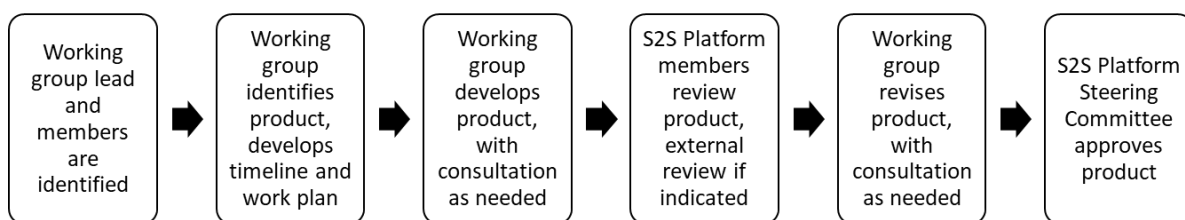# Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management

Working Groups Terms of Reference

Revised January 2019

The Action Platform on Source to Sea Management (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative to exchange and generate knowledge, and support joint action for improved management of land, freshwater, coastal and marine linkages. The mission of the S2S Platform is to support coordinated and innovative approaches to resource governance and management from source-to-sea.

To further develop the source-to-sea approach and support its application to key global challenges, the S2S Platform will form topic specific working groups. The aim is to have short duration working groups with clear, tangible outcomes that can be used by the S2S Platform to increase influence and impact, e.g., a guideline, briefing paper, training materials, etc. The working groups will consist of S2S Platform members working together on a specified topic and will have the duration required to complete the identified product.

Working groups are led by a S2S Platform member and may consist of three or more core group members who share responsibility for developing the final product and managing the process (see figure) from working group initiation to approval by the Steering Committee. Working group topics are identified by S2S Platform members, participation is fully voluntary, and final deliverables and work plan are agreed upon by the working group members. To best take advantage of the S2S Platform, the following process for working groups is proposed. In some cases, external stakeholders may need to be involved either in the core working group or as reviewers to ensure that final products will have broad applicability and credibility. The S2S Platform Secretariat can provide support to working groups, although primary responsibility for completing the process is with the working group members.

Working group lead and members are identified → Working group identifies product, develops timeline and work plan → Working group develops product, with consultation as needed → S2S Platform members review product, external review if indicated → Working group revises product, with consultation as needed → S2S Platform Steering Committee approves product

Working groups can be formulated to consider any topic for which there is sufficient interest and applicability to enlist core group members and justify the time of the Secretariat, platform members and the Steering Committee. Potential topics can arise from:

- The need for further guidance on application of the source-to-sea approach and the steps toward implementing source-to-sea management. This can build from the S2S Platform publication: *Implementing the Source-to-Sea Approach – A Guide for Practitioners*

- Specific global challenges that could benefit from source-to-sea management, e.g., plastic leakage to freshwater and oceans, climate, nutrient pollution, emerging pollutants, etc.
- Policy and technical processes that could benefit from in-depth analysis and recommendations, e.g., UNEA, Our Oceans, WWF 9, UNCCC CoP, etc.
- Identified training needs.
- Specific sectors, e.g., the private sector generally or public and private sector involvement in e.g., forestry, fisheries, hydropower, climate adaptation and/or mitigation.

Potential outputs from working groups:

- Practitioner guides or training materials
- Policy briefs
- Overview of available tools, methodologies and initiatives
- Case reviews
- Sectoral guidance
- Project concepts
- Other