

GLOBAL OCEAN FORUM NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2013

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PERSPECTIVE: RIO+20 AND ITS AFTERMATH

Oceans took center stage in international negotiations on sustainable development in 2012, especially in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In this newsletter, we review the progress made on oceans at Rio+20; detail what Rio+20 added (or didn't) to existing global commitments on oceans; describe major developments at the Rio+20 summit itself, including the holding of the Oceans Day at Rio+20 and the announcement of voluntary initiatives related to oceans; and present a number of perspectives on Rio+20 by noted leaders in the field.

The newsletter includes, as well, synopses of important initiatives taken in 2012 to advance action on oceans—at the global level, including the Global Partnership on Oceans, led by the World Bank, the UN Secretary General's Oceans Compact, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative led by the government of Japan, the French MPA agency, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the GEF/FAO Program on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). The year 2012 also saw important initiatives by individual nations to advance central concepts related to “Green Growth from the Sea” and to the “Blue Economy” by the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, respectively.

Called by the President of Brazil, “The most participatory conference in history..., a global expression of democracy,” the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) brought together 191 countries, 44,000 participants, 79 heads of state, and involved over 3,500 events on all aspects of sustainable development. The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want* (53 pages, 283 paragraphs), contained a strong emphasis on oceans. Over 700 voluntary commitments to implement the Rio+20 outcomes were made by all stakeholders—governments, UN system, IGOs, private sector and civil society, and \$500 billion in actions were pledged towards sustainable development.

The Rio+20 summit had three major purposes:

- 1) *To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development.* In my view, there was good achievement of this goal generally. For oceans, the achievement on this purpose can be rated as excellent given the great mobilization on the part of countries, civil society, and others that took place in the Rio+20 process ensuring a central place for oceans in the Rio+20 outcome document.
- 2) *To assess progress on implementation gaps in meeting previously agreed commitments.* In my view, the outcome here was weak generally with insufficient analysis carried out on what had worked and had not worked. In oceans, however, the outcome here was very good, since major assessments and reports on implementation progress (and lack thereof) were mobilized and discussed extensively in the Rio+20 deliberations.
- 3) *To address new and emerging challenges*, with a special focus on:
 - Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.* This aspect turned out, in my view, to be relatively weak, with no agreement on concrete targets, or on a road map. For oceans, however, there was considerable discussion of the green economy in the context of oceans, with the Pacific Island nations, for example, emphasizing that for island states “the green economy is the blue economy.”
 - Improvements in the institutional framework for sustainable development*—this also turned out to be rather weak, with many of the important decisions being “punted” to the UN General Assembly for further decision (e.g., on a high-level body to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, the upgrading of the UN Environment Programme, options for a financing strategy and facilitation mechanism for development/transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies, the devising of a set of Sustainable Development Goals; a decision on the development of an international instrument under UNCLOS on ABNJ by 2014; and a decision on modalities for the 3rd SIDS international conference in 2014 (follow-up to the 1994 Barbados and the 2005 Mauritius SIDS conferences).

Some reasons for the UNCSD outcome document being somewhat “soft,” and “punting” to other fora, in my view, could be explained by the following.

- There was no underlying conceptual framework underpinning the Rio+20 process (compared, for example to the Brundtland report, *Our Common Future*, which in 1987 provided the conceptual basis and the blueprint for action for the 1992 Earth Summit;
- There was not enough time to develop a conceptual agreement and roadmap on the green economy, with many concerns among nations about the formation of new trade barriers that would work against developing countries and other matters
- The negotiating process was very short
- There were/are significant political differences among the countries, and some developed countries were not in a generous mode.

The overall assessment of a national delegate at Rio+20 (from Switzerland) that, “We made progress but missed the historic opportunity,” is correct, in my view. But this assessment must be tempered by the tremendous mobilization of national leaders, UN agencies, civil society groups, industry, and academia which took place at Rio and around the world. This is very solid base on which new tangible accomplishments will be built.

For oceans, the main story is the great attention that oceans received in the Rio+20 process and at Rio+20 itself. There was great political mobilization during at Rio+20 process. At the beginning of the Rio+20 process, there was little mention of oceans; by November 2011, in inputs to the Rio+20 “zero draft,” 67% of nations and 100% of all political groupings referred to oceans. In the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, oceans are treated in 20 paragraphs, receiving central attention. A major accomplishment of the Rio+20 process is that oceans and their role in planetary survival and human well-being are now firmly established on the global agenda. As so eloquently said by Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Co-Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference at Oceans Day at Rio+20: “*Oceans are the point at which planet, people, and prosperity come together. And that is what sustainable development is about. It is about all of us as shareholders of Earth, incorporated, acknowledging and acting on our responsibility to the planet, to the people, and to its bloodstream, the oceans.*”

As discussed in some detail in the newsletter, in the Rio+20 outcome document there was considerable reinforcement of existing ocean goals from 1992 and 2002, as well as the setting forth of new goals, such as reducing marine debris in the oceans by 2025, independent review of Regional Fishery Management Organizations to increase transparency and accountability, improvement of market access, including for small-scale, artisanal, women, indigenous, and local fishworkers, and a commitment for a decision by the UNGA on the development of an instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ.

Implementation of the Rio+20 ocean commitments, as well as continuing implementation of the global prescriptions on oceans from 1992 and 2002, will require concerted action by national governments, the UN system, civil society, academia, and industry. There must be continuous watch of and participation in the various fora that will be addressing Rio+20 implementation, especially the UN General Assembly. The many voluntary commitments made on oceans, coasts, and SIDS, need to be implemented in concert and synergy with one another to achieve maximum impact. Nations such as the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, which are leading the way on the implementation of the green economy in the context of oceans need to be supported and thanked. And there must be insistence that capacity building in integrated ocean governance, a major priority of the 1992 and 2002 earth

summits, must now take center stage to enable national and local leaders around the world to lead the way to a low-carbon economy and society.

As we move forward, we must do so with a sense of confidence and renewed purpose:

--We have a detailed set of global prescriptions on oceans from 1992, 2002, and 2012

--We know what has/has not worked

--We have a high level of political support

--We have mobilized very large coalitions that will continue to work hard.

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum

Progress on Ocean and Coastal Issues in the Post-Rio+20 Context

Summary of Progress Made on Ocean Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and New Commitments Emanating from the Rio+20 Outcome

Prepared by Marisa Van Hoeven, Global Ocean Forum

The following section is a summary of (1) progress made on ocean commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development; and (2) major ocean-related goals emanating from the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*. The summary addresses the following issue areas: Integrated, Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM/ICM); Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM); Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas; Small Island Developing States (SIDS); Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; Addressing Critical Uncertainties for the Marine Environment; Coordination of UN Activities; Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment; and Capacity Development

The summary of progress made on past ocean commitments (including the report cards) is based on the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) report, "*Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development?*", which is available at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Rio20SummaryReport.pdf>. The GOF developed report cards summarizing the extent of effort, the extent of progress, and the timing of effort for each issue area. The report cards also provide a brief summary of the progress, or lack thereof, information related to major obstacles, bright spots, and recommendations to meet the ocean commitments.

The following text provides a brief summary of the Global Ocean Forum analysis in each issue area based on the "*Oceans at Rio+20*" report, as well as an overview of the ocean-related commitments made in the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, available at:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

GOF Report Card on Ecosystem-Based Management/Integrated Coastal Management (EBM/ICM)

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Medium	High	Some Delay

Use of EBM/ICM has been widely accepted by the international community and has been implemented by a growing number of countries, as well as at the regional level, including through the Large Marine Ecosystem programs. Despite the increase in the scope of implementation, there is a need to: further expand implementation of EBM/ICM, supported by improvements in institutional decisionmaking processes, at both the national and regional level; improve integration in the UN system to achieve more coherence; and apply EBM/ICM in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Effective EBM/ICM has been hampered by lack of data regarding ecosystem structure and function, lack of effective decisionmaking frameworks and legal competence, and limited funding to support scientific and management institutions.

The Rio+20 outcome document stressed the importance of an ecosystem approach to the management of activities impacting the marine environment.

GOF Report Card on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Medium	Medium	Some Delay

Since its establishment in 1995, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment (GPA) has focused on providing guidance and supporting implementation at the national level to reduce marine pollution from land-based sources. Over 70 countries have developed National Programmes of Action through the GPA, and regional programmes to mitigate marine pollution have been advanced through the Regional Seas Programmes. Success has been mixed, and some of the most serious sources of marine degradation have not been adequately addressed, including sewage, nutrients, marine litter, and physical habitat alteration and degradation. Challenges include the lack of public education and awareness, limited political will, financial and human resources, fragmentation of legal and institutional arrangements, as well as lack of compliance, enforcement, and reporting. The goal of achieving substantial progress by 2006, as stated in the Montreal Declaration, has not been achieved.

The Rio+20 outcome document called for States to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of marine pollution, including through the implementation of the relevant conventions of the International Maritime Organization and through the GPA, and called for significant reduction in marine debris to prevent harm to coastal and marine environments by 2025.

GOF Report Card on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

Extent of Effort	Extent of	Timing
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	Progress	
Medium	Medium	Some Delay

According to a report by UN-Water, developed countries have advanced Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in all major issue areas, while developing countries have seen improvements in the IWRM planning process. As a whole, the percentage of countries with IWRM plans that have been completed or are in the implementation phase has increased. A set of indicators and a Roadmap have been developed by UN-Water and the Global Water Partnership (GWP) to provide guidance in IWRM. Despite this progress, there are a number of key areas that must be addressed to improve IWRM, including increased public awareness, gender mainstreaming, addressing implementation gaps, and more effective and consistent development and application of tools across regions. In addition, more effective water efficiency plans are needed.

The Rio+20 outcome document highlighted the need to implement IWRM planning at all levels, address flood-related impacts, water scarcity, and imbalances between water supply and demand, and to consider non-conventional water sources. As well, mobilization of resources, capacity building, and technology transfer were recognized as essential to implementing effective IWRM. There was also support for national actions to better manage key ecosystems that play a role in maintaining water quality and quantity. There was a further commitment to reduce water pollution, improve water quality, and improve wastewater treatment and efficiency. The need for international cooperation and assistance was stressed in this regard.

GOF Report Card on Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Medium	Low/Medium	Significant Delay

While there has been growing recognition of the value of biodiversity among the public and policymakers, including new studies that look at the socio-economic value of marine biodiversity, the global goal of 10% MPA coverage by 2012 has not been met, and the trend in biodiversity loss has continued. Many countries have established networks of marine protected areas, and there have been improvements in multilateral cooperation through the Regional Seas and LME Programmes, however, management of area-based approaches must be improved and embedded within broader EBM frameworks to improve their effectiveness. Challenges to more effective management include the lack of standardized data and reporting, as well as the lack of understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Rio+20 outcome document reaffirmed a number of commitments from the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including the recent commitments under the Aichi Targets and Nagoya Protocol. There was recognition of the importance of area-based measures, including MPAs, to conserve biodiversity, and called for wider application of traditional knowledge and engagement of local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It also called for the mainstreaming of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity, and supported initiation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to provide improved information to decisionmakers. With regard to areas beyond national jurisdiction, the Rio+20 outcome document called for a decision on the development of an international instrument under

UNCLOS for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ before the end of the 69th session of the General Assembly in 2014.

GOF Report Card on Small Island Developing States

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Medium	Medium	Some Delay

The special circumstances, vulnerabilities, and needs of SIDS have been recognized by the international community through the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI), yet implementation of important commitments related to SIDS and oceans has lagged, and institutional and financial support has been lacking. While SIDS have increasingly invested in the protection of their natural marine capital, including through designation of MPAs and the use of EBM frameworks at both the national and regional level, they have not been able to equitably benefit from their marine resources, and are in need of the human, financial, and institutional capacity to realize these gains. Despite growing focus at the global and regional levels on the threats posed to SIDS by climate change, these concerns have not resulted in the needed international commitments to reduce emissions, and adaptation funds to address climate change are inadequate.

The Rio+20 outcome document reiterated the commitments of the BPoA and MSI, and called for a third international conference on SIDS in 2014, which will be held in Samoa. It also called for the strengthening of the UN system’s support for SIDS, including support for new and emerging challenges. Rio+20 supported improving national capacity to manage and realize the benefits of sustainable resource use, including through improved market access for small-scale, artisanal, and women fishworkers, as well as indigenous people and communities.

GOF Report Card on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Medium	Low/Medium	Significant Delay

Despite the fact that 78 nations have ratified the Fish Stock Agreement, over 90% of FAO member states have developed or implemented fisheries management plans, and 80% have taken steps to develop or implement plans to address illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing, the number of stocks classified as overexploited, fully exploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion have only increased in recent years, indicating that much more progress is needed. Overcapacity also remains a major problem, even though many states have taken action to reduce overcapacity through the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. In the high seas, UN General Assembly resolutions aimed at mitigating the impacts of bottom trawling on vulnerable ecosystems have been adopted, but implementation, especially at the regional level and in the high seas, is still a major issue. There is a clear need for improved enforcement by flag and port states, as well as expanded efforts to mitigate destructive fishing practices. There is a need to address harmful subsidies and the incentive structures that contribute to overfishing and IUU, and to develop management plans that focus on long-term sustainability, not short-term losses.

The Rio+20 outcome document contained a number of commitments intended to reduce overfishing and IUU. It called for the intensification of efforts to meet the 2015 JPoI target to restore stocks to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, within the shortest possible timeframe. Science-based management plans were supported. Management actions to address bycatch and destructive practices were called for, in addition to enhanced actions to protect vulnerable ecosystems, including the use of environmental impact assessment (EIA). Support for implementation of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the JPoI to address IUU fishing was reiterated, and countries were urged to ratify the Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing to bring it into force. The outcome document also called for national action to prevent and combat IUU activities, as well as the elimination of subsidies, including capacity building for improved monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems. At the international level, Rio+20 called for the conclusion of World Trade Organization negotiations to address fishing subsidies in a manner that considers development priorities. RFMOs were encouraged to undergo independent review to increase transparency and accountability, and to implement the recommendations that emerge from these reviews. Increased market access, and access by subsistence, small-scale, artisanal, women, and indigenous fishers was observed.

GOF Report Card on Addressing Critical Uncertainties for the Management of the Marine Environment and Climate Change

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
High	Medium/High	Some Delay/Significant Delay

There has been a mobilization of scientific effort to adapt scientific priorities to address pressing environmental concerns related to climate change. As a whole, improved sampling systems and networks of monitoring sites have resulted a deeper understanding of ecosystem processes. However, more effective monitoring and reporting, and improved global coverage, as well as implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is required. The cumulative impacts of human activities need to be addressed by a multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional approach, and there is a need for systematic environmental data exchange between nations and the international community. The challenges of lack of capacity in developing countries, including technology transfer, education and training, and limited financial capacity have hampered implementation.

The Rio+20 outcome document called for states to consider the findings of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment following its completion. The outcome document also stressed the need to consider the precautionary approach in ocean fertilization activities. Although not ocean-specific, the Rio+20 outcome document also called on states to improve early warning systems for disaster risk reduction, including capacity building, and called for the strengthening of risk assessment and risk reduction instruments, including integration with climate change adaptation strategies.

GOF Report Card on Coordination of UN Activities on Oceans

Extent of	Extent of	Timing
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Effort	Progress	
Low	Low	On Time

UN-Oceans has been operating since 2005 on a regular basis, and with transparency. Work has been carried out through task forces, and has provided a forum for communication between UN agencies. However the activities of UN-Oceans have been limited, largely due to the lack of a lead authority, secretariat, staff or funding support, including through the individual agencies to support group activities. The different governing bodies, processes, timelines, and budgets for each of the UN agencies involved makes coordination difficult. Actions have been time bound, and there has been limited NGO involvement. A clear lead authority, a position at a higher level within the UN system, and specific funding is required to make UN-Oceans more effective.

The Rio+20 outcome document did not mention UN-Oceans, nor did it reference inter agency cooperation in relation to oceans.

GOF Report Card on a Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Medium	High	Significant Delay

The Regular Process was established as an international process guided by international law, including UNCLOS and other relevant international instruments, though the scope and scale of establishing it was slow and hampered by a lack of resources to carry out the start-up phase. The Assessment of Assessments, which synthesizes information from existing assessments on the state of the marine environment was recently completed and was widely accepted by the research community, although the assessments gave less attention to areas beyond national jurisdiction and economic and social factors. The first cycle is underway, and is expected to be completed in time for review in 2014. While there has been improved participation by developing countries, the management of the Regular Process by States has limited the involvement of other key actors and the resources they could provide.

The Rio+20 outcome document called on states to consider the findings of the Regular Process following its completion in 2014 and subsequent review by the assembly.

GOF Report Card on Capacity Development

Extent of Effort	Extent of Progress	Timing
Low/ Unavailable	Low	Significant Delay

Capacity development was a major focus of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (the outcome document of the 1992 Earth Summit), and continues to be a major area of importance. There have been many efforts since 1992 to respond to the capacity development needs expressed at UNCED and at the WSSD on the part of various entities: educational institutions, UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors, and NGOs, but there is currently no entity tracking effort and expenditures, aggregate impact, effectiveness, or extent to which current and emerging needs have been met, making assessment of effort difficult in

this area. The absence of strategies and guidance at the international level, as well as a lack of indicators and timelines at the national level has slowed capacity development. Funds are limited, there are no tracking mechanisms for funds that have been provided, and there is no integration among the many actors that assist in capacity development. Capacity building efforts need to be integrated into long term development strategies, and will need to include human and institutional capacity building in addition to public education.

In the Rio+20 process, developing countries identified the lack of capacity development as one of the major gaps at the international level. In the outcome document, capacity building for oceans, coasts, and SIDS was highlighted to enable developing countries to implement their global commitments and to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of their resources, including technology transfer, to provide support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems to prevent and combat IUU fishing, and to improve implementation of integrated water resource management. Support for sustainable tourism was also included in the outcome document, though this was not specific to coastal tourism.

References

Biliana Cicin-Sain, Miriam Balgos, Joseph Appiott, Kateryna Wowk, and Gwénaëlle Hamon. 2011. Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development? Summary for Decision Makers. Global Ocean Forum. Available at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/content/rio20>

UN Resolution 66/288. “The Future We Want” 11 September 2012, available at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

SIDE-BY-SIDE SUMMARY OF OCEANS PROVISIONS IN AGENDA 21, JPOI, AND THE RIO+20 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

One of the goals of Rio+20 was to track progress and gaps in implementation of the commitments embodied in Agenda 21 (1992) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002). The Global Ocean Forum has produced a comparison of the ocean-related provisions of these documents, as well as the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want.”

Side-by-side analysis of the ocean-related outcomes of UNCED, WSSD, and Rio+20 available at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Table-UNCED-WSSD-Rio20.pdf>

Ocean-related commitments were reviewed in the following issue areas:

- The status of the ocean ecosystems and coastal communities in the context of climate change and continuing biodiversity loss;
- Addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change;
- The extent of achievement of ecosystem-based, integrated ocean and coastal management in areas of national jurisdiction, in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and through regional efforts such as the Large Marine Ecosystem approach and Regional Seas Programmes;
- Protection of the marine environment;
- The status and prospects for fisheries and aquaculture within and outside of national jurisdiction; the special issues associated with small island developing states (SIDS) and oceans, especially in the context of climate change;
- Biodiversity loss, climate change, and networks of marine protected areas;

- Integrated water resource management;
 - Financing;
 - Capacity development, and public outreach: the needs and challenges; and,
 - The role of the oceans in the new low-carbon green economy; and, improved international environmental governance.
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SUMMARY OF OCEANS DAY AT RIO+20

The Oceans Day at Rio+20, held at the Rio Conventions Pavilion on June 16, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro gathered more than 375 participants from 46 countries and 169 organizations, including leaders from governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and the science community to:

- Reflect on what has/has not been done in achieving major ocean-related sustainable development commitments;
- Rekindle political will to implement new and old commitments;
- Showcase tangible pledges for action, including Voluntary Commitments for Rio+20, to spur action on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States in the post-Rio+20 world; and
- Consider the opportunities and challenges for implementation of the “oceans package” emanating from the Rio+20 Conference.

Full summary of Oceans Day at Rio+20 available at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/OceansDayAtRio20Summary.pdf>

IISD coverage of The Oceans Day at Rio+20 available at:

<http://www.iisd.ca/uncsd/rio20/pavilion/16jun.html>

The Oceans Day at Rio+20 also celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum, which was formed to help the world’s governments place issues related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS on the agenda of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. To mark the Anniversary, the Global Ocean Forum published a booklet, “Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum at Rio+20 2002-2012,” that contains reflections on the Global Ocean Forum’s accomplishments from a number of our partners around the world. It is available at <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOF10thAnniversary.pdf>

The Oceans Day was co-chaired by:

- Dr. Bilitiana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum
- Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)

Oceans Day at Rio+20 featured high-level addresses from participants from all sectors, including:

Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference
Ambassador Isabelle Picco, Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations
Dr. Gustavo Fonseca, Head, Division of Natural Resources, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Mr. Wang Hong, Deputy Administrator, State Oceanic Administration, People’s Republic of China
Mr. Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Mr. Su’a N.F. Tanielu, Director-General, Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
Mr. Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues,

Seychelles

Dr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP

Mr. Karl Falkenberg, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission

Ms. Rachel Kyte, Vice President for the Sustainable Development Network, World Bank

Mr. Johan Williams, Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Norway, President, North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and First Vice Chair, Committee on Fisheries (COFI), FAO,

Dr. Braulio F. de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Mr. David Tongue, Director of Regulatory Affairs, International Chamber of Shipping

Ms. Lynne Hale, Director, Global Marine Programme, The Nature Conservancy

The Oceans Day at Rio+20 addressed key ocean issues in sustainable development, including: Renewing political commitments to oceans; Scaling up integrated governance of oceans; Enhancing fisheries for food security, social, and economic benefits; Capacity development of small island developing States (SIDS); Climate change and ocean acidification; and Moving toward the blue economy and blue society.

Speakers highlighted the positive momentum and consensus-building around oceans in the Rio+20 process, and recognized that, regardless of the outcome, the Rio+20 Conference has significantly raised the profile of ocean issues on the global policy agenda.

The Oceans Day at Rio+20 also provided an interesting review and snapshot of various approaches taken around the world to move toward ocean and coastal sustainability at different scales that could be scaled up and applied elsewhere. The important role of civil society and the private sector were emphasized as well, highlighting that governments cannot be relied upon alone as we are all ocean stakeholders. In this context and in the true spirit of the Rio Conferences, various organizations brought forth voluntary commitments on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS).

Another common theme of the discussions was the need to look closely at the many opportunities inherent in healthy and sustainable oceans and to develop innovative approaches to sustainably use the oceans to address pressing social issues and stimulate economic growth. As our knowledge of the economic and environmental benefits of a healthy ocean improves, in addition to our ability to better make the business case for oceans, new opportunities are made available and new doors opened.

Despite the many challenges of the current global landscape (economic woes, political turmoil, etc.), participants at Oceans Day expressed hope for the future and many opportunities for sustainable development of the oceans. There was a sense that, with such a great collection of knowledge, experience, ideas, diverse perspectives, and passion, the global ocean community could make tangible progress in reaching our sustainable development goals for the ocean, and that Rio+20 Conference was a step in the right direction.

RIO+20 VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS ON OCEANS

As with the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Developing in Johannesburg, stakeholders from all sectors included civil society played an important role in the Rio+20 Conference.

The first Rio Conference in 1992 heralded a new era of transparency and participatory environmental management, with the role of civil society, international organizations, and the private sector elevated in

importance in moving towards sustainable development. The Rio+20 Conference carried on that tradition, including through the development of voluntary commitments for oceans, coasts, and small island developing states (SIDS).

The information in this section provides details of the ocean-related voluntary commitments registered on the Rio+20 conference website. Developing new partnerships and synergies through the voluntary commitments provides an opportunity to assist in the implementation of the goals of Rio+20, and advance the Ocean Agenda.

Details of the voluntary commitments can now be accessed through the UN's Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>

Voluntary Commitments in the “Oceans and Seas, SIDS” Category

Ocean Watch: Assessment and Promotion of Progress in the Implementation of the 1992, 2002, and 2012 Global Commitments On Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Partners:

Global Ocean Forum (GOF), United Nations Development Program , Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

Commitment:

The continued assessment, policy dialogue, and reporting of the progress (or lack thereof) in meeting global commitments related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS will ensure continuous exchange of information, sharing of best practices, and provide the opportunity to develop novel approaches to fill gaps in past commitments, and to address new and emerging challenges. This serves to maintain a high public and political profile, and to mobilize the ocean community to achieve effective implementation of commitments. This builds on the work undertaken by the GOF and partners, in the report “Oceans at Rio+20: Summary for Decision Makers,” available online.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=289>

Building Oceans Readiness: Capacity Development for Integrated Ocean Governance

Partners:

Global Ocean Forum (GOF), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, World Ocean Network, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

Commitment:

Capacity development for integrated ocean governance is essential to achieve sustainable development of oceans and coasts including responses to address new challenges, climate change and biodiversity , loss and provide sustainable ocean and coastal livelihoods. Funding is limited and there has been little collaboration and coordination of efforts among the many actors that assist in capacity development.

A global strategy for ocean readiness, mobilizing expertise and partnerships, will be developed to ensure that governments and institutions have the skills, knowledge, and capacity to develop Blue Economy frameworks, and to address challenges on oceans and coastal communities in a long-term, integrated manner.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=288>

Building Global Capacity for Marine Sciences, Observation, and Transfer of Marine Technology

Partners:

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (in partnership with Global Ocean Forum Commitment on Capacity Building for Integrated Ocean Governance)

Commitment:

This commitment aims at conducting a global and regional assessment of capacity development needs in the field of marine scientific research and ocean observation in developing nations and SIDS, leading to the formulation and implementation of a global strategy to implement these needs, through partnership with countries, donors, UN Agencies, global financial institutions, and the private sector. This commitment is based on the proposal contained in the UN Blueprint Report on Ocean and Coastal Sustainability and will be implemented in close cooperation with Global Ocean Forum led Voluntary Commitment on building global capacity for integrated ocean governance.

Website: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=361>

Global Partnership and Capacity Building for Ecosystem Based Management of Oceans and Coasts: Pursuing Compatible Objectives for Sustainable Development through Integrated Spatial Planning, Management and Policies

Partners:

UNEP, Regional Seas, UN Oceans, governments, NGOs, private sectors, other international organizations.

Commitment:

- (a) An interdisciplinary Partnership and Capacity Building Platform to support ecosystem-based management for sustainable development of oceans and coast established by 2014;
- (b) Cross-sectoral policy frameworks with coherent objectives and management plans to support comprehensive ecosystem-based management of oceans and coasts drafted in five countries across the Regional Seas Programme by 2017.

Website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=501>

The Ocean Stewardship Initiative in the Blue Society

Partners:

Nausicaà, World Ocean Network, and the Global Ocean Forum

Potential partners:

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, United Nations Development Programme, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Sea for Society consortium, International Union for Conservation of Nature Agence des Aires Marines Protégées

Commitment:

In the last summits on SD, States agreed on the need for a joint framework for conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources. To reach this goal, we shall bring together researchers, policy makers, economic stakeholders, local authorities and the general public in dialogue, mutual learning, and action in order to develop the “Blue Society” concept, a new vision of our life on Earth, in the spirit of sustainability, well-being and equity for mankind in harmony with the World Ocean.

To implement it, we shall identify innovative research themes and governance modes and promote them to be duplicated elsewhere.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=513>

Creation of a Co-managed Marine Protected Areas Network

Partners:

Fundacion Loxaxanet para la Pesca Sostenible

Commitment:

--The creation of Marine Protected Areas designed and co-managed by artisanal fishers as a tool to ensure marine governance and sustainability of fishery resources.

--Involvement of artisanal fishers in the co-management of fishery resources in the decision making process, which will reduce the gap among authorities and civil society.

--Improvement the socio-economic, environmental and institutional conditions in which artisanal fishers operate and place them at the heart of the sustainable management of the resources their livelihoods is dependent upon.

--Change of mindset to improve management of marine resources and governance.

--Dissemination and replication of successful experiences and good practices.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=482>

Delivering Ecosystem-Based Coral Reef Management in the World's Regional Seas

Partners:

UNEP, Regional Seas programs and associated networks

Commitment:

Six regional seas with extensive coral reefs incorporate tools for assessing drivers of coral reef resilience and for identifying and prioritizing actions that reduce the major anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, in order to maintain their integrity and functioning.

A global partnership initiative among regional seas will promote policy coherence through common tools and approaches as well as strengthened implementation at the regional level, supporting resilient reefs and dependent communities.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=502>

Laying the Foundations of an Ocean Economy

Partners:

Mauritius, in partnership with development partners

Commitment

Foundations of an Ocean Economy, to be achieved with assistance from development partners.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=458>

Reduce pollutants from sea and land-based activities, including litter, harmful substances and nutrients from wastewater, industrial and agricultural runoff entering the world's oceans

Partners:

Governments of Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, USA, the European Union; the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA); the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI); International Fertilizer

Development Centre (IFDC); the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); UN-HABITAT; IOC-UNESCO, UNDP, NOAA; UN-Water; UN-Oceans

Commitment:

All countries would have set relevant national targets for nutrient loadings, marine litter reduction and wastewater discharges. The planning of strategies for achieving these targets would have been commenced, through processes such as Regional Seas Action Plans and through functioning Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Nutrients, and Wastewater Management.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=500>

Smart Ocean/Smart Industries: Global scaling up of ocean and climate data collection by industry

Partners:

World Ocean Council member companies, i.e. from shipping, oil/gas, fisheries, mining, renewable energy, etc.

Commitment:

WOC and leadership companies will create a system to scale up and coordinate industry collecting of ocean/climate data for scientific programs that improve ocean health and industry sustainability. The Smart Ocean/Smart Industries program is operational and ready to be used by a range of companies, sectors and locations worldwide by 2015. To achieve this overall target, pilot projects in one or more regions will be undertaken using industry vessels and platforms from several sectors, e.g. shipping and oil and gas. Pilot efforts will develop the system and process for systematic, regular, sustained and integrated collection of standardized ocean, weather and climate data at industry vessels and platforms and data communication to national and international ocean, weather and climate programs.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=1034>

Ocean-Related Voluntary Commitments in the “Climate Change” Category

Climate Change Mitigation through Sustainable Management of Coastal Ecosystems

Partners:

UNEP, GRID-Arendal, UNEP-WCMC, IOC of UNESCO, IUCN, Academic Institutions, NGOs

Commitment:

International policy and financing processes under the UNFCCC encompass and enable coastal ecosystem-based mitigation activities. The area of mangroves, seagrass beds and tidal wetlands under sustainable management for climate change mitigation is increased in five developing countries, and greenhouse gas balance and other ecosystem services are consistently quantified and valued using standardized methodologies.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=499>

Ecosystems-Based Adaptation (EBA) Programme

Partners:

UNDP, IUCN

Commitment:

The outcome of this commitment is countries having improved integration of climate change responses into national development processes by incorporating Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation into development planning and policymaking. This includes increasing the access of communities to relevant climate change assessments and information for decision-making and long-term planning. One project will be in a SIDS.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=495>

Signature of Cooperation Agreements between the IOC, and SPREP and IOC and 5Cs

Partners:

Indian Ocean Commission, South Pacific Regional Program for Environment (SPREP) and the Community Center of Caribbean States for Climate Change (CCCCC)

Commitment:

SIDS countries of the three regions will have increased their capacity in accessing climate finance, will have developed collaborations in developing human capacity to deliver on Blue economy and sustainable development; will have prepared for the SIDS summit in 2014.

Website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=509>

**Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the
“Sustainable Development Strategies and Policies” Category**

Smart Island Strategy—Government of Aruba

Partners:

Government of Aruba, New America Foundation, Carbon War Room

Commitment:

By 2020, Aruba’s Smart Island Strategy will transition the island to 100 percent renewable energy, increase housing choices and neighborhood quality, strengthen social cohesion, reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility, reduce obesity and improve public health, improve water conservation, and diversify an expanding island economy.

Website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=514>

Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Sustainable Energy” Category

Barbados Declaration – Voluntary Commitment by Island Governments (22 in total)

Partners:

Island governments, with support from the governments of Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom, and UNDP.

Commitment:

Renewable Energy - to diversify its matrix and achieve a renewable energy target, with timetable. Targets and timetables for each government differ.

Website:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Climate%20Change/Barbados-Declaration-2012.pdf>

Description of Global Ocean Forum Voluntary Commitments available at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOF-Rio20-Voluntary-Commitments.pdf>

Description of Ocean-Related Commitments available at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Rio20OceanVoluntaryCommitments.pdf>

Full list of Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments available at:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/allcommitments.htm>

GOF BRAINSTORMING STRATEGY SESSION ON OCEANS POST RIO+20 (WORLD BANK, NOVEMBER 12, 2012)

On November 12, 2012, the Global Ocean Forum convened an informal brainstorming discussion on implementation of the oceans package emanating from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro on June 20-22, 2012, kindly hosted by the World Bank. The intent of the meeting was to strategize about the implementation of the Rio+20 oceans package and related ocean commitments from 1992 and 2002, to explore how various ongoing initiatives can be used to achieve maximum synergy and forward movement, and to take advantage of key forthcoming meetings and other opportunities to advance the global ocean agenda. The event brought together over 45 ocean experts from government, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academia that will be involved in implementing various aspects of the oceans package.

Meeting presenters and participants included:

- Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum
- Dr. Andrew Hudson, Coordinator, UN-Oceans; Principal Technical Advisor, International Waters; UNDP/GEF, Cluster Leader, UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Program
- Dr. Braulio de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Dr. Juergen Voegelé, Sector Director, Agriculture and Environmental Services, World Bank
- Ms. Paula Caballero, Director for Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- Ms. Sari Söderström, Sector Manager, Agriculture and Environmental Services, World Bank
- Mr. Peter Kristensen, Team Leader for Oceans and Natural Resources, Global Partnership for Oceans, World Bank
- Mr. Mitrasen Bhikajee, Deputy Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO (via telephone)
- Ms. Julie Ritz, Sustainable Development Officer, Emerging Issues Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- Ms. Monika Thiele, Programme Officer, Focal Point for North America UNEP, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
- Ms. Carla Friedrich, Associate Programme Officer for Ecosystems Management, UNEP
- Mr. Liu Zhenghua, APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (via telephone)
- Ms. Karin Sjolín-Frudd, Senior Adviser, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime

Organization (IMO) (via telephone)

- Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, International Waters Focal Area Coordinator, Senior Water Management Specialist, GEF
- Ms. Barbara Cooney, GEF Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Mr. Jacob Scherr, Director, Global Strategy & Advocacy, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Ms. Lynne Hale, Director, Global Marine Program, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Mr. Bill Eichbaum, *Vice President, Marine & Arctic Policy*, WWF
- Dr. Jihyun Lee, Environment Affairs Officer, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (via telephone)
- Christian Severin, Senior Environmental Specialist, Natural Resources, GEF
- Dr. David VanderZwaag, Dalhousie University (via telephone)
- Mr. Matthew Gianni, Political Advisor, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (via telephone)
- Ms. Alice Hiciburundi, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs (via telephone)
- Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs (via telephone)
- Dr. David Freestone, Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance
- Dr. Nicole Glineur, Program Manager, Biodiversity, GEF
- Ms. Charlotte Gobin, Senior Environmental Specialist, Natural Resources, GEF
- Dr. Naesun Park, Director, International Affairs Division, Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)
- Dr. Indumathie Hewawasam, Ocean and Coastal Management Specialist, formerly Senior Coastal and Marine Specialist, Environment Department, World Bank
- Mr. Ludovic Frere-Escoffier, NAUSICAA (France) and World Ocean Network (WON)
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, Associate Professor, George Mason University, Virginia
- Mr. Robert Brumbaugh, Lead, Integrated Ocean Management, Global Marine Team TNC
- Mr. Richard Delaney, Executive Director, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
- Ms. Brittany Baschuk, Associate, International Policy, The Pew Environment Group
- Dr. James Anderson, Fisheries & Aquaculture Adviser, World Bank
- Mr. Tim Bouley, Global Partnership for Oceans, World Bank
- Dr. Angus Friday, Senior International Climate Policy Specialist, World Bank
- Dr. Mimako Kobayashi, Agricultural and Resource Economist, Agriculture and Rural Development, World Bank
- Dr. Rebecca Lent, Special Advisor, World Bank
- Ms. Elisabeth Mealey, Senior Communications Officer, World Bank
- Dr. Pawan Patil, Senior Economist, Agriculture and Environmental Services Department, World Bank
- Mr. John Virdin, Sr. Natural Resource Management Specialist, Environment Department, World Bank

Presentations focused on the specific ocean-related outcomes of Rio+20, including the identification of the commitments with specific, concrete targets and deadlines. Intergovernmental organization participants discussed avenues to promote the ocean agenda through the Rio+20 follow-up processes, including the High Level Political Forum, the post-2015 Development Agenda, the Third Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (2014), and in the intergovernmental process on Universal Sustainable Development Goals, and related initiatives of UN organizations and secretariats

including the UN Secretary General’s Oceans Compact, UN-OCEANS, the Regular Process, 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, the World Bank’s Global Partnership for Oceans, the Yeosu Declaration on the Living Ocean and Coast, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and related opportunities from the CBD, UNDP, UNEP, IMO, and IOC-UNESCO. Further presentations centered on the range of Rio+20 voluntary commitments and new partnerships that will be integral in implementing the oceans-related provisions of the Rio+20 outcome.

Afternoon sessions were devoted to breakout discussions to develop strategies in the areas of integrated, ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management and the monitoring, assessment and protection of the marine environment, fisheries, capacity development, climate change and ocean acidification, and the “blue” green economy. The outputs of these breakout groups included analysis of the 1992, 2002, and 2012 targets and commitments in each issue area, including an analysis of what has and has not been accomplished, remaining gaps, sharing of lessons learned, possible existing frameworks and approaches to address the targets, and appropriate fora. Breakout groups also discussed possible implementation strategies for each issue area, focusing on specific objectives of each commitments and identification of specific capacities, expertise, mandates, and financing that are available and needed to meet the commitments, and the key institutions and organizations that can support the implantation of the action items. While the meeting participants recognized that the outcome of the Rio+20 process was a mix of accomplishments and drawbacks, there was a general sense among the meeting participants that the synergies among the various partners of the Global Ocean Forum have a number of opportunities to promote the new ocean agenda in the coming months and years at the international level.

Specific action items for each issue area varied, but there was general consensus that the international community should focus on enhancing partnerships and developing synergies among the voluntary commitments and other initiatives emanating from Rio+20. Increasing public awareness, including knowledge sharing platforms, new means of building connections among all stakeholders, and seeking support from existing industries and institutions that are involved in, or may have future interests in, improving ocean management, were highlighted as means to achieve these ends. Identifying successful initiatives and scaling up of successful efforts, particularly in the development of a “blue” economy will also be required. Innovative approaches to support the ocean agenda should be considered, including those that improve on the narrative of the importance of ocean issues and resources, as well as considering the positive benefits healthy ocean ecosystems will provide. In the area of integrated, ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management and monitoring, assessment, and protection of the marine environment, improving the integration of adaptation planning into ICM, increasing implementation at the national and sub-national levels as well as building on existing regional initiatives was supported. For fisheries, improving the capacity and accountability of RFMOs, as well as strengthening the relationship between RFMOs and regional sea conventions was recommended. The need to emphasize the economic and environmental value of natural systems for SIDS and climate change adaptation, as well as seeking innovative partnerships to support adaptation and mitigation actions, including the private sector, were highlighted. To improve on capacity development, the need to seek new partnerships and investors (non-traditional collaborators) was also discussed, as was the need to assess gaps and develop a clear, focused capacity development strategy to support ocean leadership at all levels. The key recommendation for the “blue economy” was to scale up successful initiatives, and to provide guidance to the stakeholders in developing effective blue economy practices.

The full meeting agenda can be found at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Agenda-Nov12BrainstormingSession.pdf>

Perspectives on Rio+20

The Rio+20 Conference addressed a wide range of complex issues, including food security, renewable energy, oceans, and sustainable urban development, among others. And within each of these general issue-areas, there were further discussions on important sub-topics. It is important, therefore, not only to consider the Rio+20 Conference in the general context of oceans, but also in terms of what it meant for various topics that were discussed within the oceans issue-area.

Experts from different sectors and organizations have produced the following op-ed pieces discussing progress made, or lack thereof, on key ocean issues as they were addressed at Rio+20.

- *Implications of Rio+20 for the Institutional Frameworks of Oceans*
By Anne Powers, Professor, Center for Environmental Legal Studies, Pace Law School
- *Implications of Rio+20 for Ocean Science*
By Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- *What's Next for Areas beyond National Jurisdiction? Accelerating progress post Rio+20*
By Kristina M. Gjerde, Senior High Seas Advisor to IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme and Member of the High Seas Alliance
- *Engagement of Civil Society in the post Rio+20 world and the creation of the Alliance for the Seas and Oceans*
By Philippe Vallette, Manuel Cira, and Iwona Gin, World Ocean Network

Implications of Rio+20 for the Institutional Frameworks of Oceans

By Anne Powers, Professor, Center for Environmental Legal Studies, Pace Law School

Opinion is splintered on whether Rio+20 was successful in addressing major sustainable development issues facing the world. Whatever your view on that, oceans do appear a clear winner in the final outcome document, “The Future We Want.” Of the 283 paragraphs in the document, 20 related to oceans, and at least a few give promise of new actions or directions. The two themes of the conference were the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. While both themes were reflected in the ocean provisions, the institutional framework for oceans drew special attention.

The first Oceans and Seas paragraph (158) recognizes that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the legal framework for our efforts to protect and conserve the oceans and to use their resources in a sustainable fashion. However, the reach of UNCLOS in protecting marine biodiversity and directing its sustainable use has been limited to a large extent to areas under the jurisdiction of coastal states [and even there much remains to be done]. Protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), essentially the high seas, is a much more difficult proposition and the conservation and management provisions for the high seas (UNCLOS Articles 116-120) have not been well-implemented. The Rio document makes no change in the actual institutional framework, but simply commits states to address the issue “on an urgent basis.” Urgent appears to mean within two years.

The document does not specify what particular ABNJ concerns are to be addressed, or how, but it does provide that there is to be a decision on developing an “international instrument” under UNCLOS. This is the “implementation agreement” that ocean advocates have sought for some time, both prior to and during the Preparatory Committees and the various pre-Rio+20 negotiations. While this commitment to make a decision by a time certain is progress, there is no guarantee that an implementation agreement will actually be achieved, what will be in it or how it will be arrived at.

In other ocean provisions the signatories call upon parties to various conventions and agreements, such as the UNCLOS Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures on IUU fishing, to fully implement the agreements and carry out their commitments. But this simply focuses on existing institutional provisions and supplies no new ones.

Beyond the oceans provisions, the final document spoke to the institutional framework for sustainable development in general, providing for a high-level political forum to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (Art. 84-86) and the strengthening of UNEP (Art. 88). Neither of these changes would necessarily have a direct effect on oceans but could be positive overall. Provisions related to climate change and biodiversity likewise may have an impact on oceans and their resources, as will finance and management provisions. But they provide little new in the way of institutional frameworks, and are not specifically targeted at ocean issues.

In the final analysis, the notable contribution of Rio+20 to the institutional framework of our oceans is the commitment to address on a urgent basis and by 2014 develop an implementing agreement under UNCLOS. The actual content and shape of that agreement is for future negotiations.

Implications of Rio+20 for Ocean Science

By Wendy Watson-Wright, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

As 95% of the ocean remains unexplored, unseen by human eyes, sound ocean science is at the core of decision-making and sustainable management. Thus, it was extremely important that Rio+20 Conference addressed and encouraged efforts to expand marine research.

On June 12, a few days before the beginning of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, a side event of the International Council for Science (ICSU)-UNESCO Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum clearly reminded us why more and new research is essential to achieving sustainable use of the ocean. This side event, entitled “Ocean in Focus: Science and Governance for Ocean Sustainability”, presented several initiatives aimed at increasing cooperation to achieve a more comprehensive, interdisciplinary and robust ocean science. This side event summarised in a comprehensive way the greatest challenge of ocean sustainability - that while wise decisions and management rely on sound data collection and sharing of information from all parts of the ocean and among all nations, the scientific community’s ability to provide that data and information in order to understand global oceanic processes is seriously hampered by the lack of capacity in developing nations.

The Rio+20 outcome document incorporates some of these ideas, which are two sides of the same coin: strengthening research and increasing international cooperation. On the positive side, by expressing clear support for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine

Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, Rio+20 recognised the importance of science-based assessments for the formulation of ocean and coastal policies. On the negative side, it is unfortunate that Rio+20 did not recognise the importance of closing the ocean observation gap through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), an existing target identified in the 2002 JPoI. GOOS relies on national contributions to establish and coordinate a global network of remote and in-situ monitoring stations. In the last years, the level of commitment of nations to GOOS has been stagnating at 62% of the expected implementation target. A push at Rio to ramp up the implementation rate and to recognize that marine assessments and models require validated and quality controlled data to be credible would have been instrumental.

The Rio outcomes document specifically mentions the need for “marine scientific research, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification”, which is excellent news for the Ocean Acidification science community who have worked so hard at sensitizing policy makers to the threats posed by acidification. The lack of sound data and an observation network is preventing the development of meaningful projections of OA and its impacts on marine ecosystems. However, at Rio+20, we heard the announcement by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that an Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) will be launched in Monaco. Located at the IAEA Environment Laboratories, the OA-ICC will provide international observation, joint platforms and facilities, data management and dissemination. In addition, an Ocean Acidification observation network is to be set up, taking advantage of existing observation networks (in particular, the Global Ocean Observing System, GOOS). This is a huge and promising step forward for ocean science.

Article 160 of the Rio+20 outcome document deals with the issue of capacity building in marine research and emphasizes “the need for cooperation in marine scientific research... and for transfer of technology, taking into account the IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology”. Again, this article gives much room for action to the ocean community.

It is in that context that the IOC submitted a voluntary commitment aimed at “Building Global Capacity for Marine Sciences, Observation, and Transfer of Marine Technology”. The objective is to conduct a global and regional assessment of capacity development needs in the field of marine scientific research and ocean observation in developing nations and Small Island Developing States. This first step will lead to the formulation and implementation of a global strategy to address these needs. This commitment is based on the proposal contained in the UN interagency publication, *A Blueprint Report for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability*, and also responds to the call made by the UN Secretary General in his Ocean Compact to increase capacity and technical assistance to Member States. This initiative will be implemented in close cooperation with the Global Ocean Forum-led Voluntary Commitment on building global capacity for integrated ocean governance.

In Rio+20 and also during the conference, Planet under Pressure, "Governance" surfaced as an overriding driver in advancing the goals of ‘sustainability science’. The governance of the ocean is by tradition sector-oriented and therefore fragmented by nature (fishing, shipping, offshore oil and gas, offshore renewable energy, etc.), leaving little room for integrated and ecosystem based management of ocean and coastal resources. As well, until very recently, marine science was based on country-driven projects as if the scientific problems were intellectually different or geographically disconnected. The scientific community is calling for reforms through initiatives such as the ICSU’s *Future Earth* initiative. Additional initiatives are emerging in a variety of forms such as the Global Partnership for the Oceans (World Bank) and the Secretary General’s Oceans Compact. Others such as the Future Ocean Alliance are just emerging. The goal is to strengthen these and other existing platforms in a

complementary fashion, and to assist them in serving as dialogue spaces for science, policy, industry and society to interact in active and productive ways.

Rio+20 gives us the opportunity to explore, observe and assess the unknown 95% of the ocean. Now, we, as members of the ocean community, must seize this opportunity to develop strong initiatives to broaden and deepen Rio+20 agreements.

What's Next for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction? Accelerating Progress post Rio+20

By Kristina M. Gjerde, Senior High Seas Advisor to IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme and Member of the High Seas Alliance

As my colleagues in the High Seas Alliance have observed, “Given the interconnectedness of the vast ocean system to the rest of the planetary life-support system, there cannot be “the future we want” without the ocean we need. [...] Now, governments and stakeholders need to roll up their sleeves, and act on what has been formally agreed by all governments on the highest political level at Rio+20.”¹

With respect to protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in paragraph 162 governments have committed to address the issue “on an urgent basis,” and have agreed to take a decision “on the development of an international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”) before the end of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly”. Though all agreed on the urgency for action, this compromise text addresses the concerns of the few States not yet ready to launch negotiations for a new implementing agreement under UNCLOS.

There is much that needs to be done to ensure successful progress on paragraph 162:

- 1) The UN Secretary General will need to make this a priority issue, and undertake directed consultations with a range of developed and developing countries aimed at identifying common ground.
- 2) The intersessional workshops already planned as part of the ongoing UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group on Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction ('BBNJ') can be designed to build a shared understanding of potential elements of a new instrument under UNCLOS as well as ways to increase the effectiveness of existing instruments. These workshops, which will address marine genetic resources, area-based management measures, environmental impact assessments, capacity development and technology transfer, should be transparent, participatory and structured with as little formality as possible so as to facilitate a free flow of information and ideas. The UN General Assembly workshop on deep sea bottom fishing on the high seas held in September 2011 provides a useful model.
- 3) In addition to exploring issues through the BBNJ workshops, government leaders can act immediately to address key gaps and weaknesses in the current legal regime for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. This can include:
 - Building partnerships with the scientific community, business and civil society to more equitably share in the benefits of marine genetic resources from areas beyond national jurisdiction. Innovative ways to enhance access and share benefits, such as data banks, patent pools, scholarships, shared research cruises and trust funds, can build confidence and develop a range of good practices. This could be complemented by national legislation requiring any patent application involving marine genetic resources to identify the geographic origin of the material, and for areas beyond national jurisdiction, to demonstrate that appropriate benefit-sharing arrangements are in place.

- Supporting initiatives to describe ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) through the Convention on Biological Diversity; and working together through the competent intergovernmental organizations to adopt measures to enhance their protection. The UN General Assembly could adopt a resolution similar to UNGA Resolution 61/105 calling on States and relevant organizations to manage activities affecting EBSAs to prevent significant adverse impacts, and to report on progress.
- Requiring environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) of activities under national jurisdiction or control with a potential to cause significant adverse effects on marine biodiversity or the marine environment beyond national jurisdiction, and to ensure that such activities do not cause significant adverse impacts;
- Enhancing the capacity of States to cooperate through regional arrangements, including regional seas programmes and other initiatives, to conserve marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- Detailing what flag State responsibility means for UNCLOS Parties and how responsible behavior can best be ensured, in light of existing obligations including the fisheries-focused ocean commitments at Rio+20; and
- Accelerating the reform, accountability and effectiveness of sectoral and regional organizations based on modern conservation and governance principles.

An international instrument under UNCLOS remains essential to provide the global legal mandate and institutional framework to enhance cooperation for these purposes, thus ensuring coordinated progress on all fronts and in all regions.² Nonetheless, governments have it within their power now to address at least some of the gaps and to strengthen implementation of existing obligations under UNCLOS and other legal instruments.

And finally, as governments have agreed at Rio+20, a decision on the development of a new instrument under UNCLOS is to be taken at latest by the end of the 69th UN General Assembly—late December 2014. However, given the urgent need for action, there is no reason why a decision cannot be taken before then, for example by the 68th UN General Assembly in 2013.

¹ The High Seas Alliance is a partnership of organizations and groups aimed at building a strong common voice and constituency for the conservation of the high seas. The Alliance is made up of 26 NGOs plus the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. www.highseasalliance.org.

² See, e.g., K. Gjerde & A. Rulska-Domino, (2012). “Marine Protected Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Some Practical Perspectives for Moving Ahead”, *International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*, 351-273. <http://www.citeulike.org/user/SeascapesCI/article/10613582>

Engagement of Civil Society in the Post Rio+20 World and the Creation of the Alliance for the Seas and Oceans

By Philippe Vallette, Manuel Cira, and Iwona Gin, World Ocean Network World Ocean Network Oceans and Humankind

The story between humankind and the ocean is one of connection, one of survival, and started long before our species even existed, at the very origin of our planet. Why? Because the Ocean, that covers 71% of the surface of the globe, has been the cradle of life on Earth. It is home to millions of species and

is bordered by 550,000 km of coastline where half of humanity is concentrated. The Ocean regulates the major natural equilibriums of our planet including the climate and is at the basis of the water cycle. It produces half the oxygen of the air we breathe and it recycles nutrients; it provides mineral and living resources vital to humanity. Our lives, well-being and prosperity depend on it. The Ocean is the final frontier for discovery and the possibilities it offers to humanity are only limited by our imagination.

Post Rio+20 – Moving Towards the Future We Want

Today we know that the ocean is being hit hard by pollution, overexploitation, biodiversity loss and destruction of its habitats. These ravages may give rise to new conflicts. Today 65% of the ocean's surface lies outside any legal jurisdiction. Great hopes have arisen before the conference Rio+20. Would it finally be the opportunity to get the governments committed to sustainable development including sound management of the ocean? An important step has definitively been taken by the participants, which have recognized maybe for the first time all the challenges facing oceans, and the opportunities they offer. Nonetheless, the governments have not been able to agree on a clear road map setting out the details of the objectives, the timetable and the governance needed. It is, as a result, now incumbent on civil society to seize this agenda and encourage governments and decision-makers to implement a genuine work program with tangible projects. Moreover, the civil society has power to become critical agents of change themselves by altering their lifestyle and their habits. Without a strong public engagement and a change of economic, social, environmental and cultural paradigm, no policy of sustainable management of marine resources can succeed.

Blue Society

200 years ago, we created a new society, with industry as the motor of progress. But despite the great strides we have taken, our modern economic system is running out of steam. This is mainly because we couldn't foresee at the time that our planet is only so big, that it has limited resources. This has led us to the environmental, economical and social crisis that we experience today. We already know what we need to know about the state of our world and our planet. It is time, now, to react, to transform this crisis into an opportunity to invent a new future. As specialists and lovers of the ocean, we firmly believe that a major part of the solution will come from the sea. Imagine renewable energy from the ocean's waves and currents, or even a hybrid sailing vessel using the rise and fall of the ocean swell for propulsion; imagine microalgae bioreactors extracting atmospheric CO₂, and transforming it in mineral carbon. Picture a global network of protected marine areas restocking the ocean, feeding humanity and supporting sustainable, yet profitable tourist activities. Imagine, too, a sustainable aquaculture free at last from the limits of natural resources, providing abundant seafood. All these benefits could be part of sustainable and prosperous new economies, generating millions of jobs and distributed equitably across our planet. This is the Blue Society.

The Blue Society means believing in the immense potential of the ocean and in the opportunities they offer us to improve our lives by using it without diminishing its resources. It means believing in our power to imagine, create and innovate. It means believing in a leading role for citizens and in a shared way of thinking. It means believing in Oceanskind. To build a Blue Society, we have to foster renewed governance in which all the parties can intervene and contribute. We propose to pool our competencies and forces to build it together in a cooperative spirit, without conflict and to generate a joint commitment to this new inspiring and inspired society, which puts the 'culture of the sea' at the heart of sustainable development. In the Blue Society we are all stewards of the ocean for the sake of present and future generations.

Mainstreaming an ocean-literate society

The development of learning and facilitation of the knowledge transfer among all stakeholders (scientific community, politicians, private sector, NGOs, general public) are the key conditions of moving forward to the next phase of sustainable development and Blue Society paradigm. The Rio+20 conference gave the opportunity for governments and organizations to make voluntary commitments, allowing the civil society to convey their positive initiatives of sustainable development patterns to policy-makers and governments, thus recognizing the civil society as potential agents of change. Now it is time that all oceans related stakeholders fully endorse these objectives and support agencies and relevant actors in fostering ocean literacy and promoting sustainable use of marine resources worldwide. World Ocean Network and partners have registered a voluntary commitment Mainstreaming Ocean Education in the category of Oceans, Seas, SIDS, and Education, and with the Global Ocean Forum have made a second voluntary commitment, The Ocean Stewardship Initiative in the Blue Society to share this vision with the stakeholders and to foster it worldwide. The European project Sea for Society shall bring together actors at a European level to lay the foundations of the Blue Society. We shall further foster sustainable attitudes and consumption patterns through information and mobilization campaigns and events such as Mr.Goodfish, a sustainable seafood consumption programme, World Oceans Day, youth parliaments for the ocean and many others.

The Alliance for the Seas and Oceans

We now wish to pool our capabilities, join forces with the people who, like us, work for the oceans and their future and are creating a joint alliance, the Alliance for the Seas and Oceans with a view to organizing a debate with society on the vital role played by oceans in our daily lives, as well as on the importance of our choices and actions for them. We propose to raise awareness, educate and mobilize on ocean challenges. We propose to generate a joint commitment which puts the ‘culture of the sea’ at the heart of sustainable development. We, Green Cross, Nausicaá, Sea Orbiter, Tara Expeditions and World Ocean Network make a joint commitment to speak with one voice, at an international level, in order to spread our message on the seas and oceans and wish to unite all those who share our objectives, and to propose guidelines for a joint project towards a sustainable governance of oceans.

Major Ocean Initiatives Launched in 2012

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS

Formally announced at the Rio+20 Conference and initiated by the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Oceans is a growing alliance of more than 100 governments, civil society organizations, private sector companies and associations, research institutions, UN agencies, and multilateral banks and foundations, to increase cooperation and investment in effective ocean governance unlock opportunities to decrease poverty and increase economic growth worldwide. The objective of the GPO is to tackle widely documented problems of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss and help close the implementation gap on global ocean commitments by incorporating new and existing resources in financial, operational, and knowledge capacity, through inclusion and consultation of both the public and private sectors.

The work of the GPO is guided by the goals and principles laid out in the Declaration for Healthy, Productive Oceans to Help Reduce Poverty (available at: <http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org/sites/default/files/images/GPO%20Declaration.pdf>).

The GPO is focused on catalyzing investments in three priority components:

- (1) Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture;
- (2) Critical ocean and coastal habitats and biodiversity; and
- (3) Pollution reduction;

with the goal of achieving tangible impacts by 2022 in order to give the oceans the opportunity to withstand the effects of climate change, ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss. The GPO presents a great opportunity to support economic growth in small island and coastal developing states and will focus on enhancing governance of marine resources by coastal states while establishing incentives for private-sector investment will aid in making sustainable use and management of the oceans profitable.

The Global Ocean Forum is proud to be a part of the Global Partnership for Oceans.

For more information on the Global Partnership for Oceans, please visit:

<http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org>

GPO Declaration for Healthy, Productive Oceans to Reduce Poverty available at:

<https://globalpartnershipforoceans.org/sites/default/files/images/GPO%20Declaration.pdf>

GPO Press Release:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/2012/08/31/world-bank-announces-proposed-package-of-support-for-worlds-largest-ocean0>

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OCEANS COMPACT

On 12 August 2012, at an event held at the Yeosu Expo 2012 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, launched the Oceans Compact, an initiative to set out a strategic vision for the UN system to deliver on its ocean-related mandates, consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, in a more coherent and effective manner. It aims to provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and accelerate progress in the achievement of “Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”.

The Oceans Compact aims to mobilize and enhance the UN system’s capacity to support actions by Governments, and promote the engagement of intergovernmental and non - governmental organizations, scientists, the private sector and industry to tackle challenges in protecting and restoring the health and productivity of the oceans for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Compact sets out a strategic vision for the UN system on oceans, consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document, “The Future We Want,” in which countries agreed on a range of measures to be taken to protect the oceans and promote sustainable development. The Oceans Compact also supports the implementation of existing relevant instruments, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

With the goal of achieving “Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”, the Compact establishes three objectives: protecting people and improving the health of the oceans; protecting, recovering and sustaining the oceans’ environment and natural resources; and strengthening ocean knowledge and the management of oceans.

Realizing the objectives of the Oceans Compact will require the creation of enabling conditions so that interventions and actions can be undertaken as part of an integrated and results-oriented “Action Plan” and, where appropriate, up-scaled to ensure an improved quality of life and enhanced opportunities for the hundreds of millions of people whose lives depend on the oceans. This will involve:

- Increasing capacity and technical assistance to Member States that may require it, including through the elaboration and implementation of a global strategy to build national and regional capacity in ocean affairs;
- Building and sharing the scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge base for sustainably managing ocean and coastal resources, protecting coastal populations, and maintaining ecosystem services;
- Creating the economic and social conditions to ensure sustainable livelihoods and economic development through green practices, increased societal awareness and respect of human rights including the right to food and active participation of all interested parties in the elaboration and implementation of integrated ocean-related policies;
- Improving ocean governance through enhanced and coordinated global, regional and national mechanisms; and
- Increasing participation in, and the implementation of, global and regional agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against all sources of pollution and other forms of physical degradation.

The Compact also proposes the creation of an Oceans Advisory Group, composed of Executive Heads of involved UN system organizations, high-level policymakers, scientists, leading ocean experts, private sector representatives, representatives of nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations. The Advisory Group would also advise on strategies for mobilizing resources needed for the implementation of the Oceans Compact Action Plan.

Oceans Compact is available at:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/SGs%20OCEAN%20COMPACT%202012-EN-low%20res.pdf

Press Release on the Oceans Compact:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/launch_oceans_compact_press_%20release_10%20Aug_fi nal.pdf

THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE

Ocean issues took center stage at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, where countries agreed to ambitious targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) and emphasized the need for training and capacity-building for developing countries.

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) was born at the margins of COP 10 through the leadership of Japan to facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including the target of establishing protected areas for 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020, and support capacity-building for developing countries through workshops that contribute to sharing experiences and knowledge. The SOI is currently being funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency and is coordinated by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with SOI partners.

The SOI aims to provide a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner by:

- Facilitating the sharing knowledge, information, experiences and practices;
- Creating partnerships to provide targeted capacity-building and technical assistance in support of on-the-ground implementation;
- Enhancing interactive communication among global policy, science and local stakeholders;
- Monitoring progress on achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Developing partnerships among various sectors and stakeholders at different levels; and
- Working together to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative brochure available at: <http://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/soi-brochure-2012-en.pdf>

GEF/FAO PROGRAM ON AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), making up 64% of the surface of the world's oceans, represent one of the last global commons on Earth. They 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 providing food security and sustainable livelihoods.

The GEF/FAO Program on Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, launched in 2012, 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 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) Oceans Partnership Fund aimed at catalyzing public and private sector investments in problems of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss, and (iv) linking global and regional ABNJ processes, knowledge management and information sharing, and capacity building

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

This project, which builds on the Global Ocean Forum's previous work and experience in multi-stakeholder dialogues and cross-sectoral policy analysis, aims to facilitate cross-sectoral policy dialogue and networking, improve knowledge management and outreach, and contribute to increased capacity for decision-making at various levels of ABNJ management and governance.

Global Ocean Forum/FAO ABNJ Project Flyer available at:

Yeosu Expo 2012 and the Yeosu Declaration

In 2012, the Republic of Korea hosted the Expo 2012 in the city of Yeosu, Korea, which ran from May 12 - August 12, 2012, and was focused on the theme of “The Living Ocean and Coast.” The Yeosu Expo was organized with the collaboration of more 104 countries, 10 international organizations, NGOs, and private sector companies, and visited by more than 8 million people from around the world. The Yeosu Expo 2012 hosted innovative pavilions and exhibits to spark interest and appreciation of ocean and coastal issues, highlight the defining ocean issues of our time, showcase new innovations, and stress the need for international collaboration in pursuing the many promising opportunities for sustainable utilization of the ocean.

The Yeosu Declaration was drafted as a major output of the Yeosu Expo 2012 to carry forth the spirit of Expo and translate it into meaningful action. The Yeosu Declaration, which was drafted in collaboration with leading ocean experts from around the world, aims to catalyze international action in pursuit of the new vision of “green growth from the sea,” which looks to the ocean as an engine of sustainable economic growth, while keeping the ocean healthy and ensuring harmony of the sea and humankind.

The Yeosu Declaration also highlights support for the Yeosu Project, which is supported by an \$10 million investment by the Korean government, as a legacy of the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea. The Yeosu Project is focused on building the capacity of developing nations and supporting sustainable management and utilization of ocean resources through the establishment of pilot projects in developing coastal countries and small island developing states.

To outline tangible measures to translate the Yeosu Declaration into action, the Yeosu Declaration Forum and Roundtable was held at the closing of the Yeosu Expo on August 12, 2012. The Yeosu Declaration Forum featured forward-thinking discussion on balancing conservation, sustainable use, and pursuing new opportunities in the ocean and featured high-level addresses from the following:

H.E. Hwang-sik Kim, Prime Minister of Korea

H.E. Willy Telavi, Prime Minister of Tuvalu

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO

Jose Graziano da Silva, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

Koji Sekimizu, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Amina Mohamed, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Program (UNEP)

Jung-Keuk Kang, President, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIOST)

Carl Christian Schmidt, Division Head, OECD

Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum

The Global Ocean Forum was closely involved in the Yeosu Expo and Declaration. Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, contributed to the development of Yeosu Declaration, spoke as a panelist on the Yeosu Declaration Forum, and co-chaired the Yeosu Declaration Roundtable along with Mr. Son Sung-hwan, Ambassador for Climate Change, Republic of Korea. Mr. Joseph Appiott, Policy Researcher at the Global Ocean Forum, worked closely with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology at their headquarters in Ansan, Korea, in the drafting of the Yeosu Declaration, the organization of the Yeosu Declaration Forum and Roundtable, and the drafting of the Yeosu Expo report (available here:

Apec Blue Economy Forum, December 6-7, 2012

The Global Ocean Forum co-organized the second Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Blue Economy Forum with China's State Oceanic Administration (SOA) in Tianjin, China, on Dec. 6-7. The Blue Economy concept, which emerged at the recent United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), has become a prominent area of focus at the global level. It seeks to integrate environmental and ecological issues related to the ocean into economic frameworks to support prosperous economies underpinned by healthy and productive marine ecosystems. The Blue Economy is seen as an innovative approach to achieving sustainable development and taking advantage of new opportunities from the ocean to support social and economic development.

China is among the region's leaders in the pursuit of green growth. In preparation for Rio+20, China hosted the 1st APEC Blue Economy Forum held on November 5, 2011, in Xiamen, China, which resulted in some key consensus on policies and procedures in developing the Blue Economy. The coasts and ocean resources of China are an integral part of its economy, not only at the national level, where it accounts for nearly 10% of GDP and millions of jobs, but also in the global economy. The Chinese government, through SOA, is working towards more sustainable management of its oceans and coasts through reinforced guidance and monitoring of marine economic development at the national level and from a macro-economic perspective; strengthening data collection efforts and improved effectiveness in monitoring and regulation of the marine economy; intensifying marine environmental protection through the enactment of laws, ecological conservation, and restoration; strengthening of integrated ocean management programs; and promotion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The second APEC Blue Economy Forum brought together more than 200 ocean leaders from 15 APEC member economies, related Asia-Pacific countries and 10 international organizations from various sectors (governments, intergovernmental organizations and international agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry and scientific institutions) to develop consensus on next steps in establishing regional cooperation in the development of the Blue Economy.

APEC is a forum composed of the national economies of 21 Pacific countries that was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and seeks to promote free trade and economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Biliana Cicin-Sain, President of the Global Ocean Forum, and Miriam Balgos, Program Coordinator at the Global Ocean Forum, worked closely with SOA and the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center to co-organize the Blue Economy Forum and develop a co-chairs' statement emanating from the forum, which calls for:

- The development of regional guidelines for mainstreaming Blue Economy into domestic economic development agendas;
- Establishment and expansion of a regional Blue Economy Cooperative network;
- Development of an international standard of classification for Blue Economy;
- Improvement of knowledge and statistical capacity on ocean-related job trends and other economic developments and integration of relevant data into national statistics; and

- Strengthening of individual and institutional capacity to achieve Blue Economy development at national and local levels.

The APEC Blue Economy Forum represents an important step forward in clarifying the Blue Economy concept and its implications at the local, national, regional and global levels — and developing consensus on how to integrate the Blue Economy into national economies in a sustainable and equitable way.

Co-Chairs' Statement of 2nd APEC Blue Economy Forum:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Co-ChairsStatement-2ndAPECBlueEconomyForum.pdf>