



## Overview:

### *Charting a Course for Sustainable Prosperity –*

#### An intuitive architecture to implement ecosystem-based management

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is recognised by many levels of government and international agreements as critical to the sustainable use of natural resources; however, taking EBM from the conceptual to operational stage is daunting. With so many considerations it is hard to know where to begin. *Charting a Course for Sustainable Prosperity* (“the Chart”) provides an overarching architecture within which the central elements of EBM can be placed and aligned. Usually treated as separate responsibilities, these elements are much more effective if their relationships are understood from the outset, and operationalized across agencies and jurisdictions when feasible.

In 2010 and 2011, the Pacific Marine Analysis and Research Association (PacMARA; a charitable organisation based in British Columbia, Canada), convened two focussed workshops. Experts from Federal, Provincial, and First Nations governments, academia, industry, and NGOs discussed the interaction of key policy elements including planning, legislation, regulation, enforcement, monitoring, and adaptive management. A Steering Committee shaped these ideas into a relational roadmap guided by revision and peer-review, thus producing the *Chart*. A companion document to the Chart elaborates upon operational relationships among the elements, and provides background examples and definitions.

PacMARA believes that the Chart’s architecture provides a valuable starting point for discussions around the implementation of EBM. However, we caution that this is not a “one size fits all” solution, and that each situation will involve unique characteristics and considerations. The Chart is a way to keep track of these considerations and can help direct a strategic analysis on what should be done next.

The architecture of the Chart has drawn upon success stories from the past to guide accomplishments of the future. It can be used in a number of ways, depending on the detail necessary for each management context. In its general form, the Chart can help governments and stakeholders examine key issues and align expectations around EBM components at a broad level. When further articulated in the context of a particular management problem, the Chart will help relate and explain specific aspects of resource use and conservation planning, identify and prioritise important linkages and dependencies, and direct the development of implementation plans.

The Chart identifies a set of *Enabling Outcomes* that lead to a set of desired *Strategic Outcomes*, when achieved. Using the “People-Planet-Profit” triple bottom-line as its foundation, the Chart combines Enabling and Strategic Outcomes into a coherent whole: *Sustainable Prosperity* (Figure 1).

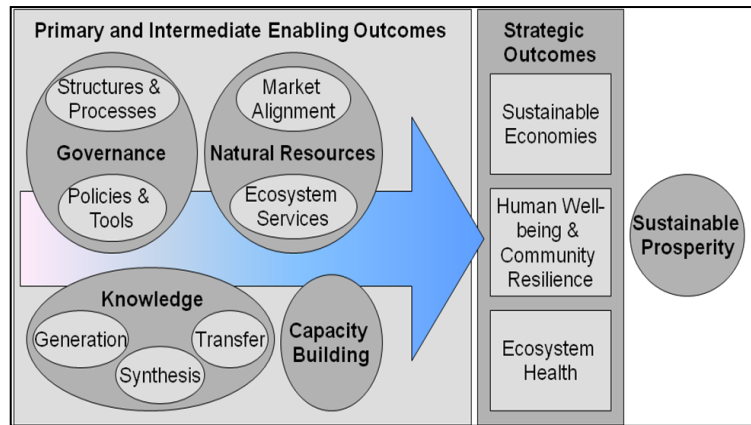


Figure 1: A diagrammatic view of the Chart’s architecture showing Capacity Areas (grey bubbles) that contain the Enabling Outcomes necessary to achieve the desired Strategic Outcomes that combine to create Sustainable Prosperity. Outcomes are ordered left to right, (shaded blue arrow). The detailed outcome map for the Governance Area is shown in Figure 2.

For each planning / management case, the architectural elements require customisation. This is done by working from right to left on the Chart, starting with the Strategic Outcomes, which help to identify

the context-specific Enabling Outcomes. Depending on the level of customisation, The Chart’s architecture can contribute to EBM in different ways. With minimal context, it can help engage interested groups in understanding the complexities of EBM and begin to highlight trade-offs. A fully developed and scored architecture (see Box 1) can provide the guidance necessary to promote comprehensive planning, implementation, management, and monitoring of the EBM process (e.g., Figure 2).

For each element in the Chart, checklists can be applied to the activities of assessing planning and management progress to date, establishing appropriate committees and governance structures, assigning roles and responsibilities to agencies / organisations, and prioritising remaining activities (Box 1).

By taking an itemised, element-by-element approach, the architecture checklists provide a more easily understood overview of the previously opaque complexities of EBM, making the objectives and outcomes more transparent and accessible.

**Box 1. Example checklist - Status of management plan:**

- A. There is no management plan for the initiative (Score = 0)
- B. A management plan is being prepared but is not being implemented (Score = 1)
- C. An approved management plan exists but it is being partially implemented (Score = 2)
- D. An approved management plan exists and is being implemented (Score = 3)

*Additional points for planning:*

- E. The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence development of the management plan (+1)
- F. The management plan is tied to the development and enforcement of regulations (+1)

The full Chart is available here in overview and expanded form: <http://pacmara.org/tikiwiki/>.

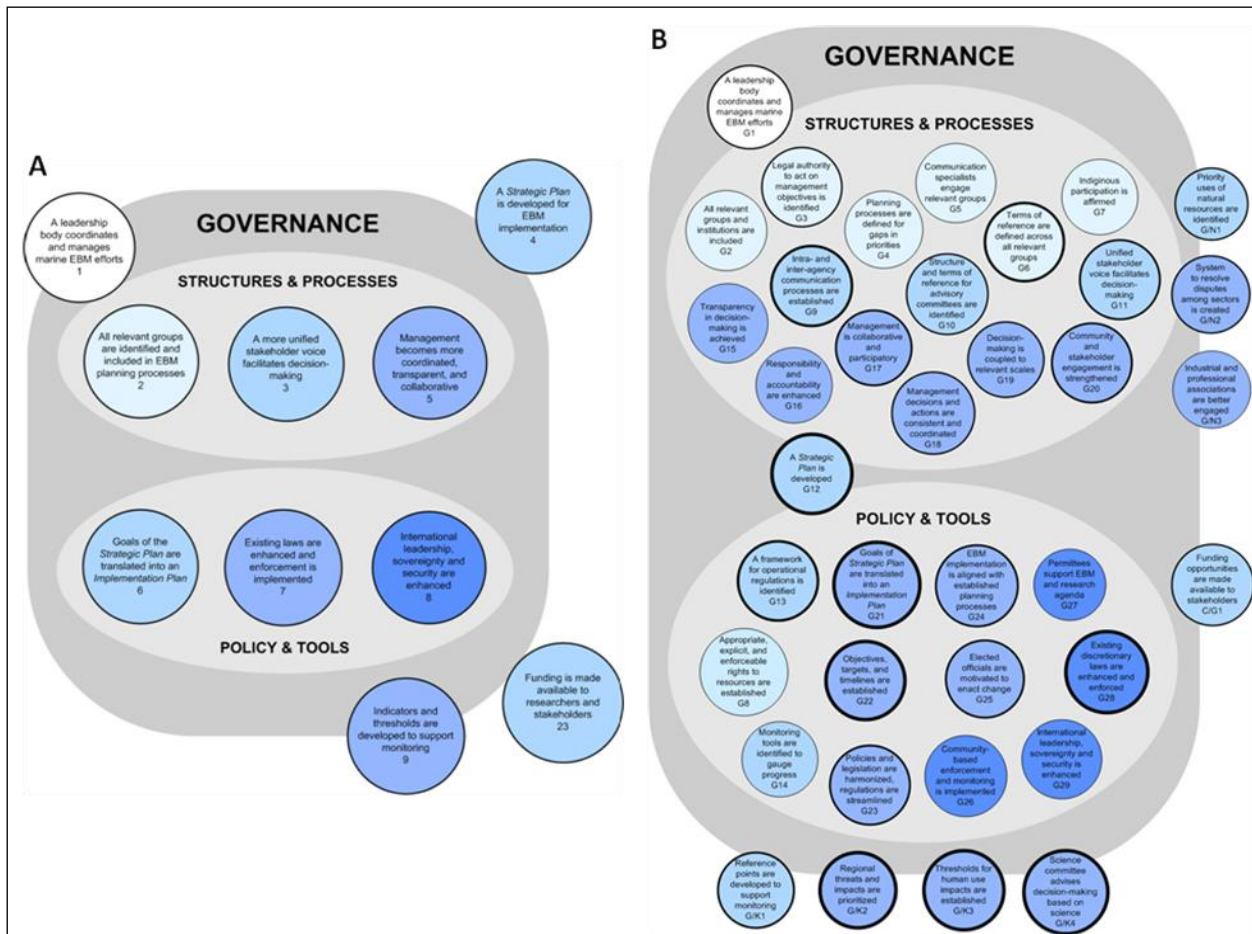


Figure 2. The Governance Capacity Area shown in (A) overview, and (B) expanded forms. Colours indicate precedence from early (light blue) to later (dark blue) likely implementation stages. Numbers correspond to elaborations in the Companion Document. The Natural Resources, Knowledge, and Capacity Building areas of the Chart similarly expand.