

# Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

## Linking Global and Regional/National Processes



**M**arine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), comprising 64% of the surface of the world's oceans, are rich in biodiversity, play a crucial role in the functioning of marine ecosystems, provide critical ecosystem services (including nutrient cycling, carbon storage, and ocean circulation), and possess a unique cultural value for many people around the world. They also have significant socio-economic value, including for food security, sustainable livelihoods, and global trade and communications.

A variety of human activities take place in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including fishing, shipping, scientific research, and bio-prospecting for genetic resources, in addition to new and emerging activities, such as carbon storage in the deep seabed and offshore energy exploitation. However, lack of knowledge of marine biodiversity and ecosystems in ABNJ, difficulties in enforcement, and disagreements over appropriate policy responses, among other factors, have hindered the sustainable management of ABNJ.

### GEF/FAO Common Oceans Program

The GEF/FAO Common Oceans Program ([commonoceans.org](http://commonoceans.org)) aims to work toward improving conservation and sustainable use of living resources in ABNJ by fostering global cross-sectoral cooperation and information-sharing, improving the capacity to sustainably manage ABNJ, and moving toward an ecosystem approach for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ.

This program, which is supported by a \$50 million GEF investment in addition to significant co-financing, is composed of four projects: (i) Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ, (ii) Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in ABNJ, (iii) Ocean Partnerships Project aimed at catalyzing public and private sector investments in problems of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss, and (iv) Strengthening global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ (see Figure 1).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Ocean Forum are collaborating on component four of this program: *Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*.

### GLOBAL OCEAN FORUM'S WORK ON ABNJ

Since 2005, through the GEF IW:LEARN Portfolio Learning in International Waters with a Focus on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and Regional Asia/Pacific and Coral Triangle Learning Processes, the Global Ocean Forum has worked to mobilize a broad-based and multifaceted global network of experts on ABNJ issues from governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry, and scientific groups to address the major issues related to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through the preparation of expert policy analyses, the organization of multi-stakeholder workshops on major ABNJ issues, and facilitation of informal discussions and dialogue, to clarify the central issues, lay out various perspectives, analyze policy options, and identify possible avenues for consensus building.

### FAO / GLOBAL OCEAN FORUM PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE ABNJ

This project aims to facilitate global and regional cross-sectoral policy dialogue and coordination, improve knowledge management and outreach, and contribute to increased capacity for decision-making at various levels of ABNJ management. The Global Ocean Forum and FAO, with a variety of partners, are collaborating in the following activities to achieve these goals:

#### ◆ Global and Regional Cross-Sectoral Policy Dialogue and Coordination

- ❑ Cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder workshops linking global and regional processes on ABNJ, involving the participants of the ABNJ Program and representatives from Governments, the fishing industry, IGOs, NGOs, and international organizations operating at the global level and in various regions

- Rome, 2015
- Suva, Fiji, 2015 (tentative)

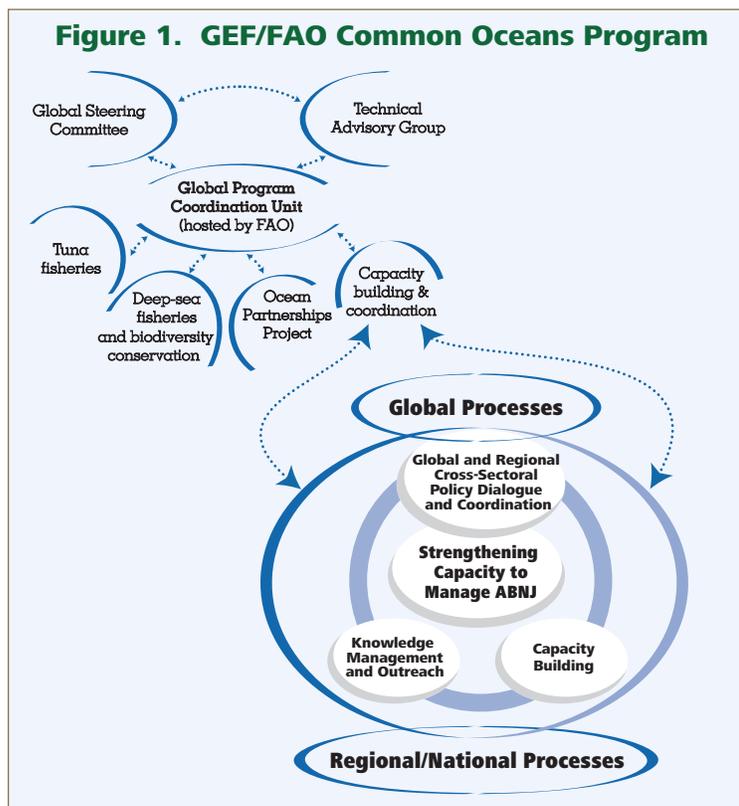
- ❑ High-level policy dialogues, targeting key decision-makers, including Ministers of Finance, Fisheries, and Environment, among other stakeholders

#### ◆ Capacity Development

- ❑ Two targeted ABNJ communities of practice, linking them as part of a global network of practitioners (Fisheries, Biodiversity, and Climate Change; and Multi-Sector Area-based Planning)
- ❑ A Regional Leaders ABNJ Program hosting leaders working in regions and countries to participate in global negotiations on ABNJ



**Figure 1. GEF/FAO Common Oceans Program**



◆ **Knowledge Management and Outreach**

- ❑ Public Outreach Network made up of journalists, ABNJ practitioners, leaders from museum/aquaria, and other outreach specialists (in collaboration with the World Ocean Network and Nausicaa)
- ❑ ABNJ web portal for stakeholders and the general public, to: i) enhance existing data sources; ii) contribute to data standards and harmonization; iii) capture new and already-existing relevant data and information, including spatial information; iv) promote harmonized information sharing

**Project Duration:** 5 years

**AIMS OF THE PROJECT**

**Expected Outcomes**

- Strengthening and broadening cross-sectoral dialogue and policy coordination in the ABNJ, leading to improved implementation of ecosystem approaches
- Capability of decision-makers, especially from developing countries, is strengthened, to participate in international/ regional processes for management and coordination of ABNJ activities
- Public understanding, particularly by high-level decision-makers, of the ecosystem threats and services related to ABNJ, is substantially broadened and improved

**Leading to:**

Strengthened Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

**Who Will Benefit?**

- Global, regional, and national-level decision-makers
- UN country delegations
- Leaders from developing countries

- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Regional Fishery Bodies/Arrangements (RFBs/RFAs)
- Regional ocean management mechanisms such as Regional Seas programs and GEF Large Marine Ecosystem projects
- Industry (fishing, shipping, etc.)
- Policy practitioners and managers at various levels
- Academia and the scientific community
- General public
- Civil Society
- Communities dependent on high seas fisheries for sustainable livelihoods and food security.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

- Government of France (French Marine Protected Areas Agency (FMPAA))
- Government of South Korea (Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST))
- UNESCO (Natural Sciences)
- UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC))
- Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDR)
- Nausicaa: Centre National de la Mer, France / World Ocean Network (WON)
- Vietnam National University
- SeaOrbiter
- Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
- International Ocean Institute
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)
- UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)

**Contact Information**

*For more information, please contact:*



**Co-Executing Agency**

Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain  
President, Global Ocean Forum  
Email: bcs@udel.edu

Dr. Miriam Balgos  
Program Coordinator  
Global Ocean Forum  
Email: mbalgos@udel.edu

Mailing Address:

301 Robinson Hall  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware, USA 19716

Telephone: 1 (302) 831-8086

Fax: 1 (302) 831-3668



**Implementing Agency and Co-Executing Agency**

Ms. Tina Farmer  
Communications & Publications  
Specialist

Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Department

Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Email: Tina.Farmer@fao.org