



GLOBAL OCEAN FORUM

**Strategic Directions for
Implementing the Ocean Outcomes of Rio+20
and Related Ocean Commitments from the
1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development
(UNCED)
and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development
(WSSD)
(2013 to 2018)**

INTRODUCTION

The Global Ocean Forum (GOF) is an international, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting good governance of the ocean, sustainable development for coastal and island peoples around the globe, and healthy marine ecosystems. The GOF is the only permanent platform that organizes cross-sectoral policy dialogue and policy analyses on ocean, coastal and small island developing States (SIDS) issues involving governments, international organizations, NGOs, the science community and the private sector to address the most important problems facing oceans and coasts and to develop policy solutions.

The GOF was first mobilized in 2001 to help the world's governments place issues related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS on the agenda of the WSSD in Johannesburg. Since 2001, the GOF has brought together ocean leaders from 110 countries to advance the global ocean agenda.

Following very active engagement in the Rio+20 process and the significant ocean outcomes emanating from Rio+20, the GOF is charting strategic directions for the next five years, to work with national and international ocean leaders to implement the ocean outcomes of Rio+20 and of the global ocean commitments from UNCED and WSSD, capitalizing on the substantial work and mobilization by the oceans community preparatory to and during Rio+20.

This document identifies initial strategic directions, specific activities, and partners. Relevant organizations and individuals interested in collaborating in these processes are invited to contact the Global Ocean Forum (please contact Dr. Miriam Balgos, email: mbalgos@udel.edu, tel: 1-302-831-8086).

OBJECTIVES OF THE GLOBAL OCEAN FORUM

- 1.** Advance the global ocean agenda, supporting a sustainable development approach focused on healthy ecosystems, coastal peoples, and equity by:
 - a. Promoting the implementation of international agreements related to the ocean, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS), especially the goals emanating from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference)
 - b. Promoting international consensus-building on unresolved ocean issues, including ocean and climate issues, and improving the governance regime for ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction
 - c. Anticipating new ocean issues to facilitate forward thinking policymaking and governance
- 2.** Work as a catalyst to mobilize knowledge, resources, policy analysis, and organizational action to advance the global ocean agenda and to promote integrated oceans management
- 3.** Foster an inclusive and mutually-supportive global network of ocean policy leaders and enhance the capacity of managers and decision makers to implement integrated ocean management
- 4.** Work to ensure that ocean, coasts, and SIDS issues remain high on the political agenda at global, regional, and national levels
- 5.** Mobilize public awareness on global issues related to the ocean, coasts, and islands, and promote information sharing and dissemination

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2013-2018

I. SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL COMMITMENTS RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OCEANS IN THE POST-RIO+20 CONTEXT

(1) Strategic Planning for Implementing the Rio+20 Outcomes

Initial Partners: State Oceanic Administration, China; Government of Korea (through the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology); and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Outcomes

- Exploration and assessment of policy approaches related to the Blue Economy
- Maintaining the high-level political attention on ocean and coastal issues achieved at the Rio+20 Conference
- Development of a roadmap for achieving Rio+20 commitments with the input of ocean stakeholders from all sectors and backgrounds
- Improved coordination among management efforts and initiatives in implementing Rio+20 commitments

Main Activities

- 6th Global Ocean Conference with “Implementing the Rio+20 Outcomes” as a major theme
- Organization of at least five targeted multi-stakeholder dialogues outlining actions and opportunities to pursue the commitments emanating from the Rio+20 Conference
- Development of policy briefs on options on the way forward for achieving Rio+20 commitments
- Bringing the Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments on oceans, coasts, and small island states together to achieve synergy and maximum impact
- Support of the Third International Conference for Small Island Developing States in 2014

(2) Ocean Watch: Tracking Progress on the Achievement of Major Ocean-Related Goals Emanating from UNCED, WSSD, and Rio+20

*This initiative was registered as a Rio+20 Voluntary Commitment with the following initial partners:
United Nations Development Program, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO,
Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

Outcomes

- Systematic and unbiased review of progress on major global goals and commitments related to oceans, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS) from UNCED, WSSD, and Rio+20
- Analysis and exchange of best practices in implementing integrated ocean governance, including by managers and high-level decisionmakers
- Better-informed intergovernmental discussions and decision-making on management and governance of marine resources
- Identification of key gaps in implementation and a roadmap for assisting nations in filling gaps

Main Activities

- Periodic systematic assessments of progress achieved (or lack thereof) to be conducted every five years with the input of ocean leaders and government representatives from around the world
- Convening multi-stakeholder dialogues among ocean leaders and experts from various sectors to support and inform the assessments

(3) Supporting New Global Initiatives (including the Global Partnership for Oceans and the UN Oceans Compact)

Outcomes

- Promotion of policy coordination among management efforts and initiatives in the implementation of the Rio+20 commitments
- Support for a synergistic approach in engaging various stakeholders throughout the ocean community in the implementation of the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference
- Promotion of capacity development as an essential element of post-Rio+20 implementation efforts

Main Activities

A number of new initiatives emerged in the context of the Rio+20 process, including the UN Secretary-General's Oceans Compact and the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO). The Global Ocean Forum will support these initiatives by aligning its activities to develop synergies with these initiatives, including through:

- Crafting a cross-sectoral global capacity development strategy to improve ocean management
- Providing avenues and platforms for improving the knowledge base related to ocean governance
- Facilitating dialogue among the regions with respect to ocean governance to identify effective policy approaches in need of further support

II. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVED OCEAN GOVERNANCE

(4) Building Ocean Readiness: Capacity Development for Integrated Ocean Governance

*This initiative was registered as a Rio+20 Voluntary Commitment with the following initial partners:
IOC-UNESCO; UNESCO Natural Sciences; World Ocean Network; Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

Outcomes

- Identification of major capacity needs in developing coastal countries and SIDS for implementing cross-sectoral integrated ocean governance
- Developing the capacity of decisionmakers and managers to address challenges facing marine resources and coastal communities in a long-term, integrated manner and to equitably benefit from their marine resources

Main Activities

- Development of a global strategy for "ocean readiness," mobilizing expertise and partnerships to ensure that governments and institutions have the skills, knowledge, and capacity to develop Blue Economy frameworks, and to address major ocean-related challenges
- Development of training programs for high-level decisionmakers, local leaders, and the next generation ocean leaders, along with public outreach, in the interrelated topics of oceans, climate, and biodiversity
- Strengthening institutional structures for capacity development through sharing of best practices

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

Initial Partners: Global Environment Facility, Food Agriculture Organization of the UN (project co-lead), Government of Korea (through Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology), UNESCO Natural Sciences, IOC-UNESCO, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Nausicaa Centre National de la Mer, World Ocean Network, Vietnam National University, SeaOrbiter, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), International Ocean Institute, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Outcomes

- Strengthened and broadened cross-sectoral dialogue and policy coordination in ABNJ, leading to improved implementation of ecosystem approaches
- Strengthened capability of decision-makers, especially from developing countries, to manage activities in ABNJ and to participate in global and regional processes related to ABNJ
- Improved and broadened public understanding of the ecosystem threats and services related to ABNJ, particularly by high-level decision-makers

Main Activities

- Convening two Cross-Sectoral Multi-Stakeholder Workshops to advance discussion of global and regional level perspectives and experiences on ABNJ issues
- Convening High-Level Policy Dialogues, targeting key decision-makers to raise the awareness of decisionmakers, and enhance their involvement in policy dialogues related to ABNJ issues
- Developing Communities of Practice, composed of practitioners with expertise relevant to ABNJ in key issue-areas (Multiple-Use Area-Based Management, and Climate Change, Fisheries, and Biodiversity)
- Creation of an ABNJ Regional Leaders Fellowship Program to support the participation of leaders from developing countries in global ABNJ discussions and linking these with regional/national processes
- Formation of a Public Outreach Network to expand efforts to educate and inform the public on ABNJ issues
- Creation of an ABNJ Web Portal designed to enhancing existing data sources, capturing new relevant data and information, and promote harmonized information-sharing

(6) Fostering Regional Interconnections to Support Improved Regional Ocean Governance

Outcomes

- Articulation and improved understanding of major ocean-related concerns, challenges, and priorities in different ocean regions around the world
- Identification of best practices, success stories, and lessons learned from various regional experiences
- Promotion of improved information-sharing and dialogue among global and regional policy processes

Main Activities

- “Experiences and Lessons Learned in Regional Ocean Governance” highlighted as a theme of the 6th Global Ocean Conference
- Highlighting regional concerns, challenges, and priorities at two Cross-Sectoral Multi-Stakeholder Workshops on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, involving representatives from the Large Marine Ecosystem Projects, Regional Seas Programs, and Regional Fishery Bodies from different regions
- Production of at least one policy report from each workshop, outlining areas for improved cross-sectoral, ecosystem-based regional ocean governance

(7) Fostering Multi-Stakeholder Ocean Fora at the National Level Around the World

Outcomes

- Facilitation and support of the development of multi-stakeholder ocean fora at the national level (“national ocean fora”) in coastal and island countries around the world, translating the successful model of the Global Ocean Forum to the national level in order to facilitate inclusive, cross-sectoral policy dialogue and improved policy development and implementation at the national level
- Promote multi-stakeholder input into the development of national ocean policies
- Improved capacity to conduct national reporting on the status of ocean resources and management and to contribute to the achievement of global commitments and the development of multilateral ocean policies

Main Activities

- At least four meetings identifying avenues and opportunities for the creation of national ocean fora, including major issues of concern within the unique context of different regions
- Support for the creation of national ocean fora in at least five different nations

(8) Improving Knowledge Management on Ocean and Climate Issues

Outcomes

- Improved understanding of ocean and climate issues by policymakers, managers, and the general public
- Improved access to relevant information to support coastal nations, especially developing countries and SIDS, in bringing ocean and coastal issues into the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations

Main Activity

- Launch of an ocean and climate information service providing a web-based platform for access to critical information on issues related to climate change and the ocean, including sea-level rise, coastal adaptation, ocean warming, ocean acidification, and mitigation using the ocean

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