

ABNJ:LEARN NEWS

Learning About Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction



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Editors' Note:

Welcome to the first issue of ABNJ:LEARN News!

*This newsletter will report news and developments from the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Global Ocean Forum (GOF) project on **Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)**(ABNJ Capacity Project), as well as from other projects that are part of the Common Oceans Program (www.commonoceans.org). In 2012-2014, the GEF initiated this major new program on ABNJ, led by FAO and partners, with the support of a US\$50 million GEF investment and US\$220 million in co-financing contributions from many partner organizations.*

The aim of the newsletter is to share information about the ABNJ Capacity Project and the GEF/FAO Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (Common Oceans Program), and to help facilitate the transfer of knowledge, information, and best practices to interested parties at national, regional, and global levels in order to encourage the advancement of policies and practices related to integrated, ecosystem-based management of the 64% of the world's ocean lying beyond national jurisdiction.

The newsletter is produced in cooperation with the GEF's IW:LEARN program, which brings together the experiences and lessons learned from GEF International Waters programs around the world (www.iwlearn.net).

Biliana Cicin-Sain, Miriam C. Balgos, and Tina Farmer, Editors

News

Project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ Capacity Project)

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The marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), which comprise 64% of the oceans' surface, contain ecosystems with marine resources and biodiversity of great ecological, socio-economic, and cultural importance. The ecosystems in the ABNJ include the water column and seabed of the high seas, and are located far from coastal areas, making the sustainable management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation in these areas a challenging endeavour.

Historically, the primary focus of nations regarding marine resources has been on their coastal zones and 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Only recently have national leaders begun to expand their concerns to also include the ocean areas beyond their national jurisdictions. They are now seeking better understanding of how processes and issues originating in the ABNJ affect areas within national jurisdiction, as well as enhanced knowledge and understanding to enable proper management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, to ensure the health of the oceans and the wellbeing of coastal and island communities. However, ABNJ management embraces a complex set of issues on which knowledge is often inadequate.

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Project Partners

Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
Government of France
(French Marine Protected Areas Agency)
Government of Korea
(Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology)
Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), France

International Maritime Organization
International Ocean Institute
Nausicaa: Centre National de la Mer, France
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
SeaOrbiter
UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission)
UNESCO (Natural Sciences)
University of Delaware
Vietnam National University
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
World Ocean Network.

To view all Common Oceans partners visit: commonoceans.org/partners

Box 1. ABNJ Capacity Project Partners

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
French Marine Protected Areas Agency
Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (IOC-UNESCO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
International Ocean Institute
Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
Nausicaa Centre National de la Mer
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
SeaOrbiter
UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS)
UNESCO Natural Sciences
University of Delaware
Vietnam National University (VNU-University of Science)
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
World Ocean Network (WON)

Existing management arrangements are largely sectorally-based and typically lacking in cross-sectoral integration mechanisms. Moreover, there are different legal and policy instruments at global and regional levels, and nations have different perspectives on alternative ways for moving forward to enhance ecosystem approaches in the management of ABNJ.

Furthermore, many nations lack the capacity to effectively implement conservation and management in ABNJ. Here, capacity refers not only to financial resources and technology, but also to knowledge, expertise, and access to information. Lack of means to share information, expertise, and best practices has inhibited the capacity of managers and governments to effectively manage ABNJ using ecosystem approaches.

The *Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program* (Common Oceans Program) was initiated to bring about improvement in the management and conservation of tuna and deep-sea fisheries resources and biodiversity in ABNJ, in order to achieve global targets and goals. The Common Oceans Program connects a variety of partners from governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry to reach a common goal of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services of ABNJ.

The **ABNJ Capacity Project** aims to facilitate global and regional cross-sectoral policy dialogue and coordination, improve knowledge management and outreach, and contribute to increased capacity for decision-making at various levels of ABNJ management. The Global Ocean Forum and FAO are co-executing the project, with a wide range of partners (see Box 1) to achieve the following goals:

- Raise the awareness of decision-makers at national and regional levels and of the general public about ABNJ issues to spur greater understanding of and engagement in ABNJ management.

- Strengthen and broaden cross-sectoral dialogue and policy coordination in the ABNJ, especially through linking global and regional frameworks and approaches and promoting lesson learning from experiences in different regions.
- Enhance the capacity of decision-makers, especially from developing countries, to understand the issues at stake and the processes involved in ABNJ, and to foster their participation in international/regional processes for management and coordination of ABNJ activities.

Activities to be undertaken during the project include: convening cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder workshops and high-level dialogues for key decision-makers to enhance their awareness and understanding of ABNJ issues; developing two communities of practice (CoPs) that will create a network of practitioners to collectively address problems and issues in the ABNJ and to advance knowledge on these questions; and creating a public outreach network and ABNJ web portal to expand and improve efforts to inform stakeholders about the ABNJ and the Common Oceans Program. As well, the ABNJ Capacity Project will play a central role in synthesizing and sharing the knowledge and lessons learned from the other projects in the Common Oceans Program.

The ABNJ Capacity Project was officially kicked off on April 10, 2014, at an Inception Meeting attended by thirty-one (31) participants representing the GEF, IW:LEARN, the project implementing agency (FAO), the co-executing agencies (FAO and GOF), collaborating partner organizations, and other projects under the Common Oceans program. The meeting reviewed the project's annual workplan, budget, and first year activities.

First-year Activities

Workshop on linking global and regional levels in the management and conservation of fisheries and biodiversity conservation of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction

The first workshop on linking global and regional levels in the management and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, tentatively scheduled to be held during the second half of February 2015, at FAO in Rome, aims to provide an important opportunity for stakeholders (from governments, industry, NGOs, IGOs, and academia) to advance discussion of global and regional level perspectives and experiences on issues related to sustainable management and conservation of fisheries resources and biodiversity in ABNJ across sectors and between global and regional levels, and to:

1. assess knowledge, ongoing efforts at national/regional and global levels, and available capacity relevant to sustainable management of fisheries and biodiversity conservation, with the aim of identifying knowledge gaps and capacity needs;
2. establish cross-sectoral linkages for improved information-sharing on ABNJ across sectors, and among global, regional, and national levels;
3. analyze and disseminate useful and up-to-date lessons learned, best practices, and emerging trends in research, development, and management of ABNJ resources taking place in various regions of the world; and
4. provide a synthesis of options to relevant global and regional policy processes to: 1) address areas of uncertainty due to a weak knowledge base on fisheries and biodiversity, and 2) improve sustainable use of fishery resources and conservation of biodiversity in the ABNJ.

More information will be available on registration and logistics of the workshop in the next several weeks.



Biliiana Cicin-Sain (second from left) and GOF/University of Delaware/World Ocean Network colleagues (from left to right) Erica Wales, Philippe Vallette, Taylor Daley, Adam Disque, Magdalena Muir, Kyra Kim and Alexis Martin at the UN Negotiations relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, April 2014. (Photo Credit: Miriam Balgos)

Organization of two communities of practice (CoPs)

During the first year of implementation, the ABNJ Capacity Project will organize two communities of practice (CoPs) on: 1) *Fisheries, Biodiversity, and Climate Change*; and 2) *Multi-sector Area-based Planning*. CoPs are informal networks of practitioners drawn from various disciplines and sectors that exchange and interact on a specific issue of importance.

The CoPs will be composed of national, regional, and global leaders, leading managers, scientists, academia and other practitioners, who will interact on a regular basis through virtual and face-to-face information-sharing and other communication techniques. The two CoPs will: compile and assess the best available scientific information on specific areas of focus; identify best management practices, principles and approaches; identify and assess practical mechanisms for cross-sectoral implementation; synthesize lessons, experiences, and results from other Common Oceans Program projects.

The operation of the CoPs will be facilitated via an online group management platform, with interactive discussions taking place through web-based communication, teleconferences, and discussion fora. Each network will be composed of about 35-70 leaders and expert practitioners drawn from all sectors and areas of the world with relevant experience and knowledge on ABNJ issues.

The ***Fisheries, Biodiversity, and Climate Change*** CoP will work closely with the ABNJ Tuna Project (see later article by Alejandro Anganuzzi for more information on this project) and the Deep Sea Fisheries and Biodiversity Project (see later article by Merete Tandstad for more information on this project) to address existing or potential impacts of climate change on fisheries and biodiversity, focusing on the scientific issues and potential policy responses, and further areas of research and analysis needed.

The ***Multi-sector Area-based Planning*** CoP will focus on the issues related to the application of area-based management tools in various regions of the world to achieve enhanced integration among separate sectoral processes involving multiple uses of the ocean. Such tools include vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs), marine protected areas (MPAs), and other tools such as marine spatial planning. The CoP will also address environmental impact assessments (EIAs), strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), and ecological risk analysis.

Capacity needs assessment

The project will carry out a capacity needs assessment to analyze existing capacity and the future/desired/needed capacity in the management of ABNJ at both national and regional levels. The assessment will be carried out at the global level, with special emphasis on target stakeholders in regions where there is considerable interest in advancing ecosystem-based management of

ABNJ, such as in the Indian Ocean, Southeast Africa, Southeast Pacific, and the Pacific Islands. These regions also represent target regions for the projects of the Common Oceans Program.

A targeted survey will be designed and distributed to respondents from the Global Ocean Forum national leaders network (over 110 countries), Regional Seas Program, Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) programs, and the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). The survey will target senior decision-makers at regional and national levels, with an emphasis on developing countries. Questions will be designed to assess existing national/regional policies and authorities for the ABNJ, as well as the level of interest and capacity constraints in ABNJ issues. Illustrative questions that will be asked include:

- What capacity is present regarding ABNJ in the nation/region? What is the level of knowledge of national/regional leaders about: ABNJ environments and resources, including climate change effects; level of scientific understanding of ABNJ environments and resources; threats to the marine environment, especially to marine biodiversity; multiple current and potential uses of the ABNJ—e.g., shipping, fishing, submarine cables, scientific research, deep-seabed mining, tourism, carbon capture and storage; existing legal and policy frameworks at global and regional levels?
- To what extent has the country/region developed a national/regional policy/strategy on ABNJ? Which organization(s)/agencies (regional, national), if any, has/have competence regarding ABNJ?
- What types of capacity development approaches would be useful in the further development of capacity on ABNJ in the nation/region?

The results of the assessment will be used to inform and to help guide the design of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program and the development of ABNJ training materials, as noted in the next section.

ABNJ Regional Leaders Program

As part of the first-year activities plan, the ABNJ Capacity Project will develop the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program. This program, with the first round beginning in January 2015, aims to strengthen the capacity of leaders at the national and regional levels to better manage ABNJ resources and more effectively participate in global and regional ABNJ discussions. Participation in the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program will develop skills and partnerships that will contribute to increasing national and regional capacity to improve policy-making, management, and the sustainable use of marine resources in ABNJ.

After an open solicitation process, five regional leaders will: (i) be invited to participate in the global negotiations on ABNJ to gain understanding about global ABNJ policy frameworks, and ongoing negotiations; (ii) participate in a short course on ABNJ; and (iii) have the opportunity to present their national/regional perspectives to a global audience. The first round of the program will coincide with the ninth meeting of the UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (January 20-23, 2015). The ABNJ Leaders Program will include a short course, with a specially designed “ABNJ primer,” focusing on: global and regional approaches to ABNJ management; policy issues related to the implementation of management tools; capacity needs of developing countries; and the global and regional policy processes related to ABNJ. The course will be organized by the Global Ocean Forum and the University of Delaware, together with FAO and other partners such as UNDOALOS and IMO. The regional leaders will also be invited to work with their national delegations at the United Nations to contribute to global ABNJ processes.

Knowledge Management and Outreach

The knowledge management and outreach component of the ABNJ Capacity project aims to improve public knowledge and understanding of ABNJ issues; facilitate dialogue between the public and ABNJ experts to educate and inform the public; develop a network of journalists, ABNJ practitioners, individuals from museum/aquaria, and other outreach specialists to undertake effective public outreach on ABNJ issues through the creation of a Public Outreach Network; and provide improved access to relevant ABNJ information through a dedicated ABNJ Web Portal.

The development of the Public Outreach Network will be carried out by GOF together with partners, especially museums and aquaria led by Nausicaa (Centre National de la Mer, France) and the World Ocean Network, and with the Common Oceans Program Communications Team. This effort will involve the following tasks: 1) Identify and invite specific journalists, practitioners, individuals from museums and aquaria, and outreach specialists to be members and leaders of the Network; 2) Develop a Terms of Reference to define the responsibilities and guidelines of membership within the Public Outreach Network; 3) Identify key opportunities and targets for outreach; 4) Develop an online platform to support the activities of the Network; and 5) Provide the Network members with information on relevant ABNJ issues through semi-annual reports on Project outputs of the Common Oceans Program, as well as through coordination calls with other Program implementers. This component also includes the creation of an ABNJ Web Portal, led by FAO, which is designed to improve sharing of information and best practices from ABNJ Program projects and other ABNJ partners.

Project on Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation (ABNJ Tuna Project)

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Few resources are as closely associated to ABNJ as the collection of species that we refer to as tuna. With 4.5 million tonnes per year caught worldwide, it is one of the main resources available in the ABNJ. Being highly migratory species, they are typically found not only in the ABNJ, but often straddle, at some portion of their lives, the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of coastal countries as they traverse their migratory routes. This means that coastal States can benefit directly and indirectly from tuna fisheries in



Alejandro Anganuzzi at the FAO Committee on Fisheries Meeting, June 2014
(Photo Credit, Tina Farmer)

their regions, even if they do not yet have their own domestic fleets, by providing access to their EEZs for distant-water fishing nations, or by providing services to the fleet, including processing facilities.

Much has been said about the world's tuna stocks having been overexploited. However, not all varieties of tuna are overfished. While the various species of bluefin tuna, typically from higher latitudes and caught in relatively small quantities, are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation, the

vast majority of the tuna we eat comes from higher productivity stocks that have been resistant to overexploitation. That explains why, although scientists have identified 30% of the stocks as being overfished, over 90% of the tuna caught comes from stocks whose status is deemed to be healthy.

However, there is still much work to do to ensure sustainability of tuna fisheries in all oceans, and to mitigate adverse impacts of the fishing activities on the ecosystem, thus protecting biodiversity. There is no doubt that the international community has agreed on these goals for many years; the ABNJ Tuna Project aims to contribute to the realization of those goals.

The 5-year ABNJ Tuna project is the largest of the Common Oceans projects, with FAO as the implementing agency and working with a large and diverse array of partners (see Box 2). Of note amongst the partners are the five tuna RFMOs, encompassing 88 different countries as members of the various organizations, with some of them (such as Fiji and Ghana) acting as direct executing partners in some project activities. There is strong participation from the environmental community by organizations such as WWF (which also leads in four of the scheduled activities) and BirdLife International, by private sector through bodies such as ISSF, ISSA and FTBOA, and by sub-regional organizations (such as FFA, OSPESCA, PNA, and SPC).

All in all, the ABNJ Tuna Project will involve a very diverse set of partners that are united by a common goal and working around three components: 1) *supporting the systematic application of a precautionary approach and ecosystem approach*; 2) *reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and improving compliance*; and 3) *mitigating adverse impacts of by-catch on biodiversity*. A fourth cross-cutting component addresses the

Box 2. ABNJ Tuna Project Partners

All the tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (t-RFMOs):

- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Birdlife International and Birdlife South Africa

Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

Pacific Islands Fisheries Forum Agency (FFA)

Governments of Ghana and Fiji

Fiji Tuna Boat Owners Association (FTBOA)

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and Association (ISSA)

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA)

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)



project's monitoring and evaluation.

The ABNJ Tuna Project aims at building new partnerships to improve the capacity of developing States, enable the sharing of experiences and support South-South cooperation. It seeks to bring global benefits, while at the same time, working with existing initiatives and management frameworks. With proactive facilitation and training, successful experiences will be shared among RFMO member States, the private sector, industry and civil society organizations, to build confidence that the pilot activities can be scaled up elsewhere.

Component 1. The first component focuses on *supporting the full implementation of the precautionary approach at the RFMO level*, according to the guidelines of international instruments such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This requires the adoption of harvest strategies in each of the t-RFMOs that have not yet done so (the CCSBT has already adopted a harvest strategy). Capacity building workshops for officials from RFMO member countries will help increase the familiarity and confidence with the process of harvest strategy evaluation, while the ABNJ Tuna Project also supports dialogue between scientists and managers that are crucial in the development of harvest strategies. This process is moving forward, with the ABNJ Tuna Project having held the first capacity building workshop in Sri Lanka for officials of IOTC countries, followed by a one-day science–management dialogue. These activities contributed to the adoption by IOTC countries of a resolution strengthening the management strategy evaluation process. The ABNJ Tuna project will also promote and support the preparation of long-term plans for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries in each RFMO.

Component 2. *Addressing IUU fishing* is supported through a number of strategies. To a large extent, these are based on empowering officials from member countries through capacity building of enforcement officers by establishing, for the first time in the world, a certification-based training program. The ABNJ Tuna Project also aims at creating mechanisms for exchange of experiences of enforcement and monitoring personnel in developing States, leading to a global community, and contributing to the formulation of best practices in monitoring, control and surveillance. The ABNJ Tuna Project will also work with the RFMO Secretariats to support various initiatives to improve compliance by developing States that are members of the RFMOs. The FAO Port State Measures Agreement, close to entering into force, is one of the new international instruments developed to combat IUU fishing. The ABNJ Tuna Project is already taking steps towards its implementation by creating templates that will facilitate incorporation of the Agreement's provisions into national legislation. Also under this component, work has already started on expanding a consolidated global record of authorized tuna vessels for the five t-RFMOs that would provide a global framework for exchanging information about suspect vessels.

Another important pilot project involves pilot trials in the use of innovative electronic monitoring systems to improve compliance in tuna fisheries with direct collaboration among the private sector, NGOs, and the governments of Ghana and Fiji.

Market controls constitute one of the best lines of defense against products from illegal fishing reaching consumers. The ABNJ Tuna Project will support an analysis of global tuna supply chains to identify possible weaknesses that might allow entry of IUU products into the markets.

Component 3. The third component addresses the *ecosystem impacts of tuna fisheries*. The ABNJ Tuna Project is supporting the collaboration between the WCPFC and IATTC to develop integrated and consistent management plans for sharks in both sides of the Pacific. The ABNJ Tuna Project is also supporting the development and dissemination of mitigation techniques for by-catch of small tuna and sharks in purse-seiners or incidental seabird mortality in long-line fleets, including the development of a global portal to access information on the success of various techniques.

These are still early days in the ABNJ Tuna Project, and we still need to complete the administrative infrastructure required to reach full deployment of resources. However, even at this time, the spirit of cooperation among all partners is driving early successes, which bodes well for the future.

Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the ABNJ (The ABNJ Deep Seas Project)

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Merete Tandstad (at right) at the FAO Committee on Fisheries Meeting, June 2014
(Photo Credit: Tina Farmer)

Deep-sea fisheries (DSFs) in the high seas occur in waters beyond national jurisdiction on continental slopes or isolated oceanic topographic structures such as seamounts, ridge systems, and banks. These deep-sea marine ecosystems support many distinct species, and serve a variety of ecosystem functions, such as providing microhabitats for

different life-cycle stages of fish species, including those targeted by commercial fisheries. Innovation and advances in technology have made the once geographically or economically isolated ABNJ prone to increasing human activities and associated pressures, both individual and cumulative. While DSFs currently constitute the main human activity in most zones of the ABNJ, other sectors – such as mining, shipping, cable-laying, and oil and gas extraction – are rapidly developing.

Demersal species are the primary targets of DSFs and are harvested using technologically advanced gear for bottom- and mid-water trawls, pots, and long-lines. These high-value fisheries reach up to US\$620 million annually (2006), and the typical low-productivity of many DSF species has resulted in overexploitation of many deep-sea stocks.

Although significant progress has been made in promoting sustainable DSFs and biodiversity conservation at global and regional levels, the pace and scope of attention needs to be increased

Box 3. ABNJ Deep Seas Project Partners

The existing and emerging deep-sea RFMO/As and Multilateral Organizations:

- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

Nairobi Convention

Sealord Ltd.

Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA)

International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA)

Others

substantially given the known high vulnerability of unmanaged deep-sea fish stocks, associated bycatch species and habitats.

The main objective of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project is to achieve sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and improving biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: (i) improving sustainable management practices for DSFs, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems; (ii) improving the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and enhanced conservation and management of components of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs); and (iii) testing area-based planning tools for deep-sea ecosystems. Funded by GEF and other partners, the ABNJ Deep Seas Project provides a unique opportunity to foster cooperation among regional bodies, the fishing industry, NGOs, national fisheries administrations/scientific institutions, universities, and other partners (see Box 3) to collaborate in supporting in the sustainable management of DSFs and associated biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project will build on existing work and achievements, strengthening without duplicating existing processes within competent bodies and supporting both global and regional activities. In particular, it will focus effort on three primary pilot areas: the Southeast Atlantic; the Southeast Pacific; and the Indian Ocean. The testing of practices in the pilot areas will take place over the five-year span of the project in tandem with global activities that inform activities in the pilot areas. Eventually, the results from these pilot studies should contribute to improving tools and developing approaches that can then be scaled up to a global level.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project is structured around five components:

1. Policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas

The development of a global step-wise guide for the implementation of relevant international policy and legal instruments to DSFs and biodiversity conservation will improve the implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks. At the regional level, a model legal and policy framework for one of the pilot



Presentation of the Common Oceans Program to the FAO Committee on Fisheries, June 2014, from right to left: Jeremy Turner, Program Manager, Common Oceans Program; Nicole Glineur, Program Manager for Biodiversity and Private Sector, Global Environment Facility; Minister Peter Simon, Seychelles; Lahsen Ababouch, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO

regions will be developed together with a regional legal capacity development program. Options for market-based incentives (e.g., trade certification, catch documentation and eco-labeling) will be formulated, based on a specific case study either in the Indian Ocean or the Southeast Atlantic and on existing experiences and lessons learned. The first component will also support the strengthening of regional and global cross-sectoral networks and includes global deep-sea workshops.

2. Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs

With a focus on improving the application of management tools for avoiding or mitigating the greatest threats to the sustainability of DSFs and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, component 2 will compile, analyze, and feed current information available on the target stocks, marine areas in need of enhanced protection (particularly VMEs and EBSAs), as well as the socio-economic data associated with deep-sea fisheries and fishing practices, into regional and national processes. The component will also facilitate coordination and exchange of information between specific fisheries and biodiversity conservation efforts related to VMEs and EBSAs through an information-sharing platform and interactive web databases, allowing for greater use and ownership of data at the regional level. To reduce impacts on VMEs and enhance their conservation and management, improved management measures and fishing practices will be supported in at least one pilot region. Associated tools such as species identification guides for vulnerable species will also be developed.

Capacity development is an integral part of this component. The capacity of countries to address these issues through relevant international processes or targeted training, including the identification of VMEs and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)/EBSA process, will be strengthened with a view to facilitating their incorporation into national and regional processes.

3. Improved planning and adaptive management for DSF in the ABNJ (increased application of EAF)

Focusing on facilitating the adoption of sound planning and good practices for improving fisheries management processes and tools consistent with an ecosystem approach, an analysis of DSF best practices will be synthesized into an operational manual for improved planning and management. Improved knowledge on key deep-sea species and a global review of rights-based management (RBM) applications will also be supported. With a particular focus on the selected pilot areas, the ABNJ Deep Sea Project will facilitate the development of a broader perspective

and approach to fisheries management planning and biodiversity conservation through the application of the step-wise EAF process. The development and testing of monitoring programs based on indicators and reference points, and the development of an action plan for adoption of best MCS practices, will promote strategies for improving management effectiveness. In a comparable way, the ABNJ Deep Seas Project will also bring together global knowledge on best practices in MCS for deep-sea fisheries. This will provide a new and important resource for those with responsibilities for MCS in deep-sea fisheries. This project will work with stakeholders and other partners to facilitate the identification of fishing practices and specific management measures where there is scope for improvement, and actively investigate options to strengthen them.

4. Development and testing of a methodology for area-based planning

Led by UNEP, this component will develop and test multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary and ecosystem-based methodologies for marine area-based planning. This component will build on existing knowledge on area-based planning tools and technologies in order to determine their applicability in ABNJ in regional pilot areas. The specific challenges required to further develop and test area-based planning tools for use within the context found in the ABNJ will be addressed. Good practices, lessons learned and accumulated experiences on spatial management and area-based planning in the ABNJ from the Northeast Atlantic, Mediterranean and elsewhere (e.g., Sargasso Sea and Southern Ocean) will be shared as a way to enhance the capabilities of other competent authorities. The major objective of the component will be to test these area-based planning methodologies in collaboration with the appropriate regional bodies and contracting party member States in pilot regions.

5. Project monitoring and evaluation

This cross-cutting component will ensure project activities stay on track and meet targeted goals throughout the five-year lifetime of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, as well as supporting good communication practices. This component will involve a strong collaborative relationship between the executing agencies and the related partners to ensure project milestones are met.

On June 5-6, 2014, a two-day workshop involving partners of the ABNJ Deep Seas project was held at FAO headquarters in Rome to inform on and discuss current status and look into partner arrangements for the implementation phase. The workshop brought together representatives from regional bodies managing deep-sea resources, regional seas programs, the fishing industry, NGOs, national fisheries administrations/scientific institutions, and universities as well as representatives of GEF and two GEF agencies (FAO and UNEP).

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project was endorsed by the GEF CEO in June 2014, and implementation can now begin, starting with the setting up of the project management team, and the organization of the inception meeting and first steering committee meeting.

Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation--Models for Innovation and Reform (ABNJ Ocean Partnerships Project)

Mr. Tim Bostock, Project Coordinator, World Bank
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Through the Ocean Partnerships project, the Common Oceans program is addressing the sustainable management of highly migratory species, such as tuna, billfish, and sharks, found both



Tim Bostock at the FAO Committee on Fisheries Meeting, June 2014

within and beyond national jurisdiction, through the generation and support of public and private sector investment.

The objective of the Ocean Partnerships Project is to develop business plans in each targeted region, which include the Western Central Pacific, Eastern Pacific, Caribbean, and the Bay of Bengal, to attract public and private investment for the sustainable management of several different fisheries, each spanning areas within and beyond national jurisdiction. Responding to the recognition by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that improperly managed fisheries constitute the greatest threat to ocean biodiversity, and to sustainable economic and social development, the project focuses on the real value proposition of business plans – specifically looking for private sector commitment within public-private partnerships.

The three-year project is implemented by the World Bank, with regional partners in the Western Central Pacific, Eastern Pacific, Caribbean, and the Bay of Bengal and international environmental partners such as Conservation International and WWF (US) (see Box 4). In addition, the project leverages World Bank investment under the International Development Association (IDA) for the projects in the Bay of Bengal and the Western Central Pacific.

The ABNJ Ocean Partnerships project is centered around three components:

1. Definition and development of business plans for long-term transformational pilots for sustainable fisheries in priority ocean areas

Component 1 of the project focuses on the development of business plans for fisheries management, in particular looking for private sector commitment to public-private partnerships. Each regional sub-project will undertake the prioritization, analysis, and development of business plans for pilot projects addressing more effective management of fisheries on shared highly migratory stocks occurring within developing coastal and island States' EEZ and adjacent ABNJ. The business plans will offer the potential for relatively rapid transformation towards sustainable and responsible fisheries. In the context of this project, such changes can be characterized as a combination of three principal benefits: economic efficiency, biodiversity conservation/ecosystem health, and social equity. The design of the business plans will be informed by input from regional stakeholders'

Box 4. Ocean Partnerships Project Partners

Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP-IGO)

Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

World Wildlife Fund - U.S. (WWF-US)

Conservation International (CI)

experiences with shared stocks management. Stakeholders include: public and private sector actors from a range of World Bank client countries – essentially inter-ministerial committees and other appropriate stakeholder groupings – and regional fishery bodies (particularly RFMOs but also LMEs) with a mandate for conservation and management of these stocks.

The specific criteria for selecting the pilot projects that will be developed during the preparation phase include: (i) social and political commitment and capacity; (ii) interest of private sector operating in ABNJ/EEZ context, including drive and leadership; (iii) civil society/public support and capacity; (iv) actual or potential importance of the fishery and associated ecosystems and their status, to local/regional economies (especially food security, sustainable livelihoods, rent capture by coastal States/SIDS); and (v) fish stock status, threats and marine ecosystem importance factors. The latter will include the Ocean Health Index (OHI) and Fisheries Performance Indicators (FPI) – indicator systems to facilitate rapid analysis and help map specific threats and opportunities. The selection and associated seascape mapping process will form a major part of the effort of the Global Partnership on Oceans (GPO) to identify the priority ocean areas.

Four pilot projects will be designed, each focusing on highly profitable migratory fish stocks in the following regions:

- small-scale tuna long-line fisheries in the Bay of Bengal;
- tuna fisheries prosecuted by distant-water fishing nations under the Parties of the Nauru Agreement's Vessel Day Scheme in the Western and Central Pacific;

- h• billfish exploited by recreational and commercial small-scale fisheries in the West/Central Atlantic and Caribbean;
- skipjack tuna fisheries caught by large-scale purse seine vessels fishing in the Eastern Pacific.

Pilot candidates are expected to be able to demonstrate the potential to achieve relatively rapid transformational change. Once pilots have been selected, effort under this component will focus on a range of supporting and scoping activities depending on local needs.

2. An innovation grant facility

Conservation International, in cooperation with the regional project partners, will develop a grant facility that supports activities contributing to effective implementation of the pilot projects. The fund also aims to provide opportunistic grants that evaluate existing efforts underway by private actors. The types of activities that the grant facility is seeking to address are strategic management analyses, evaluation of new equipment and technologies, and capacity development activities.

3. Inter-regional coordination, implementation support, and monitoring and evaluation

The final component seeks to enable regional outreach and collaboration among the four pilot projects and innovation grant facility through a Global Think Tank (GloTT). GloTT aims to advance South-South exchange of knowledge and experience in managing shared, highly migratory stocks. GloTT will also produce a number of economic and sector work papers for the World Bank and GEF.

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multistakeholder dialogues, and public education and outreach. The Global Ocean Forum is hosted at the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy in the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment.

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