



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
28 January 2025

Original: English
English and French only

Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for States of the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Africa

Dakar, 10–13 February 2025

Annotated provisional agenda*

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative was created on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to respond to the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties, with regard to marine conservation and management, as emphasized by the Conference of the Parties in decision [X/29](#). Sustainable Ocean Initiative is a global platform that aims to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the global goals and targets on marine and coastal biodiversity. Its implementation is being coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with various partners.
2. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative focuses on achieving a balance between conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity by applying an action-oriented, holistic and integrated capacity-building framework. It is committed to building bridges between biodiversity conservation and resource management sectors.
3. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as part of a package of decisions focused on implementation, monitoring and reporting for the Framework. The Framework contains a new set of global goals and targets for biodiversity, in particular a set of action-oriented targets to be achieved by 2030 and outcome-oriented goals to be achieved by 2050. The goals and targets of the Framework are crafted to be generic and applicable in all biomes and for all biodiversity. As such, nearly all aspects of the Framework are relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity and an all-of-society approach will be needed to fully implement the Framework. The goals and targets of the Framework represent the most ambitious global political commitments for nature ever made. Robust and enhanced efforts will be needed to implement the targets of the Framework and capacity-building is urgently needed in order to put in place the enabling conditions to fully implement the Framework.
4. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties also adopted decision [15/24](#), in which it welcomed the capacity-building, experience-sharing and partnership activities being facilitated notably through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, expressed its gratitude to donor countries and many other partners for providing financial and technical support for the implementation of activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, and requested the Secretariat of the Convention to continue to

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

facilitate capacity-building activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in order to support the implementation of the Framework, including its monitoring framework, with respect to marine, coastal and island biodiversity. At its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate capacity-building and partnership activities, including through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in order to support the implementation of the Framework, including its monitoring framework, with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity and island biodiversity.

5. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat is convening the Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for States of the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Africa, in collaboration with various regional organizations and initiatives. The workshop will be held in Dakar from 10 to 13 February. It is being organized with financial support from the Governments of France (French Biodiversity Agency) and the Republic of Korea (Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries). The workshop is being convened with the organizational support of the University of Brest.

6. The workshop will focus on the capacity needs of developing countries in the region, in the context of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It will focus specifically on opportunities to improve the coverage, effectiveness and representativity of area-based conservation through the use of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Workshop participants will primarily comprise experts, managers, officers and specialists in marine biodiversity conservation from Parties, relevant global and regional organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities.

7. The workshop will be organized in plenary and breakout group sessions and will include thematic presentations with question-and-answer sessions, plenary and moderated discussions, breakout group exercises and discussions. The Secretariat, in consultation with collaborating organizations, will nominate co-chairs for the plenary sessions, as well as facilitators and rapporteurs for the breakout groups, based on the experience and expertise of the workshop participants.

8. The list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex I and the proposed organization of work in annex II.

9. The workshop will be conducted in French, with interpretation in English.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

10. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention, the Government of Senegal and the French Biodiversity Agency will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on 10 February 2025.

Item 2

Workshop background, objectives, scope and expected outcomes

11. Representatives of the Secretariat and of the University of Brest – Ocean University Initiative will deliver presentations to introduce the workshop and its background, objectives and approach, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Item 3

Regional and national context

12. In order to provide regional context for the workshop, experts from organizations in the Mediterranean region will deliver a coordinated presentation outlining the state of the marine environment and the status of area-based conservation in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on African coastal and offshore areas. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

13. Participants nominated by Parties on the Mediterranean coast of Africa will deliver presentations on their national priorities, challenges and experiences.

14. Following the presentations, experts from organizations on the Atlantic coast of Africa will deliver coordinated presentations outlining the state of the marine environment and the status of area-based conservation on the Atlantic coast of Africa.
15. Participants nominated by Parties on the Atlantic coast of Africa will deliver presentations on their national priorities, challenges and experiences.
16. Following those presentations, breakout-group discussions will be held that will be focused on common priorities and challenges across the region.

Item 4**Importance of area-based conservation for achieving the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas**

17. A representative of the Secretariat will deliver a presentation providing an overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its relevance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. A question-and-answer session and discussion will follow.

Item 5**Strengthening the knowledge base for area-based conservation**

18. A presentation will be given on experiences in using information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas on the Atlantic coast of Africa.
19. A representative of the Secretariat will give a presentation on the newly adopted modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas.
20. A presentation will be given on the use of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to inform area-based conservation planning.
21. These presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion.

Item 6**Connectivity, representativeness and spatial planning**

22. Presentations will be given by various experts and representatives of organizations on various elements of connectivity, representativeness and spatial planning in the context of area-based conservation.
23. These presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion.

Item 7**Addressing various threats and pressures through area-based conservation**

24. An expert from the International Union for Conservation of Nature will give a presentation on guidance produced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature on Target 3 in marine and coastal areas.
25. Presentations will also be given on various threats and pressures and ways to address them.
26. These presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion.

Item 8

Ensuring robust stakeholder engagement and ownership

27. Presentations will be given by various experts and representatives of organizations, on approaches for engaging stakeholders in area-based conservation, including in various sectors, as well as from indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.
28. These presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion.

Item 9

Governance of area-based management tools

29. Representatives of organizations working in the region will give thematic presentations on governance of area-based management tools.
30. Following the presentations, a panel of selected participants will share their experiences in governance of area-based management tools.
31. A question-and-answer session and discussion will follow.

Item 10

Compliance and enforcement

32. Participants will hear thematic presentations on compliance and enforcement in the context of area-based conservation.
33. Following the presentations, a panel of selected participants will share their experience in compliance and enforcement.
34. A question-and-answer session and discussion will follow.

Item 11

Monitoring effectiveness and outcomes

35. A thematic presentation on monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of area-based conservation will be made.
36. Following the presentation, selected participants will share their experiences in monitoring effectiveness of area-based conservation.
37. A question-and-answer session and discussion will follow.

Item 12

Identifying and addressing capacity needs

38. Thematic presentations will be made on identifying and addressing capacity needs for area-based conservation.
39. Following the presentations, a panel of selected participants will share their experiences in capacity-building.
40. A question-and-answer session and discussion will follow.
41. This will be followed by breakout-group discussions in which participants will have focused discussion on the area-based conservation measures in their region, stakeholders, monitoring and capacity-building.

Item 13**Developing strategies and action plans to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas at the regional, national and subnational levels**

42. Building on the workshop discussions, participants will be invited to outline strategies, opportunities, next steps, and action items on how to progress towards implementing the targets of the Framework in marine and coastal areas in their region and in their respective countries.
43. Participants will present their strategies and action plans, followed by a discussion and question-and answer period.

Item 14**Conclusions and closure of the meeting**

44. To conclude the meeting, the workshop co-chairs will facilitate discussion on the key conclusions of the meeting and on the implications of the meeting discussions for the Sixth International Marine Protected Areas Congress, to be held in Dakar in 2026
45. The meeting is expected to close at 5 p.m. on 13 February 2025.

Annex I

List of documents for the meeting

Working documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/SOI/WS/2025/1/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/SOI/WS/2025/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

Reference material

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Title</i>
Decision 16/16	Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas
Decision 16/17	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and of island biodiversity
Decision 15/4	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Decision 15/5	Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Decision 14/8	Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures
Other background documents available at: https://cbd.int/meetings/SOI-WS-2025-01	

Annex II

Proposed organization of work

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Monday, 10 February	
9–9.30 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting <i>Opening statements (5 minutes each)</i> • Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity • Government of Senegal • Local authorities • French Biodiversity Agency
9.30–9.45 a.m.	Item 2. Workshop background, objectives, scope and expected outcomes • Introduction by a representative of the Secretariat (3 minutes) • Presentation by a representative of the University of Brest on background, objectives and approach (10 minutes) • Questions and answers
9.45–10.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>
10.15–10.45 a.m.	Item 3. Regional and national context <i>Environment, biodiversity and status of area-based conservation in the Mediterranean, with a focus on African coastal and offshore areas</i> • Coordinated presentations by representatives of regional organizations outlining (a) the state of the marine environment and (b) the status of area-based conservation in the region • Questions and answers and discussion
10.45–11.15 a.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>) <i>National presentations</i> • Presentations by each participant nominated by Parties in the Mediterranean region on their national priorities, challenges and experiences
11.15 a.m.–noon	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>) <i>Environment, biodiversity and status of area-based conservation on the Atlantic coast of Africa</i> • Coordinated presentations by regional organizations outlining (i) the state of the marine environment and (ii) the status of area-based conservation in the region • Questions and answers and discussion
Noon–1 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1–2.45 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>) <i>National presentations</i>

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	• Presentations by each participant nominated by Parties from the Atlantic coast of Africa on their national priorities, challenges and experiences
2.45–3 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
3–5 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>) • Presentations by each participant nominated by Parties from the Atlantic coast of Africa on their national priorities, challenges and experiences
<i>Evening reception</i>	
Tuesday, 11 February	
9–9.10 a.m.	Overview of discussions held on day 1
9.10–11.15 a.m.	Item 3. (<i>continued</i>) <i>Breakout group session</i> • Common priorities and challenges across the region
11.15–11.40 a.m.	Item 4. Importance of area-based conservation to achieve the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas • Presentations by the Secretariat: (a) overview of the Framework and its relevance for the ocean (8 minutes), (b) overview of Target 3 of the Framework and its relevance for other targets (10 minutes) • Questions and answers and discussion
11.40 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 5. Strengthening the knowledge base for area-based conservation • Presentation by the Benguela Current Commission and GRID-Arendal on experiences in using information on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in West Africa (10 minutes) • Presentation by the Secretariat on the newly adopted modalities for the process to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity (5 minutes) • Presentation by representatives of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity on using traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to inform area-based conservation planning (10 minutes) • Questions and answers and discussion
12.30–1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30–2.30 p.m.	Item 6. Connectivity, representativeness and spatial planning • Presentations by various experts and representatives of organizations on various elements of connectivity, representativeness and spatial planning in the context of area-based conservation • Questions and answers and discussion
2.30–3.30 p.m.	Item 7. Addressing various threats and pressures through area-based conservation

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	• Presentations by various experts and representatives of organizations on tools and approaches to address threats and pressures in the context of area-based conservation • Questions and answers and discussion
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
3.45–5 p.m.	Item 8. Ensuring robust stakeholder engagement and ownership • Presentations by various experts and representatives of organizations on approaches for engaging stakeholders in area-based conservation, including in various sectors, as well as from indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth
Wednesday, 12 February	
9–9.10 a.m.	Overview of discussions held on day 2
9.10–10.30 a.m.	Item 9. Governance of area-based management tools • Thematic presentations on governance of area-based management tools followed by a panel of selected participants sharing their experiences in this area • Questions and answers and discussion
10.30–10.45 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.45–11.30 a.m.	Item 10. Compliance and enforcement • Thematic presentations on compliance and enforcement in the context of area-based conservation followed by a panel of selected participants sharing their experiences in this area • Questions and answers and discussion
11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 11. Monitoring effectiveness and outcomes • Thematic presentation on monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of area-based conservation followed by a panel of selected participants sharing their experiences in this area • Questions and answers and discussion
12.30–1.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30–2.30 p.m.	Item 12. Identifying and addressing capacity needs • Thematic presentations on identifying and addressing capacity needs for area-based conservation followed by a panel of selected participants sharing their experiences in this area • Questions and answers and discussion
2.30–3.30 p.m.	<i>Breakout group session</i> • Identifying key tools and approaches from the day that can address main challenges identified in previous breakout group session
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
3.45–4.15 p.m.	Reporting back from breakout group discussion
4.45–5.15 p.m.	Introduction to the work to be conducted on the last day of the meeting and open discussion on potential ideas and approaches

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Thursday, 13 February	
9–9.30 a.m.	Overview of discussions held on day 3 Moderated discussion on key points raised thus far in the workshop
9.30 a.m.–noon	Item 13. Developing strategies and action plans to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas at the regional, national and subnational levels • Building on discussions held during the workshop, participants will outline strategies, opportunities, next steps, and action items on how to progress towards implementing the targets of the Framework in marine and coastal areas in their region and in their respective countries
Noon–1 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1–3 p.m.	Item 13 (<i>continued</i>)
3–4.30 p.m.	Item 13 (<i>continued</i>) • Presentation of strategies and action plans
4.30–5 p.m.	Item 14. Conclusions and closure of the meeting • Wrap-up plenary discussion • Implications and recommendations for the sixth International Marine Protected Areas Congress • Closure of the meeting