



Area-based management
in ABNJ:
Creating coherence

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Tools for area-based management

- Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- Different ecosystem approaches, including CBD ecosystem approach and ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)
- Environmental data
- Codes of conduct
- Area-based management: CBD EBSAs, FAO VMEs, IMO PSSAs, etc...
- Creating coherence

Environmental Impact Assessment

- EIAs already exist in the Antarctic Treaty's Madrid Protocol, the London Convention, the International Seabed Authority, Espoo Convention, Berne Convention, World Heritage Convention, UNGA Resolutions on bottom fisheries (61/105, 64/72 etc.)
- Develop and adopt uniform requirements for EIAs for all ocean uses, both current and future, for activities may have an impact beyond a certain threshold
- Identify:
 - Trigger point for EIA
 - More than a minor or transitory impact (Antarctic Treaty System)
 - Serious harm (International Seabed Authority)
 - What entities should carry out the assessment
 - Standards and guidelines
 - To whom should results be reported
 - Transparency and stakeholder participation
 - Who decides if activity can go ahead
 - If activity goes ahead, what mitigating actions might be taken
 - Monitoring

EIA in ABNJ

- **Challenges:**
 - Unknown biodiversity and ecological relationships – knowledge gaps
 - Geographical differences – depth, pressure, temperatures, productivity
 - Practical differences – less data, distance from site, costs, stakeholders
 - Governance differences – UNCLOS, global and regional organizations, UNGA's central role in ABNJ
- **CBD voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) in marine and coastal areas**
- **Rather than EIA (reactive and sectoral), may want to also conduct SEA to analyse all stressors, policies, resources, stakeholders, options**

Different ecosystem approaches

- There is no one “correct” way to implement the ecosystem approach
- There are many different “ecosystem approaches”, including:
 - The CBD ecosystem approach (could be applicable in ABNJ – CBD Article 4b)
 - The ecosystem approach to fisheries (already applied in ABNJ)
 - Integrated marine and coastal area management (lessons learned transferable to ABNJ)

Different ecosystem approaches

- Each of these ecosystem approaches are implemented in accordance with a definition, a set of principles, guidance and/or guidelines
- An analysis of principles and existing guidance shows that there is good consistency between the 3 approaches
- **Management of human uses in the marine environment can be undertaken through any of these approaches as appropriate for the specific circumstances**

Moving towards implementation

- Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, and other area-based management are part of the toolkit of an ecosystem approach
- Management of oceans would need to be supported by information systems that integrate spatially referenced environmental data, information about uses of ocean space and jurisdictional boundaries
- Need to understand conflicts and synergies between uses and user groups
- Need a process for stakeholder participation in the management of deep and open oceans in the long term

Environmental information for ABNJ

- CBD through the EBSA process
- FAO and RFMOs through the VME process, other assessment and monitoring
- IOC of UNESCO – Global Ocean Observing System, databases such as Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)
- ISA for mining areas
- Other databases such as the World Registry of Marine Species (WORMS), GenBank, etc.
- Scientific research institutions, ocean observing and monitoring systems and networks
- Need to make access to environmental information relating to ABNJ easy and open - a central repository?

Codes of conduct for scientific research in ABNJ

- InterRidge Code of Conduct on responsible research at hydrothermal vents
- Do we need a scientific Code of Conduct to cover all ABNJ environments that builds on best-practice in deep-sea scientific research
- Collaboration with the scientific community



Area-based management

- Marine spatial planning – has not yet been applied in ABNJ
- Has been applied in countries' EEZs to find balance between different uses and environmental conservation
- Other area-based approaches and tools:
 - CBD EBSAs
 - FAO VMEs
 - IMO PSSAs
 - ISA Preservation Reference Zones
 - Regional and other MPAs

Customary Int. Law
**Conservation
(holistic)**

**Sectoral
(reductionist)**

UNCLOS

UNGA

UNFSA

Part XI

UNEP

CBD

CMS

MPAs
RSCs

EBSA

MoU

FAO

RFMOs

VME

IMO

PSSA

ISA

APEI

LC/LP

CITES

IWC

WH

Legend

Enabling Law

'Hard law' body

'Soft law' body

In-between

Regulatory linkage

A Common Currency?

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING AREAS

Organization	CBD	FAO	IMO	UNESCO	Birdlife	IUCN	RAMSAR
<i>Site Criteria</i>	EBSAs	VMEs	PSSAs	WHSs	IBAs	KBAs	RAMSAR
Uniqueness or rarity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Special importance for life history stages of species	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Importance to threatened or endangered species	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	✓	✓	✓	x	x	?	?
Productivity	✓	x	✓	✓	x	?	x
Biodiversity	✓	x	✓	✓	x	?	✓
Naturalness	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Structure	x	✓	✓	x	x	?	x
Historical	x	x	x		x	x	x
Geomorphological	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
Importance	x	x	x		x	x	x

Adapted from Dunn et al 2011: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2011-055.pdf>

Slide courtesy of Jeff Ardron

Providing for coherence in area-based management

- Exchange of data and information, joint mapping of priority areas, managed areas, MPAs etc.
- Common, internationally agreed criteria under the new international agreement
- Establishment of global reporting and monitoring mechanisms to review progress
- Balance between regional and global
- How regions might benefit:
 - Ability to put in place area-based management where no regional mechanism for them currently exists
 - Mandate to regional organisations for area-based management in ABNJ
 - Obligations by all parties to new IA to comply with MPAs and other measures – global recognition of regional MPAs
 - Prevent undermining of national/regional conservation by activities in ABNJ (transboundary impacts) and stimulate conservation of marine biodiversity in ABNJ
 - Add capacity, scientific resources, cohesion, and address inequities between regions
 - Complementarities between global and regional processes