

Sustainable Ocean Initiative

Achieving a balance between conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

- » SOI is an action-oriented, holistic and integrated capacity-building framework.
- » SOI is committed to building bridges between biodiversity conservation and resource management sectors.
- » SOI is committed to effective interaction and communication between local, national and international levels.

SUSTAINABLE CEAN INITIATIVE

A global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity

“The time to act is now, if we are to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for the environments that cover three-quarters of the surface of our globe—the environments that make ours a beautiful, blue planet.”

—One Ocean—Many Worlds of Life, CBD booklet on 2012 International Day for Biological Diversity: Marine Biodiversity

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Convention on
Biological Diversity



History



The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10, Nagoya, Japan, October 2010) ushered in a new era of biodiversity conservation. The 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and their partners rose to the challenge of reversing biodiversity loss, which is occurring at an unprecedented rate—up to 1000 times the natural rate of extinction—by adopting a new 10-year Strategic Plan (2010-2020) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets to guide international and national efforts to safeguard biodiversity.

COP 10 urged Parties and other Governments to: achieve long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of marine resources and coastal habitats; establish and effectively manage marine protected areas, in order to safeguard marine and coastal biodiversity, marine ecosystem services, and sustainable livelihoods; and to adapt to climate change, through appropriate application of the precautionary approach and the use of integrated marine and coastal area management, marine spatial planning, impact assessment, and other available tools.

COP 10 emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties through workshops that contribute to sharing experiences and knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Recognizing this urgent need, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) was born at the margins of COP 10, through the leadership of Japan, COP 10 Presidency, and in collaboration with various partners who were willing to provide the necessary expertise, technical and financial resources.

The SOI concept was further developed in subsequent meetings, such as the SOI Programme Development Meeting (2-4 August 2011, Kanazawa, Japan) and SOI High-level Meeting (5 June 2012, Yeosu, RO Korea).

SOI is currently being funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the French Agence des aires marines protégées (marine protected areas agency), and its implementation is being coordinated by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with various partners.

Mission

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 and exchange of knowledge, information, experiences and practices;
- » creating partnerships that can provide targeted capacity-building and technical assistance in support of on-the-ground implementation priorities;
- » enhancing interactive communication

among global policy, science and local stakeholders;

- » monitoring progress on Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity;
- » developing partnerships among different sectors and stakeholders at local, regional and global scales; and
- » working together to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and promoting flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.



Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity

- » **Target 6:** By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- » **Target 10:** By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted

by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

- » **Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.