

Facilitating Consensus-Building on International Issues

As noted in the discussion above, a major emphasis of the Global Ocean Forum has been, and continues to be, collaborating with governments and other international actors in promoting effective implementation of international ocean goals.

In addition to this major emphasis, the Global Ocean Forum is concerned with anticipation of important issues that will be facing the international oceans community and/or will be the subject of important UN negotiations in the next decade. The intent here is to contribute—through policy analyses and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues—to clarifying the issues, developing options, laying out various perspectives, and identifying possible avenues for consensus-building among disparate interests.

A. Participation in the United Nations

The Secretariat of the Global Ocean Forum, the International Coastal and Ocean organization which is accredited as a non-governmental organization to the UN Economic and Social Council, is an active player in a variety of United Nations fora, contributing policy analyses and hosting various types of multi-stakeholder events. The Global Ocean Forum has been active in the following UN fora:

- ◆ UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP)
- ◆ Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ◆ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ◆ UN Ad hoc working group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

The Global Ocean Forum hosts side events at nearly all relevant international conferences and meetings that focus on the global agenda on oceans, coasts, and SIDS. See Box 17 for a list of events.

B. Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), comprising 64% of the oceans, represent the last global commons. Although these areas are remote, marine ecosystems in these areas are facing increasing threats from unsustainable human activities as well as climate. Activities in ABNJ such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfishing, destructive fishing practices, irresponsible scientific research practices, and pollution (including ocean acidification), among others are impact-

ing marine biodiversity and ecosystems. The existing ABNJ management framework is largely sectoral (e.g., fisheries, submarine cables, shipping, marine scientific research, oil and gas development, pollution) and implemented by different global and regional institutions, with relatively few examples of cross-sectoral coordination and integration. Additionally, emerging uses, such as climate mitigation strategies and energy exploitation, are not yet adequately managed, and there are legal/policy gaps for activities such as bioprospecting for marine genetic resources.

There is a growing sense of urgency that the international community must move toward integrated, ecosystem-based management (EBM/ICM) of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction to protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity, and to sustainably utilize resources in these areas to achieve socio-economic benefits while avoiding adverse environmental impacts. To date, however, there has been inadequate tangible action to achieve integrated management and little consensus on the various unresolved legal and policy issues surrounding ABNJ.

The Global Ocean Forum's Work on ABNJ Issues

The Global Ocean Forum recognizes the importance of moving towards consensus on ABNJ issues to address growing concerns and has undertaken much work on this topic with the intent of contributing to ongoing formal and informal processes addressing this topic. Since 2005, the Global Ocean Forum has been engaged in an informal process to bring together major relevant interests to facilitate open and constructive multi-stakeholder policy dialogue to inform and support the formal processes that have been or may be established by the United Nations General Assembly regarding governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. The general intent is to work to clarify the issues, lay out various perspectives, discuss options, and identify possible avenues for consensus-building among disparate interests.

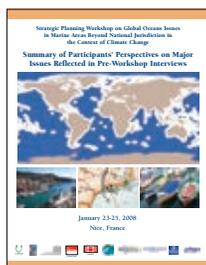
Prior to the 3rd Global Oceans Conference in 2006, the Global Ocean Forum organized a Working Group on Improving Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction to facilitate ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue and to provide input to other fora addressing these issues. The Working Group includes about 70 members (from both developed and developing nations), and from a broad range of sectors including national governments, academia, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and industry. According to a number of representatives from governments, UN agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, the work of the Global Forum's Working Group was very useful in laying the groundwork for the subsequent 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, which took place in February 2006. Participants noted that the informal interchange of perspectives at the policy dialogues taking place at the 3rd Global Conference very much facilitated the cooperative nature of the discussions at the first meeting 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 (February 13-17, 2006) by providing a venue for the sharing of perspectives among governments (both developed and developing), UN and other international agencies, NGOs, and industry without the pressure of formal institutional positions.

The work of the Global Forum's Working Group on Improving Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction was very useful in laying the groundwork for the subsequent UN Informal Working Group that took place in February 2006. The informal interchange of perspectives that took place both before and during the 2006 Global Conference very much facilitated the cooperative nature of the discussions at the UN February meeting by providing a neutral and informal venue for the sharing of perspectives among governments (both developed and developing), UN and other international agencies, NGOs, and industry, in a candid and direct manner.

- Lorraine Ridgeway, Director-General, International Coordination and Policy Analysis, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, and Co-Chair, UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, June 17, 2006, New York

As a follow-up on the recommendations emanating from the discussion of the Working Group on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction at the 2006 Global Conference, the following activities have been organized:



Strategic Planning Workshop on Global Oceans Issues in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in the Context of Climate Change

January 23-25, 2008, Nice, France

The Global Ocean Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, in collaboration with various partners, convened the Strategic Planning Workshop on Global Ocean Issues in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in the Context of Climate Change on January 23-25, 2008, in Nice, France, with the gracious hosting of Nice officials and nongovernmental organiza-



tions as a key step in an informal process to bring together major relevant interests to facilitate open and constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue. The Workshop brought together 45 experts from governments (developed and developing countries), NGOs, international organizations, science, and industry groups (submarine cables, fishing, marine transportation), who considered strategic perspectives for the next 5-10 years; clarified complex issues; laid out various perspectives; and identified possible avenues for consensus-building among disparate interests. The Global Ocean Forum also compiled key sources of information on governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction as input for the Nice Workshop and future discussions on this topic.

Working Group on Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction at the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

April 7-11, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

The Working Group on Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction gathered at the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands with the goal to assist with the process of collecting relevant information that may provide a valuable contribution to the second meeting of the United Nations General Assembly 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 (New York, 28 April – 2 May 2008).

More specifically, the objectives of the work of the Working Group at the Hanoi Conference were:

- to hold focused discussions on a continuum of coherent policy options from sectoral solutions to cross-sectoral global solutions; and
- to discuss next steps needed for developing and apply-

Box 17. Side Events Organized by the Global Ocean Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands During Major Ocean Meetings

1. Side Event at the 5th Meeting 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: "Briefing of the GEF/FAO Program on Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in ABNJ," United Nations Headquarters, New York, May 8, 2012
2. Side event on at the 3rd Intersessional Meeting, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: "Advancing Oceans at Rio+20," United Nations Headquarters, New York, March 26, 2012
3. Side event at the 2nd Intersessional Meeting, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: "Oceans at Rio+20," United Nations Headquarters, New York, December 15, 2011
4. Side Event at the Durban Climate Talks on "Ensuring Survival: Oceans, Climate, and Security," International Convention Center, Durban, South Africa, December 1, 2011
5. "Global Ocean Forum Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean Consultations" during the 12th Meeting of the UN Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP 12), United Nations Development Program Headquarters, New York, June 20 and June 22, 2011
6. "Oceans and Coasts at Rio+20, Summary of Informal Dialogue and Information-Sharing Session," during the 2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNESCO Office, New York, March 8, 2011
7. "Oceans and Small Island Developing States in the Rio+20 Process," during the 2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNESCO Office, New York, February 28, 2011
8. Oceans and Climate: Action Plan for Survival Side Event at the Cancún Climate Change Talks, December 6, 2010, at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, November 29–December 11, 2010, Cancun, Mexico
9. Oceans Day in Cancun, December 4, 2010, at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, November 29–December 11, 2010, Cancun, Mexico
10. Oceans Day in Nagoya, October 23, 2010, at the Convention on Biological Diversity 10th Conference of the Parties, October 19–29, 2010, Nagoya, Japan.
11. Side Event on Global Strategy on Capacity Development in Oceans, Coasts and Small Island Developing States, June 22, 2010, at the 11th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP11), June 21–25, 2010, United Nations Headquarters, New York
12. Side event at the 3rd Meeting of the United Nations 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, 1 – 5 February 2010, United Nations, New York on "Advancing Marine Biodiversity in the International Year of Biodiversity: Briefing and Open Discussion," February 5, 2010.
13. Side event at the UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations in Barcelona on "Projected Impacts on Oceans and Coastal Communities of Alternative Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Scenarios: The Need for Utmost Caution," November 3, 2009
14. Side event during the 10th meeting of the UN Open-ended Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on "Climate, Oceans, and Security: The Importance of Strengthening the Link between Climate and Oceans, Coasts, and Islands in the Climate Negotiations," June 18, 2009
15. Side event at the UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations in Bonn on "At the Frontlines of Climate Change: Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States," June 5, 2009
16. Side Event at 9th Meeting of UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-9): "Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in the Context of Climate Change: Special Focus on Maritime Security and Safety" (Co-organized with the Permanent Mission of the Seychelles to the UN), New York, June 23, 2008
17. Side Event at the 16th Meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development: "Sea Level Rise, Climate Change and its impacts on Food Security in SIDS: Challenges and Opportunities" (Co-organized with the Sea Level Rise Foundation) New York, May 12, 2008
18. Side Event at 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: "Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in the Context of Climate Change: Prospects and

Box 17 continued...

Challenges” (Co-sponsored with the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations), New York, April 29, 2008

19. Side Event at the 8th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-8): “Meeting the WSSD Goals of Achieving Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 (at National and Regional Levels and in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction) Taking into Account Climate Change: Challenges, Progress, Political Will,” New York, June 26, 2007
20. Side Event at World Water Week: “Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities: Stakeholder Consultation,” (Co-organized with the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future), Stockholm, August 22, 2006
21. Side Event at the 7th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-7): “Meeting the Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: How Well Are We Doing?,” New York, June 13, 2006
22. Session at the 4th World Water Forum on “Management Link for Freshwater and Coasts – Progress in Local Actions” (Organized by the UNEP/GPA, NOAA, SEMARNAT and the Global Forum), Mexico City, March 18, 2006
23. Side Event at the 2nd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Review of the UNEP-GPA: “Advancing the Oceans, Coasts, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Freshwater/Oceans Agenda in the Next Decade: Key Issues and Opportunities,” Beijing, October 19, 2006
24. Side Event at the Mauritius International Meeting on SIDS: “Mobilizing for Further Implementation of Ocean and Coastal Management in SIDS,” January 11, 2005
25. Side Event at the 3rd World Water Forum, March 16-23, 2003
26. Side Event at the 20th Anniversary of the Law of the Sea, 2002



conservation and sustainable use goals be achieved, responses to climate change be effective, ocean uses be allowed, the institutional and administrative feasibility of individual measures, their political feasibility, etc.).

The Working Group centered its discussions on ABNJ issues in the context of the main theme of the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, namely “Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in the Context of Climate Change.”

Side Events at 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 (UN ABNJ Working Group)

2nd Working Group Meeting, New York, April 29, 2008 —“Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in the Context of Climate Change: Prospects and Challenges”

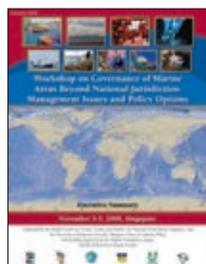
3rd Working Group Meeting, 1-5 February 2010 —“Advancing Marine Biodiversity in the International Year of Biodiversity: Briefing and Open Discussion”

4th Working Group Meeting, 31 May 2011 —“CBD COP 10 outcomes on biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction: scientific process of identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in marine areas”

The Global Ocean Forum has also been an active participant in meetings of the UN ABNJ Working Group, convening a number of multi-stakeholder side events. These side events provide updates on the Global Forum’s work on ABNJ issues as well as a useful platform for stakeholders from various sectors and background to provide update on developments in the field and to share perspectives

in an open and frank manner on the complex and contentious issues being discussed. The Global Ocean Forum also provided an official submission to the 2nd meeting of the UN ABNJ Working Group, which can be found at: http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GlobalForumSubmission-2ndAdHocWGMeeting-April2008-red_0.pdf

Workshop on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Management Issues and Policy Options



November 3-5, 2008, Singapore

The Singapore Workshop built on the two previous workshops and ongoing work of the Global Forum's Expert Working Group on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. The Singapore Workshop aimed to provide expert and multi-stakeholder perspectives on addressing important issues related to the governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, specifically by:

1. Assessing each of the major management options for improved governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ranging along a continuum of enhancing institutional capacity for ecosystem-based management), building on the outcomes of the Nice Workshop and of the Hanoi Conference;
2. Addressing the following focal areas in the management of marine genetic resources: Identifying opportunities and enhancing understanding of values and processes, and issues related to intellectual property, options for access and benefit sharing, and governance gaps, taking into account the outcomes of the 8th meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP 8, June 2007) and the second meeting 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 (April-May 2008);
3. Discussing priority activities that might be taken to move toward ecosystem-based governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (including the Arctic) that could be considered for support through future Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding.

The Workshop was co-chaired by Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Global Ocean Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands; David Freestone, World Bank; Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; Eden Charles, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to



the United Nations; and Salvatore Arico, UNESCO, Co-Chair of the Working Group. Participants in the workshop entered into constructive discussion on a number of key issues and outlined a set of near- and medium-term recommendations to address pressing ABNJ issues, discussed potential 'entry points' as to where more integrated approaches and mechanisms were appropriate and necessary, and

identified areas in need of further research and analysis.

The Workshop had the great privilege of the participation of Ambassador Tommy Koh, Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, who, as the President of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, played an instrumental role in the crafting of the Convention. Ambassador Koh discussed whether the existing international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adequately address emerging governance issues on the use of marine living resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction as opposed to non-living resources in the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction from his perspective as former President of the Conference that negotiated UNCLOS and Chairman of the Main Committee at the 1992 UNCED.

".....The provisions of the Convention carefully struck the right balance between the economic interests of those who wished to exploit the living and non-living resources and those who wanted to preserve the marine environment. It may be unwise to unravel such a finely balanced package deal to seek specific provisions for particular issues like marine genetic resources in ABNJ. The principle of carefully balancing the interests of all negotiating parties was the basis for the successful conclusion of UNCLOS. It is important to reserve this balance by working within the existing UNCLOS legal framework even as new issues emerge. It is a matter of understanding the principles and correctly interpreting the provisions in the context of the overall agreement."

-- Ambassador Tommy Koh,
Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Singapore

One of the main areas of discussion and central recommendation to emerge from the Workshop was the recommendation for the Global Environment Facility to



Ambassador Koh and Dr. Cicin-Sain

develop a program of financial support for regional experimentation in ecosystem-based governance and management approaches to areas beyond national jurisdiction. Participants urged the GEF to provide support for experiments to test the

feasibility of applying ecosystem-based management to regional areas which may include areas of national jurisdiction, large marine ecosystems shared by various countries, and areas beyond national jurisdiction, and suggested that a new GEF program on marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which could be included under the next funding period, GEF 5 (2010-2014) be created. Workshop participants discussed a number of regional cases where fruitful experimentation could take place, including: the GEF/UNDP Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems Project; the OSPAR Region; the Coral Triangle/French Polynesia region; and the Arctic. The Workshop's recommendation catalyzed the development of a new GEF program on areas beyond national jurisdiction in its 5th replenishment under its International Water and Biodiversity portfolios.

5th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

Meeting of the Global Ocean Forum Working Group on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and Informal Consultations on Regional Experimentation in ABNJ

May 3-7, 2010, UNESCO, Paris, France

Issues related to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction also factored into the discussions and activities at the 5th Global Oceans Conference, May 3-7, 2010, UNESCO, Paris. In addition to a number of sessions focused on this topic during the Policy, Science, and Technical Symposium, the conference also hosted a plenary panel on the topic Improving Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, on which expert panelists outlined recent developments in ABNJ issues as well as potential next steps in advancing integrated ecosystem-based management of ABNJ. The Global Oceans Conference also hosted a joint meeting of the Global Ocean Forum Working Group on Marine Biodiversity and MPAs and the Working Group on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which outlined a set of policy recommendations for marine biodiversity and areas beyond national jurisdiction, including the need to strengthen the development of institutional and intersectoral coordination of marine protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction.



Workshop on Governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction:
Management Issues and Policy Options.
3–5 November 2008, Singapore



During the Conference, the Global Ocean Forum also held informal consultations with partners to continue discussions on potential approaches to regional experimentation in areas beyond national jurisdiction, building on the recommendations of the Singapore Workshop. These discussions further refined potential approaches to this issue, outlining potentially viable approaches and regions in which it would be appropriate to undertake such experimentation.

Next Steps in Advancing Ecosystem-Based Governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Following its recent 5th replenishment, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) developed a new funding program within its International Waters and Biodiversity portfolios focused on issues related to areas beyond national jurisdiction, as recommended by the Singapore Workshop on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

At its November 2011 meeting, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Council approved a 5 year program entitled *Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Preserving the World's Last Global Commons*, to be coordinated by the FAO, which represents an investment of \$50 million USD by the GEF with expected co-financing from many partners of \$268 million.

These activities will be conducted in consultation with key stakeholders. The Global Ocean Forum is the co-executing agency, together with FAO, for the Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ project which is one of the four projects included in the GEF ABNJ program

Focusing on tuna and deep-sea fisheries, in parallel with the conservation of biodiversity, the ABNJ Program aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ and to meet related global targets agreed in international fora. The ABNJ Program is an innovative and comprehensive initiative comprised of four projects:

- Project 1: *Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ* led by the FAO, aims to achieve efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach. The major partners for this Project are the Tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (t-RFMOs) and member countries, WWF, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Bird Life International, and NOAA.
- Project 2: *Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-Sea Living Resources and Ecosystems in the ABNJ* led by the (FAO and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), aims at efficient and sustainable use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach and to test and make available efficient area-based planning tools and methodologies in the Regional Seas Programmes and RFMO/As for development of regional management plans and policies. The partners for this Project are the Deep-sea Regional Fishery Management Organizations, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the East African Seas Regional Coordination Unit, IUCN, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and relevant industry organizations.
- Project 3: *Oceans Partnership Fund* led by the World Bank, aims to catalyze public and private sector investment within globally important seascapes both within national waters and in ABNJ to sustainably

enhance the economic and biological performance of the oceans' living resources, and the benefits captured by coastal and island developing nations. The partnerships for this Project are under development with Conservation International and others.

- Project 4: *Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ*, led by FAO, aims to promote effective global and regional coordination on ABNJ including exchange of information, knowledge management, and capacity development. In particular, this project will link global and regional processes related to ABNJ management with the intent of learning lessons and improving governance. The Global Ocean Forum (GOF) is the co-executing agency for this Project.

The Global Ocean Forum, together with the FAO, will carry out the set of project activities to be developed within the framework of this project, which includes:

- 1) Establishment of ABNJ communities of practice which will form part of a global network of practitioners benefiting all stakeholders involved in policy development and management of activities affecting ABNJ;
- 2) Development of training program for regional level leaders to participate in global negotiations on ABNJ, with the aim of achieving enhanced learning and sharing of experiences between global and regional levels and building institutional capacity for effective participation in national and regional ABNJ decision-making processes;
- 3) Holding of policy dialogues among ABNJ stakeholders;
- 4) Conduct of working meetings between experienced stakeholders and the five t-RFMOs/countries, the fishing industry, GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies;
- 5) Organization of high-level policy dialogues, targeting key decision-makers among stakeholders, including Ministries of Finance, Fisheries and Environment; and
- 6) Development of a cadre of communicators on ABNJ issues and governance initiatives.

