



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/7
12 May 2014

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Eighteenth meeting
Montreal, 23-28 June 2014
Items 4.5 of the provisional agenda*

**PROGRESS REPORT ON TOOLS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING MARINE
SPATIAL PLANNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES**

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties emphasized the need for additional workshops for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, as well as through relevant regional initiatives, and that these workshops should contribute to sharing experiences related to integrated management of marine resources and the implementation of marine and coastal spatial planning instruments, facilitate the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and may address other regional priorities that are brought forward as these workshops are planned (paragraph 37 of decision X/29).

2. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its eleventh meeting, further emphasized the urgent need for capacity-building on various issues/tools concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), the impacts of climate change on coral reefs, marine debris, and marine spatial planning (paragraphs 14, 19, 20 and 21 of decision XI/17; paragraphs 12 and 27 of decision XI/18 A; paragraph 2 (g) of decision XI/18 C).

3. Likewise, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in paragraph 2 of decision XI/18 C, requested the Executive Secretary to work on marine spatial planning through the development of an information-sharing mechanism, compilation of information on use and experiences of marine spatial planning, and convening of an expert workshop and training workshops.

4. Pursuant to these requests, the Executive Secretary has carried out a number of activities addressing tools and capacity development for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including marine spatial planning and capacity-building, including:

(a) Compilation and sharing of information on the experience and use of marine spatial planning practices, in collaboration with other relevant organizations; and

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/1.

(b) Organization of capacity-building workshops focused on enhancing existing efforts toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas in a holistic manner within the context of integrated marine and coastal area management using various scientific and technical tools, such as application of scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), area-based management approaches including marine protected areas, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, environmental impact assessments, etc.

5. These activities support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas, and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6, 8, 10 and 11 in particular:

(a) *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;

(b) *Target 8:* By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity;

(c) *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; and

(d) *Target 11:* By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, 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.

II. COMPILATION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION ON THE EXPERIENCE AND USE OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING PRACTICES

6. Pursuant to decision XI/18 C, the Executive Secretary to the Convention is convening an expert workshop from 9 to 11 September 2014 in Montreal to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for marine spatial planning, building upon existing guidance,¹ in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management, the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the design and establishment of conservation and management measures, as appropriate. Notification 2014-068 (Ref. no. SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JA/JMQ/83496) was issued on 6 May 2014 to request nominations.

7. In support of organizing the above-mentioned expert workshop, the Executive Secretary issued notification 2014-025 (Ref. no. SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JA/JM/82140) on 19 February 2014 requesting information from Parties, other Governments, United Nations specialized agencies (including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)), the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-STAP), regional organizations (including Large Marine Ecosystem programmes and regional seas organizations), other relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, on the experience and use of marine spatial planning practices, and existing guidance and toolkits for the implementation of marine spatial planning.

¹ For example, the IOC/UNESCO guidelines on marine spatial planning.

8. Notification 2014-025 of 19 February 2014 was issued in conjunction with a notification that was issued by UNEP on 14 February 2014, which was linked to an online survey to gather information on experiences in marine spatial planning.² Additional details on this survey are provided in annex I below.

9. The results of these notifications were used to inform a technical meeting on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Practice convened by United Nations Environment Programme (through its Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch) and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held from 6 to 8 May 2014 at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. The results of the compilation and the outcomes of the above-mentioned technical meeting of May 2014 will contribute to the September 2014 CBD Expert Workshop referred to in paragraph 6 above, as well as a web-based information-sharing system, being developed by the United Nations Environment Programme, linking existing information sources on marine spatial planning.

III. CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO FACILITATE NATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARD AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

11. Pursuant to the above-noted requests by the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary facilitated providing capacity-building opportunities to Parties through engaging in global partnerships of relevant international and regional partner organizations and initiatives in the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.³ Annex II below provides further details on the background and the focus of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and its implementation. The implementation of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative has been mostly funded by the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund) and the French marine protected areas agency (Agence des Aires Marines Protégées), with additional in-kind funding (e.g., China, Republic of Korea) and technical support (e.g., FAO, UNEP, the Fisheries Expert Group of the Commission on Ecosystem Management of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-CEM-FEG), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO, Australia), the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), etc.) mobilized for different implementation activities. Its implementation is being coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

12. As part of regional-level implementation of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the Executive Secretary convened two regional workshops for capacity-building, as follows:

(a) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for West Africa, Dakar, Senegal, 4 to 8 February 2013; and

(b) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-building Workshop for East, South and South-East Asia, Guangzhou, China, 9 to 13 December 2013.

13. The workshops focused on integrated ecosystem-based management efforts toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 and 11. Specifically, the workshops aimed to:

(a) Bring together experts from the conservation and fisheries management sectors who are collectively responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in each respective region;

² <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MSPinPractice>.

³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-17-en.pdf>.

(b) Showcase regional experiences in applying responses generated through international forums (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) to marine biodiversity loss, focusing on sharing experiences related to various tools and approaches for integrated management of marine resources, such as application of scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), area-based management approaches including marine protected areas, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, environmental impact assessments, etc., and links to ongoing technical and capacity-building initiatives under other processes or initiatives; and

(c) Identify the awareness, interests and concerns of coastal States on marine and coastal resources and information gaps, and seek to demonstrate implementation of specific aspects of marine and coastal area-based management and resource planning instruments, including helping national biodiversity programmes integrate marine and coastal issues more effectively.

14. The emphasis of the workshops was on exchange of information and experiences, active learning of skills and tools, and building regional-level partnerships for continuous information-sharing and capacity-building in pursuit of the mission of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. Likewise, the format of the workshops featured a mix of presentations with question-and-answer sessions, interactive group exercises to introduce relevant scientific and technical tools, discussions in break-out groups, and participatory forums.

15. CBD Secretariat is planning, in collaboration with Parties and various SOI partners, to organize additional capacity-building workshops in other regions, subject to the availability of financial resources. The SOI capacity building workshop for South America is tentatively planned for February 2015, in Peru.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for West Africa, Dakar, Senegal, 4 to 8 February 2013

16. The Executive Secretary convened, with financial support from the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund), the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for West Africa, which was hosted by the Government of Senegal in Dakar, from 4 to 8 February 2013, in collaboration with various SOI partners, including interested Parties, relevant UN-Oceans members, such as UNEP, FAO and the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and other relevant regional organizations and initiatives, the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO, Australia), and the Agence des Aires Marines Protégées of France.

17. The workshop was attended by experts from Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (France), Biosfera I, BirdLife International, BirdLife South Africa, Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project, Centre de Suivi Ecologique, Fondation International du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GRID-Arendal, United Nations Environment Programme, the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG), Nature Communautés Développement, Programme Gestion de Ressources Naturelles (ProGRN), Partenariat Régional de Conservation de la zone Côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest, Réseau Régional d'Aires Marines Protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, and the WWF West Africa Marine Ecoregion Office (WAMER).

18. Further details on the workshop programme, background materials and the meeting report (UNEP/CBD/CBWSOI/WAFR/1/2) can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWSOI-SEASI-01>.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-building Workshop for East, South and South-East Asia, Guangzhou, China, 9 to 13 December 2013

19. The Executive Secretary convened, with financial support from the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund), the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for East, South and South-East Asia, which was hosted by the Government of China in Guangzhou, from 9 to 13 December 2013, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and various other partners, including FAO, UNEP and other relevant UN-Oceans members, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and other relevant regional and international organizations and initiatives.

20. The workshop was attended by experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP-UNEP), United Nations Environment Programme, Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (France), ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, BirdLife International and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers.

21. Further details the workshop programme, background materials and the meeting report (UNEP/CBD/CBW/SOI/SEASI/1/2) can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWSOI-SEASI-01>.

IV. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

22. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Environment Programme, including through the contributions from regional seas organizations and other relevant regional initiatives, and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, as well as a range of contributing partners, towards strengthening the practical use of marine spatial planning, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to further expand this collaboration to include other relevant initiatives, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its work on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the International Maritime Organization on its work on particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSA);

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate, through technical training and the information sharing mechanism on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), the use of scientific information compiled for the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs to support the efforts, at regional or national levels, on the use of marine spatial planning by Parties and competent intergovernmental organizations;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, for providing financial resources for, the Governments of China and Senegal for hosting, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO, Australia), and various other partner organizations for collaborating and providing scientific and technical contributions for, the organization of Sustainable Ocean Initiative capacity-building workshops for West Africa (4 to 8 February 2013) and East, South and South-East Asia (9 to 13 December 2013), and

welcomes the capacity-building initiatives being facilitated by the Executive Secretary through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations;

4. *Recalling* paragraph 20 of decision X/29, *invites* the Global Environment Facility, donors and funding agencies, as appropriate, to continue to extend support for capacity-building to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in order to further accelerate existing efforts toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to organize, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, additional capacity-building workshops and partnership activities within the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, subject to the availability of financial resources, to address priority issues identified for respective regions concerning the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.

Annex I

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND
THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL OF THE GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION XI/18 C**

*Contributed by the United Nations Environment Programme (Division of Environmental Policy
Implementation, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch)*

An initiative is being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (through its Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch) and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and a range of contributing partners towards strengthening the practical use of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).⁴ The initiative supports the implementation of decision XI/18 C related to MSP.

Transitioning from MSP planning into actual implementation is often constrained by various factors. The objective of this initiative, therefore, is to collect, review and share practical experiences and lessons from recent or ongoing MSP initiatives to assist local, national or regional planners, decision makers and practitioners across various coastal and marine sectors to develop and implement MSP in different contexts and settings.

MSP can cover a broad range of initiatives that all aim to maintain the use of resources and ecosystem services through careful planning of available coastal or ocean space. Whether focused on maintaining adequate fisheries yield, or managing impacts from shipping on biodiversity, any effort that attempts to reconcile the development objectives and activities of more than one sector in a spatial way can be described as marine spatial planning.

MSP initiatives can be varied in their approaches, but they often face similar challenges when transitioning into implementation. This initiative has therefore aimed to strategically address the following questions:

- What are the challenges or constraints experienced in implementing MSP?
- Which elements of the MSP planning phase are most critical to ensuring effective implementation?
- Are those elements specific to certain environmental, socio-political and governance contexts? and
- Are there lessons that can be learned about important barriers or enabling factors that can assist MSP planning and implementation in the future?

An online survey⁵ was developed to gather information on experiences in MSP planning and implementation to enhance the understanding of possible enabling conditions that contribute to MSP implementation, as well as possible means to overcome barriers to effective implementation through learning, strategic guidance and knowledge-sharing. The survey, which was issued in coordination with CBD notification 2014-025 (Ref. no. SCBD/SAM/DC/JL/JA/JM/82140, 19 February 2014), was distributed on 14 February 2014 to secretariats and national focal points of the Regional Seas Programmes, national focal points of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), GEF implementing agencies, and relevant national and regional organizations. The survey was also circulated through thematic e-mail listservs. The survey has generated more than 50 responses so far.

⁴ MSP for this work is defined as a participatory, multi-sectoral decision framework for allocating and regulating marine and coastal space to address the impacts of cumulative and potentially conflicting human activities to ensure a healthy environment and sustainable resource use into the future. The study has a particular focus on transboundary perspectives, both across land-sea connections and jurisdictional boundaries.

⁵ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MSPinPractice>.

The survey included detailed questions regarding different MSP experiences, including experiences from comprehensive planning processes involving many different sectors as well as simpler processes with only two sectors (e.g., spatial planning for conservation, marine protected areas (MPAs), locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), fisheries; coastal development, tourism and offshore energy development). The survey also explored cases where MSP has evolved from preceding efforts, for example integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) or MPA planning, and experiences from transboundary spatial planning across land-sea boundaries and across national jurisdictions.

Annex II

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE

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

SETTING THE BAR FOR GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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 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 for Biodiversity (2010-2020) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to guide efforts to safeguard biodiversity.

The *Sustainable Ocean Initiative* was born at the margins of COP 10 through the leadership of Japan and in collaboration with a wide range of partners with the goal of facilitating the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity.

The implementation of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative has been mostly funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the French marine protected areas agency (Agence des Aires Marines Protégées), with additional in-kind funding (e.g., Republic of Korea, China) and technical support (e.g., FAO, UNEP, IUCN-CEM-FEG, CSIRO, GOBI, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, PEMSEA, etc.) mobilized for different implementation activities. Its implementation is being coordinated by the CBD Secretariat.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets addressed by the Sustainable Ocean Initiative

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.

MAJOR CHALLENGES IN REACHING BIODIVERSITY GOALS

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets laid out an ambitious agenda to reverse the trends of biodiversity loss. However, this agenda is not self-implementing and will require strategic, coordinated, and targeted efforts by a range of stakeholders across all sectors and at different levels in order to make tangible process.

As well, a number of key challenges face the achievement of the Aichi Targets in marine and coastal areas, including:

- Capacity gaps—Lack of institutional, technical, managerial, and scientific resources; poor understanding of capacity needs at various levels in the context of cross-sectoral management; lack of cross-sectoral training for managers at the ground-level;
- Poor coordination—Sectoral conflicts; lack of coordination across governmental agencies and levels of governments; limited participation of indigenous and local communities;

- Poor information base—Lack of policy-relevant information to support decision-making; inadequate coordination of existing knowledge.

BRIDGING GAPS TO ACHIEVE THE AICHI TARGETS

While these challenges are significant, countries are not starting from scratch. Around the world, efforts are under way to improve conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The *Sustainable Ocean Initiative* builds on these efforts, resources, and experiences by providing a holistic and strategic framework through which to catalyze partnerships and leverage resources to facilitate the achievement of Aichi Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity.

The approach of the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative* focuses on:

- Reliance on **partnerships and information-sharing at various scales** (local, regional and global) and between different sectors and stakeholders, including the biodiversity and fisheries sectors;
- A strategic, action-oriented approach that will support **on-the-ground implementation priorities**, with a focus on providing managers with the tools they need;
- Achieving a **balance between sustainable use and conservation** and the promotion of flexible and diverse approaches towards this end; and
- A focus on providing **targeted capacity development** based on identified needs.

As illustrated below, the *Sustainable Ocean Initiative* seeks to provide a platform and framework by which existing resources, knowledge, and experience can be linked and enhanced to fulfil the major needs required to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity.

