

The Global Ocean Forum (GOF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Announce the Selection of ABNJ Regional Leaders for the First Session of the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program, 14-22 January 2015, at the United Nations, New York

The **ABNJ Regional Leaders Program** is designed to strengthen the capacity of leaders from developing countries and small island developing States (SIDS) at the regional and national levels to better address resources and issues in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and to more effectively participate in global and regional ABNJ processes. The first session of the Program will take place 14-22 January 2015 at the United Nations in New York, with participation by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the University of Delaware, and other organizations. The ABNJ Regional Leaders Program is organized by the GOF/FAO project on *Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*, supported by the Global Environment Facility and involving a wide range of partners noted below. The project is 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).

Participants in the ABNJ Regional Leaders Program 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 could be applied towards improved regional and national policy-making, management, and the sustainable use of marine resources in ABNJ.

GOF and FAO are pleased to announce the selection of the following 14 ABNJ Regional Leaders from a pool of 108 applicants. The Regional Leaders come from national governments and/or regional organizations concerned with marine resource management from around the world.

ABNJ Regional Leaders 2015

Steven Ambabi, Namibia*****

Mr. Ambabi is Deputy Director in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, in the Directorate of Operations responsible for Technical Services, where he is tasked with regulating fishing activities within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond through Monitoring, Control and Surveillance. He also serves as a Board member of Trustees of the Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT) and a Board member of Trustees and Chairperson of the Swakop Uranium Foundation. Mr. Ambabi has served as the Head of the Namibian delegation to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Board member of Fisheries Observers Agency, and Deputy Director of the Division of Technical Services in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.



www.commonoceans.org



Mohamed Badal, Mauritius*

Mr. Badal is the Head of the Office of Ocean Affairs and Development at the Prime Minister's Office, Government of Mauritius, where he focuses on offshore hydrocarbon and minerals, continental shelf submissions, development of the Ocean Economy Roadmap and Implementation plan, and co-management of the Joint Zone in the Mascarene Plateau with the Seychelles. He has experience as the Office-in-Charge and Principal Research Scientist at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and as a Programme Specialist at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Mr. Badal holds a Ph.D. in physical oceanography from the University of Mauritius, with a focus on oceanic processes of the SW Indian Ocean and a study on tsunami modeling and preparedness.

Abou Bamba, Cote d'Ivoire, Abidjan Convention*

Mr. Bamba is the Regional Coordinator for the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa (Abidjan Convention). He has many years of experience in international governance as a Regional Coordinator for Africa for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Coordinator for the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, and Technical Advisor for the World Bank/International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Mr. Bamba holds an M.Sc in Management of Marine Resources from the Université du Québec à Rimouski, Quebec, Canada and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies, Paris, France.

Michael Donoghue, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Samoa*

Mr. Donoghue, New Zealand, is the Threatened and Migratory Species Advisor at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), where he leads a team in the conservation of iconic Pacific species, such as turtles, sharks, whales, dolphins, and dugongs, co-ordinates SPREP's involvement with the Marine Sector Working Group of the Pacific Leaders Forum, and heads the Blue Team which reports to the Director-General of SPREP on various marine issues. He has also served as Executive Director, Pacific Islands Programme at Conservation International and in the New Zealand Department of Conservation as a Marine Mammals Policy Advisor. Mr. Donoghue holds a Master's Degree in Oceanography from Southampton University.

Tevita Mangisi, Tonga, UN Permanent Mission

Mr. Mangisi is the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations, responsible for providing policy and legal advice, as well as guidance on day-to-day operations of the Mission with regards to foreign policy issues and interests, UN elections, the Mission's budget and management, and human resource and personnel management. He has experience as the Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Principal Assistant Secretary (legal) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga. Mr. Mangisi holds a Ph.D. in International Public Policy from Osaka University.

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** supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore

*** supported by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

**** supported by the State Oceanic Administration, China

***** supported by the GEF/FAO project on ABNJ Deep Seas Project

Rose Mtui, Tanzania*

Ms. Mtui is the Senior Environmental Management Officer with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), where she oversees environmental matters in the country and coordinates both national and regional coastal and marine programmes/projects such as ASCLME, WIOMHP and SAPPHIRE. She has experience as GIS analyst with the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership of the National Environment Management Council and has coordinated projects on coral reefs, large marine ecosystems, marine contamination, and mitigation strategies for management of shoreline changes. Ms. Mtui holds a Master's Degree in Aquatic Sciences from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Andrei Polejack, Brazil*

Mr. Polejack is the Coordinator for Ocean Sciences and Antarctica at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in Brazil, the nationally designated institution for IOC/UNESCO. He represents the Ministry in national and international fora relating to ocean and Antarctic sciences, provides technical advice, and negotiates agreements and cooperation in support of marine research. Mr. Polejack has also served as the Technical Advisor for the Brazilian Antarctic Program at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. He holds a Master's Degree in ecology from the Universidade de Brasilia.

Seema Parkash, Singapore**

Ms. Parkash is a Foreign Service Officer at the International Organisations Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore. She analyzes, reports, and provides policy advice pertaining to Singapore's strategic interests. She has previously contributed to developing and implementing Singapore's Arctic engagement policy and strategy and managing bilateral relations with South Asian countries. Ms. Parkash has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University.

Rodney Quatre, Seychelles*

Mr. Quatre is the Head of the Conservation and Research Section at the Seychelles National Parks Authority, where he is responsible for overseeing ongoing projects, liaising with local and international scientists and organizations, representing the organization at international and regional meetings/workshops, and preparing cabinet papers for the ministers in Seychelles. He also serves as the Secretary of the Shark Research Foundation Seychelles and country focal point for the coral reef monitoring network. He also has experience as a Research Officer and Senior researcher at the Seychelles Center for Marine Research and Technology and project officer in the Coastal Zone Management unit of the Ministry of Environment. Mr. Quatre holds a Master's in Environment from the Australian National University.

Amrikha Singh, Barbados, CARICOM*

Ms. Singh is the Senior Project Officer for the Sustainable Development Sub-programme, Directorate of Human and Social Development, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat (headquartered in Guyana), where she is responsible for designing regional programmes in oceans governance, collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme for regional environmental governance, and supporting CARICOM in international environmental governance. She has experience as an Environmental Officer and Research Officer in the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, Government of Barbados, and

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has worked as a United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Consultant. Ms. Singh holds a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of the West Indies.

Hendra Siry, Indonesia, Coral Triangle Initiative Secretariat*

Mr. Siry is the Secretary for Coordination and External Affairs Interim-Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) (a multi-lateral partnership by Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste working to sustain marine and coastal resources) and the Deputy Director for Coastal Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. While working in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, he has served as the Deputy Director for Spatial and Zoning Plans Region II, Senior Researcher and Chair for the Research Center for Marine and Fisheries Socio-Economic Data Center, Deputy Director for Technical Affairs, and was also the lead negotiator on Ocean Dimensions for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Meetings for the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research. Mr. Siry holds a Ph.D. from the Resources Management in Asia-Pacific Program from the Australian National University.

Raymon Van Anrooij, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission***

Mr. Van Anrooij, the Netherlands, is a Fishery and Aquaculture Officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Barbados, where he is the Secretary of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). He has experience in developing FAO's programme in fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia; contributing to the development of methodologies and guidelines on co-management and fisheries credit and insurance issues; conducting economic and social studies on management and development of aquaculture; and analyzing the global socio-economic situation in fisheries and aquaculture. Mr. Van Anrooij holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Madison University.

Zheng Miaozhuang, China****

Mr. Zheng is a doctor of environmental science at China Agriculture University in Beijing and also serves as a research fellow in the China Institute for Marine Affairs of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), where he focuses on marine environmental management and law of the sea, particularly on marine genetic resources and biodiversity conservation. He has drafted the East Asian Seas sustainable development strategy—China's implementation plan framework, participated in the preparation of China's Ocean Development Report, attended 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), and written about BBNJ. Mr. Zheng holds a Ph.D. from China Agriculture University.

Zheng Yuanjie, Singapore**

Mr. Zheng works for the International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore. He has several years of experience working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the embassy in Tokyo, Northeast Asia Directorate, and as a country officer to Japan and Korea. Mr. Zheng holds a Master's of Arts in Global Studies from Sophia University.

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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 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

International Ocean Institute

Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

Nausicaa Centre National de la Mer, France

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)

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