



Libertad y Orden

Office of the Vice President of the Republic



Colombian Ocean Commission

NATIONAL OCEAN AND COASTAL REGIONS POLICY (PNOEC)

COLOMBIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

"The borders of Colombia are those established in international treaties approved by the Congress, duly ratified by the President of the Republic, and those defined by arbitration awards in which Colombia takes part. The borders identified in the form provided for by this Constitution may be modified only by treaties approved by the Congress and duly ratified by the President of the Republic."

Besides the continental territory, the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia, Santa Catalina, and Malpelo are part of Colombia, in addition to the islands, islets, keys, headlands, and sand banks that belong to it. Also part of Colombia is the subsoil, the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the exclusive economic zone, the airspace, the segment of the geostationary orbit, the electromagnetic spectrum and the space in which it operates, in accordance with international law or the laws of Colombia in the absence of international regulations" (Art. 101 of the Constitution of Colombia).

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FOREWORD

The ocean is of great importance as a source of life, producer of oxygen, support for ecosystems, climate regulator, and reserve of food and water.

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In Colombia, the ocean accounts for some 50% of the national territory, and the country therefore possesses an immense treasure including the production of oxygen, fishing resources, maritime communication lines, and renewable and non-renewable energy.

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Such a vast expanse warrants development in accordance with the capacities, needs and challenges of the country in the twenty-first century. The Colombian Ocean Commission was restructured in 2000 to coordinate the enormous and important mission of proposing a National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy to promote the development of Colombia via its oceans and seas.

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This policy had the advantage of not being devised in reaction to existing problems related to the sea and coastal regions: it was the result of a proactive effort to further the country's knowledge and understanding of the marine environment.

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Thanks to the substantial effort of the members of the Colombian Ocean Commission, it was possible to finalize the National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy document, which was designed bearing in mind sustainable development, the precepts of international maritime law, recent advances in technology, research and education, and the need to conserve the marine environment for future generations and to manage ocean and coastal territory.

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The National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy, known as PNOEC for its Spanish abbreviation, took seven years to bring to fruition. There were consultations on various national scenarios and, in the last year, there was an additional workload for the Executive Secretariat which was involved in coordinating the input of 55 national experts in different sea-related disciplines and soliciting international advice. The policy was publicized in conferences throughout the country, published permanently on the CCO web portal, which also created an exclusive e-mail address to receive proposals and recommendations from all Colombians wishing to participate. Their input gave rise to revisions and discussions that provided feedback and were often used to correct the Policy, making this process the most complete and in-depth that has ever been carried out on the ocean and coasts in Colombia.

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The Colombian Ocean Commission has thus done its duty for the country. It has proposed improved quality of life for citizens through the sustainable and careful use of its natural marine and coastal resources, as the veil is drawn, providing the different branches of the Government with a road map that can guide the country to its maritime awakening, so that in the near future, Colombia can finally, fully turn towards the sea, as it has always dreamed of doing.

Francisco Santos Calderón
Chairperson of the Colombian Ocean Commission

INTRODUCTION

Since the birth of the Republic and even as far back as the colonial era, Colombia has identified its marine and coastal regions as a major factor in its development. These regions include the coastline, islands, islets, keys, banks and the continental shelf in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, over which the country has always exercised peacefully and without interruption sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Article 45 of Law No. 489 (1998) stipulates that the Government may create intersectoral commissions for the coordination and advanced supervision of various public functions and services. The commission may be created provided that two or more ministries, administrative departments or decentralised organizations are responsible for those functions and services, either by legal mandate or due to their nature, without prejudice to their specific powers. The Colombian Oceanographic Commission was thus restructured and renamed the Colombian Ocean Commission (CCO) in 2000, under Decree No. 347. The CCO's principal role was to propose a National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy (PNOEC) to the Government, combining administration and sustainable development and building on the progress of previous national and sectoral policies related to marine issues.

In accordance with the country's needs, the CCO Executive Secretariat led the analysis and development process for a comprehensive ocean and coastal regions policy. It did so by convening intersectoral and interagency meetings attended by the Commission's members, technical institutions and private companies from the national marine sector. This interdisciplinary effort produced a draft document entitled "Draft National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy" in December 2001. In 2002, the CCO Executive Secretariat continued its efforts to ensure interagency coordination and to concretise the work done previously. This culminated in the approval of the document entitled "National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy Guidelines" which was then adopted by CCO members in July 2002 and publicised through national workshops organized for this purpose.

The CCO Executive Secretariat is aware of the need to develop a comprehensive state policy that identifies, and tackles in a cross-cutting way, various problems affecting the public and private sectors. It thus decided in 2006 to produce a final, consolidated version of the Policy. This new document shall coordinate initiatives and new circumstances that are of national importance, such as sectoral policies, the 2019 Strategic Vision for Colombia (a long-term strategic planning document) in its second centenary and development plans.

In July 2006, the CCO Executive Secretariat established the National Inter-agency Committee for the National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy (CNI PNOEC) as an advisory body for the CCO. It is responsible for preparing the PNOEC and is comprised of officials representing each CCO member and other competent organizations.

Five subcommittees of the CNI PNOEC developed an instrument based on the evaluation of previous results of the PNOEC Guidelines and other documents such as the part of the 2019 Vision of Colombia document dealing with the oceans. It provides the country with a long-term tool that outlines the future challenges for institutional, territorial, economic and socio-cultural development, as well as the development of the ocean and coastal regions.

The PNOEC fulfils the need for a comprehensive outlook for the ocean that takes account of its ability to unite and integrate in spite of diversity and division. The ocean represents unity because it sustains networks of people, goods and services, cultures, traditions and a distinctive social structure. As a result, it must be managed within a specific government framework, since it is a public good destined for the use and enjoyment of all Colombians and subject to the surveillance and control of the organizations that act as guarantors of national sovereignty.

NATIONAL MARITIME INTERESTS

National maritime interests include: protecting the national sovereignty and integrity of the national marine territory, creating legislation for marine and coastal regions, protecting the marine and coastal environment while ensuring the sustainable use of its natural resources, promoting national social and economic development, promoting the recognition of national marine culture, promoting education on marine issues and developing scientific, technological and innovative research on the country's marine and coastal regions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

The following principles, on which the PNOEC is based, are intended to ensure accomplishment of its main objectives:

Territorial unity of the State: ocean and coastal regions are an integral part of sovereign territory. The policy shall thus use the territorial unity stipulated by national sovereignty as a reference, along with the participatory and decentralized planning, organization and management of the entire territory, based on respect for and recognition of cultural and natural diversity.

Interest of the State: the State emphasizes the importance of pursuing the development of the potential of the ocean, continental shelf, islands, islets, keys, promontories and banks, and coastal regions. It recognises the value of the resources they provide and of their uses and tries to make full, sustainable use of them for the sake of present and future generations of Colombians in accordance with national sovereign rights.

Balancing economic development and sustainability: the State uses various principles and measures to balance socioeconomic development, conservation and the sustainable use of its resources, in accordance with the right to exercise full and permanent national sovereignty.

Multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach: various marine sectors and disciplines participate in the comprehensive management of ocean and coastal regions. These entities come together under the guidance of the CCO to develop strategies in response to challenges related to national marine interests.

Community participation: due to its democratic, participatory and pluralist nature, the Colombia State recognises and promotes the active participation of all its citizens in the planning, use and conservation of its ocean and coastal regions through a practical and sustainable plan to use its resources.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to promote the sustainable development of ocean and coastal regions and the maritime interests of the nation. This can be achieved through the joint planning and implementation of strategies that shall ensure proper administration and economic use, public benefit, environmental conservation, socio-cultural development, surveillance and control of these regions under Colombia's jurisdiction.

1. CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

Within the PNOEC there are three inter-related aspects which cut across all elements of the Policy, namely: international issues, intersectoral issues and finally scientific, technological and innovative issues.

1.1 INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

In a world that is constantly changing, the Colombia State must play a consistent, guiding role determined by identifiable goals. These goals must be geared towards promoting the development of ocean and coastal regions in the broadest sense, from the political, social, territorial, economic, cultural and environmental points of view.

This effort must begin with the recognition of challenges inherent in the development of marine regions including the country's coastal zones. Efforts to reinforce multidisciplinary and interagency work in this field must continue to produce results on the national and international levels to facilitate and encourage the country's marine and coastal development.

Strategic international objectives

- Respecting principles and standards of international law ratified by Colombia

Colombia's foreign policy is based on the respect of principles and standards of international law enshrined in international instruments to which Colombia is a signatory and which, having been ratified, are part of its domestic legislation. These include sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, good faith in contracted agreements, peaceful settlement of disputes and the duty of cooperation among States.

Colombia defends its sovereign right to use its own resources while respecting its environmental policy, without prejudice to the provisions of ratified international agreements. It assumes its responsibility to ensure that activities carried out in its jurisdiction or under its control do not have a negative impact on other States or areas located outside of its national jurisdiction. Colombia also upholds the precautionary principle as the central point of international agreements on the environment.

- Protecting national sovereignty and integral development of land and sea borders

For the purposes of the PNOEC, Colombia fully exercises its sovereignty over its jurisdictional waters, continental shelf and coastal regions.

The State shall continue to employ various measures to guarantee the integrity of its marine, island and mainland territory. These measures include the protection of sovereignty by its military forces and national and international measures that reaffirm Colombia's jurisdiction over its marine, island and mainland territory. They respect the principles and standards of international law and the socioeconomic development of these areas, and guarantee the sustainable protection of biodiversity and natural resources.

- Protecting and promoting national marine interests on a multilateral level

Colombia's foreign policy respects its commitment to multilateralism concerning marine issues. Under the direction of the Ministry of External Relations, Colombia shall maintain and strengthen the consistent and organized protection of the country's interests through various multilateral forums already in existence or that are being created for this purpose. This is especially the case for those concerning the integral development of marine areas, as well as those that promote respect for sovereign territory and environmental protection and conservation.

- Consolidating strategic international relations

Colombia, along with other public and private international partners, shall maintain and improve a comprehensive development strategy for marine and coastal areas.

In order to promote multidisciplinary projects or measures of national interest, efforts shall continue to be made to strengthen ties with Latin America and the Caribbean. Relations shall also be deepened with public and private partners with extensive knowledge and experience in marine issues. Participation in organizations such as the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) shall thus increase and measures shall be proposed within the organization that could benefit Colombia.

As a Latin American country on the Pacific Basin, Colombia shall strengthen its ties and relations with Asia-Pacific countries.

In terms of the use of fishery resources, Colombia, which borders two oceans, has a key interest in the conservation and regulated use of living marine resources.

In this regard, Colombia shall try to obtain the necessary support to guarantee a fair and practical system for the distribution and exploitation of fishery resources, by using the mechanisms established in the international community.

In the same manner, Colombia shall support international consensus procedures in which related policies to prevent the overexploitation of marine resources are analysed.

- Negotiating, signing and following up international treaties on marine and coastal regions

The Ministry of External Relations, with the assistance of the competent national institutions, is responsible for negotiating, signing, following up and evaluating the outcome of international legal instruments. In the present document, this applies to marine and coastal regions.

Without prejudice to its international decision-making authority, the Ministry of External Relations convenes and presides over interagency meetings, as appropriate. These meetings shall provide access the necessary information to determine Colombia's position in bilateral and multilateral negotiations on marine and coastal issues. The Ministry of External Relations shall also methodically monitor international organization recommendations or mandates, as well as legal instruments for marine and coastal issues, at the intra- and interagency levels.

In order to adequately and efficiently meet the criteria of various organisations and international bodies and to maintain accurate national archives, all current record-keeping systems shall be improved in all the national agencies related to the marine and coastal sector.

Led by the Ministry of External Relations, the competent institutions shall propose the necessary measures to fulfil international obligations stipulated by legal instruments to which Colombia is party.

- International cooperation in marine and coastal regions

The Ministry of External Relations, with the assistance of the competent national bodies, is responsible for formulating international cooperation policies for issues related to the marine and coastal resources which are national priorities. With official development assistance and the help of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) it shall attempt to enhance knowledge, skills and the use of marine and coastal resources so as to improve various sectors of the national economy and the standard of living of the inhabitants of these areas. The international cooperation policy should be in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan and the fulfilment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

- Supporting inhabitants of marine and coastal regions in keeping with the State's defining constitutional obligation to serve the population

State institutions shall promote support for citizens, businesspersons and investors who stimulate socio-economic development, particularly by opening up markets for domestic goods and services. They shall also consolidate commercial and investment ties and produce socially advantageous programmes in marine and coastal regions.

The country's Ministry of External Relations, diplomatic missions and consulates abroad are committed to supporting these initiatives. In order to do so, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, PROEXPORT and other relevant bodies shall work together to develop ways to optimize work done in this field, and shall support and complement the work of embassies and consulates.

Inasmuch as resources are available, the State must also stimulate and support various scientific, technical, social, environmental, cultural and educational

efforts for the comprehensive development and advancement of marine and coastal issues.

The growing importance of non-governmental actors such as the academic, scientific, corporate and social sectors is now recognized and the independence and critical sense developed as a result of analysing, proposing and following up national and international marine and coastal issues are appreciated.

- Institutional strengthening of the Ministry of External Relations regarding marine and coastal issues

As the authority on international relations, the Ministry of External Relations must propose, guide, coordinate and implement Colombia's foreign policy.

With these duties in mind, the Ministry must guide, integrate and harmonize the sectoral policies and programmes of various State institutions related to foreign policy. Likewise, the law stipulates that it must nominate and determine the level of the delegations representing the country in bilateral and multilateral international meetings related to the marine and coastal sector.

The Ministry of External Relations and National Planning Department (DNP) shall continue to coordinate and follow up development plans and programmes for land and sea border areas, and ensure that they are implemented by the competent national and regional authorities.

The Ministry of External Relations shall adopt measures geared towards functional, thematic and human capacity-building regarding marine and coastal issues, for the proposals outlined in this document.

The San Carlos Diplomatic Academy, Colombia's external relations training establishment, shall promote the development of training programmes and workshops on the law of the sea, regional fishery bodies and similar organizations that encourage learning, research and developing strategic thinking in terms of foreign maritime policy.

1.2 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION-RELATED ISSUES

The country owns territorial waters, the continental shelf, and coastal spaces in both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Several kinds of activities and processes are carried out in these areas, including some related to tourism, fishing, maritime transport, mining, alternative energy generation, biodiversity conservation and recovery, science, technology and innovation, maritime culture, global climate change and governance.

For this reason, efforts must be made towards organizing, developing, reinforcing and consolidating marine science and technology in Colombia, so that the country may benefit from solid scientific and technological foundations that allow it to manage its coastal and marine zones and resources in a way that strikes a balance between conservation and productive development (sustainable use).

In line with the foregoing, strategic lines of research in the PNOEC's subject areas, as drawn up in conjunction with the National Environmental Policy for the

Sustainable Development of Colombian Ocean Areas and Coastal and Island Regions, shall be developed, reinforced, and supported by the entities making up the CCO and other marine science and technology related public and private institutions.

- Actions for the development of science, technology and innovation

The State, through marine science and technology-related research bodies, shall encourage international cooperation and promote the inclusion of national research groups into international marine research communities.

The bodies forming the CCO and other public and private institutes working in marine science and technology shall assess and disseminate the results of national research in marine science, technology and innovation, which may provide solutions to national or global issues that involve the quality improvement and sustainable use of marine ecosystems and resources, and consequently, the standard of living of Colombians.

The State, through marine science and technology-related research bodies, shall promote and reinforce the joint efforts of academia and industry in order to consolidate the relationship between research and innovation in marine science-related areas, geared towards technological development for the productive and social transformation of the country.

A Marine Science and Technology Information System shall be developed and implemented as a tool for gathering data on research carried out in the country. The system shall include data from both public and private bodies with research projects in marine sciences, which shall disseminate existing knowledge as well as the results of future studies.

The State, under the responsibility of the Environment Ministry (MADVT), in conjunction with the Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology "Francisco José de Caldas" (COLCIENCIAS), shall promote and create a network of marine research centres, which shall link all public and private bodies engaged in developing research activities in Colombian coastal areas for the rational use of the country's existing scientific capacity.

Marine science and technology-related bodies shall draw up strategies for coordinating work with other areas of knowledge that deal with coastal zones, their uses and resources, and for coordination and joint action with the scientific community and users of research, such as private and public bodies and community associations.

The State, through marine science and technology-related research bodies, shall promote, publicize and highlight national marine science research and its associated socio-economic benefits, in order to build public awareness of its importance in the country's development.

The State, led by the National Navy and DIMAR, with the support of marine science and technology-related public and private bodies, in coordination with COLCIENCIAS and through the National Science and Technology System, shall promote, publicize and highlight national scientific maritime research in areas relating to national security and defence, maritime strategy, oceanography,

hydrography, the maritime industry and other ocean-related fields, considering the associated social, economic, political and military benefits.

The State shall allocate special resources intended for research and technological development in the field of marine science and technology, naval strategy and the naval industry.

The State, under the responsibility of the Navy, shall establish the Centre for Strategic Naval and Maritime Studies, to encourage and orient technological research and development in the field of naval sciences and maritime and naval strategy and industry.

The State, led by the Environment Ministry, with the support of marine science and technology-related public and private bodies, in coordination with COLCIENCIAS and through the National Science and Technology System and INVEMAR, shall promote, publicize and highlight basic and applied environmental research on renewable natural resources and the environment, and coastal and oceanic ecosystems, as well as technical concepts regarding the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, lending scientific and technical aid to the National Environmental System (SINA).

The State, led by the Environment Ministry (MAVDT) through INVERAM, with the participation of all public and private bodies involved in scientific and technological research into the coastal and marine environment, in coordination with COLCIENCIAS, shall review and pursue the development of existing long-term national programmes on marine biodiversity, biological marine surveys, control of marine pollution, and other programmes currently in preparation.

1.3 INTERAGENCY ISSUES

Colombia reaffirms the maritime orientation and geostrategic strength afforded by its prime location in the centre of the American continent, with jurisdiction and sovereignty over the aforementioned waters, continental shelf and coastal areas in both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Moreover, it lies in the path of international marine routes, and holds sovereign and jurisdictional rights over richly biodiverse marine, coastal and island ecosystems.

On this basis, the State, in its ocean policies, shall increase socio-economic growth and the quality of life of its inhabitants, through the sustainable use of its coastal and marine resources. As such, policy management should emphasize the sea's influence in the State's life cycle, within the framework of ocean policy.

The State shall continue to envisage strategic action for its coastal and marine areas, anchored in aspects that involve a range of areas such as production and support, environmental management, research, sustainable economic exploration and development, freight, sovereignty, defence, comprehensive security, territorial law and protection of the country's historical, cultural and natural heritage, consolidating sea-related matters as a whole, through effective cross-cutting ocean, coastal and island management.

Likewise, and from the viewpoint of the State structure, maritime issues require reorganization of the country's institutions, from the national to the local level (territorial and decentralized national levels), which in turn implies that there

should be coordinated action and genuine commitment on the part of each of the bodies involved, to provide a mechanism for activities undertaken in the framework of the PNOEC.

- National maritime establishment

The Colombian establishment in sea matters is marked by cooperation in all ocean- and coastal-related aspects, integrated in an intersectoral and multidisciplinary manner, along with harmonious, cross-cutting actions coordinated by the State. For this reason, the marine establishment shall continue to develop around the interaction between ministries, national and territorial bodies at both central and decentralized levels, and other organizations duly designated in the context of a national legal framework.

The fact that ocean and coastal issues are common to the different institutions in the Colombian State indicates the importance of overall management. Aware of this, the Government established the Colombian Ocean Commission (CCO) by means of Decree No. 347 of 2000 (decree amending the composition and organization of the Colombian Oceanographic Commission, created by Decree No. 763 of 1969 and restructured by Decree No. 415 of 1983) as an intersectoral body to advise, consult, plan and coordinate with the Government in matters relating to the national ocean and coastal regions policy and the related strategic, scientific, technological, economic and environmental themes regarding the development of Colombian waters and their resources, which should be reinforced and resolutely supported by its members and, in general, by the Government, in order to benefit from the country's maritime development.

The CCO is composed of the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic, who serves as the Commission's Chairperson, the Ministry of External Relations, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development (MAVDT), the Navy, the National Planning Department (DNP), the General Maritime Directorate (DIMAR), COLCIENCIAS, the Colombian Association of Universities (ASCUN), a delegate of the President of the Republic for the maritime industry sector and a delegate of the President of the Republic for environmental non-governmental organizations.

The State, through each of the bodies comprising the CCO, carries out several complementary functions that give rise to various policies, instruments and standards, defining its application and scope of execution, while facilitating the interdependence of the member bodies, in order to develop areas of competence. It follows that members must act in a coordinated, harmonious manner, through the Executive Secretariat.

- Strategic action:

In order to reinforce the establishment in the country and develop the PNOEC, national actions directed at shoring up existing structures must be defined. This can be accomplished by the creation of national management and information systems, and the inclusion of organizations involved in the field, according to

their respective areas of expertise, and in keeping with the functions assigned to the CCO.

National System for the Integrated Management of Ocean and Coastal Areas

It is therefore relevant to create a National System for the Integrated Management of Ocean and Coastal Areas, whose goal would be to coordinate the different local, regional and national State bodies. The participation of relevant socio-economic agents is needed to achieve unified management through an institutional structure, which shall lead to the planning, administration, monitoring and evaluation required for the development of the PNOEC in a coordinated, harmonious manner.

The System shall use the following as benchmarks: the three Integral Territorial Legislative and Planning Regions adopted by the PNAOCI – the Caribbean Oceanic and Continental Region, the Caribbean Island Region, and the Pacific Region. These areas shall make it possible to match up national development policies with the specific problems faced in coastal regions.

The System shall be made up of the CCO and other competent bodies, as established by the PNAOCI, coordinated by a National Committee for the Integrated Management of Ocean and Coastal Areas, which shall be made up of its representatives and shall have power of decision. The entire System shall be complemented by the coastal environmental units and the local and regional committees. These shall be defined by the National Committee.

The National System for the Integrated Management of Ocean and Coastal Areas shall coordinate its actions with the following National Systems: Planning, Environment, Environment Information System for Colombia (SIAC), (Marine Environment Information System - SIAM), National Natural Park Systems (SPNN), Science and Technology, and Disaster Prevention and Response.

In tandem with this, a National System on Ocean and Coastal Information (SINOC) shall be designed based on the information systems of the different bodies making up the CCO as well as other relevant bodies. SINOC shall act as a support tool for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of this policy's programmes. The System should make it easier to give feedback and ensure continuous improvement in the way the State manages the ocean and the coasts. SINOC shall take advances made by the country's other coastal and marine systems into account, drawing up strategies that are compatible with and complementary to existing ones.

Colombian Ocean Commission – CCO

The State, under the coordination of the CCO, shall reinforce national development through the sustainable use of resources found in its territorial waters, coastal areas and continental shelf. The PNOEC shall be constantly revised and redesigned in order to remain up-to-date and adapted to the needs of national and global ocean policy, as well as the demands of society, markets, security, the environment, and future global technologies.

In the same manner, it shall continue to take the lead in marine issues in Colombia, the intersectoral organization that has enabled integration and national coordination of the maritime nation at the highest government levels, in strict compliance with its mission.

The CCO's Executive Secretariat shall continue to serve as the national technical focal point to the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE), as well as in other relevant international settings, under the direction and coordination of the Ministry of External Relations.

Starting with the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of the public and private institutions involved in the PNOEC, the State, through the CCO, shall reinforce the national establishment regarding the country's oceans, coasts and island territories, expanding the said Commission in order to provide room for the new national institutions dealing with these aspects, providing a legal basis for this restructuring through the enactment of new legislation, and increasing its budget through the Ministry of Finance, in order to drive the socio-economic development and environmental sustainability of the country.

The State, through the CCO, shall draw up strategies to develop the said policy. Such strategies shall include the actions needed to ensure that institutions and organizations have the capacity to discharge the responsibilities assigned to them.

The CCO, through its Executive Secretariat, shall form an Internal Technical Working Committee, of a legally inter-agency nature, for consultation, analysis and evaluation of the legal framework currently in force for the integrated management of ocean and coastal areas. Likewise, proposals for the necessary changes shall be submitted before Congress by the respective Ministries, to harmonize the national legal framework governing the ocean and coastal areas.

2. THEMATIC AREAS

Recognizing that the country needs to continue reinforcing the integration of the ocean and coastal spaces into national development, the PNOEC has identified five thematic areas: Institutional Development, Economic Development, Territorial Development, Development of the Ocean and Coastal Environment, and Social and Cultural Development, all of which, through their consolidation, shall allow continuous reinforcement of the maritime theme in Colombia.

2.1 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The country shall continue to exercise control over the sea in its territorial waters, and shall continue to show its national naval power through the Navy. The Navy, along with the bodies placed under its command and operational control, shall plan and carry out ongoing naval, fluvial and terrestrial operations in areas under its jurisdiction, with the purpose of maintaining national sovereignty, conserving the relevance of the institutions, ensuring internal order and territorial integrity, developing maritime power and protecting the nation's interests. In conjunction with this, the DIMAR, as the highest maritime authority, in close coordination with the appropriate local, national and regional, bodies, shall be responsible for both the administration and the technical and operational management of maritime activities.

2.1.1 NAVAL POWER

Colombia's strategic position in the regional setting requires naval power that is adapted to the needs of a country with the second largest population in South America (after Brazil), and is its only country with coasts in two oceans. The land, submarine, naval air, and coast guard resources that currently comprise the nation's naval power are insufficient, when a comparative analysis of the strategic potential of the other countries in the region is made, and considering the real and potential threats to national security from both internal and external sources. Many of them need to be modernized or replaced, as they have reached the end of their useful life or are obsolete.

This situation hampers in practical terms the ability to meet the constitutional function that calls for maintaining a capacity for the deterrent and/or effective use of force, to defend the vital interests of the nation.

Furthermore, other tasks of fundamental importance shall be assigned. These include: maritime embargoes, protection of resources in the exclusive economic zone, control of maritime traffic, protection of human life at sea, and environmental protection.

The current situation of the Navy in relation to its available means and what can be considered its naval power, is a reflection of the efforts that the institution had to make to face the threat represented by narcoterrorist organizations, which required the reinforcement of the fluvial and terrestrial components, and to a certain extent, the coast guard component, thus relegating the elements of force characterizing any naval power to the sidelines.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, along with the Navy and the DIMAR, shall develop ongoing programmes to provide effective surveillance and control in all territorial waters. These programmes should take into account the existence, maintenance, modernization and replacement of naval, naval air and coast guard resources to this end, so that they remain sufficient.
- The State, in permanent coordination with the Ministry of National Defence and the Navy, shall ensure the existence of a naval power capable of facing up to the real and potential threats against national security, thus allowing efficient contributions towards ensuring the defence of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- The State shall continue to apply the precepts established by national laws and international instruments ratified by Colombia on the repression of the illegal use of marine zones for the trafficking of illegal goods, the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution, and the protection of human life at sea.
- The State shall develop the necessary mechanisms to support and promote naval and scientific activities, as well as activities maintaining island inhabitation by humans, aimed at consolidating sovereignty over the exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf, and island areas.

- It shall strengthen the development and implementation of the concept of maritime security, which is headed by the Ministry of National Defence, through the active, proper, appropriate and beneficial management of the national committee and the local protection committees.

2.1.2 MARITIME AUTHORITY

DIMAR is the National Maritime Authority executing government policy on maritime matters. It directs, coordinates and monitors maritime activities¹ according to the terms laid out in Decree-Law No. 2324 of 1984 for the promotion and stimulation of the country's maritime development, exercising its competence as a port State, flag State, and coastal State.

It is the jurisdictional authority² for the investigation of matters relating to maritime disasters and the administrative authority for investigating and sanctioning violations of merchant marine standards and the illegal occupation of public property under its jurisdiction.

The DIMAR, under the coordination of the Ministry of External Relations, shall represent the nation in international fora and conferences relating to maritime activities, and shall act as a consultant to the Government in all matters dealing with the knowledge and action of international maritime instruments.

It is the authority designated by the Government to carry out the functions of maritime protection in relation to port and ship installations, under the terms established by Decree No. 730 of 2004.

In the face of economic, political, and social challenges on the regional, national and global levels, it is essential to reinforce the DIMAR as it must implement the following lines of action:

LINES OF ACTION:

The Government, through the DIMAR, shall establish the Master Plan for Coasts. It shall rely on the support and participation of the different institutions involved in marine and coastal activities, to ensure that their use complies with the concept of the sustainable use of ecosystems, and their potential is considered in territorial organization plans.

- The Government, through the Ministry of Defence, shall enact a law that defines the scope of DIMAR's national maritime authority role. It shall be tasked with, among other things, enforcing standards in maritime matters, dealing with and aiding in the protection of national territorial integrity, and sovereignty as a legal attribute enshrined in the constitution, just as it shall specify the mechanisms of cooperation with other bodies working in the maritime field. It shall serve as the

¹ The following are considered maritime activities: Maritime navigational aids and lighthouses, control of maritime traffic, domestic and foreign vessels and naval equipment, maritime navigation for vessels and naval equipment, the merchant marine and maritime transport, maritime communications, the use, protection and preservation of coastal areas, all disciplines of marine science research, systems for the exploration, use and survey of marine natural resources, the search and extraction or recovery of antiquities or shipwreck treasure, marine sports and recreation, maritime search-and-rescue operations, marine conservation, preservation and protection, the laying of any type of structure or fixed or semi-fixed works on or below the sea floor, sea and weather forecasts, filling, dredging, and other ocean engineering works, administration and development of coastal areas, shipbuilding and naval construction, and other marine uses and/or applications.

² Ruling C - 212 of 1994 of the Constitutional Court and Procedural Act No. 227/90, Procedural Act No. 228/90, Procedural Act No. 521/90, Procedural Act 3207/96 and Concept No. 1605 of 2004 of the Council of State.

body connecting, facilitating and coordinating the activities being carried out in the country's territorial waters and coastal areas.

- The Government, headed by the Ministry of Defence, shall reinforce the DIMAR, providing improved staffing and a new organizational structure, in order to increase the number of professionals specializing in the technical, scientific and legal aspects of maritime issues, to shore up the presence of the maritime authority throughout the national territory through its regional units.

2.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As the State develops its economic policy for ocean and coastal areas, it shall manage the relevant resources for the purposes of modernizing and optimizing public infrastructure, encouraging private investment and free competition in the system of ports and port infrastructure, maritime transport, merchant marine and naval industry, fisheries and aquaculture, the tourist and mining industries, among others, in order to secure the bases of a balanced, sustainable and competitive development, in order to consolidate Colombia's entry into international markets through trade and regional integration agreements, within the framework of international standards and the principles of security and defence.

In this vein, the Government, through industrial development aid mechanisms, shall work with the regions in managing the use of living marine resources, in order to highlight the importance of ocean and coastal areas in national and international trade. These resources include fishery and aquaculture resources, minerals, oil and gas, energy sources and tourism, all of which play a role in the country's socio-economic development.

2.2.1 PORTS AND PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The national ports policy reflects the need to connect Colombia with the rest of the world through maritime communication channels to face new market challenges, increase port capacity, and integrate ports into the transport network, in order to obtain better results by optimizing multimodal transport.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall instigate a balanced and sustainable development of the ports, through the involvement of private capital and state aid.
- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall optimize the use of port infrastructure.
- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall protect areas of public use and existing environmental resources.
- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall continuously improve the levels of efficiency in port services.

- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall guarantee a modern port system that interconnects with the supply logistics chain.
- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall create the conditions that allow the development of industry in port catchment areas.
- The State, through the Ministry of Transport or the body serving in its stead, shall generate the conditions that encourage social development in port catchment areas.

2.2.2 MARITIME TRANSPORT

Maritime transport exercises a fundamental role in the integration and development of national and international trade. To formulate and frame policies for maritime transport, the merchant marine and the naval industry, the existing institutional framework must be updated and reinforced, in order to consolidate current investments and encourage future ones.

LINES OF ACTION:

- Public transport services shall be provided by private bodies through the mechanisms established by law. In exceptional cases, the State, through State bodies, can provide this service when it is not provided by private bodies, or in the case of practices that affect the interests of users.
- The State, through the DNMP and other competent ministries, shall define the economic, financial and legal framework to promote, facilitate and encourage national and foreign investment that encourages and allows the development of maritime transport, the merchant marine, and the naval industry.
- The State, through the Ministry of National Education, the DIMAR, and the National Training Service (SENA), shall facilitate the full training of seafarers, according to the principle of safety of human life at sea and the preservation of the marine environment, in keeping with national needs, standards, and international agreements ratified by the country.
- The State, through the Ministry of Social Protection, shall create the conditions needed to guarantee the social protection and safety of seafarers, in accordance with the international agreements of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) ratified by Colombia.

2.2.3 MERCHANT MARINE AND SHIPPING INDUSTRY

The merchant marine and the shipping industry provide the basic structure necessary for domestic and international trade. However, the State's economic policy must promote technological development so as to ensure that they are on equal footing with foreign companies in terms of efficiency and competitiveness. Consequently, the following lines of action are proposed.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the relevant competent authorities, shall revise the current conditions of vessel registration and related activities, so as to create incentives for national or foreign investors to take interest in - and thereby contribute to the recovery and development of - the merchant marine and the shipping industry. This should be in keeping with the relevant international agreements ratified by Colombia.
- The State, through the competent authorities, shall promote and maintain the capacity of the national merchant marine required to meet and satisfy economic, social and national security requirements, in coordination with ministries involved in the sector.
- The State, through the Ministry of Defence, the Science and Technology Corporation for Development of the Ocean and River Naval Industry (COTECMAR) and the shipping industry, in coordination with competent ministries and authorities, shall foster the development of the shipping industry in Colombia, with an aim to attaining self-sufficiency in maritime and river naval technology, through the use and expansion of its infrastructure and private investment.
- The State, through ministries and relevant authorities, shall revise the administrative procedures and regulations applicable to the shipping industry, with a view to developing its activity and improving competitiveness.
- The State, through the Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology (COLCIENCIAS) shall provide the necessary resources for technological research and development for the shipping industry.
- The State, through the competent authorities and with support from the private sector, shall foster the development of the shipping industry in Colombia, with an aim to satisfying the needs of the national merchant marine and the Navy, and attaining self-sufficiency in river and general maritime naval technology through the use and expansion of its infrastructure and private investment. It is hoped that this activity shall fuel sustained growth of the GDP via the exportation of goods and services.
- The State shall revise the administrative procedures and regulations applicable to the shipping industry with a view to increasing fluidity in this sector.
- The State shall establish special sources of funding for research and development in naval technology.

2.2.4 FISHING AND AQUACULTURE

In accordance with existing legislation, sea fishing and aquaculture in Colombia shall be rational and sustainable, generating the necessary labour force for extraction, processing and commercialization in domestic and foreign markets, and incorporating these activities in the country's economy.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through COLCIENCIAS, the Colombian Institute of Rural Development (INCODER) or any agency serving in its stead, the academic sector and research centres, shall programme and carry out research in the fields of sea fishing and aquaculture, using clean technology and eco-labelling devices, in order to determine the real potential of the resources present in Colombia's territorial waters and in international waters, so as to use them rationally and sustainably.
- The State, through the competent authorities, shall supervise the creation of an organizational structure fully responsible for handling sea fishing and aquaculture and the appropriate inter-agency coordination between government bodies for the surveillance, control, management and registration of the different sector activities, so as to guarantee the nation an activity that is safe, efficient and competitive.
- The State, through the competent authorities, shall promote domestic consumption of resources from fishing and aquaculture, as well as opening new channels of international marketing for these products.
- The State, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), INCODER or any agency serving in its stead, shall encourage diversification in fishing to reduce the fishing effort on resources that show clear signs of over-fishing and as a result, recover stocks, in accordance with applicable national and international legislation.
- The State, through the Navy, the DIMAR, INCODER or any agency serving in its stead, shall strengthen programmes for the control and surveillance of fishing operations carried out by local or foreign vessels, in accordance with applicable national and international legislation.
- The State, through the Ministry of Social Protection in coordination with the National Training Service (SENA), shall establish a special social security system for artisanal and industrial fisherfolk and broaden capacity-building programmes for people employed in the fishing industry, bringing the programmes into line with the National Plan for Fisheries Development.
- The State, through the MADR and the Fund for the Financing of the Agro-Pastoral Sector (FINAGRO), shall set up credit lines designed specifically to meet the needs of the fishing and aquaculture sectors, so that they may provide their services as broadly as possible, taking into account the special circumstances particular to the execution of their operating and financial activities.
- The State, through the competent authorities governing sea fishing, shall regulate activities in the international arena, as well as all actions relating to the use of these resources by other countries, and in the national territory.
- The State, through the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development; Defence; External Relations; the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development; Trade, Industry and Tourism; Social Protection; Transport and the Department of Administrative Security (DAS), shall assess and update

existing legislation as necessary to continue to ensure judicial security for current and future investors as well as clear rules for the normal and effective running of their operations, the main grounds being the principle of non-discrimination towards investors and free access to their investments.

2.2.5. TOURIST INDUSTRY

As of 2001, Colombia identified, for its Vision 2020, basic products in which regions have since been specializing: sea and sun, history and culture, agrotourism, ecotourism, sport and adventure, ferias and fiestas and capital cities (for activities such as shopping, health, seminars and conventions, incentive trips etc.). The regions' offers have diversified considerably around these products. The challenge facing Colombia's tourism is increasing the competitiveness of its products and destinations so as to attract the high-income tourist sector.

Ocean tourism has much to offer. On the one hand, the sea and sun product should improve in quality so as to compete with rival destinations in the Caribbean and other regions of the world. On the other hand, it must be complemented by other options such as nautical tourism and cruises, which are still in the early stages of development in Colombia.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and subsidiary bodies and in coordination with other competent authorities, shall support the management of beaches to cater for tourism activities so as to offer quality service to tourists.
- The State, through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and subsidiary bodies, shall devise mechanisms to attract investment to provide backing for the development of coastal tourism.
- The State, through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and subsidiary bodies, shall promote projects geared towards tourism development in coastal areas.
- The State, through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and subsidiary bodies, shall ensure that Law No. 300 of 1996 is implemented, particularly with respect to following up the declarations of "Priority Tourism Development Zones" and "Tourism Resources", with focus on coastal areas.
- The State, through the Ministry of Transport, shall regulate all matters pertaining to transport in tourism provided for in Law No. 300 of 1996 and the amendments or additions thereto (Law No. 336 of 1996, Article 8).
- The State, through the MAVDT, INVEMAR and UAESPNN, shall evaluate the carrying capacity of beaches under any form of protection within the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP), providing relevant and timely information to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and subsidiary bodies, in order to coordinate their development.

- The State, through the competent authorities, shall formulate strategies to strengthen ecotourism programmes in the country's maritime and coastal regions.

2.2.6 MINERALS, HYDROCARBONS AND NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY (FENC), AND ALTERNATIVE OR RENEWABLE ENERGY

National policy for the mines and energy sector in line with the PNOEC allows the State to continue as a facilitator and promoter of industry, building the requisite infrastructure for the expansion of each of the sectors, and taking an active stance both on the domestic and international markets, in a framework of sustainability and harmony with natural resources and in compliance with applicable environmental legislation.

LINES OF ACTION

2.2.6.1 Minerals:

Mining legislation of 2001 (Mining Code) ended the State's business management role and instead assigned it the role of facilitator, promoter and regulatory body for the Colombian mining sector.

- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall draw up legislation, guidelines, procedures and precise information relating to the maritime sector, so as to ensure legal certainty.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall encourage the increase of mining activity in all coal-mining projects in the north, such as Cerrejón North Zone, Cerromatoso in the Department of Córdoba and the mining area in the Department of Cesar.
- The State, through the ministries of Mines and Energy and Transport and through regional and national environmental authorities, shall manage the enhancement of infrastructure to facilitate, promote and increase the competitiveness of the exploitation of gold, platinum, coal and construction materials among others; as well as assess, prevent, reduce and control the pollution resulting from these activities and their impact on coastal marine zones.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall promote Colombia's insertion as a mining country on the international scene, attracting investment from large companies to coastal zones to implement polymetal mining projects, and improving the competitiveness of existing mining facilities.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall complete the mining legalization programme, thereby reducing illegal and informal activity with a view to controlling the environmental impact in marine and coastal regions.

2.2.6.2 Oil and gas

Oil:

Oceans and coastal areas are vital to maintaining the Colombian petroleum industry as the driving force of the nation's economy. To this end, the following action shall be taken:

- The State, through the Ministries of Mines and Energy, the Interior and Justice, and the MAVDT, together with the Directorate for Disaster Prevention and Response, shall optimize the country's efficiency regarding contingency plans in the event of oil spills both on the coast and in the ocean.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and subsidiary and related bodies, shall continue its programme of geological exploration in Colombia's Caribbean region, which shall assist in assessing the country's real oil potential and offer better opportunities to the industry, as an important area of investment. By the same token, the State shall begin exploration activities in Colombia's Pacific region, a zone with great potential for Colombia, with a view to deepening knowledge of the country's geology.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall continue to back the pipeline project with Venezuela for the transport of Venezuelan crude or derivatives to Colombia's Pacific or Caribbean coasts.
- The State, through the DIMAR and the national and regional environmental authorities, shall strengthen monitoring and control of oil production activities on the continental shelf in terms of inspection and control, with a view to protecting human life and the marine environment.

2.2.6.3 Gas

- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, subject to compliance with existing environmental and maritime legislation, shall guarantee expansion of natural gas transport capacity, allocating the appropriate payments on account for use by gas distribution companies, in compliance with gas transport contracts for the realization of projects.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy – National Hydrocarbons Agency, shall create the infrastructure to facilitate exploration activity via the promotion of off-shore projects.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy with its special administrative unit, the Energy and Gas Regulatory Commission (CREG), shall define a general framework for the exportation of natural gas and shall expand the policy of international networks, developing in particular the project with Panama and Venezuela. To this end, it shall produce the regulatory plans needed to ensure balanced development of the export trade while satisfying internal demand and ensuring the viability of networks, with regard to their effect on marine and coastal areas.

- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall strengthen domestic supply by means of the network connecting the main natural gas production fields of the Caribbean coast – Ballenas - and the hinterland (Cusiana – Cupiagua) to the country's main regional markets, with regard to their effect on marine and coastal areas.

2.2.6.4 Non-Conventional Energy Sources (FENC), and Alternative and Renewable Energy

- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy with the support of the Intersectoral Commission for the Rational Use of Energy and Other Forms of Non-Conventional Energy (CIURE), shall encourage the rational and efficient use of conventional and non-conventional sources of energy, including through cogeneration systems both in the national network and zones not connected to the network, with regard to their effect on marine and coastal areas.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall guarantee the continuity of the studies carried out in the framework of the COLCIENCIAS – ISAGEN agreement which are aimed at identifying the potential of tidal and wave energy.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Institute for the Promotion and Planning of Energy Solutions (IPSE), shall guarantee increased coverage of the service by implementing programmes and projects geared towards searching for energy solutions both on the national network and for unconnected zones, using the possibilities of non-conventional energies and broadening rural coastal routes.
- The State, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, shall lead via CIURE the proposal for environmental tax incentives in science and technology for developing coastal and marine projects.

2.3 TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Land development is an integral part of advancing and strengthening the economic and socio-cultural competitiveness of a country, being one of the basic components of the nation's relations with its environment and neighbours, in addition to providing concrete elements for the appropriate use and management of available natural resources.

The management of Colombia's oceanic spaces and coastal areas thus gained renewed importance by becoming one of the main aspects of land development. It should therefore be implemented following an integrated approach, given its multifaceted nature. To this end, the relevant bodies shall be responsible for proposing to the Government land planning and its scope of competence in the country's marine and coastal jurisdiction.

2.3.1 INTEGRATED COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT (ICAM)

The ICAM, as defined for Colombia by the PNAOCI, is a special planning process designed for a complex and dynamic area, which focuses on the sea-land interface and which takes into account some fixed and some flexible concepts that characterize it, an ecosystem conservation ethic, socio-economic goals, a pro-active and problem-solving management style and a strong scientific base.

Integrated management of oceanic spaces and coastal areas shall be carried out in a rational and operational manner, in accordance with applicable legislation and based on the characteristics and environmental, socio-economic and cultural resources specific to each oceanic and coastal region of the country, including and promoting permanent consultation with the population and sectors concerned.

Maritime beaches, low tide zones and territorial maritime areas are public property belonging to the nation and are of strategic importance to the territorial unity and sovereignty of the State.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through its competent authorities, shall maintain administration and control on a national level, with participation and coordination regarding regional and local bodies for suitable management and development.
- The State, through the CCO, shall formulate strategies to constitute, coordinate and control interagency actions to ensure the synergy and complementarity thereof, with a view to enhancing governance and institutional capacity, clarifying roles, coordination mechanisms and participation.
- The State, through the DIMAR, shall formulate a Master Plan for Coasts, for which it shall be assisted by the institutions with competence in activities carried out on the coast and marine areas, so that the exploitation of these activities complies with the sustainable use of the ecosystems, and their potential is included in land management plans.
- The State, through the Environment Ministry (MAVDT), shall establish the directives for including marine and coastal ecosystems in Colombia's territorial management, recognizing them as an integral and strategic part of the territory, to harmonize the use of and activities carried out in these zones and determine the environmental guidelines for the development of production activities in oceanic spaces and coastal areas, via the implementation of the PNAOCI.
- The State, through the CCO and local and regional environmental and administrative authorities, shall form a committee to include the ICAM guidelines in the processes of municipal and regional land management, basic sanitation, risk assessment for natural threats, such as tsunamis, hurricanes, coastal erosion and sea-level rise, with special emphasis on the current problems facing zones such as the Gulf of Morrosquillo, Cartagena, Buenaventura and Tumaco.

- The State, through the Environment Ministry and other SINA bodies, shall work with regional and local administrative authorities from coastal areas as necessary regarding overall themes of planning, land management, ecosystem management plans and urban environmental management, among others.

2.3.2 DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The theme of disaster prevention and response should be considered as a fundamental input in land planning. The State shall operate with a risk management approach to natural and human-generated events, through risk reduction and disaster prevention, effective response in the event of disaster and the rapid recovery of affected areas in accordance with the National Disaster Prevention and Response Plan (PNPAD), with emphasis on strengthening institutional, technical and scientific capacities and local governance and on coordination with environmental land management.

The implementation of the aforementioned Plan for the prevention of and response to disasters with relation to risk management in oceanic spaces and coastal areas shall be accompanied by protection programmes (rehousing, protection and adaptation) for communities settled in high-risk areas on the coasts.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the Directorate for Disaster Prevention and Response (DPAD), in coordination with the bodies that are part of the National System for Disaster Prevention and Response (SNPAD), shall promote the development and implementation of local and regional emergency and contingency plans in the country's coastal areas. In the same way, it shall amend, at the national level, existing national risk management plans and encourage the realization of plans considered necessary.
- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the bodies that are part of the SNPAD, shall adopt and implement the National Disaster Prevention and Response Plan with relation to risk management in oceanic spaces and coastal areas. The implementation of the Plan should be accompanied by protection programmes (rehousing, protection and adaptation) for communities settled in high-risk areas on the coasts.
- The State, through the institutions and bodies that are part of the SNPAD, shall focus its efforts on risk management regarding natural and human-induced events, through the dissemination of information and by strengthening institutional, technical and scientific capacities and local governance, and coordination with environmental land management.
- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the bodies that are part of the SNPAD, shall play a leadership role in structuring and developing the National Warning System for Tsunamis

and other Coastal Threats, for its two coasts. The system shall be coordinated with similar international systems.

- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the bodies that are part of the SNPAD, shall complete and implement the National Tsunami Risk Management Plan (PNGRT) provided for under the PNPAD and develop the respective sectoral contingency plans.
- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the bodies that are part of the SNPAD, and with the backing of territorial bodies, shall formulate the respective regional and local emergency and contingency plans based on the natural coastal disasters that could occur.

2.3.2.1 Natural disasters

The conservation of coastal areas under threat of natural phenomena such as tsunamis, El Niño, tropical cyclones, sea-level rise causing floods, saline encroachment and loss of coastal areas and other events due to climate change, is a priority for the State. Accordingly, it shall adopt all measures in its power to mitigate and prevent, as far as possible, the effects on the population and settlements of Colombia in the event of one of these disasters.

LINES OF ACTION:

Tsunami

- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the bodies that are part of the SNPAD, shall play a leadership role in structuring and developing the National Warning System for Tsunamis and other Coastal Threats, for its two coasts. The system shall be coordinated with similar international systems.
- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the SNPADS, shall complete and implement the National Tsunami Risk Management Plan (PNGRT) provided for under the National Disaster Prevention and Response Plan (PNPAD).

“El Niño”

- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the SNPAD member bodies and the respective ministries, shall update, promote, strengthen and implement the Action Plan of the Integral and Multidisciplinary Programme for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN Programme), developing the respective sectoral contingency plans. In turn, this plan shall be linked with regional initiatives in the matter, such as the ERFEN Programme of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and the International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN).

- The State, through the DNP, shall draw up CONPES documents for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Integral and Multidisciplinary Programme for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon and promote institutional strengthening in the face of possible occurrences.
- The DIMAR has gained experience in tsunami modelling for the town of Tumaco and specific prevention exercises for the community were carried out by the DPAD, with technical support from the Centre for Pollution Control of the Pacific (CCCCP), on response to the tsunami threat. This methodology must be applied for other settled areas on the Pacific coast.

Tropical Cyclones

- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the bodies that are part of the National System for Disaster Prevention and Response (SNPAD) and IDEAM, shall promote the creation and operation of a National Advisory Commission on Tropical Cyclones and designate a coordinator.
- This Commission shall formulate the National Tropical Cyclone Risk Management Plan which should incorporate a mechanism to promote preparedness of coastal populations for potentially threatening situations.
- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with territorial bodies, shall formulate Local and Regional Tropical Cyclone Plans.

Climate Change

- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the MAVDT, the DIMAR, Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) from coastal regions, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), the Institute for Marine and Coastal Research "José Benito Vives de Andreis" (INVEMAR) and with the backing of territorial bodies and other national bodies that may be required, shall devise and implement the tools to reduce the vulnerability of the ocean and coastal spaces to the effects of global climate change, particularly those relating to sea-level rise and its consequences.
- The State, through the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the DPAD, in coordination with the MAVDT, the DIMAR, CARs from coastal regions, the IDEAM, INVEMAR and with the backing of territorial bodies and other national bodies that may be required, shall implement the 2002 Action Plan for reducing the vulnerability of coastal areas.

2.3.2.2 Human-generated events

In addition to the methods for responding to the threat posed by natural phenomena to coastal zones, the prevention and mitigation actions that the

State must have at the ready in the event of human-induced disasters that pollute the oceans, maritime spaces, beaches and other areas making up the different coastal ecosystems (for example spills of oil and other hydrocarbon derivatives and harmful substances) need to be clear, effective and timely.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the DNP, shall update the National Contingency Plan for Spills of Hydrocarbons, Derivatives and Harmful Substances in Seas, Rivers and Lakes, with a view to filling the legal voids and weaknesses in the current plan.
- The State, through the DPAD, shall consistently update existing plans and formulate necessary plans regarding human-induced events that could affect oceanic and coastal spaces.

2.3.3 PROTECTED MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

Mangrove ecosystems, coral reefs, marine pastures, beaches and cliffs, and soft sea beds are the property of the State and call for conservation, recuperation and management programmes because they are a natural form of protection for the coast and stabilize the shoreline. They also help to minimize vulnerability in areas with high risk of natural (earthquakes, tsunamis, El Niño, flooding, sea-level fluctuation) and human-induced disasters. Furthermore, they foster ecotourism and assist in the return of artisanal fishing on the coast.

The ecosystems mentioned above must be protected and conserved for the social, environmental and economic good of the country.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the MAVDT and its subsidiary institutions, shall initiate and strengthen basic and applied research on the structure, composition and functionality of protection for different levels of biodiversity (landscapes, ecosystems, populations, species, genuses) in protected areas, with interagency and community participation, which contribute to their sustainable management and use.
- The State, through the MAVDT, its subsidiary institutions and the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Providencia, and Santa Catalina (CORALINA), shall continue to formulate projects within its field of competence and in keeping with the carrying capacity of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources, in relation to human settlements and economic activities.
- The State, through the MAVDT, shall require that land planning and management processes be carried out in a coordinated manner, in keeping

with an overall vision of the territory, so as to avoid environmental conflicts relating to the use and occupation of oceanic and coastal spaces.

- The State, through the MAVDT, shall draw up strategies to constitute, coordinate and control interagency actions to ensure the synergy and complementarity thereof, with a view to enhancing governance and institutional capacity; clarifying roles, coordination mechanisms and participation in the National Environmental System (SINA).
- The State, through the MAVDT and its National Natural Parks System (SPNN), shall contribute to consolidating the subsystem of marine and coastal areas protected under the SINAP, with a view to increasing the representativity of the protected marine and coastal biodiversity of Colombia.
- The State, through the MAVDT and its subsidiary institutions, shall adopt the ecosystem approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity in its approach to in situ conservation, considering individual protected areas as components of larger systems that assure the continuity of the ecological and evolutionary processes that maintain them.

2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF OCEANIC AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Colombia ranks among the countries with the greatest marine biodiversity on the continent. Significant progress has been made with regard to the consolidation of species inventories, characterization of ecosystems and thematic maps, organized in 18 natural eco-regions. There are also protected marine and coastal areas in the National Natural Parks System (SPNN), Civil Society Natural Reserves and other forms of protection established by the MAVDT and regional bodies. Despite this, approximately 2% of Colombia's marine territory is under some form of protection.

As provided for in Law No. 99 of 1993, the MAVDT, together with the President of the Republic, shall formulate the National Policy for the Environment and Renewable Resources so as to guarantee the right to a healthy environment and to protect the natural heritage and sovereignty of the nation.

The MAVDT is responsible for the environmental management of the territory, including areas in the coastal and island regions of Colombian territory, and coordinates the Environmental Information System for Colombia as well as the National Environmental System (SINA), which has brought the environment to the forefront in the country.

2.4.1 CONSERVATION OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS

Conservation is a priority for the wellbeing and development of society for it plays a fundamental role in the sustainability of natural ecological, social, economic and cultural processes of present and future generations. The management of these components must follow an environmental approach that takes into account the precautionary principle.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the MAVDT, the National Natural Parks System Special Administrative Unit (UAESPNN), its subsidiary bodies, CARs, academic and scientific institutions and other competent bodies, based on the consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP), shall promote projects for gathering technical, scientific, socio-economic and cultural information in order to declare new protected areas (in the applicable categories) that are representative of the country's natural marine and coastal heritage.
- The State, through the DIMAR in coordination with environmental authorities and the UAESPNN, under its jurisdiction, shall regulate the nautical, sub-aquatic and ecotourism activities related to environmental land management in compliance with applicable planning instruments.
- The State, through the MAVDT, IDEAM and INVEMAR, shall strengthen the SIAM, which is part of the SIAC, spearheading interagency cooperation with the other SINA bodies to add to the information system on marine and coastal areas.
- The State, through the MAVDT, CARs and other territorial bodies, in accordance with the competencies and responsibilities assigned to them by law in island, marine and coastal areas, shall support the implementation of management plans for protected marine areas.
- The State, in the framework of policies defined by the MAVDT and through CARs, the DIMAR, territorial bodies, the academic and industrial sectors and other institutions involved in the matter, in accordance with their competencies, shall promote the development of Integral Environmental Land Planning and Management Units (UAC) and elaborate management plans and other necessary actions, as a strategy for the country's marine and coastal management.

2.4.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Thanks to its marine biodiversity, Colombia has significantly increased its natural heritage and its potential as one of the countries with the greatest biodiversity on the planet. Its importance lies both in the direct use that is made of this biodiversity and the life support functions it provides on all levels. The country must therefore pay attention to the conservation and sustainable use of its marine biodiversity, implement programmes aimed at diminishing the risks to endangered species, restoring habitats and assessing the risks related to the presence of invasive species, in accordance with applicable national and international environmental legislation.

2.4.2.1 Sustainable Use and Control of Marine Biodiversity

The use of the country's marine biodiversity must follow an approach of sustainable knowledge and exploitation, avoiding the deterioration of resources by destruction or overfishing and causing sometimes irreversible changes in habitats. Classifying components and evaluating the state of essential populations and habitats, and the monitoring, surveillance and control of these via appropriate management of activities shall help to conserve the country's marine treasures.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through environmental authorities (MAVDT and its subsidiary and/or related bodies - UAESPNN, CARs), rural development authorities (MADR), the DIMAR and its institutes – Centre for Pollution Control of the Pacific (CCCP) and Centre for Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research (CIOH) – and the administrative bodies for fisheries and fish farming (INCODER), in accordance with their competencies, shall formulate, coordinate and implement programmes for research, inventorying, monitoring, classification and management of coastal marine fishing resources to regulate the fishing effort and the environmental impact of fishing activities, taking into account the development of UACs and the SINAP.
- The State, through its environmental (MAVDT – UAESPNN, CARs) and rural development (MADR) authorities and the administrative bodies for fisheries and fish farming (INCODER), shall create, strengthen and/or coordinate basic and applied research for the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources and the use of landscapes and ecosystems, in a framework of interagency (academic, scientific and financial institutions) and community participation, taking into account the development of UACs.
- The State, through the MAVDT and the MADR, shall lead the revision and updating of applicable environmental and fishery legislation which shall allow the Government to adopt measures for the management of resources that are more in touch with the reality of the country and entail active social participation.
- The State, through its environmental (MAVDT - UAESPNN , CARs) and rural development (MADR) authorities and the administrative bodies for fisheries and fish farming (INCODER), in coordination with security and control forces (the Army, the DIMAR, Navy, National Police, Office of the Inspector General, Office of the Attorney General etc), shall coordinate and synchronize the necessary interagency control and surveillance of activities exploiting the country's marine biodiversity, on the basis of a research programme to assess and design fishing management strategies.

2.4.2.2 Endangered Species

Factors such as the irrational and uncontrolled use of resources and the continued deterioration of habitats and ecosystems due to industrial development in recent centuries have led to the significant decline in the natural population of marine organisms to critical levels that place them at the

risk of becoming extinct. For this reason, it is necessary to establish programmes, ratify conventions and implement activities to ensure the survival of these species.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the MAVDT, UAESPNN, INVEMAR, CARs, MADR, INCODER and other scientific research institutions (NGOs, universities, among others), in accordance with their competencies, shall support studies and programmes for evaluating the state of and links between populations of endangered species. It shall also support programmes for the rehabilitation, restoration and protection of ecosystems that include systems of monitoring, control and surveillance to detect significant changes in populations and strengthen the legal framework for the management, control and protection of these ecosystems and species to allow the necessary measures to be taken to prevent their deterioration or extinction.
- The State, through the MAVDT, with the support of its subsidiary and related bodies, shall continue to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which regulates the global trade of such species, as well as other international conventions that have been ratified by the country.

2.4.2.3 Invasive Species

Globalization has led to a rise in maritime traffic, which brings with it organisms from different geographical regions in the ballast water³ of vessels. This has increased the risk of finding exotic species with invasive behaviour in Colombian ecosystems, thus making it necessary to regulate and control the disposal of ballast water. Otherwise, the country would be faced with bioinvasions that could give rise to inter-species competition for space, loss of habitat for native species, changes in the composition of species and in the food chain possible transmission of diseases, deterioration of the health of ecosystems and a sometimes irreversible reduction of biodiversity, in addition to socioeconomic and public health problems.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the institutions specialized in the matter (DIMAR, INVEMAR, universities, among other research bodies), shall back the studies required for the classification, evaluation, monitoring and management of invasive species that shall provide the tools for regulating and standardizing the control of such species through activities such as the handling of ballast water, or the management and control of exotic species cultivated ex situ and for applying national and international guidelines on the issue⁴ that are applicable in Colombia.

³ The water with its suspended matter taken on board a ship to control trim, list, draught, stability or stresses of the ship (International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Article 1, 2004)

⁴ Resolution A868 of the IMO and the London Dumping Convention of 2004.

2.4.3 MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The ability to use marine ecosystems and resources to develop the competitiveness of the country and production technology depends to a great extent on their “health” or environmental quality. Likewise, the sustainability of programmes and investments in industrial processes based on marine ecosystems and resources (including fishing, aquaculture, tourism, transport etc.) is dependent on such activities not endangering or deteriorating the environmental quality of natural ecosystems.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the competent authorities (DIMAR, MAVDT, IDEAM, INVEMAR, CARs of coastal regions, universities, NGOs, etc.), shall support the requisite actions for assessing risks and threats; diagnosing the current state of environmental quality; regulating, controlling and preventing the dumping of substances that pollute marine environments by vessels; developing technology for the prevention and mitigation of impacts; rehabilitating ecosystems; technology for bioremediation in the event of pollution and environmental degradation by hydrocarbons, harmful liquids transported in bulk, dangerous substances shipped in containers, sewage and waste from vessels; and for recovering resources, among other mechanisms and in application of international rules⁵.
- The State, through the DIMAR, MAVDT, IDEAM, INVEMAR, CARs of coastal regions, universities and NGOs, shall ensure the implementation of the National Programme for the Study, Evaluation, Prevention, Reduction and Control of Land and Sea-based Sources of Marine Pollution (PNICM). It shall also strengthen the guidelines derived from this Programme.
- The State, through the DIMAR, shall continue to implement merchant marine standards in the jurisdiction of the national maritime authority, with a view to preventing maritime disasters and the resulting marine pollution.
- The State, through the DIMAR, the MAVDT, INVEMAR, CARs of coastal regions, universities and NGOs, in accordance with their competencies, shall design and coordinate surveillance and control schemes with social participation and shall create knowledge with an aim to conserving and protecting the environment.
- The State shall complement local and regional efforts by co-financing research in and the implementation of new alternatives for the treatment of sewage that is dumped in rivers and eventually ends up in the sea, giving priority to basins due to high pollution levels.
- The State, through the environmental authorities (MAVDT-UAESPNN, CARs of coastal regions, etc.), territorial bodies, community councils, indigenous

⁵ MARPOL 73/78

authorities and NGOs, shall coordinate clean-up activities and the collection of solid waste in marine and coastal areas. It shall also generate, promote and co-finance recycling and environmental education campaigns in the mass media on the dangers of dumping waste in the sea.

- The State, through the MAVDT and CARs of coastal regions, shall establish concrete actions for the identification and management of and compensation for environmental liabilities in marine and coastal zones.

2.4.4 CLIMATE CHANGE

The monitoring of global climate change and natural phenomena that affect the world's population – and, in particular, inhabitants of coastal regions - such as sea-level rise, beach and coast erosion, and lower agricultural productivity, is a vital tool for the planning and implementation of adaptation measures with the purpose of forecasting worldwide climate conditions and preventing and responding to the disasters that they may engender.

Despite the fact that Colombia emits only 0.25% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions,⁶ the country is particularly vulnerable to the effects of this phenomenon. It is predicted that by 2050, there shall be a rise in average annual air temperatures of 1°C-2°C, an estimated 15% variation of precipitation, the disappearance of 78% of snow from snow-capped mountains and 56% from high plateaus and a sea-level rise of approximately 40cm in the Colombian Caribbean Sea and 60cm in the Colombian Pacific. Given this outlook, Colombia has begun work on studying the impact of climate change and adaptation measures.⁷

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the MAVDT and its subsidiary and related bodies, shall draw up a CONPES document to implement the Environmental Policy Plan of Action in relation to the estimation of impact, the vulnerability of strategic coast and sea systems to climate change and the effects on socio-economic variables associated with those systems, based on the sustainable development of the oceanic spaces and coastal and island areas of Colombia.
- The State, through the MAVDT, IDEAM, INVEMAR, the DIMAR, territorial bodies and other competent authorities, shall monitor climate change based on the establishment of programmes for research in and follow-up and strengthening of the country's oceanographic and marine meteorology monitoring systems which forecast oceanographic and climatological conditions, and thus enable the country to prevent and respond to the disasters that these conditions may cause on Colombia's coasts and seas.
- The State, through the MAVDT, IDEAM, INVEMAR and other bodies in accordance with their competencies, shall determine in the national and

⁶ Results of the First National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

⁷ "Integrated National Adaptation Pilot: High Mountain Ecosystems, Colombia's Caribbean Insular Areas, and Human Health (INAP)" and "Japanese Grant For Integrated National Adaptation to Climate Change Pilot" (on water and carbon cycles in high mountain ecosystems).

international legislative and political framework the corresponding measures of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, taking into account the results of studies, research and projects carried out by public and private bodies concerned by the matter.

- The State, through the DPAD, IDEAM and INVEMAR in accordance with their competencies, shall determine in the national and international legislative and political framework the corresponding measures of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

2.5 SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

All reflection or conceptualization that take place to generate maritime awareness stem from the need that is felt to identify and acknowledge the existence of cultural practices and expressions specific to urban centres and rural areas located in coastal and island regions, as well as how these are perceived, understood and affected by outsiders. The comprehension of their significance involves cognitive elements that enable one to know and understand oceans and coastal spaces in terms of their geographic, historical, economic, social and cultural reality.

For this reason, it is not enough to know much about or have extensive experience in the sea: what is also important is allowing more Colombians to appreciate the sea, seeking its benefits and showing greater concern for its preservation and safeguarding. This also requires a greater number of professionals specialized in the field of ocean and coastal regions in order to analyse how this is assumed culturally, and exploited and institutionalized politically and economically, by training human resources to optimize the management of resources and the vital necessity to educate and raise awareness in the Colombian population, starting at the school level, on the importance and potential of the ocean.

Likewise, it is necessary to identify and preserve the resources and cultural expressions – both traditional and contemporary – of marine and coastal regions, which means studying, researching and sharing them and maintaining their sustainability. Other forms of cultural property include property in the archaeological, tangible (movable and immovable) and intangible heritage, which are practically never recognized for marine and coastal regions.

2.5.1 MARITIME CULTURE

Human presence in Colombia's insular regions dates back to around 4000 B.C., and was later joined by populations of European and African origin, which brought with them diverse practices linked to their proximity to the sea. These practices have kept traditions alive while introducing innovations in harmony with national and regional economic policies and social dynamics, which has resulted in a rather complex history.

Historically, the lure of brighter economic hopes and the problem of violence have led to the displacement and reconstitution of populations from these

regions. The result was an exodus of traditional communities inland and the presence of new groups that never would have been connected with coastal and insular regions, which led to the introduction of different practices that affect the ownership and use of maritime and coastal resources. This, in turn, has given rise to a perception of the situation from other spheres and instances – be they institutional, economic, or religious – laden with prejudice or, worse yet, ignorance.

This is why it is necessary to acknowledge the traditions, practices, movements, disputes and claims of the groups living in these regions and enter into dialogue with the public and private institutions and enterprises there present in order to improve the management of resources, while understanding and respecting the particularities and interests of all those involved.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (ICANH), shall enhance the archaeological, anthropological and historical studies leading to the identification of human presence, its adaptations and evolution in oceanic and coastal spaces.
- The State, through the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the ICANH, shall promote intercultural dialogue between groups settled in coastal regions as well as between these groups, public and private institutions and enterprises and other stakeholders, for the mutual recognition of interests and needs.
- The State, through the Ministry of Culture, the ICANH and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, shall formulate programmes for tourism and industrial development, with an aim to improving the living conditions and projects of groups settled in or benefiting from oceanic and coastal regions.
- The State, through the ICANH, shall encourage research into the perception and management practices of the marine environment and shall propose alternatives regarding appropriate conditions of adaptation and settlement in oceanic and coastal spaces.

2.5.2 OCEAN EDUCATION

Education is an individual right and a public service that has a social function. Through education, individuals seek access to knowledge, science, technology and the other benefits and values of culture. In this framework, it is necessary to include the theme of the ocean in all levels and modalities of the national education system, promote technical, technological and professional training programmes in ocean-related themes, boost the development of scientific competence in marine fields, encourage masters' and doctorate research programmes related to these topics, and support teachers and seafarers to build capacity in these programmes.

The country needs maritime education that shall teach people about seas and coastal areas not only in terms of their geographical, historical and cultural reality, but also about the wide range of possibilities for industry and the development of economic activities so that they are considered as a real development alternative.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The State, through the Ministry of National Education, in cooperation with higher education institutions, shall promote and encourage the creation of academic programmes relating to the use and preservation of the ocean and coastal areas.
- The State, through the Ministry of National Education, shall encourage higher education institutions that create academic programmes in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of vessels, naval equipment and maritime and port infrastructure.
- The State, through the Ministry of National Education, shall devise and apply educational strategies for raising awareness in the student population that are geared towards the dissemination of cultural, scientific, technological and technical knowledge on oceanic and coastal spaces.
- The State, through the Ministry of National Education shall promote teacher training in maritime themes by encouraging masters' and doctorate programmes.
- The State, through the DIMAR, shall enhance capacity-building and training of marine professionals and seafarers, in line with international standards and national needs.
- The State, through the Ministry of Education and the Association of Colombian Universities (ASCUN), shall recommend that existing academic training programmes in marine sciences be strengthened and propose the creation of new interdisciplinary programmes to fill the existing gaps, in accordance with maritime issues that are priorities for the country and incorporated in Vision 2019, the PNAOCI and the PNOEC.
- The State, through the Ministry of National Education and the DIMAR, shall coordinate management with an aim to determining the standards for training and capacity-building in the professions required for maritime and port activities.
- The State, through the Ministry of National Education in coordination with the MAVDT, shall encourage school environmental projects in order to build a citizen ethic of management of maritime and coastal resources.
- The State shall draw up education and dissemination strategies to build citizen awareness of the importance of the sea and its resources, protection of the marine environment and cooperating to find environmental and sustainable development solutions. Likewise, with private sector support, opportunities for

access to higher education, in technical and professional fields applied to naval sciences and the shipping industry shall remain available.

2.5.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage of the nation comprises all the cultural properties and values that are an expression of Colombian nationality, such as tradition, customs and habits, as well as all tangible and intangible property, movable and immovable, that represent a special historical, artistic, aesthetic, visual, architectural, urban, archaeological, environmental, documentary, literary, bibliographical, museological or anthropological interest and manifestations, products and representations of popular culture (Art. 4, Law No. 397 of 1997).

Also of special importance is heritage relating to archaeological remains found in marine areas, for the Constitution states clearly in Article 72 that "... The nation's archaeological heritage and other cultural resources that shape the national identity belong to the nation and are inalienable, unseizable, and imprescriptible...."

As a strategy for the recognition and preservation of these remains and tangible and intangible traditions associated with maritime culture, it is vital to identify, encourage the study of and publicize the cultural resources that exist in the coastal and island regions of Colombia. Cultural heritage is fragile: ignoring or placing it second to aggressive economic policies for exploitation of resources or for changing practices, or to uncontrolled industrial, tourism and urban development, is to deny the possibility of sharing with future generations important legacies that define and strengthen the national identity.

LINES OF ACTION:

- The Ministry of Culture and the ICANH shall enhance and expand the identification and inventory of tangible and intangible cultural archaeological property existing in oceanic and coastal spaces.
- The Ministry of Culture and the ICANH shall endorse legislation on the protection of archaeological and cultural heritage in oceanic and coastal spaces.
- The Ministry of Culture and the ICANH shall promote the elaboration of special protection plans for cultural property and management plans for archaeological sites.
- The Ministry of Culture and the ICANH shall encourage public awareness and the dissemination of expressions and tangible and intangible archaeological property to raise appreciation for the cultural heritage existing in oceanic and coastal spaces.
- The Ministry of Culture and the ICANH shall strengthen actions geared towards the prevention of the illicit trafficking of properties of cultural interest.

3. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING

The resources for the execution of the plans, programmes and projects of this policy must be provided through appropriate provision in the general national budget that are coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the DNP. In the same manner, the PNOEC must be elevated to the category of CONPES document and serve as input for the formulation of documents such as the National Development Plan, sectoral administrative development plans, development plans for territorial bodies, and territorial management plans.

Once the PNOEC is approved, the Plan of Action shall be recommended to the Government for the implementation of the present Policy and its follow-up through the SINOC, coordinated by the Executive Secretariat of the CCO, periodically and systematically throughout its implementation and execution, independently of the evaluation carried out by the relevant oversight bodies.

The PNOEC shall be assessed under the coordination of the Executive Secretariat of the CCO, taking into account various criteria of efficacy, efficiency and equity, to ensure that it remains up-to-date and continues to be the optimal basis for adjusting the actions of the Government, in line with the changing realities of the environmental, economic, social, institutional and technological context.

The Government shall identify within the National Development Plans (PND) the purposes and objectives in the Policy, and in turn shall establish the necessary appropriations within the Investment Plan for National Public Bodies, with the aim of carrying out the actions established in the said Policy.

In the same way, the bodies responsible for the execution of the lines of action laid out in the present Policy and its corresponding Plan of Action shall incorporate as appropriate within their investment plans the budgetary resources for the effective fulfilment of the goals defined.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
CAR	Regional Autonomous Corporation
CCCP	Centre for Pollution Control of the Pacific
CCO	Colombian Ocean Commission
CNI-PNOEC	National Inter-agency Committee for the National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy
COLCIENCIAS	Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology "Francisco José de Caldas"
CONPES	National Council for Social and Economic Policy
CORALINA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Providencia, and Santa Catalina
CORMAGDALENA	Río Grande de la Magdalena Regional Autonomous Corporation
COTECMAR	Science and Technology Corporation for Development of the Ocean and River Naval Industry
CIIFEN	International Research Centre on El Niño
CIOH	Centre for Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CIURE	Intersectoral Commission for the Rational Use of Energy and Non-Conventional Energy Sources
CPPS	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
DIMAR	General Maritime Directorate
DNP	National Planning Department
DPAD	Directorate for Disaster Prevention and Response
CREG	Energy and Gas Regulatory Commission
ERFEN	Regional Programme for the Study of the 'El Niño' Phenomenon
FENC	Non-Conventional Energy Sources, and Alternative and Renewable Energy
FINAGRO	Fund for the Financing of the Agricultural Sector
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICANH	Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History
IDEAM	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INCODER	Colombian Institute of Rural Development
INVEMAR	Institute for Marine and Coastal Research "José Benito Vives de Andreis"
IOC	UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCARIBE	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IPSE	Institute for the Investigation and Application of Energy Solutions
LPNOEC	National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy Guidelines
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MAVDT	Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
PNAOCI	National Environmental Policy for the Sustainable Development of Oceanic Spaces, Coastal Zones and Islands of Colombia
PNGRT	National Tsunami Risk Management Plan
PNICM	National Programme for the Study, Evaluation, Prevention,

	Reduction and Control of Land and Sea-based Sources of Marine Pollution
PNOEC	National Ocean and Coastal Regions Policy
PNPAD	National Disaster Prevention and Response Plan
SECCO	Executive Secretariat of the Colombian Ocean Commission
SENA	National Training Service
SIAC	Colombian Environmental Information System
SIAM	Marine Environmental Information System
SINA	National Environmental System
SINAP	National System of Protected Areas
SINOC	National System of Ocean and Coastal Information
SNPAD	National System for Disaster Prevention and Response
SPNN	National Natural Parks System
SOLAS/74	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (1974)
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
UAC	Integral Environmental Land Planning and Management Unit
UAESPNN	National Natural Parks System Special Administrative Unit
WTO	World Trade Organization