

Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)



About the Project

The GEF/FAO/GOF [project on Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ](#), co-executed by the Global Ocean Forum and the FAO, plays a key role in building and improving cross-sectoral dialogue, engagement of high-level decision-makers, public outreach and knowledge management to improve capacity to effectively manage ABNJ.

Project Objective

Promote effective global and regional coordination on ABNJ, including through information exchange, capacity development, and enhanced engagement of stakeholders at global, regional and national levels in multisectoral policy dialogues on ABNJ.

1. PROJECT AT A GLANCE

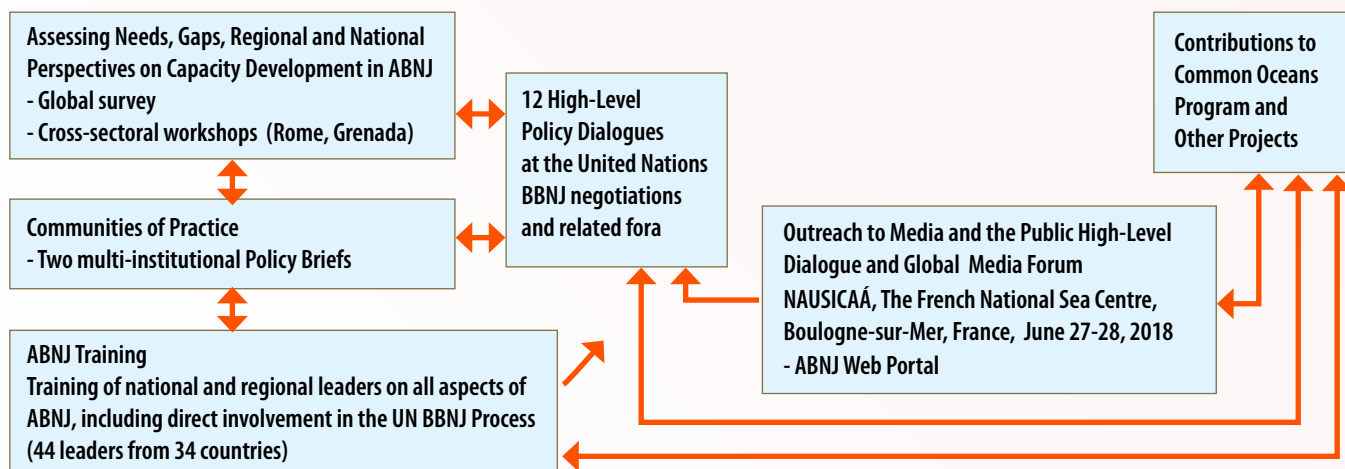
Funding: US \$1.1 million (GEF); FAO Implementing agency; GOF Executing agency, US \$823,500

Co-funding: US \$4.82 million (exceeded initial estimates)

Initial Partners: Governments: France (French Marine Protected Areas Agency), Korea (Korea Institute of Science and Technology); *UN/International Organizations:* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO (Natural Sciences), UNESCO (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission), International Ocean Institute, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia; Civil Society: Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Nausicaá Centre National de la Mer, France/World Ocean Network, Vietnam National University, SeaOrbiter, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Additional Collaborating Organizations: Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan; Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations; Permanent Mission of Monaco to the United Nations; Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Grenada; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Seychelles; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of France; Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea; Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal; the ATLAS Project; UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC); UN-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme; PSIDS Fellowship on Oceans and Seas; Squire Patton Boggs; International Seabed Authority (ISA)

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW



3. PARTICIPANTS IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Overall, **1,005 participants** took part in project activities (including cross-sectoral workshops, two multi-institutional Policy Briefs, ABNJ Regional Leaders training, high level policy dialogues and a high level dialogue and global media forum). As some of the participants were involved in multiple project activities, the net number of participants was **538**.

174 respondents participated in 2 surveys: 1. A global survey in capacity development needs (138 respondents), and 2. A survey of capacity providers (36 respondents).

90 countries were represented among the project participants.

Regarding gender balance, female to male ratio in project activities ranged from a high of **55%** to a low of **40%**, increasing over the life of the project.

Participants in Various Project Components (see below):

Component 1: 174 survey respondents and 152 workshop participants

Component 2: 49 authors on two Policy Briefs

Component 3: 44 ABNJ Regional Leaders, 27 Lecturers

Component 4: 474 participants at 12 High Level Policy Dialogues¹

Component 5: 85 participants at the High Level Dialogue and Global Media Forum at Nausicaa

Total: 1,005 Total Participants, 538 Net Participants

4. PROJECT COMPONENTS

1) *Assessing Needs, Gaps, Regional/Global/National Perspectives on Capacity Development in ABNJ: Surveys and Cross-Sectoral Workshops*

Global survey

- Global survey with 138 respondents from national, regional and global levels (55% response rate)
- The results survey validated the usefulness of existing capacity development efforts at the international, regional, and national levels, and emphasized the need for expansion at all levels
- The results clearly indicate the needs as expressed by respondents for capacity development that vary considerably from region to region, as well as the need for nations to make clear linkages regarding capacity development along the continuum of coastal zones, Exclusive Economic Zones, and ABNJ which stand to benefit not only ABNJ but EEZ and coastal management at the national level as well

Cross-sectoral workshops

- *Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*, 17-20 February 2015, Rome
- *Workshop on Capacity Development to Improve the Management of ABNJ*, 18-21 May 2016, Grenada
- 153 participants in both workshops

2) *Communities of Practice*

Products: Two multi-institutional Policy Briefs

Policy Brief on *Capacity Development as a Key Aspect of a New International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)* (December 2018)

- Multi-institutional effort—38 co-authors from around the world
- Incorporates much of the “learning” that took place in the project
- Incorporates considerable additional research, personal interviews, and survey of existing efforts in ABNJ training
- Presented at the BBNJ negotiations
- Working with both developed and developing countries in the BBNJ negotiations to make tangible progress on this topic in the negotiations

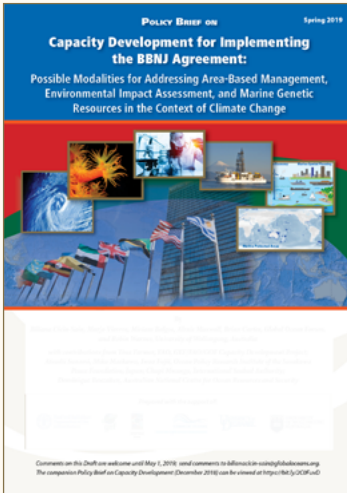
Overview of the Brief

- The Challenge of Capacity Development Regarding Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Identifying Capacity Needs
- Relevant International Prescriptions on Capacity Development



¹ For three of the high-level events, no list of participants was prepared.

- Review of What Has Come Out of the BBNJ Prep Com Process So Far
- Existing Efforts in Capacity Development by United Nations, International Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations, and the Academic Sector Relevant to BBNJ
- A Possible Clearinghouse Mechanism for BBNJ: Considerations and Lessons from Existing Clearinghouses
- Financing Capacity Development for BBNJ
- Possible Modalities and Approaches for Linking Global, Regional, and National Processes and Perspectives on BBNJ



Policy Brief on Capacity Development for Implementing the BBNJ Agreement: Possible Modalities for Addressing Area-Based Management, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Marine Genetic Resources in the Context of Climate Change (August 2019)

This Draft Policy Brief addresses possible modalities for capacity development on the other three major emphases of the BBNJ Agreement—

area-based management (ABMTs), environmental impact assessment (EIAs), and marine genetic resources (MGRs), taking into consideration the possible impacts of climate change

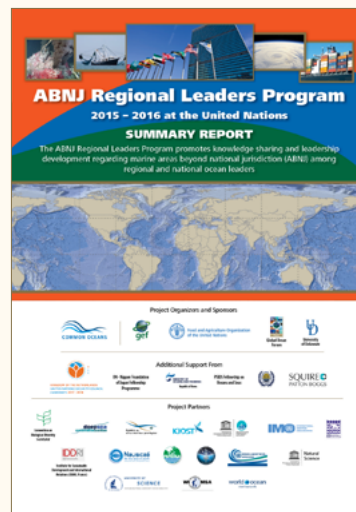
3) ABNJ Regional Leaders

Training of national, regional, and global leaders on all aspects of ABNJ

- 44 leaders from 34 countries (exceeded project goal four-fold)
- Rigorous selection process
- Participation in UN negotiations on the conservation and



²High Level Policy Dialogues, 474 participants



sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

- National and regional leaders in fisheries, ocean management, law, shipping, multilateral agreements, migratory and environmental issues, etc.

- 27 expert lecturers from UN agencies, academia, and user groups

- Emphasis on overview of ABNJ (ecosystems, all uses,

issues, legal and policy frameworks at global and regional levels, history and status of negotiations, major issues under consideration, regional and national perspectives on capacity development)

- ABNJ Primer for Decision Makers (in preparation)

4) High-Level Policy Dialogues at the United Nations and Related Fora

- BBNJ Negotiations and in Other Fora (12)
- 474 participants²

UN BBNJ Process Side Events

1. Side Event on *Capacity Development and ABNJ: Regional and National Perspectives--Examples from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands, 21 January 2015*, during the 9th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, 20-23 January 2015
2. Side Event on *Regional and National Perspectives on Area-Based Management and Capacity Development Needs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Examples from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands Regions, 30 March 2016*, during the First Session of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ PrepCom 1), 28 March – 8 April 2016

3. Side Event on *Capacity Development for Area-Based Management in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Needs, Experiences, Options, and Opportunities*, 26 August 2016, during the BBNJ PrepCom 2, 26 August – 9 September 2016
4. Side event held on March 31, 2017 during the BBNJ PrepCom 3 on Ocean Scale Science for Effective Marine Governance, co-organized with the ATLAS project on the high seas
5. [Side event](#) held on July 17, 2017 on *Capacity Development in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): Experiences, Lessons, Possible Ways Forward* during the BBNJ PrepCom 4, 14–21 July 2017
6. [Side event](#) held on April 17, 2018 during the Organizational Meeting of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference on *Capacity Building as a Key Aspect of a New International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and Options on Approaches, Modalities, and Strategies*
7. [Side Event](#) during the BBNJ IGC1 on *Options on Approaches, Modalities, and Strategies on Capacity Development for a New International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction*, held on 6 September 2018
8. [Side Event](#) during the BBNJ IGC2 on *BBNJ Capacity Development in the Context of Climate Change: Possible Modalities for Implementing BBNJ Capacity Development Regarding Area-based Management, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Marine Genetic Resources*, held on March 26, 2019

Related Fora

9. *Cross-sectoral Policy Dialogue and Linking Global and Regional ABNJ Processes and Capacity Development in ABNJ* held during the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 3), Marseille, France, October 21-25, 2013 (during project preparation)
10. Side Event on *Oceans, Climate Change, and Blue Economy* held on February 13, 2017, during the preparatory meeting for the UN Ocean Conference (15 and 16 February 2017)
11. Workshop on the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA) on *Advancing the Oceans and Climate Agenda for the Next Five Years* held on May 22-23, 2017, UNESCO Paris, which involved many of the project partners as well as GEF
12. Side Event at the UN Ocean Conference (5-9 June 2017) on *Oceans and Climate and Launch of the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA)*, held on June 8, 2017, UNESCO, Paris

5) Outreach to Media and the Public

High-Level Dialogue and Global Media Forum

Common Oceans: Why ABNJ Are Essential to People and Planet at the world's first ever large-scale high seas aquarium and exhibit, NAUSICAAÁ, The French National Sea Centre Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, June 27-28, 2018

- 85 Participants
- World's First-Ever Large-Scale High Seas Aquarium and Exhibit
- The exhibit encompasses 35,000 square meters, includes nearly 60,000 sea creatures, and features a large-scale 10,000m³ capacity tank to highlight the relationship between mankind and the high seas

Products:

- ABNJ Media Guide

6) Contribution to Common Oceans Program

- Quarterly coordination calls
- Program-wide synthesis report



For further information about the
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