to networks for a few more months, and to hold a few meetings of national networks that were necessary to boost the alliance.

REPAO also received financial support from the PRCM to support its operations and strengthen its institutional governance bodies. In a nutshell, the network received a substantial support in the second phase of the PRCM which allowed it to implement its 2008-2011 action plan and be identified by ECOWAS as an operator for building the consistency of fisheries policies of the Community.

Finally, the PRCM supported a request by the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone for the implementation of a public education and environmental awareness campaign to promote positive changes in attitudes and behaviours towards the environment of the country.

## Establishment of the Partnership governance bodies

The first meeting of the new PRCM Steering Committee took place in October 2012. That meeting marked the launch of the new partnership and helped validate the main orientations of PRCM.

“Colleges” of international organizations, of national civil societies, and professionals of fishing were established. They agreed on the principles of collaboration that should underpin the implementation of their activities and their mode of operation. They also appointed their representatives to the Regional Steering Committee.

During the second half of 2012, the process of calls for proposals was launched for the recruitment of additional staff for the Coordination Unit. These processes have led to the recruitment of a Member Services Officer, a Communications Coordinator, a Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning Officer, as well as an Accountant.

## Dissemination of PRCM capitalization results

The PRCM distributed to all partners four documents illustrating the process and spirit in which the partnership was conducted, the main activities since its inception, the results and their impacts, as well as some of the lessons learned these ten years. The main documents disseminated are :

PRCM, 2012. [Agir ensemble dans la même direction. Une coalition pour faire face aux défis de la zone côtière en Afrique de l’Ouest : leçons apprises dans le cadre du PRCM \(2003 – 2012\).](#)

PRCM, 2012. [Le renforcement des capacités - La pierre angulaire d’une conservation efficace : Boite à outils de renforcement de capacité pour la conservation en Afrique de l’Ouest.](#)

PRCM, 2012 – [Un réseau de réseaux.](#)

PRCM, 2012 - [Etudes de cas des meilleures pratiques pour une biodiversité mieux protégée.](#)



## The PRCM perspective for 2013

At the end of the second semester of 2012, the PRCM achieved its primary goal, which was to ensure a smooth transition to a broader, better organized, new form of coalition to respond to the challenges of coastal conservation. In this context, a PRCM charter – which determines the conditions of engagement for members who are willing to join – has been developed and widely disseminated. Colleges gathering the various categories of stakeholders in the coastal zone were set up and are currently operational.

PRCM players also had the opportunity to participate in many international events at which, they held side events and workshops on the promotion of PRCM and the dissemination of its achievements.

In 2013, efforts will be directed primarily towards building “Colleges” and supporting the implementation of their action plans. PRCM will support them to ensure mutual consistency of their actions, and to try and develop synergies to reduce the duplication of efforts. PRCM will thus provide its members with services in the areas of advocacy, mobilization and lobbying to facilitate the implementation of their respective programs.





A substantial amount of the PRCM activities in 2013 will be dedicated to the facilitation of the partnership and the facilitation process around common major issues such as the Mangroves Initiative, the problem of illegal fishing and bycatch, the sustainable funding of Protected Areas/Lifeweb etc. Continued support will be provided to different networks created under the PRCM, and which are now major operational structures of the activities of the Partnership. In this context, the PRCM shall support the preparation, coordination and participation of its members in international events of major importance for the sub-region (World Conference on MPAs – IMPAC, World Environmental Education Congress – WEEC – International Conventions, etc.).

Finally, the PRCM will engage in organizing the seventh edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum slated for November 2013 in Dakar. On this occasion, a particular focus will be on better understanding emerging issues and defining coping strategies for the players. The issue of enhancing the legitimacy of the Forum as a framework for gathering, sharing and cooperating around common problems in coastal conservation, will also be addressed. Finally, the presence of participants will be an opportunity to bring together members of different networks and organize various trainings during the Forum.







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