

Session 5. Break-out Group Discussions: Capacity Development in ABNJ: What Possible Modalities for Area-based Management in ABNJ and Requisite Capacity Development at the Regional Levels?
Friday, 30 May 2016, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Pacific (St. Andrews Room)

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Summary of discussion:

In the Pacific we have nine regional organisations that support member states with technical and political advice, five of which have mandates that include some aspect of ocean governance. The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, housed in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, is coordinates not only these agencies, but links also stakeholders with an interest in the sustainable development, management and conservation of our ocean at national, regional and international levels.

1. What is the situation in your region in terms of:

--cross-sectoral training/education with regards to EEZ management as applicable to ABNJ management

- The Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative is running a series of workshops on cross-sectoral planning and management – primarily EEZ management but also applicable in ABNJ (regional); Samoa (national level)
- The Pacific Community (SPC) maritime boundaries project, funded out of the Australian Aid Government Partnership for Development facility, engages a consortium of partners that provide technical and legal assistance to countries to delimitate maritime boundaries and work on developing marine cadasters for national administration and planning.
- The region's Pacific Ocean Alliance was established as a platform for all stakeholders with an interest in the sustainable development, management and conservation of the Pacific Ocean and its resources to discuss issues of common interest. The first big meeting of the Alliance was held in May 2015 on ABNJ. The objective was to share information to facilitate a common understanding of the importance and relevance of ABNJ to the Pacific Islands. A follow up smaller technical working group of Alliance partners also met and a technical report on BBNJ was developed that now forms the basis of regional discussion on this issue. Alliance partners, coordinated through the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, continue to contribute to advice and technical support for Pacific Island countries in BBNJ negotiations.
- The University of the South Pacific (USP) includes a number of formal and long-term undergraduate programs that have relevance for ABNJ, including ICZM training; fisheries resources; marine spatial planning; economics; law of the sea. USP has focused attention on bringing in students and working them up to undergraduate level starting at certificate-level, move to diplomas and then into Bachelors to attract early school leavers that have been working a while. There is now a recognized need to build on this to focus on masters and PhD students to train the next era of academics and leaders in this field.
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) works with partners to provide training and capacity support on ecotourism, waste management, and has developed EIA

guidelines and an EIA practitioners network for sharing of information and support between EIA practitioners in the region.

- There is no shortage of training, but there is a major lack of human capacity to implement training initiatives due to retention issues (training provides opportunity to mobilise to jobs that offer better conditions – e.g. from national to regional/international) and the absolute number of people available in administrations for training is quite limited – the amount of training does not allow for effective implementation and institutional capacity building

--sectoral training with regards to specific resources/uses in EEZs, ABNJ

- SPC conducts scientific stock assessments for species in the region and is a hub for biodiversity research in-zone – it runs workshops with members to assess data which provides exposure if not capacity.
- USP also run short-term targeted training sessions for specific issues, such as stock assessments and monitoring, control and surveillance.
- The Forum Fisheries Agency manages train the trainer programs and SPC delivers the observer training

2. What is the situation in your region regarding capacity needs relevant to area-based planning and management of ABNJ?

- Whilst there are many capacity building initiatives in the region, they are generally narrow in approach rather than cross-sectoral (i.e. fisheries). Often training invitations go direct to line area ministries so they don't have cross-sectoral buy-in. Invitations for cross-sectoral training need to go through central agencies, but actually need to understand the need for this in the first place.
- Starting to recognize need to centralize ocean coordination in PM/President offices (e.g. PNG, Cook Islands, etc)
- Movement of staff after specialized training means loss of effectiveness of training.
- Lack of coordination at regional level impacts national level.
- Within national – regional means different things to different countries
- The Pacific can offer experience to other regions on the role of traditional knowledge in marine planning and management.

--what kind of issues related to multiple use management in ABNJ regions have you encountered?

- Lack of understanding about what AMBTs are and how planning tools (eg. MSP and EIAs) relate to management tools.
- Artificial regulatory boundaries do not reflect ecological realities.
- There is a lack of understanding of the purpose of regulation/new regime in ABNJ. Need a common understanding of what we are trying to achieve.
- Often capacity is built through regional/international training programs that are not applicable to the systems for implementation at the national level (i.e. it is not appropriate). Matter of technical capacity – manual systems cannot implement training.
- Need to understand objective for capacity building – where do countries want to be in terms of capacity? This is a decision for states and not trainers/development partners.
- Need to understand the management requirements within administration to effectively implement multiple use management and capacity to understand implications of different governance models. Need for coordinated approaches in managing different ocean areas.
- Lack of understanding about role of consultation and role of science in decision making – need to consider traditional knowledge in definition of science.
- Potential impact of shipping on oceans through ship strikes, plastic pollution, underwater noise, climate change.
- Plastics becoming increase problems.

--what kind of issues related to the protection of marine biodiversity in ABNJ have you encountered in your

region?

--what have various regional or national institutions in the region done to address the issues noted above?

- Political decision making vs inclusive decision making vs science based decision making (including traditional knowledge)
- Need to build capacity of resource owners vs managers.
- Issue of IUU fishing and fishing on high seas seamounts. Protection of seabirds, sharks and other species in conservation and management measures of WCPFC
- Noumea Convention allows for protection of high seas pockets but weak instrument in that only few signatories and cannot override pre-existing regulation.
- Seabed mining interests – who does assessment of environmental impacts? We don't understand potential impacts of DSM activities. SPC contracting study into fisheries and DSM interactions/impacts.
- Issue of external actors (e.g. DWFNs) and their impact on biodiversity in ABNJ.
- Maritime boundaries (EEZ demarcation) as a basis for effective governance.
- Lack of understanding on what is there – do not have resources to conduct marine surveys so require access to research outcomes and information.
- Climate change (ocean acidification) impacts on marine biodiversity. SPC studied whole impact of climate change in Pacific.

3. What are the priority capacity development needs relevant to ABNJ in your region? To what extent, if any, are these also relevant to EEZ management?

--What are the three main priorities from the perspective of countries in the region?

- Capacity building needs to be relevant, sustainable and appropriate (very relevant to EEZ)
- Understanding what is needed institutionally to support cross-sectoral management – e.g. foreign or central ministry leadership for interagency coordination (very relevant to EEZ)
- Building capacity at national level is important to ensure sovereignty issues are protected and there is ownership for implementation

--What are the three main priorities from the perspective of the RFMOs in the region?

- Clarifying issue of common heritage of mankind and how it will impact on existing management
- Extension and enforcement of conservation and management measures in the high seas areas
- Support regional agencies to be able to represent regional perspectives in RFMOs

--What are the three main priorities from the perspective of the Regional Seas Program in the region?

- Harmonization across artificial boundaries and across sectors – Noumea Convention covers high seas pockets – need a better understanding of strengths and weaknesses of this regime
- Understanding what marine biodiversity is in ABNJ – data and information
- Mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors (very relevant to EEZ)

Possible options:

- Support USP build training capacity for ABMT in ABNJ – not project specific like other CROP approaches