

What is the RSAP and how will it benefit policy makers?

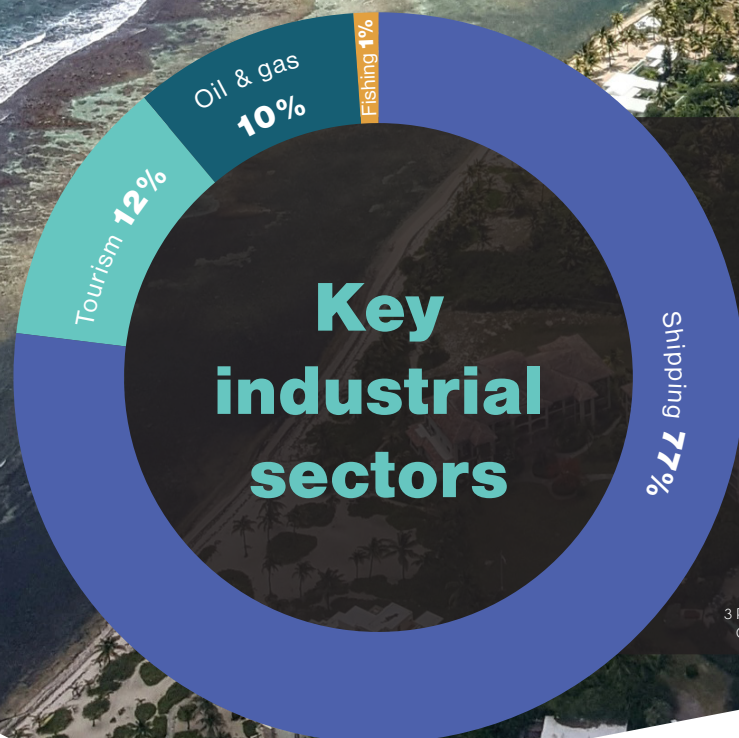
The *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 – 2030* (RSAP)¹ was developed to address the continued deterioration of the region's marine resources. It provides strategic direction, practical solutions, and specific actions to conserve and restore these vital habitats and protect the socio-economic goods and services they supply to the region.

RSAP implementation benefits policy makers by:

- providing solutions to challenges such as economic development, poverty alleviation, food security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- promoting the development of cross-boundary and multi-stakeholder solutions to shared resource threats;
- encouraging a shift toward integrated and interactive ocean governance; and
- contributing to the satisfaction of government commitments under international and regional environmental agreements².

¹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/36347>

² Including those under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention).



The economic and social wellbeing of more than **134 million people** across the wider Caribbean depends on the health of these habitats. The economic value of the Caribbean Sea to the region is estimated conservatively at **US\$407 billion** annually, with **US\$54.55 billion** directly linked to the marine and coastal habitats³ (see breakdown by key industrial sectors).

■ Shipping US\$311.32 billion	■ Tourism US\$47.1 billion
■ Oil & gas US\$39.89 billion	■ Fishing US\$4.99 billion
■ Aquaculture US\$1.9 billion	■ Coastal protection & carbon sequestration US\$1.56 billion
■ Desalination US\$0.23 billion	

³ Patil, P.G., Virdin, J., Diez, S.M., Roberts, J. and Singh, A. (2016). Toward A Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean; An Overview. Washington D.C.: The World Bank.

Key Points

- The RSAP was developed to address the decline in coastal and marine habitats and the related negative impacts on the economy and social wellbeing.
- The economic value of the Caribbean Sea is estimated to be US\$407 billion annually.
- US\$54.55 billion is linked to coastal and marine habitats.
- The RSAP is an action plan that will enhance economic development, poverty alleviation, food security, and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- The RSAP will contribute to satisfying government commitments under numerous global and regional environmental agreements.
- Successful implementation will result in healthier marine resources, continued or improved provision of critical socio-economic goods and services and healthier, more resilient communities.
- Effective and rapid implementation of the RSAP can best be achieved through collaboration between policy makers, civil society, the private sector, and academia.

What policy makers can do now

- Endorse and commit to implementation of the RSAP.
- Create enabling conditions achieving the objectives of the RSAP and mainstream in policies and programmes.
- Foster collaboration among national and local stakeholders and participate in regional initiatives.
- Mainstream institutional implementation of the RSAP and the recommended integrated, cross-sectoral governance approaches.