

# **ABNJ Regional Leaders Program—First Session 14-22 January 2015, at United Nations, New York**

## **Background**

As part of the *GEF/FAO Program on Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (Common Oceans Program) ([www.commonoceans.org](http://www.commonoceans.org)), the *GEF/FAO/Global Ocean Forum (GOF) project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* has designed an ABNJ Regional Leaders Program to *strengthen the capacity of leaders from developing countries and small island developing States (SIDS) at the regional and national levels to better address ABNJ resources and issues and to more effectively participate in global and regional ABNJ discussions.*

Participants will gain background information and knowledge on ABNJ policy issues across all sectors, especially on fisheries and biodiversity conservation; gain an understanding of regional and global ABNJ policy frameworks that address ABNJ issues; gain understanding of global ABNJ processes by observing the negotiations 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); have the opportunity to present perspectives from the regional and national levels at the global negotiations; and acquire relevant information that participants could apply towards improved regional and national policy-making, management, and the sustainable use of marine resources in ABNJ.

The first session of the Program will take place 15-17 January 2015 kindly hosted by UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS). One hundred and eight applications were received for the first session of the program. From these applications, fourteen Regional Leaders were selected for the program.

The schedule for the first session of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is as follows:

Jan. 14: Arrival in New York

Jan. 15, 16, and 17: Introductory course on ABNJ. Courtesy visits to UN Permanent Missions.

Jan. 18: Free Day

Jan. 19: Preparation for 20<sup>th</sup> January mid-day side event at the UN BBNJ

Jan. 20, 21: Observe the BBNJ process

Jan. 21: GOF Side Event on ABNJ featuring the ABNJ Regional Leaders; Session wrap-up and evaluation

Jan. 22: Departure from New York

Below is the content for the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program—Session 1.

## **Short Course Content**

### **Thursday, 15 January 2015**

**9:00AM to 10:00 AM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Welcoming Remarks

*Biliana Cicin-Sain, Global Ocean Forum*

*Vladimir Jares, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea*

Introduction of Participants

**10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Introduction to the Course**

*Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum and Professor, University of Delaware*

*Miriam C. Balgos, Program Coordinator, Global Ocean Forum, and Associate Scientist, University of Delaware*

**Module 1. Overview: The Importance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Why Should you Care?**

*Biliana Cicin-Sain, Professor, University of Delaware and President, Global Ocean Forum*

- The significance and special nature of ABNJ
- Major ecosystems and threats
- Major uses: Fishing, shipping, deep seabed mining, telecommunications, marine genetic resources, emerging uses (carbon capture and storage, offshore oil and gas in deeper waters, offshore aquaculture, other)
- Protection of marine biodiversity
- Current legal and policy frameworks at global and regional levels
- Ongoing debates about future policy directions
- Major issues that are raised
- How can regional leaders contribute to the application of integrated, ecosystem-based approaches to ABNJ?

**1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch Break**

**2:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Module 2. The Legal and Policy Framework for Managing Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction—Global Level**

*Vladimir Jares, Deputy Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)*

*Alice Hiciburundi, Senior Legal Officer, UN DOALOS*

- The United Nations Law of the Sea Convention
  - Evolution of UNCLOS including major conflicts
  - Maritime jurisdictions- emphasis on provisions on High Seas, the Area, Continental Shelf
  - Outstanding issues
  - Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982
  - Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
- Related International Agreements

**Friday, 16 January 2015**

**10:00 AM to 11:30 PM**

**Module 3. Ecosystems and Resources in ABNJ, Threats and Opportunities**

*Marjo Vierros, Adjunct Senior Fellow at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies;*

*Ward Appeltans, Project Manager, Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), IOC/UNESCO (via video)*

- Various types of ecosystems in ABNJ and issues that are raised (e.g. seamounts, hydrothermal vents, submarine canyons, abyssal plains, cold seeps, etc.)
- Marine biodiversity--the nature of marine biodiversity, importance, value, issues that are raised
- Threats, e.g., ocean warming; ocean acidification; loss of biodiversity and ecosystem function, over-fishing, IUU fishing, pollution, etc.
- Overview of ecosystem approaches to ABNJ, approaches to area-based management (e.g., environmental impact assessments (EIAs), strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), marine protected areas (MPAs), vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), International Seabed Authority (ISA) preservation reference zones, particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs), ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs)), ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), codes of conduct for marine scientific research, code of conduct for responsible fisheries, other tools
- Gaps in current legal and policy frameworks regarding ABNJ ecosystems and resources, and marine biodiversity

### **11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

#### **Module 4. Part I Existing Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Global Level**

**Fisheries**, *Jessica Sanders, Fisheries Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (via video)*

### **1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch Break**

### **2:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

#### **Module 4. Part II Existing Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Global Level**

2:00-2:50 **Shipping and Control of Marine Pollution**, *Fredrik Haag, International Maritime Organization (IMO) (via video)*

2:50-3:40 **Deep Seabed Mining**, *Michael Lodge, International Seabed Authority (ISA)*

3:40-4:30 **Submarine Cables**, *Douglas Burnett, International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)*

4:30-5:20 **Marine Biodiversity**, *Jihyun Lee, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

5:20-6:00 **Discussion**

## **Saturday, 17 January 2015**

\* Held in the 10<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of the Church Center for the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza, corner of First Avenue and E 44<sup>th</sup> Street) (across the street from the UNDOALOS office)

### **10:00 AM to 12:45 PM**

#### **Module 5. Authorities and Processes Related to ABNJ at the Regional Level: Experiences and Lessons Learned**

10:00-10:20 **Comparative Analyses of Regional Experiences**, *Biliana Cicin-Sain, GOF*

10:20-12:45 **Presentations by Regional Leaders of their Regional/National Experiences and Discussion**

### **12:45 PM to 1:30 PM Lunch Break**

### **1:30 PM to 4:00 PM**

#### **Module 6. Global Negotiations Regarding ABNJ: Evolution, Issues, Possible Outcomes of the 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**

*Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer, DOALOS; Ambassador Palitha T.B. Kohona, Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group*

- Evolution since 2006
- Major issues in the BBNJ Process
- Rio+20 outcomes
- Outlook for current negotiations
- How Regional Leaders can contribute to the BBNJ process

## **Sunday, 18 January 2015**

Free day

## **Monday, 19 January 2015**

**1:00 PM to 4:00 PM** (UNDOALOS Conference Room)

*Francois Bailet, Senior Legal Officer in Charge of Capacity Building and Trust Funds, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Capacity Development Initiatives at UNDOALOS*

Preparation for the 21 January BBNJ Side Event, “Capacity Development and ABNJ: Global, Regional and National Perspectives,” featuring the Regional Leaders

## **Tuesday, 20 January 2015**

**10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

Observation 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)

## **Wednesday, 21 January 2015**

**10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Observation of the BBNJ Working Group

**1:15 PM to 2:45 PM** (UN building)

Side Event, “*Capacity Development and ABNJ: Global, Regional and National Perspectives,*” featuring the Regional Leaders

**3:30 PM to 6:00 PM** (UNDOALOS Conference Room)

**3:30-4:30 Additional Regional Perspectives and Discussions**

*Stefan Asmundsson, Executive Secretary, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)*

*David Freestone, Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Commission*

**4:30-6:00 Conclusion and Course Evaluation**

*Discussion of Guidance for Regional Leaders*