

Capacity building for BBNJ



An Overview

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Introduction

- Part of Global Ocean Forum work on capacity building related to BBNJ, undertaken as part of the GEF/FAO Common Oceans Program
- Team of people from Global Ocean Forum (Biliana Cicin-Sain, Meredith Kurz, Miriam Balgos), Miko Maekawa, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, and Communities of Practice of the Capacity Project of the Common Oceans Program
- Also builds on previous work by other organizations and researchers
- Work in progress
- Collaborators welcomed
- Presentation provides an introduction to the issues

What are the capacity building objectives for new IA?

- **Countries will need capacity to**
 - implement and comply with the new agreement
 - participate in global and regional cooperation
 - develop national legislation, policies and institutional arrangements for the new agreement
 - undertake marine scientific research and participate in research collaborations
 - undertake management of the marine ecosystem, including application of tools and approaches such as MSP, MPAs, EIAs, SEAs, etc. and participate in activities related to MGRs and benefit sharing
 - Support national/local efforts towards a healthy resilient ocean and sustainable economies and livelihoods
- **Encompasses legal, policy, scientific and marine management capacities**

Different countries/regions will have different needs

- Countries and regions have different starting points, cultures and achievements – Need to build on and strengthen local innovations and good practices while filling gaps for global participation
- A needs assessment of existing initiatives, capacities, institutions and gaps will be a good place to start
- Flexibility to adapt

UNCLOS provisions for capacity building and technology transfer

- Mandate for capacity building and technology transfer exists:
 - Article 202: Scientific and technical assistance to developing States
 - Article 266: Promotion of development, transfer of marine technology
 - Article 242: Promotion of international co-operation
 - Article 244: Publication and dissemination of information and knowledge

Current capacity building efforts

- Capacity building activities for ABNJ at international and regional level **primarily sectoral**
- **Non-governmental organizations** also undertake capacity development
- **Scientific collaboration** (scientific cruises, training, databases)

Fisheries:
FAO

Shipping:
IMO

Ocean
Science: IOC

Law and
policy:
DOALOS

Conservation
tools:
UNEP/CBD

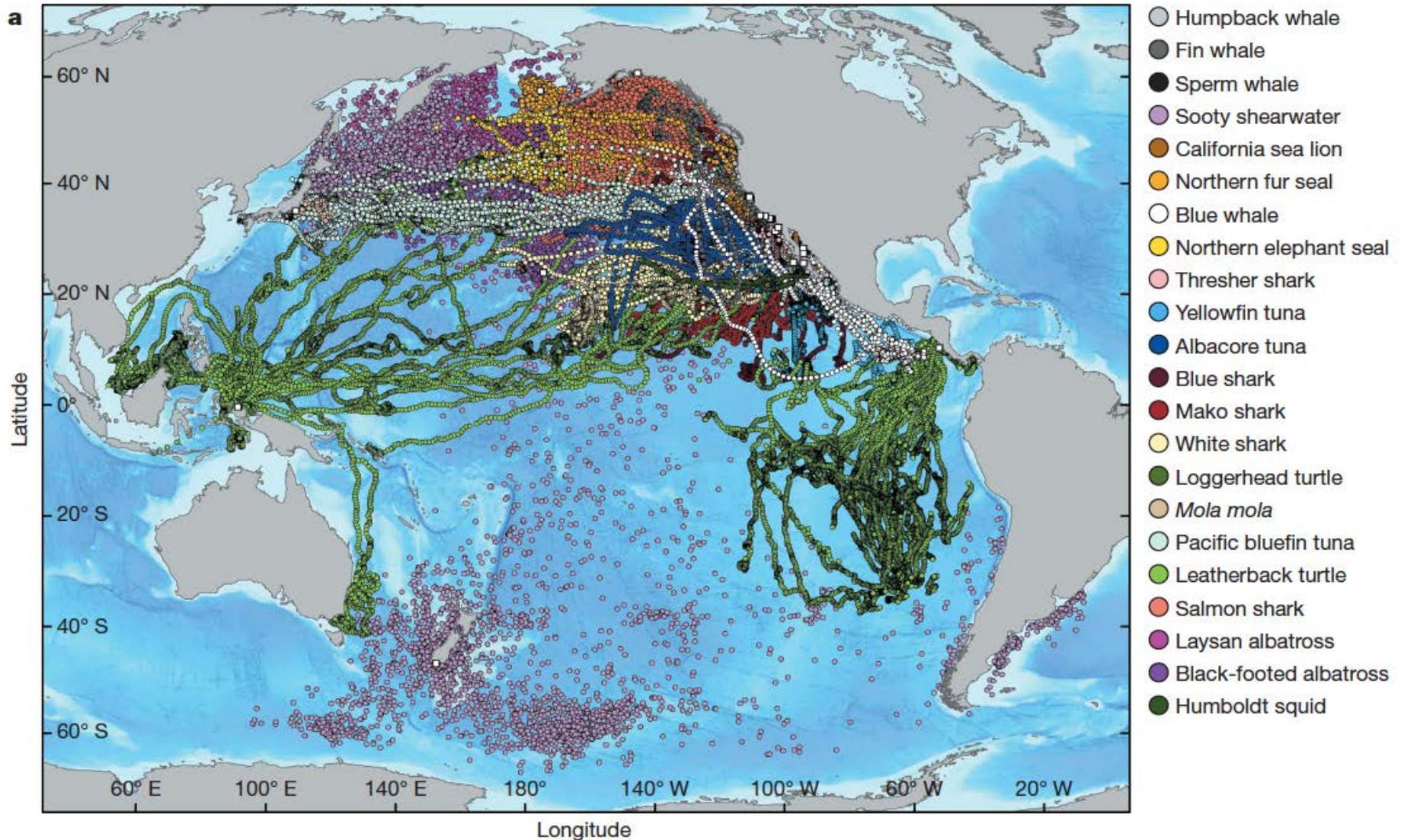
Mining: ISA

CASE STUDY – PNG marine biodiscovery

- Prospecting marine organisms for bioactive compounds has potential to provide important discoveries along with eventual revenues
- University of Papua New Guinea collaboration with number of universities (Canada, USA, Australia) has provided for training, laboratory facilities, employment and revenue sharing



Coastal areas are connected to the offshore



Block et al (2011) Tracking apex marine predator movements in a dynamic ocean. Nature

How do we build capacity for the connected ocean?

- Capacity building should support **local and national needs** and priorities while providing for improved management of oceans as a whole, including ABNJ
 - **Local community efforts** supported as stewards of important migratory species and biodiversity
 - **Larger scale efforts offshore** supported for safeguarding ecosystem resilience, structure and function
- **Linking efforts at different scales** to manage full complement of ecosystems and species, including migratory species, both within and beyond national jurisdiction

Issues to consider for the IA: capacity building

- **An international framework for cooperation and coordination** to ensure that needs are addressed, gaps are filled and duplication avoided
- **Facilitated access to opportunities** for capacity building and tech transfer – a “one stop shop” and ways for countries to articulate their needs on an ongoing basis
- **Central repository for ABNJ- related data and information**, including scientific information collected (research summaries, published papers, species databases), information on patents, legal and policy references
 - **Clearinghouse mechanism**: Access to data, information, samples, ongoing research, opportunities (examples: The Nagoya Protocol ABS Clearinghouse, CBD Biosafety clearinghouse....)
- **Monitoring and review** of effectiveness & adjustment as needed (flexibility)
- **Funding mechanism** to ensure sustainable long-term funding (GEF-equivalent and/or composed of several different sources, innovative financing, MGR benefit-sharing)

Some final thoughts

- Capacity building needs to be **sustained and bring about long-term benefits for countries and regions** (beyond just training courses)
- **Regional centres of excellence** to address regional needs and to provide long-term education/training
- Need **ongoing skill building**
- **Technical networks for professionals** to address questions and provide real-time support for ocean management or development of national legislation
- Could consider **initiatives important for ABNJ on all scales** (from local to larger scale ocean management and protection offshore)
- Undertaken **as part of practical conservation/sustainable use measures** (eg area-based management in the high seas, EIA) or MGR development (not a theoretical exercise)
- Sharing of good practices and lessons learned

THANK YOU!

